



Alive

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

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Winter is upon us once again, but that's no reason to stop visiting the Milwaukee County Zoo. In fact, winter can be a great time to see our animal ambassadors when crowds are smaller than they are in summer. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) staff has created a handy route around the Zoo to minimize your time outdoors, with an alternate version for those who enjoy the brisk winter air (pages 4-5).

Genghis and Dash, the Zoo's red pandas, enjoy playing outside in winter. You have a chance this year to make their exhibit even better through the ZSM's annual appeal.

Check out page 3 to read more about the red pandas and why we want to improve their exhibit.

If winter isn't your thing, a tropical vacation might sound good right about now. We can't give you that, but we can offer a story about Grenada, where an overabundance of plastic is plaguing this Caribbean paradise. A professor from St. George's University in Grenada recently visited Milwaukee to talk about her research on the effects of plastics in the ocean (page 6). She has worked for years with Wisconsin Lutheran College and two Zoo staff members - Craig Berg, curator of reptiles and aquarium, and Billie Harrison, area supervisor of the Aquatic & Reptile Center - to monitor the threatened coral reef off Grenada's coast (page 7). A conservation grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee pays for Berg and Harrison's travel to Grenada. This is one of many stories that illustrate how the partnership of the Zoo and Zoological Society helps save species around the world. And with your support of the Zoological Society, you can too!

I hope to see you around the Zoo this winter!

Robert Davis

Dr. Robert (Bert) Davis, President & Chief Executive Officer



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On the Cover: Princess, the Zoo's female mandrill

Renovating the Red Panda Exhibit



They are the size of house cats yet share their name with a “giant” bear. They resemble raccoons but live on the other side of the world in the Eastern Himalayas. They are red pandas, animals so unique that taxonomists have classified them in their own animal family, the *Ailuridae*.

Visitors at the Milwaukee County Zoo can get close to the Zoo’s two male red pandas, 2-year-old Dash and 17-year old Genghis, outside the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country building. This year, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) is raising money through its annual appeal to improve the red panda exhibit. Dr. Robert Davis, ZSM president and CEO, and Tim Wild, Zoo curator of large mammals, explain why it’s important to renovate the exhibit. Danielle Faucett, Zoo area supervisor, tells us more about Dash and Genghis.

Why did the ZSM choose red pandas for this year’s annual appeal?

Davis: We look for projects that can improve the Zoo in specific ways, and the red pandas need an updated enclosure. The renovated exhibit will offer more shade, which they love, and protection from wild animals, along with more opportunities for enrichment such as tree branches allowing the red pandas to climb and display natural behaviors.

Wild: The red pandas’ vaccine for distemper is being discontinued, so it’s a good idea to prevent wildlife, such as raccoons, from getting into the enclosure (even though this hasn’t been a problem before). We also hope to reduce the number of birds crashing into the exhibit by replacing the glass front with a railing, which will provide better viewing opportunities as well.

Are red pandas related to giant pandas?

Wild: Red pandas are in a family of their own but are more closely related to skunks, otters, weasels and raccoons than to giant pandas. They were considered closer in the past before genetic testing methods became as developed as they are today. Wild red pandas generally live alone, in small family groups of mother and young offspring, or as pairs during the breeding season.

Do Genghis and Dash have different personalities?

Faucett: Genghis is a laidback, mellow old geezer who goes with the flow. In training sessions, he accepts new items or activities easily. He’s a ham for large groups in front of the exhibit and highly skilled at napping. Dash is young and very active but sometimes nervous. In training sessions, he needs more time to adjust to anything new. However, he is usually the first to figure out how new toys work. Dash can be shy when it comes to large groups in front of the exhibit.

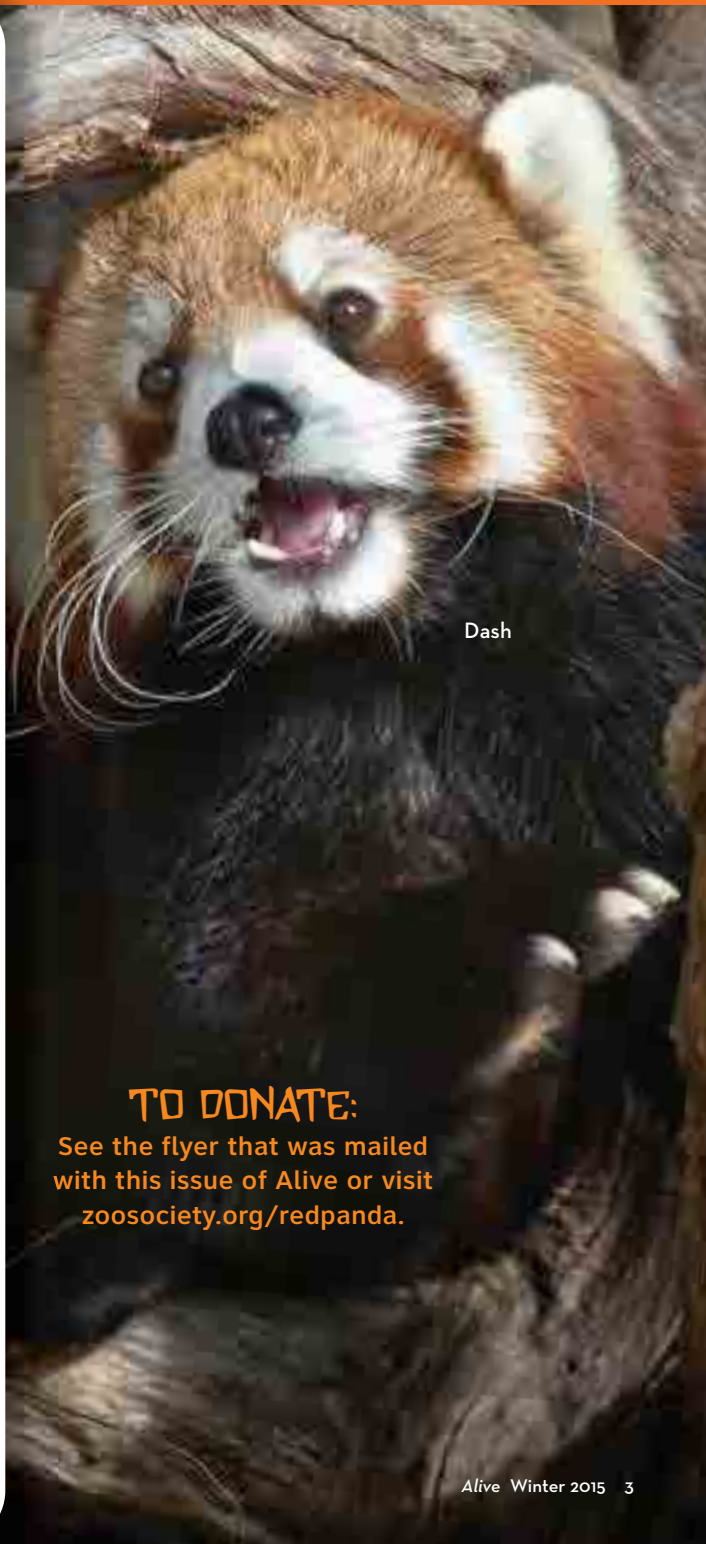
How does the annual appeal fit into the ZSM’s mission?

Davis: An important part of the ZSM’s mission is to support the Zoo. The annual appeal is a unique opportunity for the Zoological Society and donors because you can see exactly where your money goes. Donors feel good when they come to the Zoo and see the results of their giving.

What else has the annual appeal supported?

Davis: Last year we raised money for a new outdoor gorilla yard, and we combined it with a generous grant from Northwestern Mutual for the project. The exhibit will be renovated this winter and finished in time for the gorillas to enjoy it this summer. Previous projects have included webcams in several animal exhibits; a makeover for Belle, the interactive fiberglass dairy cow; and upgrades to the Humboldt penguin exhibit.

By Stacy Vogel Davis



Dash

TO DONATE:

See the flyer that was mailed with this issue of *Alive* or visit zoosociety.org/redpanda.

Touring the Zoo in



Erik and Jill Tschekunow, of Kiel, savor a winter walk with 2-year-old Isaak.

Route 1

I want to stay warm!

- 1 Say "Hi" to the Humboldt penguins. They're comfortable in cold and warm weather.
- 2 Give dry skin a break and bask in the warm, humid air of the aviary.
- 3 Visit the interactive kiosks at the bonobo exhibit.
- 4 Are you as strong as an orangutan? Test your strength and find out.
- 5 Visit Onassis, the giant Amazon River turtle.
- 6 Say "Hi" to new cats like Cammy the caracal, jaguar cub Francisco and Sossy the snow leopard.
- 7 Get up close to giraffes!
- 8 Check out Belle, the interactive fiberglass Holstein cow, and learn how milk is made.



Winter

Contrary to what many think, the Milwaukee County Zoo is a great winter destination, even if you dislike the cold. Here are two handy routes for touring the Zoo: one for people who want to avoid the cold as much as possible, and the other for winter lovers.



The caribou feel right at home in winter.

A Japanese macaque, also known as a snow monkey, digs in the snow on Macaque Island.



Route 2

I love winter!

- 1 Stop at the barn. You might see a horse, the donkeys and a Belted Galloway cow.
- 2 Check out the timber wolves in Wolf Woods!
- 3 Go "down under" and see red kangaroos and tree kangaroos.
- 4 Visit Snow Lilly the polar bear.
- 5 Warm up among big cats.
- 6 Elk and caribou feel right at home in the cold.
- 7 See nocturnal and diurnal (daytime) animals in the Small Mammals Building.
- 8 Watch ducks, geese and a trumpeter swan hang out on the ice.

Why visit the Zoo in winter?

- It isn't crowded.
- Fewer people means you'll get more attention from the animals.
- It's fun to watch cold-weather animals in their element.
- The beautiful Zoo park is truly a "winter wonderland" – especially right after it snows!

Plastic in Paradise



Dr. Clare Morrall

The island of Grenada, in the Eastern Caribbean north of Venezuela, has some of the prettiest coastlines in the world. Visitors from around the world flock to its silky coral-sand beaches and crystal-clear water. But a modern innovation – plastic – is corrupting the beaches and coasts. Dr. Clare Morrall, director of the marine biology program at St. George's University in Grenada, is dismayed to

see what plastic garbage is doing to Grenadian beaches, rivers and drains. "It really is everywhere," she recently told a group of Milwaukee County Zoo staff and volunteers.

Her observation applies far beyond Grenada's borders. Plastic has become an essential part of our daily lives. It's in our containers, our jewelry – even our face wash. In fact, 77 pounds of plastic are produced each year for every person on the planet. Morrall is concerned about what happens when that plastic gets into the ocean. Until recently, most of the research in this area has studied the effects of animals ingesting or getting tangled in plastic. But Morrall, a native of the United Kingdom, is studying the microorganisms that collect on tiny pieces of plastic in the water, including those microbeads in your face wash and toothpaste. "There's a natural microbial ecosystem in the ocean," she says. "How is that being affected by plastics?"

In September, Morrall presented her research at the Milwaukee County Zoo to a group of zookeepers and volunteers from Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's volunteer auxiliary. She visited Milwaukee during a university sabbatical because of a partnership she has with the Zoo and Wisconsin Lutheran College studying Grenada's coral reef (see opposite page).

Plastic attracts different types of organisms than natural materials, she says. Because plastic takes a long time to break down, it can travel great distances with the organisms attached, taking them far from their homes. "There's a direct connection between what's going on along the coastlines and what's going on in the center of the ocean," says Morrall, who has a Ph.D. in ecotoxicology. She works with her research assistant, Julia Brunet, and students to study this plastic ecosystem, or the "plastisphere," through elegantly simple

experiments: They place small pieces of plastic of various types in a basket, then immerse the basket in the water, securing it to a pier near the university. They monitor the plastic samples over days, weeks and months to find out what organisms they're attracting. The plastic is colonized very quickly – within a day – and researchers have observed more than 1,000 species on the samples so far.



Dr. Clare Morrall and her students hang different kinds of plastics, such as disposable forks, in the ocean to see what types of organisms they attract.



Although Morrall's research has drawn international attention, it's too soon to tell what exactly plastic is doing to microscopic ocean life. But that's not the only concern. Plastic litter also makes the beaches of Grenada less appealing – a big deal on an island where tourism is the primary industry. It's not enough to just clean up the beaches, Morrall says. Something must be done to reduce the amount of plastic being produced and thrown away in the first place. "It's too much," she says. "We don't have space for that."

By Stacy Vogel Davis

(Photo above left) The research is done near St. George's University on the coast of Grenada.

The Milwaukee-Grenada Connection

Plastic isn't the only environmental problem facing Grenada. Pollution and overfishing are threatening the coral reef around Grenada's shores, home to an amazing diversity of fish and other organisms.

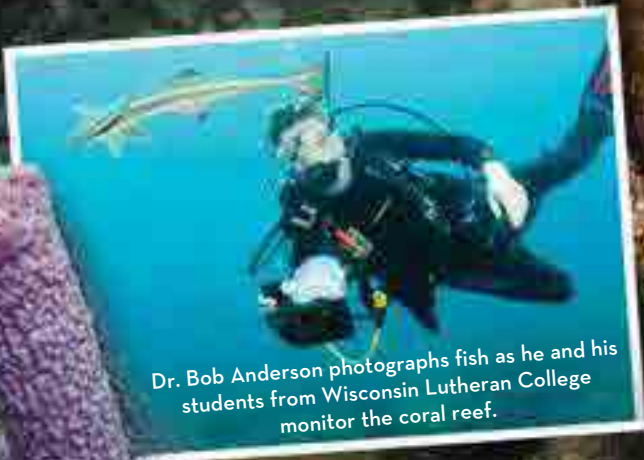
Dr. Clare Morrall, director of the marine biology program at St. George's University in Grenada, helped a Wisconsin group design a program to monitor the reef. Each year Dr. Bob Anderson, biology professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College, takes a group of students to Grenada for two weeks in May and June to monitor the reefs in a marine protected area close to St. George's, the country's capital. They're accompanied by Craig Berg, curator of reptiles and aquarium at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and Billie Harrison, area supervisor of the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Berg

and Harrison's travel is paid by a conservation grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The monitoring project is funded by a grant from The Fischer Family Foundation.

"The data the Wisconsin group is collecting is unprecedented in Grenada and probably in the Eastern Caribbean," says Morrall, who visited Milwaukee in September for the first time. "As a small, developing nation, we certainly don't have the resources to do what they do."

The reef is critical for many aquatic organisms in the Caribbean, such as the queen parrotfish, a species that seems to glow in neon green, blue and orange as it cleans the reef's surface with its beak-like mouth. "The reef is equal in biodiversity to a tropical rainforest," Anderson says. "The coral provides a basic structure for an incredibly diverse habitat that all sorts of creatures use."

Because of overfishing, the area has fewer and smaller fish that are less able to control the algae population. While it used to be common to see large numbers of adult parrotfish in the area, now most are juveniles, Anderson says. Compounding the problem are excess nutrients from fertilizers and other pollutants. "You have this double whammy of not enough fish to eat the algae and nutrients causing the algae to grow faster," he says.



Dr. Bob Anderson photographs fish as he and his students from Wisconsin Lutheran College monitor the coral reef.



Dr. Clare Morrall (far right) works with students and faculty from Wisconsin Lutheran College to monitor the coral reef off the coast of Grenada.

Adult queen parrotfish used to be common in the water around Grenada. Because of overfishing, most of the parrotfish seen now are smaller juveniles.

Anderson began taking students to Grenada to monitor the reef in 2007. They measure coral and algae cover, the number of various organisms and fish size in a marine protected area enforced by the Grenadian government. They can then monitor changes over time and compare the results with non-protected areas. "We hope to show through our monitoring that the protection efforts are having a benefit," Anderson says.

So far, the group has only measured small changes in the reef. But that's to be expected, Anderson says. "Getting it to change from an algae-dominated system to a coral-dominated system takes a lot of energy and time," he says. "But once the coral comes back, things are going to change much faster."

By Stacy Vogel Davis



Summer camps

Children ages 2 to 14 can spend the summer learning about amazing animals, Zoo-related jobs and more at ZSM Summer Camps. Registration starts Feb. 4 for Zoo Pass members. See the brochure packaged with this issue of Alive for more information, or visit zoosociety.org/summer.

Intern Ana Suson helps Tyler B., 9, learn about goats during the "What's Up, Doc?" summer camp.

Intern Catherine Purdy assists camper Maya S., 9, with a goat health report.



Learning by Teaching at Zoo Camp

When Ana Suson interned for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Summer Camp program, she liked to end each day by asking the children about their favorite parts of the day. She'll always remember when a child responded, "Helping the elephants."

"She was referring to a coloring project we did for the 96 Elephants campaign to help with elephant conservation efforts," Suson recalls. "It touched me that I was able to show her that she could make a difference. Despite all the cool projects, songs and games we did, helping speak for the elephants was still her favorite part."

It's this type of experience that inspired Suson and fellow intern Catherine Purdy, both 20, to get up at 6 a.m. each weekday last summer to work at the ZSM's camp programs. "Every day was such a great experience," Purdy says. Purdy and Suson have been attending Zoo camps since they were 6 years old. They later served as high school assistants, and they were first-year college interns last year. Both say those experiences helped set them on the path to their future careers.

"Zoo camps sparked my initial interest in animals," says Suson, a Pewaukee native studying ecology, evolution and animal behavior at the University of Minnesota. She hopes to eventually teach children about animals, conservation and the environment in a museum or zoo setting. For Purdy, of Merton, being a high school assistant and college intern confirmed her desire to teach young children. She's studying music education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. "I love leading tours and singing songs with the kids," she says.

The ZSM runs one of the largest Zoo summer camp programs in the country for children ages 2 to 14. Interns lead Zoo tours and camp activity stations, assist with class preparation, help supervise high school assistants and keep a journal of their experiences, says Patty Trinko, assistant director of conservation education. Purdy and Suson were two of 20 interns hired out of an applicant pool of 180.

The program teaches career skills such as interviewing, writing resumes and cover letters, and getting beyond your comfort zone. The staff educators become long-term mentors. "As interns, we learn how to deal with workplace conflict, accept and give constructive criticism, be effective supervisors and build relationships with our own supervisors," Suson says. "We do a lot of self-reflection to identify areas for improvement."

"We encourage interns to use the experience as a learning lab," Trinko says. "This is a place where they can stretch themselves professionally, and the staff will support them along the way. Catherine and Ana worked collaboratively with their supervisors to identify and develop specific career-related professional skills.

Both excelled at this process, which in turn helped them grow to an exceptional level."

Purdy hopes to return this summer as a second-year intern, while Suson hopes to continue her education with an internship in another city. "One day a camper told me that she loved everything about camp and her favorite part of the day was having me as her teacher," Purdy says. "It always brings a smile to my face knowing I was part of that wonderful experience."

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Internships

Applicants for the ZSM's paid internship program must be college students or recent college graduates. To apply, send a resume and cover letter to pattyt@zoosociety.org with the subject line "2015 Summer Internship" by Feb. 10. For more information, including a short video about the internship program, visit zoosociety.org/intern.

A Lifetime of Memories

Catherine Purdy and Ana Suson share their favorite childhood memories from Zoo camps:

Catherine Purdy: My best memory as a Zoo camper was getting to learn about the birds, because the Zoo used to have a huge bird-house with a bald eagle and snowy owl in the front of the building. I loved coming back to the Zoo and showing my parents the different birds and telling them facts about the animals. I also loved going to the bird show and watching the hawk fly above the crowd.



Photos provided.

Young Catherine Purdy enjoys her lunch at the Zoo. Last summer, she worked as an intern helping teach Zoo camps.

Ana Suson: I remember absolutely loving the chance to go behind the scenes to clean enclosures in "Senior Zookeeper" and getting to practice using a syringe to inject "medicine" into an orange for "What's Up, Doc?" I vividly recall participating in camps that I now get to help lead.



A young Ana Suson smiles from ear to ear while at the Zoo. She started attending Zoo camps at age 6.

Pumped About **PRIMATES**

"I'm not a monkey!"

The Milwaukee County Zoo has 18 species of primates, most of them in the Primates of the World and Stearns Family Apes of Africa buildings. Small children often refer to all of these animals as monkeys, but some are apes. You can tell the difference because apes don't have tails. Humans are also primates.

1. DRISPE NYOMEK _____

Word Scramble

See if you can unscramble the names of some of the primate species on exhibit at the Zoo. Answers are on the bottom of the opposite page.

2. GTAUNNAOR _____

3. MIDLARLN _____

4. QUCAMEA _____

5. LROGLIA _____

6. MAAGISN _____



The Bonobo Bunch

The Milwaukee County Zoo has a troop of 21 bonobos, the largest captive bonobo population in the world. Bonobos, also known as pygmy chimpanzees, live in the wild only in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they are endangered by poaching and habitat destruction. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee funds the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative, which works to protect this species in the Congo.

Mandrill Mask

Capture the brilliant colors of a mandrill's face with this paper-plate mask. You can find a pattern for the eyes and snout at zoosociety.org/mandrillmask.

You will need:

- 9-inch paper plate
- Markers, colored pencils or crayons
- Piece of paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Yellow yarn
- Brown pipe cleaner or thick yarn
- Red pom-poms
- Popsicle stick or paint-stirring stick (optional)

1. Cut eye holes in the mask about 1 inch in diameter and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch apart. (See website for pattern.)
2. Color the mandrill face. Give it black or gray fur with a black and yellow border and a red patch at the bottom.
3. Cut a trapezoid from a piece of paper for the snout. (See website for pattern.) Fold a strip along the left and right sides to attach the snout to the plate later. Color a red strip down the middle. On each side, color blue strips with white or black stripes for the ridges.

4. Round out the trapezoid to make a cone and glue the folded strips to the plate under the eyes.
5. Cut a 3-inch piece of brown pipe cleaner (or yarn). Glue it to the plate over the eyes for a brow.
6. Glue two red pom-poms where the snout meets the plate for nostrils.
7. Cut 2-inch pieces of yellow yarn for the beard. Glue to the bottom of the plate.
8. Glue a popsicle stick or paint-stirring stick to the back of the plate at the bottom for a handle.



Monkey Tails

This frozen treat makes a delicious dessert, especially on a hot day.

You will need:

- 6 very ripe bananas
- Popsicle sticks
- 16-ounce package of semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon butter
- Double boiler or small pot
- Sprinkles, coconut or crushed peanuts (optional)
- Wax paper
- Cookie sheet

1. Peel the bananas. Cut the rounded bottom off one end of each banana and insert a popsicle stick into the flat end.
2. Put the bananas on a cookie sheet covered in wax paper and put in the freezer until bananas are frozen, about two hours.
3. Melt the chocolate and butter in a double boiler. If you don't have a double boiler, melt it slowly on very low heat in a small pot, stirring constantly. Be very careful as chocolate burns easily.
4. Dip the bananas in the chocolate, spooning the chocolate over spots that were missed. Top with sprinkles, coconut or peanuts as desired.
5. Put the bananas back on the cookie sheet with wax paper and place in freezer until chocolate is firm, about an hour.



Golden Lion Tamarin and Goeldi's Monkey

Small Mammals Building

Although these two squirrel-sized monkeys hail from the tropical forests of South America, their territories do not overlap. But in one exhibit at the Zoo, they do. Friday, a Goeldi's monkey, and Levi, a golden lion tamarin, were moved together on Sept. 13, 2014. These female monkeys found themselves alone after Friday's exhibit mate died and Levi was ousted from her family group. "I wanted them to be able to interact with another monkey," says Rhonda Crenshaw, Zoo area supervisor for small mammals. "Now they've become companions. They are usually together."



Levi, a golden lion tamarin (left), and Friday, a Goeldi's monkey, were placed together in fall 2014.

Photo by Bob Wickland.

The Odd Couples

Like people, animals can get lonely. And like people, animals can find comfort in the company of a creature from a different species. In a number of cases at the Milwaukee County Zoo, animals from different species and habitats in the wild have been housed together for their emotional well-being or to economize space. These are animal odd couples. Let's meet them!

Douroucouli and Cotton-Top Tamarin

Small Mammals Building



Paisa, the douroucouli (left), is nocturnal, while Zi, the cotton-top tamarin, is active during the day.



The only thing these two have in common is they're both South American monkeys. Paisa, a female douroucouli, is nocturnal, whereas Zi, her cotton-male cotton-top tamarin exhibit mate, is diurnal (active in the day). Douroucoulis live in forests spread throughout South America, but cotton-tops only live in a small area of northwest Colombia. Paisa and Zi have been living together since Feb. 3, 2014, after Paisa's mate died. Earlier, Zi was driven out of the cotton-top group, as sometimes happens to older males. Shy Paisa has acclimated well to living on the day side of the building. "Zi initiated everything when they were introduced," says Crenshaw. "At first Paisa stayed in the nest box, but Zi gently put his little head inside and slowly crawled in – it was the sweetest thing ever! Zi grooms Paisa and even licks her face and fingers."

Potto and Springhaas

Small Mammals Building

Photo by Bob Wickland.



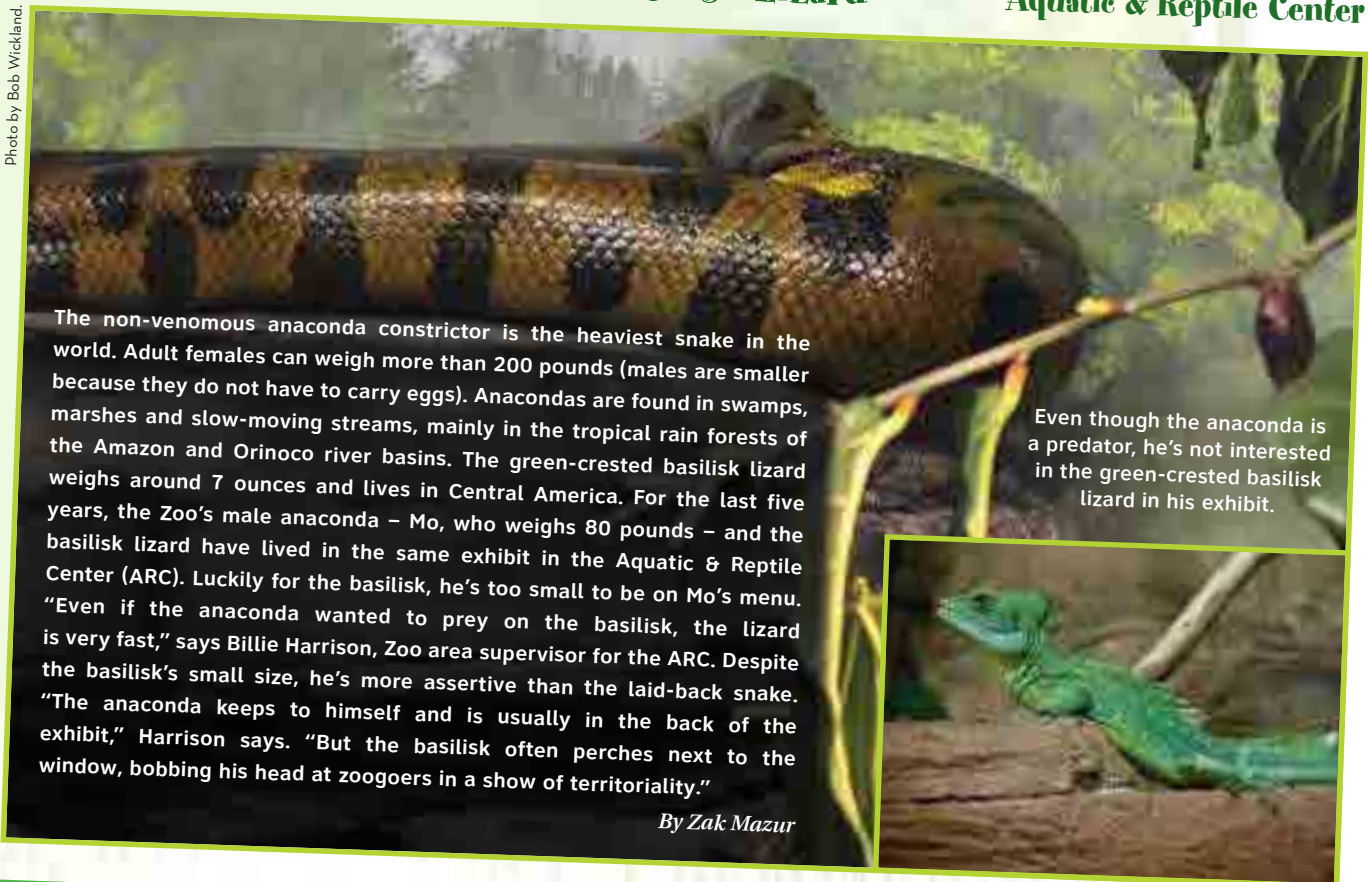
The potto (left) and springhaas have little in common, but they get along well in their exhibit.

Kiazi, a female potto, and Gikuyu, a male springhaas, are a very odd couple indeed. Pottos are slow-moving, tree-dwelling primates found in the tropical forests of Western and Central Africa. Springhaases are ground-dwelling, hare-like rodents from Southern and Eastern Africa. Kiazi was living with a Mohol bushbaby couple that had a baby in April. "Kiazi had to leave to make space for the newborn," says Dawn Kruger, a zookeeper. There was space in the springhaas exhibit, so keepers moved Kiazi there. "I thought Gikuyu would stay on the ground and Kiazi would stay up high," says Crenshaw. "But for some reason, Kiazi likes to climb down and groom Gikuyu." Gikuyu apparently enjoys the attention, because he stays still and lets Kiazi do her thing.

Anaconda and Green-Crested Basilisk Lizard

Aquatic & Reptile Center

Photo by Bob Wickland.



The non-venomous anaconda constrictor is the heaviest snake in the world. Adult females can weigh more than 200 pounds (males are smaller because they do not have to carry eggs). Anacondas are found in swamps, marshes and slow-moving streams, mainly in the tropical rain forests of the Amazon and Orinoco river basins. The green-crested basilisk lizard weighs around 7 ounces and lives in Central America. For the last five years, the Zoo's male anaconda – Mo, who weighs 80 pounds – and the basilisk lizard have lived in the same exhibit in the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC). Luckily for the basilisk, he's too small to be on Mo's menu. "Even if the anaconda wanted to prey on the basilisk, the lizard is very fast," says Billie Harrison, Zoo area supervisor for the ARC. Despite the basilisk's small size, he's more assertive than the laid-back snake. "The anaconda keeps to himself and is usually in the back of the exhibit," Harrison says. "But the basilisk often perches next to the window, bobbing his head at zoogoers in a show of territoriality."

By Zak Mazur

Even though the anaconda is a predator, he's not interested in the green-crested basilisk lizard in his exhibit.



Conservation Starts at Home for the Zoo



Photo by Bob Wickland.

(Above) Solar panels generate power for Lakeview Place Restaurant and the Zoo's admission booths.

(Far left photo) Rain gardens on the Zoo grounds absorb water that otherwise would have gone into the sewer system.

(From left) Roberta Wallace, Zoo senior veterinarian; Joan Maurer, veterinary technician; and Celi Jeske, Animal Health Center area supervisor, use bikes instead of motor vehicles to get around the Zoo.

Billie Harrison, supervisor of the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) at the Milwaukee County Zoo, is fixing dinner for the tortoises and lizards. She cuts up sweet potatoes, greens, carrots and bananas, setting aside produce that isn't fresh and waste such as banana peels. In the past that waste would have gone in the trash, but now it goes into a compost bin on the roof of the building. The compost will later be applied to the ARC garden, where plants are grown for exhibits and animal enrichment.

Composting is one of many ways the Zoo and Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) conserve resources on Zoo grounds. Conservation of animals around the world is one of the main missions of the Zoo and ZSM, so it makes sense for the organizations to try to minimize their impact on the environment, says Vera Westphal, deputy Zoo director. "It starts here at home," she says. The Zoo formed a Green Committee in 2008 that Westphal leads with representatives from all departments and the ZSM. "The committee helps empower employees to know they can make a difference," she says.

Some of the efforts are small, such as turning off computers at the end of the day. But the Zoo has also undertaken large initiatives. In July 2010, a major rainstorm caused flooding in the Zoo's parking lots and basements. The next year, it replaced several asphalt walkways with permeable pavement that soaks up excess water. Last year, the Zoo replaced fluorescent lighting with energy-saving LED lights in several buildings, partially funded by a grant from Milwaukee County, for an estimated annual savings of \$38,000. The Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center, which houses the ZSM's education department, was built to maximize natural light and includes a green roof, which helps reduce energy consumption for heating and cooling.

In 2015, the Zoo will work with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on a 12-week water and waste management internship. The intern will study the Zoo's processes for water usage, recycling, and disposal of animal bedding and waste. He or she will then recommend ways to reduce environmental impact. "It's exciting to see us making progress," Westphal says.

Here is just a sample of other "green" practices at the Zoo:

- Electric Zoomobiles that replaced propane-operated vehicles
- Solar panels that power the Zoo's admission booths and Lakeview Place Restaurant
- \$2 million in infrastructure improvements to electric, gas, water and sewer lines in 2008 through the Johnson Controls Energy Savings Program
- A system to capture rainwater from the roofs of four buildings. The water is later used to wash down outdoor areas. The Zoo also has several rain gardens that absorb water, reducing the amount of stormwater going into the sewer system.
- An annual "Party for the Planet" event in May that educates the public about conservation and encourages visitors to bring in items ranging from car batteries to lawn mowers for recycling
- Visitors can recycle cellphones and buy rain barrels at the Zoo
- A garden that produces cherry tomatoes, basil, chives, mint and cucumbers for use in animal diets and enrichment as well as the Zoo's concessions
- Bikes that Zoo staff can use instead of golf carts to get around the grounds
- Recycled tires incorporated into the Kohl's Cares playground at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Ring-tailed Lemur



Arrived: Sept. 29, 2014
Small Mammals Building

When you're a zookeeper, the animals with easy-going dispositions are typically the easiest to work with. That's one reason why Rhonda Crenshaw, area supervisor for the Small Mammals Building at the Milwaukee County Zoo, likes lemurs. "They're mellow, trainable, smart and curious," she says. But like most social animals, lemurs can get sad when they're alone. That's what happened to Ann, a 26-year-old ring-tailed lemur at the Zoo, when her friend Gandolf died last July. "Ann became very inactive," says Crenshaw. "She didn't seem motivated to do much."

Enter Jenny, a 12-year-old lemur who arrived at the Zoo from the Hattiesburg Zoo in Hattiesburg, Miss., last September. "We brought Jenny here to be a companion to Ann," says Crenshaw. Thanks to the laid-back nature of lemurs, within a few days the two became close. "Jenny is really

sweet," she adds. "Despite the age difference, Jenny didn't try to overpower Ann and dominate the exhibit." Now the two eat together and groom one another. Best of all, Ann's energy has been restored and she moves around the exhibit again. "I think Jenny's presence has coaxed Ann to become more active," says Crenshaw.

Ring-tailed lemurs, like all lemurs, come from the island of Madagascar off the east coast of Africa. In the wild they live in troops that can include 6 to 30 animals. Their diet consists mostly of fruit but also includes leaves, bark and sap. They live in sparse, dry forests. Unfortunately, their habitat is rapidly vanishing, and ring-tailed lemurs are endangered.

Stephanie Harpt, a zookeeper in the Small Mammals Building, also works with the ring-tailed lemurs. She loves watching them sunbathe. "They sit with their bellies facing the sun and their arms spread out a little," she says. "They look like little Buddhas!"

By Zak Mazur

Arrived: Aug. 20, 2014
Camel Exhibit

He's already 900 pounds and more than 6½ feet tall, but Stan is the little guy among his new herd of Bactrian camels at the Milwaukee County Zoo. That will change once Stan reaches his full size in about three years. "The males tend to be larger than the females, and Stan will easily top 7 feet when he matures," says Danielle Faucett, supervisor of Winter Quarters, which includes the Camel Exhibit.

Stan was born in April 2013 and came to Milwaukee from the St. Louis Zoo to be the new breeding male for the all-female herd. But it will be a while before we see any calves at the Zoo – Stan won't be ready to breed for a couple of years, and gestation takes about 13 months. Faucett expects Addi Jean (A.J.), who is nearly 3 years old, to be the main breeding female. Female camels Sanchi (A.J.'s mother) and Georgia round out the herd, but both are 17 and probably will be too old to breed by the time Stan is mature.

For now, Stan – named after the legendary St. Louis Cardinals baseball player Stan Musial – is content to follow the females. "He gets along with the herd quite well," Faucett says. He willingly participates in training for treats such as apples, carrots, pears and sweet potatoes. Faucett expects Stan to continue to get along with his fellow camels as he gets older. "Camels are usually easy going in the herd," she says. "I have a feeling Georgia, our big female, is going to keep him in check." Stan will easily handle Milwaukee weather. Bactrian camels come from the deserts of Central and East Asia, where they tolerate temperatures from -20 degrees in winter to more than 100 degrees in summer. You will find Stan and the rest of the herd outside throughout the winter.

Bactrian Camel



By Stacy Vogel Davis

UNLOCKING THE CONGO CODE

Play Tackles Critical Education Skills

A teenager named Cameron is trapped inside a video game deep in a virtual Central African rainforest. Danger lurks behind every turn. To achieve an “epic win” and escape from the game, Cameron must use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills. Along the way, Cameron encounters a mysterious ape that could be the key to breaking the code. It's all part of a Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) play called “The Congo Code,” which teaches STEM skills and uses technology in creative ways to enhance the storytelling on stage and off. “The Congo Code” is made possible by a partnership between the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) and Kohl's Cares. It's the first KWT play developed for students in fourth through eighth grades. The 45-minute play was inspired by the ZSM's award-winning Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative. All KWT performances are offered free of charge. Other plays for a variety of ages are also available to festivals, schools and community events within a one-hour radius of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Book a play today at wildtheater.org.



Cameron, played by actor Sherrick Robinson, tries to communicate with a bonobo named Lil' Dude. Actor Liz Faraglia is on screen.

Photo by Richard Taylor.

The bonobo puppet is operated by Lindsey Gagliano and Emmitt Morgans.

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Alive

Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to your school or event: Bookings are currently available for schools for outreach performances like “The Congo Code” from February through May 22, 2015. Additional shows are available for other venues through summer. Go to wildtheater.org for show descriptions. Contact Julie B. at 414-258-2333 or KWT@zoosociety.org to check available dates.