

Wild Things



Bumper the harbor seal: page 14

Slumber Party with the Animals



Rachael Wood, 11, of Pleasant Prairie, Wis., pitches her tent.

Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, August 8, 9, 10 & 11, starting at 5 p.m. Milwaukee County Zoo

Members: \$135 for family of four; non-members, \$160.

For individual rates & discount details, go online: zoosociety.org/snooze. Registration is online only and begins May 21 at 8 a.m. (Zoological Society members); May 22 at 8 a.m. (non-members).

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

Who needs an alarm clock when you can awake to the cry of a peacock or the splash of a seal? You'll have the chance to hear all sorts of animals through the night and early in the morning during the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's popular campout at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Families can choose one of four nights to camp. Each night features 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, Adventure Dinosaur!, sponsored

by Sendik's Food Markets. (page 4). 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 (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 if you mail in a Sentry Foods cash-register receipt showing the purchase of two 64-ounce Old Orchard juices or blends (details online). If you or a member of your party has special needs or a disability, please let us know in the comments area online.



Parents Jennifer and Aaron Slator, of Milwaukee, camped at the Zoo in 2011 with their kids and a friend. From left are Audrey Maas, 4, of Wauwatosa, with Sophie Slator (center), 6, and Emma Slator, 4.

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Behind the Curtains



Melanie Wehrmacher with props from some of her plays

Kohl's Wild Theater returns to the Zoo

New shows premier: May 26; four free performances a day, seven days a week.

Plays in the community: Kohl's Wild Theater outreach will continue to reach community events, festivals and schools. To book a performance go to wildtheater.org or contact Lisa B. at (414) 258-2333.

If there's one thing that Melanie Wehrmacher wants you to know about Kohl's Wild Theater, it's this: It isn't children's theater. "I write family pieces," says the Minneapolis-based playwright, who has written seven plays and skits for Kohl's Wild Theater since it premiered in May 2011. Kohl's Wild Theater is made possible thanks to a partnership between Kohl's Cares and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). If you've seen any of the plays, you'll understand what she means. Perhaps you found yourself laughing during a performance? That doesn't mean your sense of humor hasn't matured beyond that of an adolescent's. You were supposed to laugh. "I try to include jokes for adults," says Wehrmacher. "I want them to enjoy the plays individually as well as along with children."

While Wehrmacher's previous works have been performed by at least six national theater groups—most for adults—she's also written for various conservation and science organizations for family audiences. Writing plays with science and conservation themes requires extensive research. "For 'The Strange Case of the Alien Invasion,' [one of two new plays premiering at the Zoo May 26] I probably read a dozen books, looked at 30 Web sites, and



MEMBERANDA

Zoological Society office hours: Through May 25, 2012: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 26 through Labor Day: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours: Through May 25: Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 26-Sept. 3: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Please note that the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. Zoo animal buildings close 30 minutes before posted Zoo closing time.**

For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please see Tax Tips at: www.zoosociety.org/memberinfo

School field trips & Company Picnics: Zoo Pass free-admission benefits do not apply when a child visits the Zoo as part of an organized class field trip or when members attend an employer's company picnic held at the Zoo. 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 and company picnics include additional Zoo-visit benefits.

Visiting other zoos and aquariums: We participate in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) 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. View the most up-to-date list at: www.zoosociety.org/recip.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 99, April 2012

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

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Web: www.zoosociety.org



Playing a badger, actor Johnathan Koller (left) prepares for game time in a scene from “The Great Wisconsin Zoo-per Bowl,” an outreach play written by Melanie Wehrmacher. Lindsey Gagliano plays a crane.

contacted the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I even went to see ‘It Came From Outer Space’ in 3-D to get the feel of old science fiction movies. I think that means I can deduct the popcorn I bought,” she says, joking.

Dave McLellan, the ZSM’s coordinator for Kohl’s Wild Theater, says that Wehrmacher “has the unique talent of blending her scientific research with creative dramatics.” He says when she submits a draft, it’s almost ready to go. Almost—because no matter how well it’s writ-

ten, changes are always made during the creative process. There are lots of cooks in this kitchen. James Mills, ZSM director of conservation education, reviews scripts for scientific accuracy and educational content. McLellan views them with an eye for theatricality. Then, actors do a reading and Wehrmacher listens in via phone. “This helps us assess what needs to be changed,” says McLellan. After that, Wehrmacher visits Milwaukee to attend a workshop performance. All the while, Milwaukee composer John Tanner has been writing original musical scores for the plays. Set, costume and puppet designers also attend each workshop to help crystalize ideas. “Melanie and I will still tweak the script,” says McLellan. “Even actors have input. It’s a collaborative process that includes many artists.” For Wehrmacher, this part of the process is a little bittersweet. “I try to remember this can’t be my artistic baby,” she says. But she also knows that when all is said and done, the final product will be the best it can be.

By Zak Mazur

ANNUAL APPEAL

Zoo in your Computer

There’s something relaxing about watching fish languidly swim back and forth. Now, imagine having the Milwaukee County Zoo’s Lake Wisconsin aquarium on your computer and watching the fishes anytime! You can do that when Web cams are installed in the Lake Wisconsin exhibit and three other animal areas: orangutans Mahal and M.J.’s exhibits, the Humboldt penguin exhibit and some areas of the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country (lions, cheetahs). Funds raised will also help buy food for the Zoo’s animals. For a special limited-time offer, donors of \$100 or more get access to the Web cams early, as they’re phased in and before they’re available to the public in fall. Donors of \$2,500 receive individualized recognition on a bench to be placed in the Zoo. Donors of \$75-\$249 have their names listed on a sign; donors of \$250-\$499 receive larger recognition on a sign; donors of \$500-\$999 receive individualized recognition; and donors of \$1,000 or more receive larger individualized recognition.



*Perch
Stock photo*

Donate here!

To give to the ZSM annual appeal, please go online to zoosociety.org/appeal or call (414) 258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.

READY, SET, RECYCLE!

Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Company

May 19 & 20, 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: \$12. For more information, call (414) 771-3040.

Turn trash into treasure for our Zoo at this year's Party for the Planet, the Zoo's annual commemoration of Earth Day and International Migratory Bird Day. Recycle more than 100 items, from car batteries to lawnmowers; funds from the items will keep up green practices at the Zoo. Then play follow the leader, polar-bear-style! Zoogoers will be tagged like a real Canadian polar bear and follow a simulated migration path to "Hudson Bay." They will face the same risks as migrating polar bears, like melting sea ice, and learn what they can do to help. Small changes in our everyday routine can have a big impact on the planet. Discover what you can do to preserve the environment and help animals all over the world. Learn planet-saving skills of all kinds, from composting to recycling to preventing invasive species from spreading. Zoo 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:** Members of nature groups such as Wildlife in Need and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful will show how you can help.
- **Rainwater Designs:** See rain barrels to collect rain water from your gutters.
- **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 a.m. to noon on **Saturday only**.

dinosaurs in our backyard

Adventure Dinosaur!

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

May 26-Sept 3

West end of Zoo next to Small Mammals Building

Cost: \$2.50 per person exhibit admission. Free admission for Zoological Society members June 5 & 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with Zoo Pass card & photo ID (look for an invitation in the next *Wild Things*).

Millions of years ago, before wagons of pioneers or tribes of natives made their way across the United States, a much larger and toothier group traveled to what is now the American West: dinosaurs!

To see some of these first American settlers, follow the *Tyrannosaurus rex* footprints to the Milwaukee County Zoo's summer dinosaur exhibit. You can check out robotic, life-size models of 22 dinosaurs. You can see the oldest U.S. dinos, which roamed Arizona in the early Jurassic period: *Massospondylus* with its baby and *Dilophosaurus*, which spits like an Old West cowboy. *Apatosaurus* (also known as *Brontosaurus*) stretched his long neck in Oklahoma and Utah several million years later during the late Jurassic Period. Be sure to admire the triangular plates on *Stegosaurus*'s back; his bones have been found in Colorado. The king of carnivores, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, was also the most well-travelled, with fossils discovered in Texas, Wyoming, and as close to our Zoo as South Dakota! Signs in front of each exhibit will help you identify these ancient creatures, where they were discovered, when they lived, and what they ate. Remember to search for fossils in the dinosaur dig box and uncover a *Deinonychus* skeleton, just like the ones found in Montana and Utah. See your April *Alive* magazine (packaged with this *Wild Things*) for more on the exhibit.

By Liz Mauritz



African Lakes Makeover

It's not easy to maintain an aquarium that holds more than a thousand fish, especially when they're divided into four mesh sections and NEVER supposed to mingle. Just one interbreeding, and a whole species is contaminated. Yet it happened in the African Great Lakes aquarium in the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC). You can blame it on the babies, the little fry. "They were able to squeeze through the dividing mesh and some squirmed through the filter," says Michelle Uhlig, zookeeper and aquarist. Originally the aquarium was home to 37 of the 2,400 cichlid subspecies found in the four Great African Lakes: Malawi, Tanganyika, Victoria and Nyasa. But over time three of the four exhibit sections became dominated by fishes from Lake Malawi. "There wasn't a single fish from Lake Victoria left," says Craig Berg, aquarium and reptiles curator at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Zookeepers had to drain the water in the aquarium down to a few feet so that the fish could be corralled. Then all 1,100 were sent to new homes.



Aquarist Michelle Uhlig and zookeeper Michael Hoffmann use glue guns to attach plastic plants inside the African Great Lakes aquarium.



Craig Berg transfers a sunshine peacock cichlid to the Lake Nyasa section.

Berg says it's common for exhibits such as these to experience species cross-contamination over time. The situation provided an opportunity. Plastic plants needed replacing. Filters and pumps needed repairs. Fish droppings needed to be removed from the bottom of the tank. In winter ARC staff added new plastic plants, new rockwork, and a new feature: a sandy strip that mimics the environment of sand-dwelling cichlids. These iridescent fishes build sand nests that look like mini-volcanoes. Another new addition is a section of endangered cichlids found only in Madagascar island lakes and streams. "All species on Madagascar have been isolated since the age of the dinosaurs, and many ancient animal lineages can still be found there," says Berg. "For the fish, this means cichlids that are primitive and look like fossil fish." They're also larger, as big as 15 inches, while 11 inches is the longest cichlid in the other sections of the aquarium. Many species in the Madagascar exhibit are in Species Survival Plans run by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since most of Madagascar's plant and animal species are endangered or threatened.

Berg also hopes to establish a population of pelagic killifish and sardine cichlids in the ARC's Lake Tanganyika section. Pelagic fish live in schools in open water away from shores in both oceans and lakes. Lake Tanganyika is home to the only population of pelagic killifish in the world. Berg plans to house 20 or more species of fish by May. ARC staff filled the African Lakes Exhibit with water in February. Stocking it with fish is more complicated. Berg traveled to Chicago in winter to purchase fish from hobbyists who sell them at fish swaps. New fish must stay in quarantine tanks in the ARC basement for at least 30 days to prevent spread of disease. In April, many of the fish will have been introduced to the aquarium. On your next Zoo visit, check out the new fish and their habitat.

By Zak Mazur

Sponsor the Giant Pacific octopus

A Giant Pacific octopus might seem like an odd animal to sponsor for Mother's Day (May 13). But consider this: mother octopuses have eight arms (tentacles) to handle all the things moms must do. There have probably been times when some human moms wished they had eight arms to help carry out their multiple tasks. Octopuses are also great problem solvers, just like most human moms who guide their children through life's tricky maze. The \$30 sponsorship package includes:

- An invitation to an August behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo
- A fun animal fact sheet plus a certificate of sponsorship and a Sponsor an Animal decal
- Sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year
- A year subscription to our *Wild Things* newsletter and *Alive* magazine
- A box of dark-chocolate sea salt caramels



SPONSOR AN OCTOPUS

We must receive your gift form by May 2 to guarantee delivery in time for Mother's Day.

I would like to sponsor an octopus. I would like to give an octopus sponsorship as a gift.

Gift Recipient: Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: Day (_____) _____ Eve (_____) _____

E-mail address _____

Gift card message: _____

Gift Giver: Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: Day (_____) _____ Eve (_____) _____

E-mail address _____

Send packet to: Recipient Gift Giver **Send renewal notice to:** Recipient Gift Giver

Package must arrive by: _____

Gift card message: _____

I would like _____ package(s) at \$30 each. **Add \$5 per package for shipping & handling** ..\$ _____

I would like _____ additional plush-toy octopus(es) at \$5 each\$ _____

I would like _____ additional dark-chocolate sea salt caramels at \$5 each\$ _____

I would like _____ additional decal(s) at \$1 each\$ _____

(Plush toys & decals include 5.6% WI sales tax and are not tax-deductible.)

Total amount \$ _____

Online: Go to zoosociety.org/LTO and click on the plush-toy octopus picture to order or call (414) 258-2333.

Credit Card: Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Acct. No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____ (Last 3 digits in signature area on back of credit card)

Signature _____ Print Name _____

as it appears on credit card

Check: Make payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** and mail this order form with payment to:

Octopus, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

Octopus offer good through Aug. 31, 2012. The tax-deductible portion of your gift is \$19. Merchandise included in the package is not tax-deductible and includes 5.6% WI sales tax. **Plush-toy and caramel offers good while supplies last.**

This sponsorship is offered through the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Sponsor an Animal program, which helps support all the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. In accordance with WI Statute 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

Zoo Mom to Mom

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by westbury bank

May 13, 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: \$12.

For information, call (414) 771-3040.

Moms of all species work hard, whether they're feeding a nest of chicks, keeping joeys warm in their pouches or helping kids with homework. So give Mom a day off from the zoo at home to celebrate Mother's Day with animal moms and babies at the Milwaukee County Zoo! Admission is free for all moms on Mother's Day, May 13, thanks to westbury bank. (Zoo parking fee still applies.)

See trumpeter swan cygnet Zak swimming in Lake Evinrude with Mom Victoria. Creep quietly into the nocturnal area of the Small Mammals Building for a peek at fennec fox Daisy's 3-month-old kits. Stop by the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country to see how much our lion cubs Kiume, Hubert and Njeri have grown since their birth to mom Sanura last July.



Heather Peeper, of Genoa City, Wis., and her daughter, Kylee, 1, ride Charlie the camel last May.

Slow Down, Says the Sloth



Photo courtesy of the Lincoln Park Zoo

Siesta hangs upside down on her first birthday at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

Trip to Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Cost: \$40 for adults; \$30 children 2 and under.

Register at www.zoosociety.org, or call (414) 258-2333.

Some say that sloth is one of the seven deadly sins. But there's no sin in loving slow-moving sloths, especially adorable youngsters like 1-year-old Siesta, a female Hoffmann's two-toed sloth who lives at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. Take a leisurely motor-coach trip with us to this heart-of-the-city zoo and meet Siesta, Mom Chewy and Dad Carlos. Then saunter over to see other slow-moving animals such as the pygmy slow loris and the Andean bear. You also can visit faster-paced animals that you won't find at our Zoo in Milwaukee: an Amur leopard, Asian small-clawed otters, and Allen's swamp monkeys.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo and includes a continental breakfast with pastries, bagels, juices, milk and coffee.

Buses leave the Zoo at 8:30 a.m. The trip includes

transportation on restroom-equipped motor coaches, beverages donated by PepsiAmericas®, and a snack on the return trip (note to those with allergies: snacks may include dairy and peanut byproducts). We depart Chicago at 4:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person, \$30 for children 2 and under. This excursion is open only to Zoological Society members and their guests. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. Call (414) 258-2333 for questions. Register soon; space is limited.

Sea Lions & Harbor Seals Galore!

Sea Lion Splash: \$85 Zoological Society members, \$100 non-members.

Aquatic Adventures: \$150 members, \$165 non-members.

Underwater Journey: Specialty camps for two, three or five days, \$375 members, \$390 non-members.

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

Dates, times and registration: www.oceansoffun.org or by phone at (414) 453-5527, ext. 1.

This summer make sure you welcome Bumper, a 2-year-old harbor seal. He's the newest addition to the Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show, sponsored by Supercuts. Bumper came here from the Long Island Aquarium in February and quickly became comfortable in his new home (see cover and page 14). If you're interested in how trainers teach Bumper and his fellow seals and sea lions to follow commands, you'll learn a lot at Oceans of Fun programs and camps. All programs give children and adults the chance to interact with sea lions and seals. 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. Prices are dependent upon camps (see Web site above for details).

- New this year—**Underwater Journey** specialty summer camps. Choose a Marine Voyagers camp (ages 10-12), which includes the Marine Mammal Camp (five days) or Animal Training Camp (two days). Sea Lion Explorers (children 7-9) offers a Marine Mammal Camp (five days), Animal Behavior Camp (three days) and a Mini Camp (two days). These camps give participants the chance to meet seals and sea lions up close while learning about marine mammals, animal care, training and observation.
- For a family experience, register for **Aquatic Adventures**. This workshop allows kids and adults to enter the marine mammal pool where they will learn how to feed, touch and work alongside trainers and animals (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.



Airborne: Satara the harbor seal springs out of the water to touch her nose to a suspended ball as trainer Haley Polan watches.

VOLUNTEERING

Raising Money & Awareness

Nearly \$55,000—that's how much Zoo Pride has raised for conservation since 1993. And that's just the fundraising of the Conservation Committee, one of many committees in Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary. Anna Wascoe, who has chaired the Conservation Committee for the last two years, explains how they do it: "We raise funds for animal causes by selling S.O.S.—Save Our Species—buttons to zoogoers. On average we raise about \$2,500 for each cause. This year we're supporting Polar Bears International." The Zoological Society's Creative Department designs the S.O.S. buttons as a service to Zoo Pride. To honor the Conservation Committee, *Wild Things* presents an overview below of the conservation projects and groups that Zoo Pride has aided.



1994: **African wildlife:** Lewa Conservancy in Kenya, a successful, private wildlife sanctuary.

1995: **Bats:** Neda Mine Bat Hibernaculum near Horicon Marsh.

1996: **Bats:** Studying bat movements in Neda Mine Bat Hibernaculum (working with Wisconsin Electric Power Company to power researchers' equipment).

1997: a) **Cheetah** Conservation Fund, and b) the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Bureau of Endangered Species.

1998: **Bonobo:** Funded a comic-book-style educational booklet for kids in the Democratic Republic of Congo on why humans should not kill bonobos.

1999: **Wolf:** a) Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Wolf Depredation project, b) the Milwaukee County Zoo's new Wolf Woods exhibit, and c) Idea Wild to purchase global positioning systems to support Mexican gray wolf conservation.



Cheetahs at the Zoo



Thick-billed parrot

2000: **Ornate box turtle:** Funds to the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources to purchase equipment to support a head-start program for turtle hatchlings.

2001: **Humboldt penguins:** Equipment to assist Dr. Roberta Wallace, the Zoo's senior veterinarian, and her staff in their study of Humboldt penguins in Algarrobo, Chile.

2002: **Black rhino:** A cryogenic freezer for storing rhino and bonobo sperm for later implantation.

2003: **Polar bear:** Infrared cameras and an illuminator were purchased to monitor the Zoo's Polar bear den.

2004: **Thick-billed parrot:** Funds to World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, Mo., to purchase materials for constructing a thick-billed parrot breeding aviary.

2005: **Golden lion tamarin and cotton-top tamarin:** A digital scale and six husbandry boxes were purchased for the Zoo's tamarins (page 10).

2006: **Jaguar:** Purchased ATVs for the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Ariz., to help track jaguars, which were sighted in remote areas outside of Tucson.

Continued on next page

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/

“Spirited” Soiree Supports Zoo

Sipping wine and beer while watching gorillas bed down for the night—it’s an eye-catching fundraiser. It’s no surprise that the Zoological Society of Milwaukee’s (ZSM’s) Wines and Beers of the World fundraiser attracted more than 570 people to the Milwaukee County Zoo on Feb. 2. The evening included enticing gourmet appetizers and desserts from a large group of vendors. The event raised more than \$28,000 for the installation of Web cams in animal



Michael Bell and Kristina Allen, both of Milwaukee, sample wines.

areas, part of the ZSM’s 2012 annual appeal project (see page 3). The cameras will allow people to view some of the more active animals from their smartphone, tablet, or home computer. **Downer Avenue Wine & Spirits** was a main contributor to the event and partnered with the ZSM to take online orders for wine through Feb. 10. A percentage of sales benefitted the Society. Other major support came from **Purple Feet Wines, LLC**. Gourmet selections were provided by **Alterra Coffee Roasters, Becky’s Blissful Bakery, Beta by Sabor, Blue’s Egg, Café Hollander, Café Manna, The Cheesecake Store, Cold Spoons Gelato, Gourmet Cheesecake Shop & More, Jean’s Cakes, Larry’s Market, Maxie’s Southern Comfort, Niemann’s Candy, OILERIE® BROOKFIELD, Palermo’s Pizza®, PepsiAmericas®, Rishi Teas, Sabor Brazilian Churrascaria, Stir Crazy and Usinger’s Famous Sausage.**

VOLUNTEERING continued on next page



Golden lion tamarins

2007: **Panama golden frog:** Medication and medical supplies were sent to Panama to help save this frog, which has been ravaged by a deadly fungus.

2008: **Bald eagle:** Funds were sent to both the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and the Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to help bald eagles and other birds of prey.

2009: **Aquatic & Reptile Center:** A filtration system was purchased for its hellbender salamander breeding program.

2010: **Songbirds and bats:** Purchased a) One hand-held device for monitoring bats in the Milwaukee County Parks, and b) three mist nets, bird-banding pliers and holding bags for monitoring migratory songbirds.

Record-Setting Romp at the Zoo

They came, they sprinted, they conquered. A record of more than 2,090 participants braved cloudy skies and chilling winds to cross the finish line at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Samson Stomp & Romp Jan. 15. Sporting everything from coats and scarves to jerseys and shorts, zoogoers ran, walked, or stomped their way through a course that wound through the Zoo and beyond. **Gatorade** and **Pick 'n Save** sponsored the 32nd annual race, which raised funds to benefit Zoo animals. Participants competed in a 5K or 2-mile run/walk while younger competitors picked either a 1-mile or quarter-mile course for children. The yearly romp is named after Samson the gorilla, who was a Zoo celebrity for more than 32 years.



And they're off! Runners pass underneath a giant blow-up Samson sitting atop a Zoo train trestle.

A Ritzy Event With a Twist

A record-setting attendance of more than 350 guests made the 17th annual Puttin' on the Ritz a night to remember. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) black-tie fundraiser, sponsored by **The Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust**, raised more than \$100,000. **The Potawatomi**



Kent Oren (left), of New Berlin, holds the boxing bell for Angie Achenbach, of Milwaukee, to ring.

Bingo Casino in downtown Milwaukee was the site of the Jan. 26 event for the second year in a row. Mark Zimmerman from the ZSM Associate Board chaired the stylish affair, which included a gourmet dinner and seven rounds of amateur boxing by the **Al Moreland Boxing Club**. Guests could bid on auction items such as an exclusive Super Bowl Barbecue hosted by ESPN anchor Chris Berman in downtown Indianapolis. Event contributors included: cigars by **Uhle Tobacco Company** and **Ashton Distributors**; martini and scotch bar by **Glenfiddich Scotch**, **The Balvenie Scotch**, **Reyka Vodka**, **Woodford Bourbon**, **Jack Daniels' Single Barrel Whiskey** and **Gentlemen Jack Whiskey**; dinner wine by **Layer Cake Wines**, **Gnarly Head Wines** and **Yellow Tail Wines**; sound, video and lighting by **Majic Enterprises, Inc.**; and invitation printing by **Ideal Logos & Awards**.



The hellbender salamander

2011: **Orangutan, featuring Mahal**: Funds were sent to Orangutan Outreach and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Wildlife Contraception Center.

Join Zoo Pride

Get started in Zoo Pride with Level I spring training. The two required sessions give you Zoo basics and allow you to join several of Zoo Pride's numerous committees. Level I sessions run: April 11 at 9 a.m. OR 6:30 p.m. AND April 14 at 8:30 a.m. Level II sessions (on four days) run April 18 at 9 a.m. OR 6:30 p.m.; April 21 at 8:30 a.m.; April 25 at 9 a.m. OR 6:30 p.m.; and April 28 at 9 a.m. Level II training includes Zoo tours and offers more opportunities for volunteering. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.

fun, hands-ON Learning Programs

Tropic topics for kids

Do you have a houseful of “monkeys”? Bring them to our Zoo “jungle.” Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) classes provide an outlet for your kids’ knowledge and energy. In April’s **Jungle Gym** class (sessions for ages 6 and 7, and for ages 8-10), kids use a tool like an African chimp would to get a snack out of a “log.” Then they’ll groom “bugs” from the fur of plush primates, practice balancing like a Central American spider monkey and swing over to observe the Milwaukee County Zoo’s monkeys and apes in action. In May’s **Animals of the Amazon** class, children will discover animals that lurk in the Amazon River and rain forest, like jaguars, piranhas and anacondas. All classes use fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities to teach amazing animal facts. Sign up at www.zoosociety.org for these and other ZSM classes and summer camps at the Zoo.



Alyssa Gull, 6, of New Berlin, colors an animal sculpture at a Zoological Society class.

April & May Classes Still Open

Following are some of the classes that still had openings as of March. For availability of all Education Adventures at the Zoo and to register online, go to zoosociety.org/Spring.

- **Age 2** (accompanied by an adult): Create a feather painting and dig in the dirt for “worms” in the April class, **Watch the Birdie**. In May, follow colorful classroom trails and meet a colorful Zoo animal during **Color Zoo**.
- **Age 3** (accompanied by an adult): In the April class, **Elephants**, you’ll decorate your own elephant costume complete with enormous ears, long trunk and fly-swatting tail! “Swim” through an underwater tunnel and hunt for fish in a kelp forest in the May class, **Seals and Sea Lions**.
- **Ages 4 & 5** (child-only classes OR classes for a child accompanied by an adult): Paint the northern lights, fish for salmon and hunt for animals in the snow in **Alaskan Adventures** offered in April. In May you can eat sticks, worms, fish and bugs just like a fawn, chick, cub and hatchling during **Animal Babies**.

2012 Summer Camps, sponsored by Wells Fargo

Hippos, dinos, and tigers, oh my! Kids can spend summer days with us and munch on a hippo-style snack, become a dino expert and touch real tiger teeth, cheetah claws and more when you sign them up for these and other fun camps. Check the Web site for available dates, times and prices at zoosociety.org/summer.

- **Age 3** (accompanied by an adult): In **Hip Hippo Hurray**, design a hippo head, munch on hippo-style snacks and gaze at these huge creatures!
- **Age 4 & 5** (child only or accompanied by an adult): During **Dinos: Terribly Terrific**, children can become dino experts, make a dinosaur book, turn themselves into a *Stegosaurus* and visit the Zoo’s special summer exhibit, *Adventure Dinosaur!*, sponsored by Sendik’s Food Markets.
- **Age 10 & 11** (child only) Engage in hands-on adventures, create a springy cat craft and pounce on tiger trivia during the **Cheetahs and Tigers** camp.



Sea Workshop for Early-Childhood Teachers

From sharks to sea turtles, teachers will learn about some amazing ocean animals in a July 28 class called **Under the Sea**. Early-childhood teachers can discover fun ways to present an animal unit to their students during this 2½-hour Saturday class. Workshop includes animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a Zoo tour. To register, call (414) 258-5058 or download registration form from zoosociety.org/teacheredu. The \$20 fee includes parking and Zoo admission. Another workshop is planned for September.

Programs for School Classes at the Zoo

In fall and spring, the Zoological Society publishes a brochure listing numerous education programs offered either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. The school brochure also can be found at www.zoosociety.org/school. Registration begins April 24 for September 2012-May 2013 programs.

Family Classes

Looking for a new, fun way to spend time together as a family? Try a family Zoo class! Classes are held on Saturdays or Sundays and are designed to educate families through hands-on, visual and interactive activities. Classes include a 20-30 minute topic introduction, educational activities, a snack and an outdoor Zoo tour (rain or shine). This summer families “race” through the Zoo to find clues and solve riddles in a camp called **Zoo-mazing Race**. Fall family classes, **We Are Family** and **China**, will be open for registration in August 2012. Brochures are mailed to members and available at zoosociety.org/education:

- **Zoo-mazing race:** July 14 or 15 and Aug. 11 or 12 (register now at www.zoosociety.org/education)
- **We are Family:** Oct. 13 & 14 (animal groups like packs, pods or prides)
- **Family Explorers: China**—Dec. 15 & 16

Music Camps Collaboration

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music instructors are collaborating with the Zoological Society to offer two new music camps at the Zoo this summer. No musical experience is necessary! Each camp is one week and runs from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Each day campers visit a different animal area of the Zoo and do activities based on that animal’s characteristics. Sing songs, play percussion instruments, and create art projects. The camps, for *children* only, cost \$139 for ZSM members. To enroll, go to <http://zsmke.com/edumusic>. Dates are:

- June 25-29, children entering K4-K5
- July 23-27, children entering grades 1 and 2

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

Endangered Species, a two-day UWM course for teachers of grades 3 through high school, will be held June 16 and 17. The course explores both animal survival in the wild and how modern zoos help animals; it runs 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Zoo each day. Included are tours, discussions and activities to help teachers develop study units. This one-credit course can be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255, for fees and to register.



Samuel Hertzfeldt, 6, of Wauwatosa, is entranced by Sue Radichel’s pointy hat in a Zoo class.

Children Come Out at Night



Open wide: Diana Sheppard, 3, of Germantown, shares food with her father, Michael, at last year’s event.

Zootastic (A family event with animals, food & music)

April 20, 2012, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

\$75 per family of four. Individual fees: \$15 children under 12, \$25 ages 13+. Your fee, less \$10 per person, is tax-deductible.

Register online at zoosociety.org/Zootastic or call (414) 258-2333 by April 13.

You must pre-register; fees are not refundable.

This is your chance to visit nocturnal animals at night! You can meet the two new fennec fox kits, as well as their parents, Daisy and Duke, on the evening of April 20. You’ll also get to learn what other nocturnal animals like bats, black-footed cats

and sugar gliders are up to when it’s past your bedtime. Talks by zookeepers and Zoo Pride volunteers can answer questions about primates, reptiles, fish, amphibians, small mammals, birds and more. Later, you can “fly” around the dance floor like a bat as you boogie to kid-friendly music. Kids can create animal-themed crafts and enjoy delicious Palermo’s® Pizza, Wisconsin “mac and cheese” from Noodles & Company and an ice cream bar. All guests under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

insider tips



Bumper “bumps” his snout on trainer Kelly Kamrath’s fist on command and is then rewarded with a fish.

Harboring Fun With New Friends

Of the two types of sea mammals that live at Oceans of Fun at the Milwaukee County Zoo, the sea lions tend to be more social than harbor seals. But a playful 2-year-old harbor seal named Bumper, who arrived at the Zoo on Feb. 2, has changed the social dynamics among the two other resident harbor seals, Satara and Scooter. “Satara is Bumper’s new best bud and he follows her everywhere,” says trainer Kelly Kamrath. “All three seals are playing daily, splashing and actively engaged—something we have never seen in the past.”

Bumper came from the Long Island Aquarium, and keepers there described him as “beautiful, intelligent and fun-loving.” How fun-loving? His favorite enrichment toy, a boogie board, came with him to Milwaukee. As for smart, Kamrath agrees that he’s “a quick study.” She would know: she helps train Bumper in addition to two other harbor seals and six sea lions in preparation for shows, which begin in spring. “We use positive reinforcement training methods that let them know when they’ve done something right.” Training involves a clicker paired with food and verbal reinforcement. “The clicker means, ‘good,’ you’ve done this correctly, and positive reinforcement is on the way,” says Kamrath. “They also enjoy verbal praise and love a roaring audience.” Although many of the sea mammals at Oceans of Fun know more than 200 behaviors—from cooperating with veterinary procedures to performing backflips—Bumper is just beginning to understand what training is all about. In the next several years he’ll grow in size as he learns about 15 new behaviors each year. It’s also hoped that Bumper will breed in the group.

Harbor seals make some people think of dogs. Like dogs, trained harbor seals crave human attention; they love to be touched, desire praise and have individual personalities. But Kamrath is quick to point out that harbor seals are not domestic animals. “When they’re pups, we make sure they don’t get imprinted on us,” she says. “We focus instead on relationship-building through a lifetime of training. People should never approach a seal harbor in the wild.” Still, like a beloved dog, Bumper can look forward to a life filled with attention, play and love. Unlike a dog, he’ll enjoy a life-long supply of mackerel, smelt, herring and capelin. He will also likely have a longer life span than in the wild, where harbor seals live only to about 8 to 12 years old. In captivity they can live into their 30s because they aren’t eaten by orcas or sharks, and they receive veterinary care. Harbor seals are found in the Arctic, North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans. Their populations are healthy. Still, human pollution and encroachment into their breeding areas on land are threats. For times of the Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Shows, sponsored by Supercuts, go online at oceansoffun.org.

By Zak Mazur

Birds Barely Back From Brink

World War II wasn’t just devastating to humans. It nearly wiped out a shimmering cinnamon and blue bird, the Micronesian Guam kingfisher. “American bombers used to refuel on the island of Guam,” says Carol Kagy, area supervisor of the Zoo’s Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. “Brown tree snakes hitched rides in the planes’ wheel wells.” Before then, the island had no snakes that ate birds. The kingfishers had no defense. The snakes had no predators. By the 1980s there were only 25 kingfishers left on the island. Determined to save them, several zoos collaborated to catch the remaining birds and start a captive-breeding program, led by Beth Bahner of the Philadelphia Zoo, who is also the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan coordinator for these birds. “She keeps track of the birds’ genetics in a studbook and makes breeding recommendations,” says Kagy. The program has had success. There are now 134 known kingfishers, but they are still one of the world’s most endangered species. Five of them live at the Milwaukee



A bachelor for now: a Micronesian Guam kingfisher

Spy A Common Moorhen

Tall grasses obscure their bodies, their yellow-green legs camouflaged by reeds. Can you spy these camouflaged birds? No, they're not the hooded mergansers splashing in the watery foreground. Look carefully in the back of the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary's Shorebird Exhibit. Concentrate on the plants. Does a beak of red with a yellow tip catch your eye? If so, then you've spied one of the Zoo's new common moorhens, one of the world's most widespread bird species. Female Mugsey and her brother Bugsey arrived June 3, 2011. You can identify them by their colorings. "They're black with very distinctive red on the bill," says Carol Kagy, area supervisor at the aviary, adding that the red color develops as they mature. "When they originally came to the Zoo, they had a yellow-orange beak." Common moorhens also have a distinguishable white trim on their 19- to 22-inch wingspan. To tell



Mugsey, the female common moorhen

Bugsey from Mugsey, look at the bands on their right legs; hers is blue, his is red. With many bird species it's the male's job to attract a female. He uses colorful plumage, a beautiful song or even a dance. For common moorhens, attracting a mate is a female's duty. First, females compete with each other to establish who will mate with the male. Then the dominant female chases the male, and they dip their bills in the water together to symbolize their courtship. As brother and sister, Bugsey and Mugsey will not be allowed to reproduce, but they'll serve as companions for each other. When you're trying to spy them in the exhibit, listen for their chattering. Common moorhens are extremely vocal, often making combinations of clucking and chirping. That may be how they find one another among tall plants in their native wetland habitats in southwest Canada and parts of the United States, including Wisconsin. If you're in Winnebago County this summer, maybe you'll hear or see a moorhen; they've been known to breed there.

By Liz Mauritz

County Zoo, which has played a crucial role in the breeding program. The Zoo's first kingfisher pair had 30 clutches of eggs, although not all hatched. Since 2006, eight chicks have hatched successfully. One adult pair is already together, and it's hoped that the other pair will be placed together soon, too. But for now they are in side-by-side enclosures for observations. "Males can be aggressive and even kill females," says Kagy. If they appear to get along, they're placed together. Once together, the birds have an unusual way of cooperatively excavating their nests in trees. "The pair will take turns flying into the nest cavity, and it makes a thump sound. It's interesting to see them strike the nest. We use nest boxes covered in bark with a small hole in the side," adds Kagy. Zookeepers have learned through careful observations in captivity and in the wild how to improve hatching success. For example, increasing the room's humidity with misters and turning eggs nine times within a 24-hour period (rather than seven times) has improved hatching successes. While the two mated pairs are off exhibit, the Zoo's bachelor male kingfisher—which arrived on Nov. 15—can be viewed at the east entrance to the aviary. Meanwhile, some of the kingfishers raised in captivity have been returned to islands near Guam, in protected mesh sanctuaries.

By Zak Mazur



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Details Inside

April 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28

Six-sessions of Zoo Pride volunteer training, levels I and II.

April 14

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank & FOX 6.

April 20

Zootastic! A family evening of animals, music and fun.

April 28

ZSM field trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo.

May 13

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by westbury bank; all moms get in free (parking not included).*

May 19 & 20

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

May 21

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

May 26-Sept. 3

Kohl's Wild Theater, offering four free shows daily in the Zoo.†

May 26-Sept. 3

The Zoo's special summer exhibit: Adventure Dinosaur!, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, \$2.50 per person entry fee.†

Kohl's Wild Theater



June 5 & 6

Members-only Prehistoric Preview, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (free walk through the dinosaur exhibit).

June 17

Father's Day, sponsored by Chinet® & Pick 'n Save; all dads get in free (parking not included).**

June 23

Zoo Ball 2012, sponsored by American Airlines.†

June 27, July 5, 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1

Sunset Zoofari (evening concerts), sponsored by Tri City National Bank.**

July 10, 12 & 13

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

Family Free Day



July 23

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

Aug. 8-12

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods.**

*ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The dinosaur exhibit admission is extra, except for ZSM members June 5 and 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for free dinosaur exhibit admission on these dates. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

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