

Wild Things

An Extra Night to Camp

Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, August 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14, starting at 5 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

Members: \$125 for family of four; non-members, \$150. Go online for individual rates & discount details. Online registration begins May 10 for members; May 11 for non-members, www.zoosociety.org/Snooze. For details, call Special Events at (414) 258-2333.

If you've always wanted to camp at the Milwaukee County Zoo, you're in luck. By popular demand, we added an extra night to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) annual overnight family campout. This year, choose from five nights to camp – Tuesday, Aug. 10, through Saturday, Aug. 14. Each night features the same activities, including s'mores around a group campfire, a buffet dinner and kid-friendly entertainment. The next morning, enjoy breakfast and a day at the Zoo, plus discounted admission to the special summer exhibit on dinosaurs (see page 5). This ZSM fundraiser is a fun, safe camping experience (especially for first-time campers) for families and youth groups such as Girl and Boy Scouts. It's the only time each year when the general public can camp at the Zoo.

This popular event fills quickly, and we encourage you to register early. Registration is held online on a first-come-first-served basis at www.zoosociety.org/snooze. Member registration begins on Monday, May 10, at 8 a.m. Non-members start registration on Tuesday, May 11, at 8 a.m. You will be registered as soon as you submit your payment information. Get \$10 off a family registration or a \$3 individual discount when you send in a Sentry Foods cash-register receipt showing the purchase of four 64-ounce Old Orchard juices or blends (see details online when you register). If you or a member of your party has special needs or a disability, please let us know in the comments area online.



David Mantey of Delafield set up a tent with some help from daughters Norah (left), 4, and Elizabeth, 8, at the event last year.

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on the Web!

- Take the cake:** Photos from our centennial cake-decorating contest: zoosociety.org/cake
- Follow us daily on Twitter:** twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE
- Glimpse of Africa:** Our bonobo conservationist shares photos from the Congo, zoosociety.org/field09

ZSM Notes

Notes from the Congo

What's it like to study bonobos in Africa? Get a glimpse into field work with a photo slide show and a progress update from Dr. Gay E. Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator, at zoosociety.org/field09. As head of the Society's Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative, Dr. Reinartz spends nearly six months each year in Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo. On her latest field mission last fall and winter, Dr. Reinartz visited the Society's research station, Etate, in the Salonga National Park. Bonobos, the rarest of great apes, face habitat destruction and poaching in their native Congo, the only place where they're found in the wild. Our Zoo's group of 16 bonobos is one of the largest in a zoo environment (see page 15 for a story on Kitty, our 60-year-old blind bonobo). **Photo:** The Zoological Society supports three primary schools near its research station in Salonga National Park, paying teacher salaries and providing school supplies. Here, Dr. Reinartz (second from left) and her



assistant, Mira (left, in red), meet with members of the schools' parent committee. Before Zoological Society support, the primary schools had been abandoned due to lack of funds. Photo provided by Dr. Reinartz.

Zoo on Demand

Happy the hippo is always ready for his close-up. The Milwaukee County Zoo's new male hippopotamus was featured in a fun video on Time Warner Cable. If you're a subscriber, you can see this clip and other Zoo segments on everything from bonobos to flamingos. Tune in to Channel 411, Wisconsin On Demand (select the Zoo "super-category" with your remote control).

Photo: Happy the hippo.

Check it out!

Web: See more Zoo videos on our YouTube page, youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo



Conservation Stories Online

From rhinos to Butler's garter snakes, the Zoological Society helps save animals in the wild. In the past two decades, the Society has supported conservation projects ranging from a migratory bird study in Belize and Wisconsin to blue iguana research in Jamaica. Read more about these projects in our online conservation archive: zoosociety.org/conservationstories. It contains dozens of stories from *Wild Things* and *Alive*, our member magazine.

Memberanda

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 88, April-May 2010

Wild Things is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee six times a year: February-March; April-May; June; July-August; September-October; November-January.

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Zoological Society office hours: Through May 28, 2010:

Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

May 29-Sept. 6: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. -5 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.

Zoo hours: Through May 28: Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

May 29-Sept. 6: Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Please note the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours.**

Paperless Attraction Coupons: Your new Zoo Pass card tracks attraction coupons (or credits) electronically. Just have your card scanned for admission to the North Shore Bank Safari Train, Penzeys Spices Carousel, MillerCoors Seal/Sea Lion Show, the National City Zoomobile and the special summer exhibit, Adventure Dinosaur!, sponsored by Lowe's. We no longer have paper coupons.

School field trips: Zoo Pass free-admission benefits do not apply when a child visits the Zoo as part of an organized class field trip. Due to the many busloads of school groups visiting the Zoo, gate staff is not able to board each bus to verify Zoo Pass memberships without causing potentially dangerous traffic backups onto Blue Mound Road. The discounted fees paid for educational outings include additional class materials or Zoo-visit benefits.

For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please see zoosociety.org/memberinfo.

Zoo Ball 2010:

Sponsored by American Airlines
Saturday, June 26,
Milwaukee County Zoo
Prices start at \$300 per person

Zootopia



Spend an evening in utopia! A whimsical “urban garden,” complete with playful decorations and fantastic flowers, is the theme of this year’s biggest annual fund-raiser for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). The garden theme is a perfect fit for the event’s co-chairs, longtime ZSM supporters Joe and Jennifer Kresl (photo at right). As president of Hawks Nursery in Wauwatosa (and a ZSM board member), Joe Kresl has donated everything from flower centerpieces to evergreen trees for ZSM events. This black-tie event, now in its 27th year, has raised more than \$6.5 million for the non-profit ZSM, including \$378,000 in 2009. The evening includes cocktails, gourmet dining and a silent auction, all supported by the U.S. Bank Foundation. Entertainment is sponsored by Northwestern Mutual Foundation and a late-night venue is sponsored by MillerCoors. The event’s multi-pronged auction will feature white-hot prizes such as tickets to the Victoria’s Secret fashion show, plus admission to a celebrity-packed after-party. For an invitation or details on sponsorship opportunities and corporate tables, call Laura, (414) 258-2333. **Photo:** Joe and Jennifer Kresl talk with Deputy Zoo Director Bruce Beehler at the Zoo.



Zooper Family Night



Zootastic!

Sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc.

Media sponsors: *metroparent* & *MilwaukeeMoms.com*

April 23, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

\$75 per family of four. Individual fees: \$15 children 12 and under, \$25 ages 13+.

(Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.)

Register at www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333 by April 9. After April 9, call to register.

Join the party at the first-ever family night out at the Zoo in spring! Follow a Zoo map created just for this Zoological Society event and “travel” to meet favorite Zoo animals such as Happy the hippo, Mahal the orangutan and the young tigers. Get the inside scoop on these creatures from zookeepers and Zoo Pride volunteers. Create eco-friendly crafts at conservation stations and learn how you can help save animals in the wild. Enjoy pizza donated by Palermo’s® Pizza and make your favorite ice-cream treats at the sundae bar. Strike a pose in a photo station for a fun memory of the evening. Want to help your animal friends? Check out a raffle with family-themed prizes such as a two-night Kalahari getaway with waterpark admission passes and help us raise money for the Zoo.

Finally, twist and shout at a dance party where a DJ will lead a countdown to celebrate the Zoological Society’s 100th anniversary (see page 8).

Photo: Kids can go wild with dancing.



Wild FOR MOM

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort
May 9, 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID.

Moms get free admission (parking not included), no coupon necessary.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$11.

For information, call (414) 771-3040

Moms and the Zoo are a natural fit. The pathways are great for strolling (and strollers), the animals are charming and admission on Mother's Day, May 9, is free for all moms thanks to Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort. (Zoo parking fee still applies.) Spring is a great time to see some of the Milwaukee County Zoo's animal moms and youngsters. Watch for 6-month-old impalas Cassia and Korintje in the Holz Family Impala Country. You may spot them romping with moms Nutmeg and Saffron (see the spring *Alive* magazine for story). In the Australia Building, it's all about the 'roo brood. Kiama, the Matschie's tree kangaroo, and red kangaroos Ellie May and Annie, had joeys (babies) in the past year. If you prefer great ape babies, the ever-popular orangutan toddler Mahal still likes cuddling with surrogate mom M.J. in the Zoo's Primates of the World. Older "kids" need Mom, too. Tiger youngsters Tula and Nuri are not even a year old, but in cat years they're entering their teens. Yet they still play with Mom Amba in the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. (For more on the tigers and kangaroos, see page 14.)

Photo: Kristen Curtis, of Rockford, Ill., and son Tayden Curtis, 11 months, smiled big for the camera as they rode the

Penzeys Spices Carousel during Mother's Day last year.

Celebrate

Mom's inner and outer beauty with a sponsorship of Isabella, the Zoo's new trumpeter swan. See the flyer enclosed with this *Wild Things*.



On the Web:

Recycle and raise money for Zoo animals through the Zoological Society's new Cans for Cash for Critters program, zoosociety.org/C3 (story on page 10). You can create a personal profile and share recycling tips with fellow participants.

If you don't have Internet access, call (414) 258-2333 for an information packet.



On the Web:
Where do these
dinosaurs come from?
zoosociety.org/dinomaker

Green Theme



Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Company

May 15 & 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Free activities. Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID
Milwaukee County Parking Fee: \$11. For more information, call (414) 771-3040.

“Going green” helps animals, the environment and future generations. Keeping an eco-friendly lifestyle may sound hard, but little things we do in our own homes can make a big difference. Get tips on everything from recycling to collecting rainwater at the Milwaukee County Zoo’s two-day eco-fest. This year’s event, which merges Migratory Bird Day and Conservation Weekend from previous years, features a new take on the popular migratory bird game. Kids can pretend to be a Baltimore oriole and “migrate” from Panama to Wisconsin as they visit six stops at the Zoo. Other activities include:

- Family entertainment: Dance to kid-friendly tunes sponsored by Coleman Repellents.
- University of Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners: Head to the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm’s Butterfly Garden for tips on attracting butterflies to your own backyard. Kids can help decorate a giant monarch butterfly replica. **Photo:** Mindi Newman of New Berlin and her 3-year-old daughter, Hallie, looked at flowers in the Zoo’s butterfly garden last year.
- Outreach Booths: Learn how to get involved. Chat with members of nature groups such as Wildlife in Need and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful. Get the scoop on polar bear conservation from zookeepers (see page 11).
- Rainwater Designs: See unusual rainwater-collection devices made by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.
- Woodcarving: Learn about the intricate art of woodcarving birds, presented by the Greater Milwaukee Wildfowl Carvers.
- At the Zoo: From recycling cell phones to reusing rain water, the Zoo is a leader in conservation. See page 13.

Hop online to learn more

BLAST FROM A PREHISTORIC PAST

Adventure Dinosaur!

Sponsored by Lowe’s

May 29 – Sept. 6 daily

\$2.50 per person exhibit admission

(Free admission for Zoological Society members June 4-6 with Zoo Pass card & photo ID, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Next to the Small Mammals Building



How do you get a 43-foot-long *Tyrannosaurus rex* into the Zoo? Wheel it here in a big truck! That’s how this “terrible lizard” and 28 other life-size, robotic dino replicas will make it in from Billings Productions in McKinney, Texas, where they were made. Meet the dinos at the Milwaukee County Zoo’s special summer dinosaur exhibit, which returns after a four-year absence. Eight of the dinosaurs, such as the 17-foot-8-inch-long *Edmontosaurus* and the 9-foot-tall *Megalosaurus*, are new to the exhibit. Longtime favorites include the ever-popular *Dilophosaurus*, which spits water (see photo). There’s also a dig box where pint-sized paleontologists can look for fossils. If you’re curious about how the dinos are made, see the wires and levers inside the interactive *Deinonychus* and make it move by pressing buttons on a control pad. Adventure awaits!

Photo: Connor Edlund, 5, (left), and his sister, Brooke, 3, of Brown Deer, got a kick out of the spitting *Dilophosaurus*.

Education

May Classes Still Open

Some May 2010 ZSM Conservation Education classes at the Zoo still had openings when we went to press. Featured classes are listed below. For a full list of open classes, dates, times and to register, please see zoosociety.org/Classes.

- **Age 2 (accompanied by adult):** Practice your colors and look for critters as you skip down colorful classroom trails in **Color Zoo**.
- **Age 3 (accompanied by adult):** **Seals and Sea Lions:** Kids can create a sea lion costume, “hunt” for a seal snack and see the Zoo’s seals in action. **Photo:** Katie Varoski, 3, of Waukesha got some help with her lion mask from Zoo Pride volunteer Dorothy Zellmer at a class in February.



Summer Camps Still Open

The time to sign up for the Zoological Society’s summer camps is now! The camps brochure with all offerings for 2010 was mailed with your January issue of *Alive*. Members-only priority, online registration began in February. The following day camps at the Milwaukee County Zoo still had openings when we went to press. For a complete list of open camps, dates, times and to register, see www.zoosociety.org/Education/SummerCamps.

Zoo Music, a camp in June and July for age 2 (accompanied by one adult), is all about exploring noises and voices, from silly songs to animal sounds. In **Fintastic Fish**, also held in June and July, 3-year-olds (accompanied by one adult) decorate a fish costume and see fishy friends on a guided tour of the Zoo’s Aquatic & Reptile Center.



For older kids, offerings include **Animal Champions** (ages 4 and 5; see longer story below). In **Senior Zookeeper**, a popular camp for ages 6 and 7, kids pretend to be zookeepers for a day and “help” with cleaning and caring for animals. The entire family will learn about dinosaurs at **Dino Discovery**, a family camp for ages 4 to 10 with at least one participating adult (see page 5 for more on the Zoo’s summer dinosaur exhibit). Aspiring actors ages 10 and 11 can practice stage skills at the five-day camp **Actin’ Wild**. Play acting games, design a costume and perform an animal-themed skit.

Go for the Gold: Animal Olympics

On your mark, get set, go! Did you know that kangaroos can jump 30 feet in the air and cheetahs can run up to 75 mph? Kids ages 4 and 5 will jump, run and skip with the best of the animal “athletes” at the **Animal Champions** camp. The ceremonies begin by passing an Olympic “torch” and designing a sporty visor. Campers then tour the Zoo and “handpick” animals for their team. Then let the games begin! A mini-Olympics competition gives youngsters the chance to sprint, hop and even throw, complete with coaching and cheering.

For the cool-down, kids can design a book and compare their skills to the animals (can you reach like a giraffe or hold your breath like a seal?). A festive closing ceremony includes gold medals for everyone. “This class covers many animals, such as elephants, seals, ostriches and more,” says ZSM educator Kristin Ziarnik. “Children learn that like the animals, they, too, are all champions at something!” For camp dates, times and availability, see zoosociety.org/Education/SummerCamps/

Tips for Teachers

- **Programs for School Classes at the Zoo**
Teachers, our brochure listing Zoological Society education programs either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools is available online: zoosociety.org/Education/SchoolPrograms. Registration for the 2010-2011 school year begins April 20.
- **UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers**
Study of the World’s Endangered Species, a two-day course on June 19 and 20, explores the decline of some wildlife species and the efforts of zoos to conserve these species. The course runs 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Zoo both days, and includes tours, discussions and activities to help teachers develop study units. Teachers of grades 3 through high school can receive undergraduate or graduate credit from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by taking this one-credit course offered by the Zoological Society. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255, for fees and to register.

Photo at left: A group of kids helps tidy up the moose barn at the Senior Zookeeper summer camp. Photo by Margo Pactanac.

Camps With Water Mammals



Sea Lion Splash: \$75 Zoological Society members, \$85 non-members

Aquatic Adventure: \$125 members, \$135 non-members

Underwater Journey, five-day camp: \$375 members, \$390 non-members

Job Shadowing program for ages 13+, \$240 members, \$250 non-members

Register online at www.oceansoffun.org or by phone at (414) 453-5527, ext 1

Special offer: Bring a friend to camp, and both of you get \$50 off the registration fee.

See details online.

Whether you want to meet a sea lion up close or shadow an animal trainer, there's a program for you in the Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun pool this spring and summer. The popular camps have an updated curriculum, and it's easy to register on Oceans of Fun's revamped Web site, oceansoffun.org. All programs give children and adults the chance to interact with sea lions and seals in the water and attend the MillerCoors Oceans of Fun Seal/Sea Lion Show. Oceans of Fun also offers birthday parties and sessions for Girl and Boy Scouts (please see details online). All programs have limited openings, and reservations are required.

- The five-day summer camp **Underwater Journey** lets kids ages 7 through 12 help train animals alongside professional trainers in the pool. Participants also learn about marine-mammal care and conservation, enjoy games and art projects, and visit the Zoo's special summer exhibit on dinosaurs. Sea Lion Explorers (children 7-9) and Marine Voyagers (children 10-12) have alternating schedules throughout the summer; workshops run weekly June through late August, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Early arrival and late pick-up are available.
- For a family experience, register for **Aquatic Adventures**. Kids and adults can feed and touch the animals, and get the scoop on animal behaviors (a paying, participating adult must accompany children ages 6-12). The 1½-hour program runs early April through Oct. 31 in the mornings.

- Younger kids will learn all about seals and sea lions in **Sea Lion Splash**, an afternoon workshop for ages 5-10. The junior trainees prepare food for the animals, help with training and participate in a sea lion show. This workshop is offered early April through Oct. 30.

- Calling all aspiring marine biologists! Students ages 13 and up can **shadow an animal trainer** from Oceans of Fun for a day. Here's your chance to ask questions learn about animals and explore careers in this field. Private sessions for one to two students will be held throughout the summer. E-mail reservations@oceansoffun.org or call (414) 453-5527.



Photo: A girl gets a kiss from a sea lion at the Underwater Journey camp. Photo provided by Oceans of Fun

Photo: Michael Smith of Waukesha and his daughters, Stephanie (right), 12, and Hannah, 9, cheer on Slick the sea lion in his pool.

A Year of



The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) 2010 centennial year is packed with celebrations. In January, we kicked off our 100th with a birthday bash and a cake-decorating contest with 16 "wild" cakes (see photos at zoosociety.org/cake). In April, the party continues as part of a new family evening at the Zoo, which features a musical countdown to 100 (see page 3). This spring we also celebrate the 35th anniversary of Zoo Pride, our volunteer auxiliary (see your spring *Alive* magazine plus the story at right). And in August, our centennial safaris will take travelers on three incredible trips to Kenya (see right).

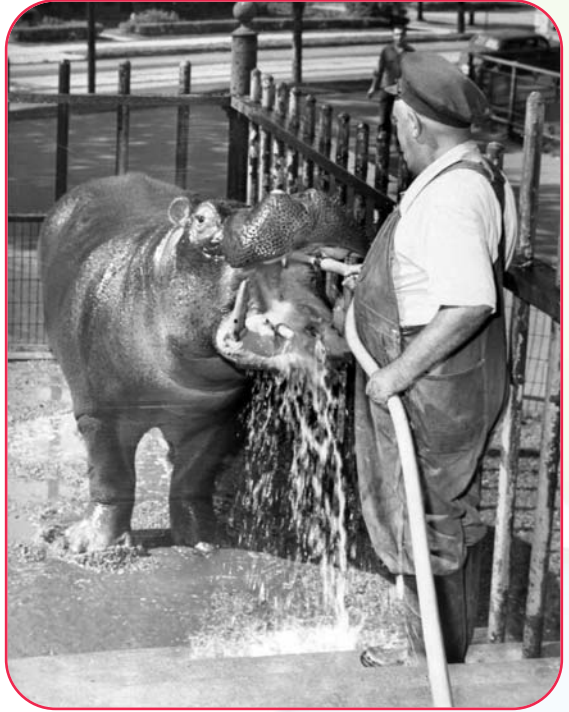
Online Birthday Celebration!

Web:

- Centennial cake-decorating contest photos: zoosociety.org/cake
- Party pictures from our centennial celebration bash: zoosociety.org/party
- Centennial stories: zoosociety.org/100years
- A photo history of the ZSM: zoosociety.org/photohistory

Photo: This hippo is either Anthony or Cleopatra, both of whom came to the Milwaukee County Zoo in 1943. This photo was probably taken in the late 1940s or 1950s, says Zoo librarian Mary Kazmierzak.

Photographer unknown.



A Conversation with Bess Frank

"The first [Zoological Society] Board of Directors were looking to put Milwaukee on the map, and one of the ways you did that was to build a zoo," says Bess Frank, the Milwaukee County Zoo's unofficial historian. In early January, WUWM's "Lake Effect" radio show aired a conversation with Frank about the ZSM's century of Zoo support. Frank, who retired as curator of large mammals in 2007, helped build the Zoo's historical archives during her 20-year career here. Tune in online at zoosociety.org/Podcasts.

Photo: In 2002, Bess Frank (right) perused archive materials with Zoo Pride volunteer Kaye Lynne Carpenter (left) and photo assistant Christine Birt.



Happy celebrating!

Celebrations

The Gift of Art

Tora Kozic, 11, makes paintings as presents for family and friends. In celebration of our centennial, the fifth-grader from Sussex, Wis., created and donated a colorful animal painting to the ZSM. The painting, which shows a tiger, toucan, snake, elephant and Samson the gorilla, one of the most famous animals in Zoo history, will be displayed in the ZSM's office at the Zoo. When she grows up, Tora could help care for some of these animals. Her favorite subject in school is science, she says, and she plans to become a zookeeper. **Photo:** Tora's animal painting.



She Has Zoo Pride

As Zoo Pride's volunteer manager, Lynn Wilding (right) knows every one of the group's 518 active volunteers. After all, she has helped run Zoo Pride, the ZSM's 35-year-old volunteer auxiliary, for more than a decade. "I like working with the many people who each bring their own story to Zoo Pride," she says. "They have the same goal—to help make our Zoo one of the best." Zoo Priders range in age from 15 to 95 and come from all walks of life (see your spring *Alive* magazine for more). Wilding organizes volunteer training, works with the group's 29 committees and helps Zoo Pride find ways to serve the ever-changing needs of the Zoo and the ZSM. In 2008, for example, the group began a shorter, two-day training so new volunteers could start more quickly than taking a previous six-day course. (There's also advanced training for people who want to get more involved.) In 2004, Wilding was honored by the Association for Volunteer Administration of Southeastern Wisconsin with its top award for her leadership. "Volunteering isn't just about giving," says Wilding. "Zoo Priders make new friends, gain job skills and experience and feel good about supporting a great cause."

Web: Meet our volunteers!

- The faces of Zoo Pride: zoosociety.org/whywevolunteer

Centennial Safaris

Have you always wanted to go on safari to Africa? The ZSM's three safaris in August 2010 are a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see Kenya with experts from the Zoo and the ZSM. The trips are scheduled during the "great migration," when thousands of wildebeest and zebras cross the Serengeti Plains of Tanzania into Kenya. Pick from three itineraries: a lower-priced tent and lodge safari, a mid-priced safari and a luxury safari. The trips begin on different days but end on the same day with a centennial gala. For more information or to register, see zoosociety.org/safaris or call Lisa B., (414) 258-2333.



Centennial Souvenirs

- Why not sponsor a big animal in honor of a big anniversary? Our centennial animal sponsorship is the 5,500-pound Happy the hippo. Happy, who came to Milwaukee in fall 2009, was one of most well-loved animals in his former home, the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. This \$100 sponsorship package includes a cute plush-toy hippo, a hippo fact sheet, an invitation to Animal Safari (a behind-the-scenes event at the Zoo), a photo of Happy, two Zoo attraction tickets and special recognition at the Zoo. Order at zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333.
- Our bright blue centennial T-shirts, above, were a hit at the centennial kickoff party in January. To purchase a shirt, stop by our office at the Zoo, call (414) 258-2333 or order online, zoosociety.org. Youth sizes and adult sizes (small through extra-large) are \$5 each; adult sizes 2X and 3X are \$7. Shipping and handling are \$7 extra per shirt.



Helping Seals & Polar Bears

How's climate change affecting polar bears and seals in the wild? Look for answers on interactive displays near the Zoo's seal and polar bear habitats. They will be installed later this year as part of the Zoological Society's 2010 annual appeal project to improve the polar bear and seal exhibits at the Zoo. Other changes include:

- Shade structures to keep these cold-weather animals comfortable during warm summer days.
- Revamped rockwork in the seal exhibit to help keepers care for the animals and give talks for Zoo guests
- A Web cam in the polar bear den for a behind-the-scenes glimpse of these giants.
- New salt baths for the seals.
- An upgraded water system in both animal areas.

Thanks to these improvements, more seals may join the Zoo in the future. If you would like to help, please see zoosociety.org, or call (414) 258-2333. Donors who give \$75 or more will receive special recognition on a board near the seal and polar bear habitats. Some donation levels include animal sponsorships, and all donations are tax-deductible. For more on polar bears in the wild, see the opposite page. **Photo above:** A harbor seal at the Zoo.



RECYCLE & CONNECT

If you want to help the Earth, think small. Little things you can do at home help the environment. For example, recycling just one soda can saves enough energy to run a TV for four hours. Show your recycling prowess in the Zoological Society's new Cans for Cash for Critters (C3) program. This challenge is open to schools, families, youth groups and companies. Recycle or sell unused items in your home, give the proceeds to the non-profit Zoological Society for our Sponsor an Animal program and win fun prizes.

Sign up any time at
www.zoosociety.org/C3.

C3 features an online social network that lets participants create personalized profiles, keep track of recycling progress, share recycling tips and ask for donations. (Participants who prefer to keep track on paper can request a hard-copy packet; call 414-258-2333.) The deadline for turning in forms and money is Aug. 6, 2010. Winners will be announced Aug. 28 at the Zoological Society's Animal Safari, a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors and C3 participants, at the Zoo. The Sponsor an Animal program benefits all the animals at the Zoo. Featured sponsorships include Happy the hippo (page 8) and Isabella the swan (see flyer enclosed with *Wild Things*). **Photo:** Bella Smith (left), 4, of Milwaukee, counted crushed soda cans with sisters Maya, 6, and Cassie, 9, at the Zoo's eco-fest last year (see page 5). Note: Please do not bring recyclables to the Zoo; we can't accept them. We will only accept funds raised through recycling.

Speaking for Polar Bears



photo by Dale Gray

“Polar bears are great ambassadors for climate change,” says Kara DeLanty. DeLanty, a keeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo, is an ambassador herself. Last fall, she won a paid trip to a weeklong workshop on polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba (Canada). She saw polar bears in the wild, met conservationists and learned some startling facts about the future of these animals.

Some scientists believe that warmer climates melt the polar bears’ arctic habitats and put their already-fragile population in danger. According to Polar Bears International, the conservation group that organized the workshop, the world’s current polar bear population of 20,000 to 25,000 animals could decline by nearly two-thirds by 2050. Polar bears have been considered threatened since 2008, when they made the U.S. Department of Interior’s list under the Endangered Species Act.

Fortunately, simple conservation strategies can help save polar bears in the wild. That’s where DeLanty comes in. The workshop participants, 18 zookeepers from the U.S., Canada and Denmark, were asked to take up the polar bear cause at home. DeLanty, who won the trip by giving a talk on polar bears to a committee of Zoo staff, now speaks with zookeepers and school groups about conservation (watch zoosociety.org for updates on talks for the public). For example, buying recycled products is just as important as recycling because it reduces demand for disposable items, she says.

DeLanty is also helping to create a program called Acres for the Atmosphere, which encourages people to plant trees in their communities, including in urban lots and in zoos. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, the gas linked to climate change. Trees in the middle of Milwaukee could help polar bears thousands of miles away. **Photo:** Kara DeLanty at the Zoo.



Photo: Zero the polar bear at the Zoo.

A New Start for Zero

It was goodbye and good luck to Zero the polar bear last January. One could say this 20-year Zoo resident traveled to New York’s Seneca Park Zoo in pursuit of love—or at least, offspring. Born at the Milwaukee County Zoo in 1989, Zero didn’t sire youngsters with resident female polar bear Snow Lilly (who came here in 2005) or with any of her predecessors. Pairing the shy bear with a new female could encourage Zero to breed and carry on his valuable genetic heritage, reasoned the polar bear Species Survival Plan (SSP). It’s also easier to move a male bear because females prefer the comfort and security of their dens in preparation for breeding. SSPs, part of the Zoo and Aquarium Association, are responsible for assuring the survival of healthy, genetically diverse animal populations. Polar bears are facing threats in the wild (see story above), and zoos help to conserve the species and draw attention to their plight.

Photo: Zero at the Zoo.



Helping Hands

Want to give us a helping hand? Whether you're excited about our events, education programs or conservation efforts, you can help! **Details on the Web:** zoosociety.org/Support/

A Delicious Evening

Nearly 700 guests sampled everything from pinot noir to pilsner to pizza at **Wines and Beers of the World**. Sponsored by **Wells Fargo Advisors**, this Feb. 4 Zoological Society fund-raiser raised more than \$36,000 for polar bear and seal exhibit renovations at the Milwaukee County Zoo (see page 10). **Downer Wine & Spirits**, a major contributor to the event, later sold wines featured that night and contributed 10% of the proceeds to the Society. Other major supporters were **MillerCoors**, **Palermo's® Pizza** and **Purple Feet Wines, LLC**. Gourmet samples were provided by **Alterra Coffee Roasters**, **Buca di Beppo**, **Gourmet Cheesecake & More**, **La Luna Foods**, **Larry's Market**, **Niemann's Candy Shop of Wauwatosa**, **Noelle's Bake Shoppe & Cupcakery**, **OILERIE® BROOKFIELD**, **Panera Bread**, **PepsiAmericas®**, **Rishi Tea**, **Suedoodles**, **TLC Soup Company** and **Usinger's Famous Sausage**. **Photo:** Lori and Dave Ristau of West Allis enjoy a wine sample. Lori Ristau is with Wells Fargo Advisors, which sponsored the event.



Smashing Success

Everyone from tots to seniors rolled spares and strikes at the Zoological Society's **Beastly Bowl-a-Thon** on March 6. The event, held at the AMF Bowlero in Wauwatosa, brought out 413 people for an afternoon of bowling, prizes and snacks such as pizza samples donated by **Palermo's® Pizza**. The day raised more than \$13,500 for the Milwaukee County Zoo's animals through the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Grand prizes were donated by **Ray & Marge Klink** and **Brian & Robin Higgins**. **Photo above:** What a roll! Drew Jeske, 4, of Milwaukee, cheered on his bowling ball at last year's Bowl-a-Thon.

Honoring Samson

While Samson the gorilla died in 1981, this former Milwaukee County Zoo resident lives on in legend. No wonder nearly 1,600 people came out to walk or run in the Zoo's 30th annual **Samson Stomp & Romp**. Sponsored by **Gatorade** and **Pick 'n Save**, the Jan. 17 event at the Zoo featured four runs, including a 5K. Zoogoers that day could also see a life-size replica of Samson, on loan from the Milwaukee Public Museum, in the Zoo's entrance atrium. Event proceeds went to animal care at the Zoo. **Photo:** Tammy Kennedy, of Hartford, shows her son, Quinn, 10, the 5k race route at the run/walk.



Photo by Rick Heinlein

On the Web:

- Conversation with Samson's keeper, zoosociety.org/Samson
- Modern-day take on the Zoo's gorillas: zoosociety.org/gorillas

Info on gorillas!

A Winning Photo

His day job is taking care of animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo, but in his off time Mark Scheuber takes their pictures. His hypnotic shot of a young green tree python in the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center won first place in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' 2009 photo contest. The photo (right) ran on the December cover of the group's national magazine, *Connect*.





Grand Anniversary

The 15th annual Puttin' on the Ritz was one of the most successful evenings yet! A record 215 guests attended this Zoological Society black-tie fund-raiser, sponsored by **The Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust**. Held Jan. 21, the event raised nearly \$63,570 for the non-profit Zoological Society. Guests could enjoy a gourmet dinner, watch amateur boxing by the Al Moreland Boxing Club and bid on auction items such as a Milwaukee Bucks VIP suite. Event contributors included **Lake Country Cigars** and **Wirtz Beverage Wisconsin**. **Photo:** Zoological Society CEO Dr. Robert Davis (left) met up with Paul Cadorin of Hartland, who helped launch this event in 1995.

Greening the Zoo

From saving rainwater to recycling cell phones, the Milwaukee County Zoo is “greening” the park grounds. A leader in saving animals in the wild (see zoosociety.org/conservationstories), the Zoo is also saving natural resources. Here’s what you might notice on the front lines. All new park benches are made with recycled plastic. Beverages in the Zoo’s restaurants are served in cups made from recycled corn. In the gift shops, rain barrels for recycling rainwater are available for purchase, and 86 have been sold in the past year. The Zoo also collects rainwater to use for cleaning park grounds, says Jenny Diliberti-Shea, the Zoo’s public relations coordinator.

Other Zoo conservation efforts include:

- New fixtures with water-saving devices in most public restrooms
- Natural leaf mulch used as fertilizer for the Zoo’s many flowerbeds
- New National City Zoomobiles will run on electric power instead of gasoline
- Zoo employees recycle everything from light bulbs to scrap metal to ink cartridges



Zoogoers, too, can help the Zoo stay “green.” Recycle old cell phones in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place (see the display near the Zoo Administration office for instructions). Across the way, in the coffee shop, pick up free coffee grounds to use as natural fertilizer for your garden. And, of course, everyone is invited to attend the Zoo’s eco-fest on May 15 and 16 (see page 4).

Grants Received

Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) programs and projects have received the following grants:

- As part of the ZSM’s collaboration in the **Congo Basin Forest Partnership**, the **World Wildlife Fund** recently awarded \$65,000 from USAID funds to the ZSM’s Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI). This program helps ensure the survival of bonobos in the wild by locating and studying bonobos in the Democratic Republic of Congo, preserving bonobo habitat, and aiding impoverished communities that depend on the rain forest for their subsistence. Other grants to BCBI included \$20,000 from a longtime **anonymous** donor; \$5,000 each from the **Wildlife Conservation Network** and from the **Zoological Society of San Diego**; \$500 from **Steven Rosenthal** of Westmont, Ill.; and \$250 from **Carolyn Davis** of Washington, D.C.
- For ZSM general operations to help in its mission to conserve wildlife, educate people about conservation and support the Zoo, the **Rodney F. Park & Betty Park Family Fund** gave \$5,070 and the **Harry and Martha Walsh Fund** gave \$5,060. Both funds are part of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.
- For 21 years the ZSM Conservation Education Department has been running annual Animal Ambassador programs, which bring the world of animals and conservation to hundreds of elementary-school students (many attending schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods). For its 2009-2010 Ambassador programs, the department received \$5,000 from the **Judith Grimes Family Fund**, \$3,500 from **Arnow & Associates** of Fox Point and \$1,000 from the **HH Camp Foundation** of Milwaukee. The 2010-2011 Ambassador programs received \$5,000 from **Joy Global Foundation** and \$3,500 from **Cooper Power Systems Division**. The department also received, for its animal-science programs for school classes, \$1,000 each from the **Philip W. Orth & Mariette C. Orth Charitable Lead Trust** and from the **Gene & Ruth Posner Foundation**. The **Ralph Evinrude Foundation** provided \$5,000 for the Program for Disadvantaged Youth so children can attend ZSM classes and summer camps.

Insider Tips

Marine Stars

With their pink, jewel-like tones (see right), rose sea stars are some of the prettiest animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Four new rose sea stars joined the octopus tank in the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center in February. They're housed with the octopus because sea stars are one of the few things the eight-legged creature will not eat, says Craig Berg, the Zoo's reptile and fish curator. Found on ocean bottoms in the north Atlantic and the Pacific oceans in the wild, rose sea stars are predators themselves, feeding on animals such as sea urchins. They use their "tube feet" to pounce on food, which they swallow with a mouth that's located on their undersides. Formerly known as star fish, sea stars are not related to fish. They're invertebrates (animals without a backbone), while fish are vertebrates (animals with a backbone, including humans). Sea stars also have unique adaptations such as the ability to grow a new "arm" if one is damaged or severed. Rose sea stars also can regenerate. "Fishermen would chop them up because sea stars ate the clams and mussels they were fishing, but new sea stars would grow out of those pieces," says Berg. (This process is rare and can take up to a year, however.)



Bringing Up Tigers

Tula and Nuri, the Milwaukee County Zoo's tiger cubs born last July, are growing up fast. After all, by the age of 1 to 1 ½, tiger youngsters are no longer considered cubs, says feline area supervisor Neil Dretzka. By age 2, they're adults. At press time, "the girls" weighed about 75 pounds each and were eating about 4 pounds of food a day (Mom Amba, in contrast, weighs 250 pounds and eats about 8 pounds of food each day). They had also graduated to aggressive play such as splashing and wrestling in the exhibit pool. Tigers are one of the few cats that like water, says Dretzka. Amba sometimes tries to avoid the raucous fun! See the youngsters in the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country as they enter their "tween" years. **Photo:** Tula has really grown since this photo was taken last November.

On the web!

For more stories, photos and videos of the tigers, see zoosociety.org/tigers.



Happy Birthday, Kitty

At the estimated age of 60, Kitty is the oldest bonobo (and the second oldest animal*) at the Milwaukee County Zoo. In fact, she may be the oldest bonobo in the world! Her story starts in Africa, where she was probably born in the Democratic Republic of Congo in about 1950 or 1951, when it was known as the Belgian Congo. Captured a few years later, Kitty went to a zoo in Antwerp, Belgium, where she lived until 1982. From there, she traveled to the Netherlands and then to Milwaukee. After a stint in Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Georgia, Kitty permanently returned to our Zoo in 1995. Despite her health problems—she is now deaf, blind and prone to occasional seizures—“Kitty loves to interact with people and has a wonderful life,” says bonobo keeper Barbara Bell. Kitty is off exhibit because she can no longer handle the rough-and-tumble antics of the Zoo’s 15 younger bonobos, but she interacts with peers behind the scenes. She tends to socialize with the troop in the mornings, when she is more lucid. For years, she has served as a “mentor” to Brian, a socially awkward bonobo. “Her family needs her and loves her very much,” says Bell. *The only animal at our Zoo who is older than Kitty is Onassis, the Amazon river turtle, estimated to be 70. **Photo:** Kitty the bonobo at the Zoo.



'Roo Brood

It's been a baby-boom year for the Milwaukee County Zoo's kangaroos. Last July, Kiama the Matschie's tree kangaroo had a joey (baby, shown below), her second with 'roo Dad Kokoda. In September, red kangaroos Ellie May and Annie also had offspring, fathered by Banjo. More youngsters could be on the way. “Banjo has been showing interest in the other three female red kangaroos; so we could see bumps and movement in their pouches in the near future,” says Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor of the Australia Building. All kangaroo joeys hide in mom's pouch for about six months, but you occasionally may see a head popping out this spring. In the wild, Matschie's kangaroos, native to Papua New Guinea (an island nation in the southwestern Pacific Ocean), are endangered because of habitat destruction and hunting. In zoos, they're part of an American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) Species Survival

Plan, which matches animals for successful and genetically diverse reproduction. Red kangaroos, while very common in their native Australia, are part of an AZA Population Management Plan that plots their genetic history; this program is managed by Jessica Munson, an area supervisor at our Zoo. **Top photo:** Matschie's tree kangaroo. **Middle:** Red kangaroos. **Bottom:** Matschie's tree kangaroo joey.



Amazing Catfish

Want to see a fish that looks like a shark? Head to the Milwaukee County Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center for a glimpse of the new kumakuma catfish. Found in the ARC's Amazon River aquarium, this fish is nearly 2 feet long and bears a striking resemblance to sharks. In the wild, kumakumas live in the Amazon River in South America and can reach 9 feet in length, says ARC area supervisor Jessica Munson. Also look for two granulated catfish in the same aquarium. It's easy to spot these 3-foot giants with rounded bellies. “They look like they swallowed a basketball,” says Munson.

Photo by
Dawn Fleuchaus

**Snooze at the Zoo,
sponsored by
Old Orchard Brands
and Sentry Foods,
runs for five nights
in 2010. See cover.**



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What's Happening

Details Inside

April 3

Egg Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save*

April 7 & 10 or June 7 & 12

Two-session Zoo Pride introductory volunteer orientation; call (414) 258-5667.

April 10

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank & FOX 6, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

April 14, 17, 21, 24

Four-session follow-up Zoo Pride volunteer training

April 23

Zootastic!, sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc., the Zoological Society's (ZSM's) family-friendly event at the Zoo, 5-9 p.m. Pre-register.

May 9

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort; all moms get in free*



Mother's Day at the Zoo

May 10

Members' online registration for Snooze at the Zoo begins: www.zoosociety.org/snooze

May 15 & 16

Party for the Planet, sponsored by American Transmission Company*+

May 29 - Sept. 6

The Zoo's summer special exhibit: Adventure Dinosaur!, sponsored by Lowe's, \$2.50 per person entry. Open daily.

June 2-Aug. 13

ZSM Summer Camps at the Zoo

June 4, 5 & 6

Free entry for ZSM members to Adventure Dinosaur!, sponsored by Lowe's*

June 5 & 6

Scouting at the Zoo; call (414) 771-3040 for details.

June 20

Father's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Chinet® & Pick 'n Save; all dads get in free*+

June 26

Zoo Ball 2010, sponsored by American Airlines

June 30, July 7, 14, 21 & 28, Aug. 4

Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by Tri City National Bank, 6-9 p.m.*+

July 13, 15 & 16

Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank, for ZSM members only, 5:15-9 p.m.*+

July 26

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by MillerCoors. Call Special Events at (414) 258-2333.+

Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods. Pre-register.

* ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The special dinosaur exhibit admission is extra, except for ZSM members June 4, 5 & 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (free), and during Kids' Nights, July 13, 15 & 16 (50% off), starting at 3 p.m. each day. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for free or reduced admission. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

+More information on these events will appear in future issues of *Wild Things*.



Father's Day at the Zoo