

Wild Things



Trumpeter swan

SNORE with the Animals

Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, August 10, 11, 12 or 13, starting at 5 p.m.

Members: \$135 for family of four; non-members, \$160. Go online for individual rates & discount details. Register online only: zoosociety.org/Snooze.

Member registration begins May 9 at 8 a.m.; for non-members, May 10 at 8 a.m.

For details, call Special Events at (414) 258-2333

Here's the scene: swans gliding on the lake, peacocks showing their colors, elk posing like statues, grizzlies playing in a pool. This is the charming area where you'll set up camp if you sign up for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) annual overnight family campout at the Milwaukee County Zoo. You can choose one of four nights to camp: Wednesday, Aug. 10, through Saturday, Aug. 13. 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 Butterflies! In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets (see page 4). This ZSM fund-raiser 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 zoosociety.org/snooze. (See start times above.) You will be registered as soon as you submit your payment information.

Get \$10 off a family registration or \$3 off an individual rate: Mail 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. **Photo at top:** Timothy Klockov of Milwaukee helps his 3-year-old son, Quinn, pound a tent stake last year. **Photo at right:** Friends Missy Miller (center) and Gabriella Schneider of Sheboygan relax on the shore of Lake Evinrude at last year's event.



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Ways to Go Green: zoosociety.org/greeningthezoo
A New Theater at the Zoo: wildtheater.org

Save Water With a Rain Barrel

You probably didn't know you could buy a rain barrel at the Milwaukee County Zoo. What would you do with it? Bring it home, hook it to your rain-gutter downspout and collect rainwater. It's an ever-more-popular conservation tactic. Instead of water going into streets and storm drains, the water can be used to sprinkle your lawn or your garden, saving you money. Joe Jastrow, merchandise manager at the Zoo, has sold hundreds of rain barrels for \$45 each in the Zoo's gift shops. Zoological Society members get their usual 10% gift-shop discount on the barrels by showing their Zoo Pass.

"For the last two years I've been working with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) selling their rain barrels, which are recycled barrels," says Jastrow. "They save energy by not using processed water. The benefits of the barrels, that they are recycled and that the Milwaukee Community Service Corps is employed to make them, sold me on the program." The service corps is a group of young people, ages 14 through 23, working to preserve, conserve and restore water quality. "The rain barrels are helping to save the Great Lakes from pollution one barrel at a time."



The rain barrels are one of several "green" projects the Zoo has been doing in recent years. Creating rain gardens at the Zoo is another. See the April issue of *Alive* magazine packaged with this newsletter or go to www.zoosociety.org/greeningthezoo. **Photo:** Joe Jastrow with a rain barrel

Memberanda

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 93, April-May 2011

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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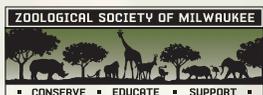
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For Zoo Pass benefits and other details,
please see zoosociety.org/memberinfo.

Zoological Society office hours: Through May 27, 2011: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; **May 28 through Labor Day:** Weekdays, 8:30 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Zoo hours: Through May 27, 2011: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; **May 28 through Labor Day:** 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. **Please note that Zoo admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. Zoo animal buildings close 30 minutes before posted Zoo closing time.**

School field trips: For members visiting the Zoo with an organized class field trip or company picnic, members' free-admission benefits do not apply. Due to the many busloads of school groups visiting the Zoo, gate staff is not able to board each bus to verify memberships without causing potentially dangerous traffic backups onto Blue Mound Road. The fees paid for educational outings and company picnics usually include additional class materials or zoo-visit benefits as well.

Visiting other zoos and aquariums: We have agreed to participate in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums listing of accredited institutions. Some accredited zoos and aquariums choose not to participate in this program and therefore do not appear on our list. Most facilities honor free or discounted admission for two adults and two minor children. Members should call ahead to the facilities they plan to visit to get current information. In a few cases, we have opted not to reciprocate with some institutions that are in close proximity to our Zoo such as the NEW Zoo near Green Bay, the Racine Zoo, the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. Members are encouraged to review the updated list by going online at zoopass.com or calling us at (414) 258-2333.

For tax-time tips, please see zoosociety.org/memberinfo.

Zoo Ball 2011: A Night in Havana



Sponsored by American Airlines
Saturday, June 25
Milwaukee County Zoo
Prices start at \$300 per person

It's a sultry summer night in old Havana. Moonlight cascades onto palm fronds swaying in the breeze. You can almost feel the spray of the ocean as you walk on the *malecón*. Couples dance swiftly to the energetic music pulsing through the city. You'll get a taste and feel of island life in the West Indies as you drink, dance and dine your way through this year's biggest fund-raiser for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). The theme is A Night in Havana, and the chairs of the event are Eido and Michelle Walny of Bayside. Eido has been a member of the ZSM's Associate Board since 2007. He is an attorney at Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan. Michelle is an English and speech teacher at Nicolet High School. They're shown here dressed for a tropical party, waiting for a warm

breeze to catch a ruffle. Now in its 28th year, this black-tie event has raised nearly \$7 million for the non-profit ZSM, including \$440,000 in 2010. The evening includes cocktails, gourmet dining and dancing. The dining venues are sponsored by the U.S. Bank Foundation; entertainment is sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc.; and a late-night venue is sponsored by MillerCoors. The event's multi-pronged auction will feature prizes such as spa specials, sports tickets and transportation on American Airlines. For an invitation or details on sponsorship opportunities and corporate tables, call Laura, (414) 258-2333.

The Zoological Society's Annual Appeal

**"A New
MOO
AT the Zoo!"**



Belle, the fiberglass Holstein cow in the Milwaukee County Zoo's dairy barn, helped teach a generation of kids how milk is made. In 2011, the Zoological Society is giving Belle an interactive makeover as part of our annual appeal. Updates include an interactive display for young children, new movies about cows in the Dairy Complex theater, fun dairy facts and more. The appeal also raises money for additional Zoo support.

To give a gift, please see zoosociety.org/appeal or call us at (414) 258-2333.



Kohl's Wild Theater at the Zoo

- May 28 through Sept. 5, daily
- Free shows five times daily
- In the theater at Northwestern Mutual Family Farm
- See story in your April *Alive* magazine

At the Zoo
and schools!

Kohl's Wild Theater outreach

Free outreach programs for schools, libraries and other groups begin October 2011; book now at wildtheater.org. Programs performed within a one-hour radius of the Milwaukee County Zoo

Eye of a Butterfly

Butterflies! In Living Color

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

May 28-Sept. 25 daily;

\$2 per person exhibit admission. Free admission for Zoological Society members

June 7, 8 & 9 from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with Zoo Pass card & photo ID

Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building

What's a butterfly's favorite color? There are simply too many to choose from! While butterflies can see red, green and yellow pigments just like us, they're also able to see a whole slew of ultraviolet colors humans can't. These ultraviolet colors create special patterns on flower blossoms and even other butterflies that are visible only to a butterfly eye. If you want to attract butterflies at the Milwaukee County Zoo's special indoor exhibit for the summer, be

sure to wear your brightest clothing! Butterflies especially like red, yellow, orange, pink and purple. You'll be able to identify many of the exhibit's butterflies from laminated sheets with butterfly photos that you get as you enter and then turn in at the end. Remember not to use insect repellent on your clothes or your skin as it can kill butterflies. On exiting the exhibit, you will enter a butterfly-free zone to check for butterflies still clinging to you. Many of the exhibit's



A Passion for Puppets

Prehistoric dinosaurs. Laughing hyenas. Crocodiles 17 feet long. Brandon Kirkham brings these creatures to life—as puppets. This summer, Kirkham’s work as a professional puppet-maker will be showcased at Kohl’s Wild Theater at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This new Zoological Society theatrical program features daily, family-friendly, conservation-themed performances at the Zoo May 28 through Sept. 5, as well as community outreach programs starting in October. Kohl’s Wild Theater is made possible by a partnership with Kohl’s Department Stores through Kohl’s Cares.®

Puppet-making is an art and a technical skill, says Kirkham, who’s creating puppets of a swan and a mom and baby orangutan for the theater. Each animal puppet begins with research, such as observing the Zoo’s three orangutans—youngster Mahal; his surrogate mom, MJ; and the adult male, Tommy. For example, Kirkham was struck by Tommy’s matted hair, which he plans to re-create with faux fur and even human hair. Other materials Kirkham uses in his work range from glass eyes to foam and feathers. The biggest challenge is engineering the puppet “skeleton,” a mechanism that allows the puppeteer to control movement of eyes, mouth or arms. At the Zoo, the 2-foot-tall orangutan puppet (as big as the real Mahal) will have moving eyes, notes Kirkham. The trumpeter swan puppet, meanwhile, can be carried by a performer right on stage.

Kirkham, who also designs sets and costumes for Milwaukee’s First Stage Children’s Theater, began making puppets as a child. He perfected his skills in college while earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theater. Since then, he’s created life-size dinosaur puppets for the Utah Museum of Natural History and puppet characters from the children’s book “Charlotte’s Web.” Puppets add a certain magic to performances, Kirkham explains. His orangutan puppet will star in a play about a young scientist who works to save these great apes from extinction. The puppet will be operated and “voiced” by a performer who’s hidden behind a screen. The goal is to charm kids and families—and to inspire them to help wildlife. **Large photo:** Brandon Kirkham holds a puppet of Templeton the rat from “Charlotte’s Web,” surrounded by animal puppets he has made for other theater companies: a pig, turtle, frog, and ducks. **Small photo:** This mechanical skeleton is the frame for a puppet.

By Julia Kolker

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Butterfly photos by Jan Meerman



butterflies don’t live in the Milwaukee area and could disturb the ecosystem if they escaped. You can see plenty of Wisconsin butterflies, though, in the Zoo’s four outdoor butterfly gardens: in front of the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building, next to the Dall sheep exhibit, and two in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. For more on the exhibit, see your April *Alive* magazine packaged with this issue of *Wild Things*. **Photo:** Lauren Gebhardt (left) and Caren Sullivan, both of Whitefish Bay, touched a butterfly when the Zoo last had a butterfly exhibit, in 2003.

By Erica Breunlin

Fun & Interactive Learning Programs

Bark like a sea lion, swim like a seal

What animal barks, has fur and whiskers, and likes to swim? It's not a dog—it's a sea lion! Kids age 3, accompanied by an adult, will “dive” into our ocean classroom in Seals and Sea Lions. Find out what seals and sea lions like to eat, how they communicate, and how they move through the water. Create your own sea lion costume and hunt for a seal snack. Learn how to tell the difference between a seal and a sea lion. Then “swim” through the Zoo to see these underwater mammals in action. This class will get your “seal” of approval! For class dates, times and availability, see zoosociety.org/Education/SpringClasses. **Photo:** Lily Frank, 3, of Oregon, Wis., barks like a sea lion for Mom Nicole at Seals & Sea Lions class.



Spring Classes Still Open

The following classes still had openings when we went to press. For availability of these and other Education Adventures at the Zoo and to register online, check our Web site at zoosociety.org/spring.

- **Age 2 (accompanied by an adult)** “Fly” to the Zoo to discover fun facts about birds, climb into a giant nest and pretend to hatch from an egg in the April class **Watch the Birdie**. Practice your colors and find some hidden animals when you follow the colorful classroom trails in **Color Zoo** in May.
- **Age 3 (accompanied by an adult)** Design your own elephant costume, eat an elephant snack and learn how to say hello with your “trunk” in April during **My, What Big Ears You Have!** Create a sea lion costume, “hunt” for a seal snack and “swim” to see seals in action during **Seals & Sea Lions** class in May.
- **Ages 4 & 5:** Help uncover the identity of our mystery classroom animal during **Animal Detectives** in April. In May, dig like an aye-aye, leap like a sifaka and sniff like a ring-tailed lemur in **Leapin’ Lemurs**.
- **Ages 6 & 7:** Discover the hidden secrets of how “cool” animals survive in the hot desert in the April class **Too Hot to Handle**. In May, play with pliable art materials and create your own bird sculpture during **Super Cool Bird Sculpting**.
- **Ages 8-10:** In April, explore our “cactus country” classroom and trek to see the Zoo’s desert dwellers in **Too Hot to Handle**. Learn about “toad-ally” awesome animals and then create your own amazing amphibian to take home in the May class **Awesome Amphibians**.



Summer Camps Still Open

The Summer Camps brochure was mailed along with your January issue of *Alive* and lists all Zoological Society summer camp offerings for 2011. Members-only priority, online registration began on Feb. 10. The following day camps still had openings when we went to press. For availability of these and other summer camps at the Zoo and to register online, check our Web site at zoosociety.org/summer.

- **Age 2 (accompanied by an adult)** Make your own Zoo counting book and create a crazy carousel animal in **Carousel**.
- **Age 3 (accompanied by an adult)** Design a hippo head and munch on a hippo-style snack during **Hip Hippo Hurray**.
- **Ages 4 & 5:** Enter our life-size “garden” classroom, get an up-close look at some bugs and dig in the dirt during **Amazing Ants, Busy Bees & Wiggly Worms**. Camps are offered for kids only OR for a child accompanied by an adult.
- **Ages 6 & 7:** “Dive” into the ocean to learn cool facts about sharks in **Underwater Safari**.
- **Ages 8 & 9:** Join us as we discover why bears are powerful predators, sneaky scavengers and outstanding omnivores in **Bear Country**.

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

Study of the World’s Endangered Species, a two-day course on June 18 and 19, 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.

The Wild Choice

With “Wild” as your last name, you might be predisposed to grow up as a rebel or as a wild-animal lover. Tim Wild found himself loving animals since his first childhood visit to a zoo. “Being a zoologist—it’s what I always wanted to be,” he says. Wild, who earned his zoology degree in 1991, is the new curator of large mammals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. And the Zoo’s other three curators are breathing a sigh of relief since he arrived in January. They had taken on the duties of the fourth curator for several years, while the position was vacant.

Wild will be responsible for the big cats, the North America area (moose, elk, bears, wolves, reindeer and more),



the Australia Building (kangaroos and emus), the pachyderm area (elephants, rhinos, giraffes, etc.) and Winter Quarters (camels, South American animals, antelope), which is where warm-climate animals are housed during Wisconsin’s winter. Speaking of winter, how did Wild like moving to Milwaukee in January from the more temperate Kansas City, where he worked at the Zoo as animal area supervisor? Not to worry. He grew up in Lake Erie snow country: Buffalo, N.Y. So he’s used to lake-effect snow. And his wife, Jackie, grew up in the ski-resort town of Jackson, Wyo.

Wild has had a lot of experience with large mammals, especially training elephants and hoofed animals. “Our African hoofstock barn in Kansas City was so far away from the exhibit that you could not see the barn. We did a lot of training to get those animals to shift from barn to exhibit and back,” says Wild. “The zebras were very challenging at first because they didn’t do it the way we had planned. We had started with a cue, trying to get them to come to us for food. They didn’t respond to it at all.” The next idea was to try to herd the zebras by going behind them and pushing toward a chain-link chute, and then following behind the animals all the way to the yard. What worked better was to get out from behind the zebras. “We started walking on the outside of the fence-chute instead of the inside, leading more than herding. That gave them the choice of turning around and going back to the barn,” says Wild. “They became a lot calmer. Before long, we didn’t even have to walk with them. They would just head out toward the yard as soon as we opened the barn door.” Wild should fit right in at Milwaukee’s Zoo, which has training or conditioning programs for many of the animals, large and small. **Photo:** Tim Wild at the lion exhibit.

By Paula Brookmire

Milwaukee County Zoo curators:

Craig Berg, aquarium and reptiles
Jan Rafert, primates and small mammals
Alex Waier, birds; Northwestern Mutual
Family Farm
Tim Wild, large mammals



Saving Bonobos

ZSM Gets Prestigious Grant

To help continue its 17-year effort to save bonobos in Africa, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) received a prestigious three-year grant in December. The \$50,000 award will support the ZSM's Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI), which includes research and conservation efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The ZSM has a research station, Etate, in the DRC's Salonga National Park, a World Heritage Site designated by the United Nations. The Salonga is the largest national rain-forest park in Africa protecting bonobos and forest elephants.

The award was granted by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums under its new Ape TAG Conservation Initiative (ATCI). The ATCI represents the combined effort of almost 40 zoos to conserve apes in the wild and thwart the catastrophic decline of ape populations around the world. The Arcus Foundation, a leading global foundation supporting ape conservation, provided generous matching funds to the grant program.

"The grant is a tremendous honor to BCBI, the Zoological Society and the Milwaukee County Zoo," says Dr. Robert Davis, ZSM CEO. "The grant process was highly competitive, with many worthy organizations vying for funding; only eight projects in total were awarded. Most importantly, it gives much-needed attention to the plight of the bonobo and other wildlife in the DRC and Salonga National Park." Bonobos exist in the wild only in the DRC.

Photos by Dr. Gay E. Reinartz

According to Dr. Gay Reinartz, the ZSM's



conservation coordinator and BCBI program director, Salonga National Park is critical to bonobo survival. "After years of research, the evidence is very clear," she says. "To save the bonobo, we must protect Salonga National Park from poaching and degradation. The Salonga is an entire ecosystem and thus the priority site for bonobo conservation in the DRC."

The Zoological Society has worked in the DRC and Salonga since 1997, and Dr. Reinartz was working on an action plan to save bonobos years before that.

Funds from this grant will support three programs: ecological surveys and research on bonobos, training of park guards, and monitoring of bonobo populations and of illegal hunting. BCBI's work is also part of a larger collaborative effort to preserve the biodiversity and forests of the Congo River Basin. Partners in this mission include the ICCN (the Congolese park authority), World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and U.S. Agency for International Development. **Photo below:** Training park guards in map reading and navigation are Ngomo Mozart (left), ZSM field researcher and trainer, and Patrick Guislain (far right), ZSM field site coordinator. The guards and trainees are (from left of Ngomo) Bomolo Imboko Sabit, Banketshi Ntangeli, and Lisiko Bomomo Cosma. **Small photo:** Boketshi Bunda, chief of Etate Patrol Post (left), and park guard Isomana Edmond.

By Steve Seyfert



GREEN DAYS

Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Company

May 14 & 15, 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.

Green is everyone's favorite color at Party for the Planet, the Zoo's annual commemoration of Earth Day and International Migratory Bird Day. This celebration of our planet has fun and educational activities for everyone. Kids can "fly" through the Zoo as one of four species of birds among the many that migrate to Wisconsin from Central and South America. They will learn about the obstacles and dangers that migrating birds face as well as things we can do in our own yards to help birds on their journey. Everyone can discover how small changes in our daily lives can help animals, preserve the environment, and save the planet. Get tips on everything from recycling to collecting rainwater to planting native Wisconsin plants in your yard. 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 main butterfly garden (near train tracks) for tips on attracting butterflies to your own backyard.
- **Outreach Booths:** Learn how to get involved. Chat with members of nature groups such as Wildlife in Need and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful.
- **Rainwater Designs:** See rain barrels to collect rain from your gutters (see page 2).
- **Woodcarving:** Learn about the intricate art of woodcarving birds, presented by the Greater Milwaukee Wildfowl Carvers.
- **Bird Banding:** Watch Zookeepers net, band, and release birds behind the Small Mammals Building; 9:00 a.m. to noon on **Saturday only**.

Photo above: Brian Jonathan Hayes, 3, of Milwaukee checks out a Zoo garden at last year's event.



Photo: Jennifer Hartshorn of Wauwatosa visits the rhino exhibit last Mother's Day with her sons (from left): Jacob, Nathan and Nick.

Kudos to Mom

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by westbury bank

May 8, 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

Spring has sprung! Warm and sunny days mean bright-colored flowers, budding trees, and Zoo babies! Celebrate Mother's Day by meeting the Zoo's animal moms and their calves, chicks, and cubs. Admission on Mother's Day, May 8, is free for all moms, thanks to westbury bank. (Zoo parking fee still applies.) Stop by the Herb and Nada Mahler Family Aviary to see the new gentoo penguin chicks, born in January to moms Daphne and Olive (see page 15). View impala moms Saffron, Cilantro, and Nutmeg with their 6-month-old calves, Amy, Sondra, and Blynn at the Holz Family Impala Country. Look for the 4-month-old baby cotton-top tamarin riding on the back of its mom, Carina, in the Small Mammals Building. In Primates of the World, catch up with 4-year-old Mahal and surrogate mom, M.J., and learn about the importance of saving this critically endangered species at Project M.O.M.

A gift for Mom:

Remember how moms have ears that can hear almost anything? So do African fennec foxes. What cuter Mother's Day gift than a sponsorship of the Zoo's new fennec fox. See the flyer enclosed with this *Wild Things*.

Meeting Marine Mammals Close up

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

Aquatic Adventures: \$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 oceansoffun.org or by phone at (414) 453-5527, ext 1.

Meet Harley the sea lion, who was rescued twice as a stranded pup on California beaches. Researchers finally discovered he was deaf and probably wouldn't survive in the wild. So he found a new life in the Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun pool, where trainers have adapted their techniques to help this special-needs mammal. You'll learn a lot about animal-training methods at the various programs and camps offered this year by Oceans of Fun, with discounts for Zoological Society members. 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 butterflies. Sea Lion Explorers (children 7-9) and Marine Voyagers (children 10-12) have alternating schedules throughout the summer; workshops run weekly June through 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 go into the pool to 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 on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays, April through Oct. 29.
- **Job shadowing:** 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 from April through December. E-mail reservations@oceansoffun.org or call (414) 453-5527.

Trainer Kelly Kamrath (left) show kids how to signal a sea lion to jump.





Volunteering at the Zoo

Guide Goes Digital

“Being a guide at the Zoo,” says Linda Johnson, of West Allis, “is kind of like being a walking, talking information booth.” Johnson volunteers as a winter and summer guide at the Milwaukee County Zoo because she enjoys talking with Zoo visitors about animals. Like most Zoo guides, she used to carry around a large book with details about a variety of the Zoo’s animals. “At the beginning of the season, the book is clean and nice,” Johnson explains, “but by the end of the season, it’s very tattered and worn and hard to carry around.”

To remedy this problem, Johnson uploaded her entire book of animal data to her Barnes and Noble Nook. A Nook is a tablet computer that can hold an estimated 6,000 full-color documents, books, and magazines at one time. The Nook is only 7 inches

long and weighs less than a pound. So Johnson can easily carry it with her as she walks through the Zoo grounds. When visitors ask a question, it takes her only a few seconds to call up that animal’s file. Besides animal facts, she also has color photos of the animal as an adult and as a baby, and maps of the animal’s natural habitat.

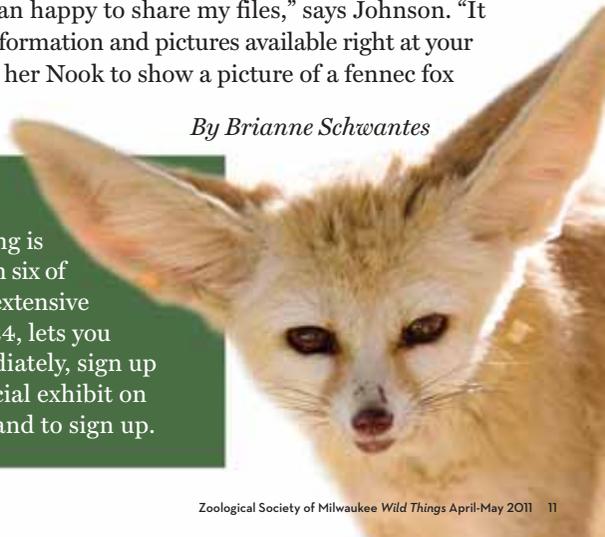
“In the mornings, lots of moms come to the Zoo with their kids,” says Johnson, “and the kids really love looking at the pictures of baby animals.” Since baby animals are so popular, Johnson usually brings her Nook to those exhibits first. “One day,” Johnson remembers fondly, “I walked over to the Australia Building where I knew there was a tree kangaroo that had a baby in her pouch. There was a family there and I used my Nook to show them a picture of a kangaroo with a teeny-tiny tail sticking out of her abdomen. And then I pointed to the exhibit and said, ‘Now, look real close at that mommy’s belly.’ All of a sudden, you could see the baby’s eyes, nose and snout sticking out. The whole family gasped. It was like magic.”

Johnson has been a member of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society’s volunteer auxiliary, for over a decade. She hopes that other volunteers can use this digitized information someday. “If anyone else gets a Nook, I will be more than happy to share my files,” says Johnson. “It really is wonderful to have a whole library of information and pictures available right at your fingertips.” **Photo above:** Linda Johnson uses her Nook to show a picture of a fennec fox to a zoogoer. **Below:** Fennec fox, stock photo.

By Brianne Schwantes

Joining Zoo Pride

The next basic, two-session volunteer training is Sept. 7 and 10. This training allows you to join six of Zoo Pride’s numerous committees. A more extensive four-day training, held Sept. 14, 17, 21 and 24, lets you do more in Zoo Pride. To get started immediately, sign up for special training to help at the Zoo’s special exhibit on butterflies. Call (414) 258-5667 for details and to sign up.



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/

Boxing & Black-Tie Event Raises Funds

A record 288 guests made the 16th annual Puttin' on the Ritz one of the best yet! This Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) black-tie fund-raiser, sponsored by **The Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust**, raised \$83,574. It was held Jan. 20 at Potawatomi Bingo Casino in downtown Milwaukee, the first time at that location. Co-chairing the event were Mark Zimmerman from the ZSM Associate Board and Paul Cadorin, a ZSM Board of Directors member. Guests could enjoy a gourmet dinner, watch amateur boxing by the Al Moreland Boxing Club and bid on auction items such as a Bradley Center VIP suite. Event contributors included **Wirtz Beverage Wisconsin, Lake Country Cigars, the Bosch Tavern, REDgraphx and photographer Jenny Bohr.**

Record Runners Stomp the Zoo

Bone-chilling temperatures and snow on the ground at the Milwaukee County Zoo couldn't stop a record 1,843 runners from lacing up for the 31st annual Samson Stomp & Romp, sponsored by **Gatorade and Pick 'n Save**. Some runners even opted to bear bare skin at the Jan. 16 fund-raiser, donning little more than T-shirts and shorts. Participants could choose among a competitive 5K, 2-mile run/walk, 1-mile route for children, or ¼-mile route for children. Visitors who brought store receipts showing Gatorade purchases received a special discount in the Zoo gift shop, and 59 people took advantage of the deal. All proceeds benefitted Zoo animals. The event is named after the legendary Samson the gorilla, who died in 1981. **Photo:** Megan and Kevin McShane, of New Berlin, grab a quick cup of Gatorade before the race.



On the Web:

Conversation with Samson's keeper,
zoosociety.org/Samson



Rolling Along for the Animals

The noise of bowling balls rolling down wooden lanes and smashing into pins might have been too loud for animals, but we hope they appreciate the support bowlers gave them at the Zoological Society's Beastly Bowl-a-Thon on Feb. 26. The event, held at the AMF Bowlero in Wauwatosa, brought out 361 people for an afternoon of bowling, prizes and snacks such as pizza samples donated by **Palermo's® Pizza**. The day raised about \$12,000 for the Milwaukee County Zoo's animals through the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Grand prizes were donated by **Marge Klink and Brian & Robin Higgins**. **Photo:** Renee Linder of South Milwaukee coaches her son, Eli, 3, as he releases his bowling ball at the Zoological Society's bowling fund-raiser in 2007.

Grants Received

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

- The ZSM's Animal Ambassador 2010-2011 education programs bring the world of animals and conservation to elementary-school students (many attending schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods). Various parts of this program received the following grants: \$3,500 each from **Cooper Industries** and the **Weyco Group Charitable Trust**, and \$1,000 from the **HH Camp Foundation**.
- The ZSM's Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI) received \$25,000 from the **World Wildlife Fund** as part of WWF's ongoing support of BCBI, which is in collaboration with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in Africa. BCBI also received \$24,200 from the **Wildlife Conservation Network**, \$2,500 from the **Zoological Society of San Diego** and \$2,000 from the **Milwaukee County Zoo**.
- \$250 from the **George L.N. Meyer Family Foundation** for ZSM general operations, which help support our mission to conserve wildlife, educate the public and support the Zoo.

Finding Gems on Our Web Site

Whether you need research for school or simply want to learn about the Milwaukee County Zoo, we have just the resource for you. Look no further than the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Web site: zoosociety.org. Here's just a little of what you'll find:

- Stories about zookeepers and ZSM volunteers
- Updates on Zoo animals
- ZSM history
- How to photograph animals
- Fun animal crafts and activities

The ZSM Web site holds a treasure chest of information! When you first log onto the site, start at the home page. Say you want stories about zookeepers. Look under Hot Topics at left and select Zoo Staff Stories. Click on zookeeper stories. Want to browse through stories in our magazines and newsletters? Near the top of the home page, you'll find a gray menu bar. Click on Membership. Under Publication Archive on the left side of the page, you can access past ZSM publications including *Alive*, *Wild Things*, and *Platy Press*. ZSM members can even see current issues of these publications. Next, click on the gray Conservation tab. Here you can read 36 stories about ZSM-supported conservation projects around the world. You also can learn how to join the Kids' Conservation Club to help make a difference. Then select the gray Education tab to find information about ZSM kids' camps and classes at the Zoo. Under Education, select Fun Stuff. Here you can print coloring pages, play penguin games, and learn some Swahili words. Also under Fun Stuff are camera pointers to help you photograph animals. Have more "fun" reading stories about the Zoo's newest animals under What's Gnu and animal updates in our *Insider Newsletter*.



Remember to try the red items at the very top of the home page. For a look back through the ZSM's century of history, select **About Us**, then About the Society, and then A Rich History. In the **About Us** section, you also can view stories about our Zoo Pride volunteers. Click the red **Multimedia** tab at the top of our home page, and then listen to conversations with researchers and conservation leaders. Have fun exploring the treasure chest that's the ZSM Web site.

Photo: Learn about the life of gorilla keeper Claire Richard on our Web site.



A Photo-Shy Potto

For the first time in nearly 22 years, the Milwaukee County Zoo has a potto. Iniko the potto is a sight to see – if you can see him at all. “He’s a shy little guy,” says Rhonda Crenshaw, area supervisor of small mammals. “He hides in his 3-foot-long, wooden nest box.” As a nocturnal creature with delicate ears and oversize, night-vision eyes, he lives on the dark side in the Small Mammals Building. So the photo on this page may be the closest view you’ll get of the 2-year-old potto, a member of the loris family. Notice Iniko’s funny-looking fingers. Where an index finger would normally be, pottos have the vestige of a finger. Without that index finger in the way, pottos have a wider grip with which to grasp branches of the trees they climb in equatorial Africa. They can hold their grip on a tree branch for hours. In many animals, this effort would tire their muscles, but pottos have a special arrangement of blood vessels that circulate blood to contracted muscles. And then there’s that oddly named “toilet claw” on each hind foot (see the long claw on Iniko’s right foot in photo). No, it’s not for flushing. Pottos use the toilet claw to groom their thick coat of fur, which can range from honey or reddish brown to gray to nearly black. Grooming is important to this species, which has a “dental comb.” This is a set of teeth in the lower jaw that acts like a comb, and brush-like cartilage on the bottom of the tongue catches hair trapped between the teeth. Mother pottos use their dental combs to coat babies with a toxic, saliva-like liquid that wards off predators. Crenshaw says Iniko, who came to the Zoo Jan. 12, is still warming up to the exhibit and the camera. “He’s not aggressive. I handled him awhile before we took the photo, but he darted the moment I put him down into the exhibit. We got only one picture.” By March, however, Iniko was sitting out on a branch in full view, notes Crenshaw.

Dairy Farm Fun for Your Wee One

As you glide under the blue and red barn entryway of the newly renovated Munchkin Dairy Farm, you’ll find yourself in the middle of a colorful, cartoon creation. Thanks to a grant from Northwestern Mutual Foundation, the farm is bolder, brighter and blossoming with dairy life. Stay all day and play! This itty-bitty barnyard, located in the Milwaukee County Zoo’s Dairy Complex, is both fun and informative. Pretend you’re a farmer on the job as you read about all the different responsibilities farmers have. Discover how a silo works as you exit the playground through the munchkin silo. And be sure to climb onto the driver’s seat of the little green truck before you go. Beep beep! Just make sure you don’t run into the dairy-themed fence posts shaped like cheese and ice cream. **Photo:** The entrance to the new Munchkin Dairy Farm, presented by Northwestern Mutual Foundation



First-time Parents Hatch Gentoo Chicks

Gentoo penguin chicks hatched in mid-January to two pairs of first-time parents. These are the Milwaukee County Zoo's first gentoo chicks. Oscar and Daphne's chick hatched Jan. 14. Felix and Olive's chick hatched Jan. 20. "Each parent takes turns incubating the egg and then feeding the hatched chick," says Carol Kagy, supervisor of the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. "Penguins feed chicks every few hours by regurgitating fish [see photo of chick taking fish from its father's throat]. Sometimes it takes awhile to learn how to feed the chick, but the chicks have continued to grow and gain weight."

When you visit the penguin exhibit in the aviary, you can identify the gentoo parents by the bands on their wings. Gentoo penguins, which have bright yellow beaks, share an exhibit with rock-hopper penguins, which have tufts of feathers on top and the sides of their heads. Oscar the gentoo has an orange band on his right wing; Daphne has a blue band on her left wing. Felix has a red band on his right wing; Olive, a purple band on her left. Normally a bonded pair has the same color of band, but the female wears it on the left and the male, on the right. "The gentoo penguins do not have matching colored bands yet because this is the first season they've paired up and had a chick," explains Kagy. The chicks, which won't have bands for a long time, are easy to spot because they look tinier and fuzzier than their parents. They also don't have the distinct white eye shadow band that the parents have. In April or May the chicks should go through a molt (lose their baby fuzz) and get their juvenile plumage, which is more water-repellent. Then you may see them racing through their pool. "They can reach 20 mph," says Kagy. "When they get going, we've got quite the waves going on."



Score One for Snakes

How are Milwaukee County Zoo staff making a difference in the world? Here's just one example. On the Caribbean island of Grenada, most people are afraid of snakes. Yet the island's snakes are harmless, and they greatly benefit the ecosystem. Craig Berg, the aquarium and reptile curator for our Zoo, goes to Grenada annually to conduct frog and snake research. He has appeared on TV programs there to explain the benefits of snakes and to confirm that Grenada's snakes aren't venomous. In his many talks to conservation classes at St. George's University, Berg has recommended that students set up a snake hotline for people to call in when they find a snake in their house or yard. "Many people don't want to kill snakes, but they don't know what to do about them," he says. So Marie Rush, a professor in the veterinary school at St. George's University, set up

a program for the university's herpetology club to help the Grenada Forestry and National Parks Department capture snakes and remove them to safe locations. Because the foresters worked only weekdays, the herpetology club started a snake hotline and offered to remove snakes on weekends. The result has been a better public understanding of snakes and the saving of many snakes, says Berg. **Photo:** Craig Berg

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What's Happening

Details Inside

April 6, 9, 13 & 16

Four-session follow-up Zoo Pride volunteer training

April 16

ZSM field trip to Chicago's Brookfield Zoo

April 16 & 17

Breakfast (April 16) and Lunch with the Bunny at the Zoo, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringsles



Breakfast and Lunch with the Bunny

April 23

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

May 8

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Motherbury bank; all moms get in free*

May 9

Members' online registration begins for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands and Sentry; go to zoosociety.org

May 14 & 15

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

May 28 - Sept. 5

Kohl's Wild Theater, offering five free shows daily in the Zoo+

May 28 - Sept. 25

The Zoo's summer special exhibit: Butterflies! In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, \$2 per person entry fee+

June 1 - Aug. 12

ZSM Summer Camps at the Zoo, sponsored by Noodles & Company

June 4 & 5

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

June 7, 8, 9

Free entry for ZSM members to Butterflies! In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, 3-8:30 p.m.*

June 19

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

June 25

Zoo Ball 2011, sponsored by American Airlines

June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3

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

July 12, 14 & 15

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

July 25

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

Aug. 10, 11, 12 or 13

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



Snooze at the Zoo

* ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The special butterfly exhibit admission is extra, except for ZSM members June 7, 8 and 9 from 3 to 8:30 p.m.. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for free butterfly exhibit admission on those dates. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

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