

# Wild Things

## COMPARING COATS

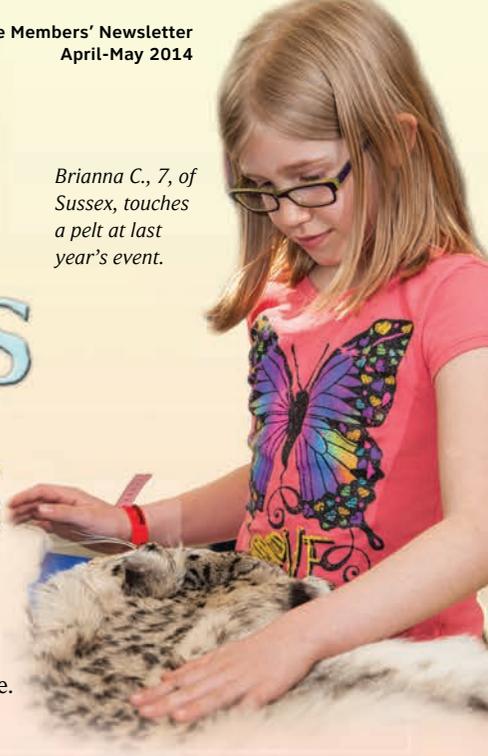
### Zootastic!

Sponsored by *Grow Hope @ SaintA*

**April 25, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo.**

Family of four: \$75. Individual fees: \$15 children under 12;  
\$25 ages 13+. Your fee, less \$10 per person, is tax-deductible.  
Register online at [zoosociety.org/zootastic](http://zoosociety.org/zootastic) by April 21.  
You must pre-register; fees are not refundable.

Giraffes have beautifully patterned coats. Can the coat you wear compare? Learn all about animal coats and the functions they serve in the wild at this family-friendly Zoological Society of Milwaukee fundraiser. This event lets you ask zookeepers all the animal questions on your mind. Then you can visit your favorite animals after hours as the Zoo stays open until 9 p.m. for this zoo-per celebration. Bust out your favorite dance moves to a kid-friendly DJ. Fill your tummy with cheesy Palermo's® pizza and Noodles & Company "mac and cheese." For dessert, make your own sundae at an ice cream bar. Commemorate your night with a stop at the family photo station so you'll always remember the night you partied with the animals.



*Brianna C., 7, of Sussex, touches a pelt at last year's event.*

# CAMP WITH ANIMALS

### Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by *Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods*  
**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, August 6, 7, 8, or 9 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](http://zoosociety.org/snooze).

Registration is online only and begins  
May 19 at 8 a.m. (Zoological Society members);  
May 20 at 8 a.m. (non-members).

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

Remember movie scenes of soldiers awakened by the call of a trumpet? Camp at the Milwaukee County Zoo and you could be awakened by the trumpeting of an elephant, the cry of a peacock, or the bark of a seal. Choose from one of four nights at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) popular campout. Each night features a movie, kid-friendly activities, s'mores around a group campfire (sponsored by The Sleep Wellness Institute), and a buffet dinner. The next

*Continued on page 2*



Photo by Richard Brodzeller. Photo at top by Richard Taylor.

*Jack L., 5, of New Berlin, gets a helping hand from his aunt, Amy, of Denver, Colo., as the two set up their tent during last year's event.*

### Connect With Us:

- [facebook.com/ZooPass](http://facebook.com/ZooPass)
- [twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE](http://twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE)
- [youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo](http://youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo)

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# CAMP WITH ANIMALS

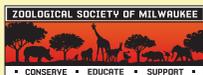
(Continued from page 1)

morning, enjoy breakfast and a day at the Zoo plus discounted admission to the special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. 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 on page 1). You will be registered as soon as you submit your payment information. If you or a member of your party has special needs, please let us know in the comments area online.

**Special offer:** 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).

*With lanterns lit, Logan S. (left), 6, and brother Aidan, 9, of Milwaukee, are ready for stories at last year's event.*



## memberanda

We value your relationship with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). The ZSM does not sell member/donor information to third parties, but may share limited information with the Milwaukee County Zoo for the purpose of confirming membership status.

**Zoological Society office hours:** Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Zoo hours:** Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 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.**

**Payment Information at Zoo Admission Gates:** The Milwaukee County Zoo staff does not accept checks for Zoo Pass purchases or renewal payments at the Zoo's admission gates.

**For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details,** please see Tax Tips at: [zoosociety.org/things2know](http://zoosociety.org/things2know).

**For Zoo Pass purchases prior to Feb. 1, 2013, the tax-deductible portions for the following categories are:** Individual (Basic: \$56, Plus: \$58), Individual +1 (Basic: \$61, Plus: \$63), Individual +2, Family and Single Adult Family (Basic: \$71, Plus: \$77), Family +1 (Basic \$81, Plus: \$87), Family +2 (Basic: \$89, Plus: \$96), Family +3 (Basic: \$108, Plus: \$115), Affiliate (Basic: \$199, Plus: \$202), Benefactor (Basic: \$276, Plus: \$273).

**For Zoo Pass purchases after Feb. 1, 2013, the tax-deductible portions for the following categories are:** Individual (Basic: \$60, Plus: \$71), Individual +1 or Couple (Basic: \$70, Plus: \$80), Individual +2, Family and Single Adult Family (Basic: \$75, Plus: \$95), Family +1 (Basic \$94, Plus: \$104), Family +2 (Basic: \$101, Plus: \$113), Family +3 (Basic: \$117, Plus: \$126), Affiliate (Basic: \$154, Plus: \$157), Benefactor (Basic: \$218, Plus: \$220).

**Reciprocal Zoos and Aquariums:** We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer free or discounted admission to our members with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in January each year. We reciprocate only with AZA-accredited facilities and reserve the right to not reciprocate with zoos and aquariums located within close proximity of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Please be sure to contact our offices prior to your travels at 414-258-2333, or visit [zoosociety.org/ recip](http://zoosociety.org/ recip), if you have any questions.

**Moving?** Please call us when you change your address or name. The call saves us money because when the post office returns your mail with a forwarding address, we pay twice for mailing: to the old address and the new. If you've changed your address on your identification, replacement cards may be purchased with the new information for \$5.

### WILD THINGS

Issue No. 111, April-May 2014

**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: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

# DAY OF THE EGGS

## Egg Day

Sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save

**April 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo.**

Free admission for Zoological Society members with ID. Non-members: \$14.25 adults; \$13.25 ages 60 and over; \$10.25 ages 3-12; ages 2 & under, free.

Milwaukee County Zoo parking fee: \$12.

Call (414) 256-5466 for details.

Eggs and bunnies—what's the connection? Historians aren't sure. But at the Milwaukee County Zoo, eggs and bunnies equal Egg Day, and Egg Day equals fun! On April 19 at the Zoo you can see which animals received egg-shaped enrichment toys to play with. Kids can participate in the Hop-to-it Bunny Scavenger Hunt at 10 a.m. Kids 8 and under can search for special Easter-themed tokens and redeem them for treats. Throughout the day you can visit the Primates of the World building and design a set of bunny ears. Then hop over to the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building to get a bunny nose and whiskers. Remember to visit the Aquatic & Reptile Center to color a paper egg to take home. At 2 p.m. you can march in the parade, which begins at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm.

**Special offer:** Get a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel with a Pick 'n Save receipt showing the purchase of any Welch's product. Carousel runs weather permitting. Ride offer valid April 19, 2014, only. Limit one free ride per receipt. Present proof of purchase to the carousel ticket-booth attendant.



Photo by Richard Taylor

*Aishi G., 3, and Yuvraj B., 5, both of Waukesha, are all smiles at last year's event.*

# A Feather-filled Fete

## Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Co.

**May 17 & 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,**

**Milwaukee County Zoo.**

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

For details, call the Zoo at (414) 256-5466.

Why do birds fly south for the winter? Because it's too far to walk! All joking aside, bird migration is a magnificent feat. Help the Milwaukee County Zoo celebrate the return of migratory birds. This annual eco-friendly event that commemorates International Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day invites you to go green. Plant tree saplings in the Zoo's Acres for the Atmosphere to support polar bear conservation. Learn ways that you can help migrating birds. Craft a bird decal for windows to help prevent bird collisions. Then, visit the native plant sale and find out how to decrease invasive plants.



*Jocelyn A., 4, of Wonder Lake, Ill., pours soil over an evergreen sapling at the Zoo while her dad, Justin, steadies the plant at last year's event.*

# Zoo Classes & Camps

All Zoo Classes and Camps are run by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

## Fun for Families

Many parents enjoy Zoo classes as much as their children. Family classes are for adults with children ages 4-14 and are held on Saturdays and Sundays. "It's wonderful to see families laughing as they learn together," says MaryLynn Conter Strack, enrichment program coordinator for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). "Often grandparents attend instead of a parent or in addition to them. It's really special to see three generations making memories together." Family classes span a wide range of topics, from photography to bioluminescent animals. All topics have something in common—a chance for families to interact and learn together. In one class they might measure the length of a pretend anaconda; in another they might construct their own zoo exhibit using art materials. If you've never experienced a Family class, now is your chance! For more information, go to [zoosociety.org/summer](http://zoosociety.org/summer), click on Class Listing & Availability and then click on FAMILY CLASSES for families with children ages 4 to 14.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

*Devin Artley, of Menomonee Falls, helps his daughter create a mystery animal puzzle at a family camp.*



Photo by Richard Taylor

*Lauren K., 6, of Germantown, draws a picture in the Sting Rays & Sharks camp.*

## Zoo Classes for your house full of monkeys!

This long winter probably had your kids swinging around the house like monkeys. They can get rid of excess energy at fun and educational ZSM classes. To check availability and register online for classes about elephants, animal babies, seals and sea lions, and more, go to [zoosociety.org/spring](http://zoosociety.org/spring).

## Almost time for Zoo Camp!

ZSM Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, are a great way to keep children's minds and imaginations active during the long summer break from school. Get ready for costumes, games, hands-on activities, and ANIMALS! Kids can practice zookeeper skills in our Zookeeper camps or uncover medical mysteries in ZSI: Zoo Science Investigation camp. There are 37 ZSM camps to choose from for ages 2-14 and families. Check out the complete list on our website: [zoosociety.org/summer](http://zoosociety.org/summer).

**"Our kids love seeing a new side of the Zoo. They keep asking to go back to camp each summer."**

**Craig & Sarah B.,  
Milwaukee**

## Zoo to You School Programs

Education programs are available at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. Register starting April 22 for Sept. 2014-May 2015 school programs. For a complete list of programs, check out: [zoosociety.org/schoolprograms](http://zoosociety.org/schoolprograms).

## Early-Childhood Teacher Workshops

Our Zoo is one of the few in the country that offers continuing education for early-childhood educators through Early-Childhood Education workshops. Educators learn how to incorporate hands-on activities and projects related to a specific topic into their classrooms. The next class is **Oceans** on Saturday, July 26. This 2½-hour class includes: animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a Zoo tour. To register, call (414) 258-5058 or download a registration form from [zoosociety.org/teacheredu](http://zoosociety.org/teacheredu). Fee: \$20 (includes parking and Zoo admission). Another workshop is planned for October.

“The Zoo classes I attend with my granddaughter are a magical time for both of us. They’re exceptionally well-planned with something that appeals to all. We both learn, have fun, and deepen our bond.”

*Phil & Nancy B.,  
Wauwatosa*

## UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

**Endangered Species**, a two-day University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee course for teachers of grades 3 through high school, will be held June 21 and 22, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Zoo. The course explores animal survival in the wild and how modern zoos help animals. 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 registration.

*Children helped “clean” a horse’s stall in Junior Zookeepers camp.*

Photos by Richard Taylor



# Majestic Marine Mammals

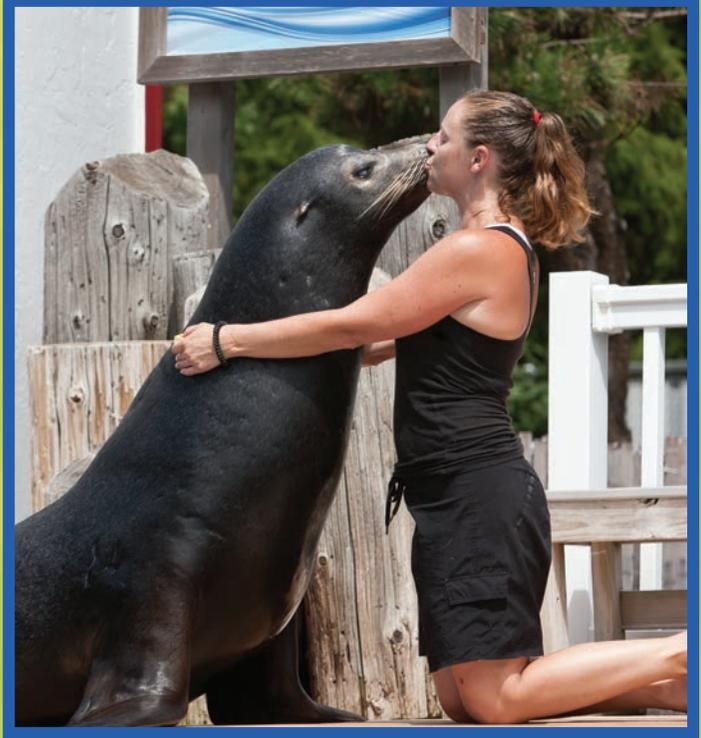
**Sea Lion Splash:** \$85 Zoological Society members; \$100 non-members.

**Aquatic Adventures:** \$150 Zoological Society members; \$165 non-members.

**Animal Training Job Shadow:** \$225 Zoological Society members; \$250 non-members.

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

The Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show, sponsored by Anderson Seal, LLC, received an out-of-the-ordinary FedEx® package last November. It contained a 3-month-old California sea lion pup that was abandoned by its mother. Shelley Ballmann, president of Oceans of Fun, accompanied the pup, named Nalu, on his trip to Milwaukee. At Oceans of Fun programs, children and adults can interact with seals and sea lions like Nalu. All programs have limited openings and reservations are required.



*A California sea lion gives trainer Kelly Kamrath a smooch.*

- **Sea Lion Splash** (2½ hours): Children ages 5-10 learn about animal training.
- **Aquatic Adventure** (1½ hours): Children ages 6 and up go behind the scenes to touch, feed, and play with marine mammals.
- **Animal Training Job Shadowing** (3½ hours): Allows kids ages 13 and up to shadow trainers, get hands-on interactions with the animals, and learn about marine mammal care.

## ANNUAL APPEAL

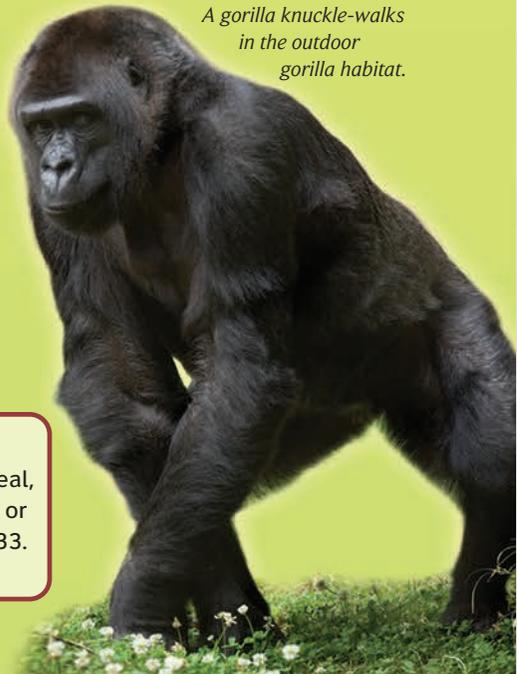
### Gorilla Yard Renovation

Gorillas are the largest of the great apes. It's fitting, then, that the Milwaukee County Zoo's gorillas will get a big upgrade to their outdoor yard. Unlike most other great apes, gorillas are primarily terrestrial and live on the forest floor. That's why the Zoological Society's 2014 Annual Appeal plans to build special features on the ground of the existing outdoor gorilla habitat.

We plan to include:

- A water feature for splashing and drinking
- Berms to provide protection from the wind and elements
- Resting platforms to allow basking in the sun and "people-watching"
- New landscape vegetation to provide browse treats in summer
- "Enrichment" items (toys and activities) that stimulate the gorillas' natural curiosity

*A gorilla knuckle-walks in the outdoor gorilla habitat.*



### Please Donate

To give to the Zoological Society's 2014 Annual Appeal, please see the flyer packaged with this *Wild Things*, or go online to [ForTheApes.com](http://ForTheApes.com), or call (414) 258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.

# Natural Actors

## Kohl's Wild Theater returns to the Zoo

**Shows run at the Zoo:**  
May 24-Sept. 1; four free performances a day, seven days a week, at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

When you meet Samantha Sostarich and find out she's an actor, it's not surprising. This young woman who grew up in South Milwaukee has a natural theatricality. It shines through in her expressive face, her clear voice, and her outgoing personality. Sostarich has acted with Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT), the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) live theater program, since the first casting calls in 2011. Kohl's Wild Theater—which is made possible by a partnership between Kohl's Cares and the ZSM—is now the largest zoo-theater group in the country. In the Milwaukee area, KWT reached more than 140,000 people last year through both summer performances at the Zoo and year-round performances through free outreach programs. This popularity is thanks in large part to the professionalism of actors like Sostarich.



*Samantha Sostarich (right) is the Midwestern cow talking with a little brown bat, played by Megan Kaminsky, in "The Legend of Hibernacula."*

Sostarich is a long-time show captain for KWT and manages performances when Dave McLellan, the ZSM's theater program coordinator, is elsewhere. She has an almost uncanny ability to know what McLellan wants. "I was consulting with Samantha about a comedic moment in one play," recounts McLellan. "I said, 'Let's try the thing, you know, where you do that, and then go there, and, well, you know.' Samantha looked at me with complete confidence and said, 'Oh, okay, sure!'" Adds Sostarich: "Kohl's Wild Theater actors must also be accomplished dancers and singers." Sostarich received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in theater and drama in 2007, graduating with distinction. But she first climbed onto a stage as a dancer at age 4. She's studied ballet/pointe, jazz, modern, lyrical, ballroom and tap dancing. In high school she fell in love with theater. She's also a talented soprano and has performed with several opera companies, including Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theatre.

Sostarich performs in numerous theater groups in southeastern Wisconsin, but KWT is a favorite because of its conservation message. "Conservation is very dear to me," she says. "I love helping children learn about conservation and animals. I even learn quite a bit myself." The play that makes her laugh the most is "The Legend of Hibernacula," which is about bats. It will be performed at the Zoo this summer. "People shouldn't fear bats. They play an important ecological role." Sostarich looks forward to staying with KWT. "Our reputation as a group that works hard has grown. I'm proud telling people in the acting community that I work for Kohl's Wild Theater."

*By Zak Mazur*

## Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to You

Kohl's Wild Theater will travel to festivals, schools, and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo, free of charge. Performances are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Julie B. at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, (414) 258-2333, or [KWT@zoosociety.org](mailto:KWT@zoosociety.org) for available dates. For more information, go to [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org).

# Animal-Care A-Team



*Dr. Bruce Beehler*

Visitors to the Milwaukee County Zoo don't notice. It happens behind the scenes. What happens? Healthcare for the animals, really excellent care. The longest-lived bonobo in the world—a blind female—was cared for at the Zoo for decades. The most endangered bird species in the world, the Guam kingfisher, resides here. Animals with arthritis, broken teeth, bowel disease and even depression have been treated successfully at our Zoo. Our veterinary program is known throughout the zoo world for pioneering healthcare techniques such as ultrasounds on apes without needing anesthesia. The Zoo's veterinarians partner with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to train veterinary residents in zoo medicine, and these "graduates" speak highly of their amazing experiences here. How did this all come about?

The Zoo's first full-time veterinarian was Dr. Bruce Beehler, who arrived in 1980 from a clinical veterinary internship at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. "Then Zoo Director Gil Boese gave me the opportunity to start many of the programs that we have today," he says. In 1980 the Zoo had no supporting veterinary staff and no curators. The hospital was part of an old building with little space, even less equipment and no facilities for really big animals. He was given the resources to buy more equipment and add veterinary technicians and another veterinarian. Dr. Beehler became Deputy Zoo Director in 1986 and helped establish a management structure for the Animal Division with four curators: for birds, primates/small mammals, large mammals, aquarium/reptiles. "It's beyond the abilities of one person to have the expertise and management skills to operate a zoo of this size and complexity. I wanted to develop the veterinarians and curators into a team, not a group of individuals, each in their own domain." And that's what he did. When Chuck Wikenhauser became Zoo Director in 1990, he encouraged the teamwork and strongly supported more resources for vet programs and for a new hospital.

Dr. Andrew Teare became the Zoo's senior veterinarian and, in the mid-1980s, with major support from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM), he developed a worldwide, medical-records system called MedARKS (Medical Animal Records Keeping System). Cyd Shields (later Cyd Teare), the Zoo's first veterinary technician, was employed by the ZSM and helped him design, test and expand the system. Today Dr. Teare lives in Florida and works on the newest global zoo medical-records system, called ZIMS (Zoological Information Management System).

*(Left) Joan Maurer works in the hospital lab. (Right) Bob Korman carries a red panda to a treatment table.*



Dr. Roberta Wallace is the Zoo's current senior veterinarian. "Dr. Wallace has a breadth of vision that has made us one of the leading teaching zoo hospitals in the world," says Dr. Beehler. "She established two vet residency programs in conjunction with the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, with funding from the Zoological Society." The ZSM also funds a veterinary pathology fellowship overseen by Dr. Wallace that provides insights into animal disease and treatment. Dr. Vickie Clyde, staff veterinarian, is a founding member of the international Great Ape Heart Project. "She is dedicated to identifying, treating and reducing the incidence of heart disease in great apes," says Dr. Beehler.



Zookeepers and area supervisors are the front line of animal care, he adds. "They serve as the eyes and ears for identifying potential health problems." They administer prescribed diets and medications, and observe animal behaviors. Sick animals may stop eating or become less active. Using rewards (positive reinforcement), keepers train animals to help with their own care—to accept exams, injections and even blood-pressure cuffs, all without anesthesia. Outside experts also help. The veterinarians have developed a network of medical consultants, from a cardiologist to a hand surgeon, from a dentist to a psychiatrist. Many of these experts volunteer their time.



What else goes into the Zoo's top-notch medical care?

- **Stability and experience**—"What's amazing is that much of the veterinary staff has been at the Zoo for decades," says Dr. John Scheels, the Zoo's dentist (see story in your April 2014 *Alive* magazine). Dr. Beehler retires May 1 after more than 33 years. Dr. Wallace has worked here 25 years; Dr. Clyde, 18. Celi Jeske, supervisor of the Animal Health Center, started in 2001. Veterinary technicians Margaret Michaels started in 1986; Joan Maurer, 1994; and Bob Korman, 2008. Veterinary secretary Jennifer Rohrer started in 2009.

*Continued on page 10*



(Top) Dr. Bruce Beehler and Dr. Vickie Clyde give an Amur tiger cub its first exam. (Center) Dr. Roberta Wallace measures a Humboldt penguin's beak. (Bottom) Margaret Michaels monitors a tortoise's heart rate.

# Meet New Zoo Moms

## Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Lifeway Foods

May 11, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

For information, call (414) 256-5466.

Many animal babies don't need parental care after birth or hatching. They're born ready to face the world. That's not the case with gentoo penguins. They require parental care from the moment eggs are laid until after hatching. Both parents incubate the eggs—and later the chicks—by keeping them tucked under their bodies for warmth. Recently at the Milwaukee County Zoo a single-mom gentoo penguin, Daphne, struggled to incubate her two eggs. Despite her valiant efforts, zookeepers had to step in (see story on page 13). Daphne's battle to incubate her eggs illustrates the powerful ties that bind moms to their offspring. Show Mom love this Mother's Day by bringing her to the Zoo to see animal moms like Daphne and recent gentoo mom Fiona and her son, Simon (you can even sponsor Simon and both parents; see page 11). You can also visit four new bonobo moms in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building, Deidre, Elikia, Tamia, and Zomi. In the South American Exhibit observe alpaca moms Marcella and Eleanor and their offspring.



Remy S., 18 months, of Franklin, smiles wide with Mom Natalie at last year's event.

## Animal-Care A-Team

(Continued from page 9)

- **Education and standards:** Veterinary technicians today, says Korman, often have a bachelor's or master's degree in a field such as biology, are graduates of an accredited vet tech school, pass a national certification exam and even get added training in a specialty. "Technicians are taking on more and more responsibilities as they gain more expertise." Maurer co-founded and was the 2013 president of the Academy of Veterinary Zoological Medicine Technicians, which sets standards for the profession. Michaels is past president of the American Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians and currently serves on their grants committee.
- **Research and conservation:** Dr. Wallace has led a 20-year research effort to study and help conserve Humboldt penguins in the wild; Michaels has helped. Dr. Clyde is the veterinary advisor to the North American Bonobo Species Survival Plan and is pursuing ground-breaking research in great-ape heart health. Maurer has volunteered with the Blue Iguana Recovery Program in the Caribbean since 2009 and with a blood-cell study of endangered whooping cranes in Wisconsin.
- **Modern hospital:** In 2003, the Zoo opened a newly built Animal Health Center with surgery and treatment rooms, labs, a federally certified quarantine area for incoming apes, and holding areas for animals as big as a camel.
- **Support:** As Dr. Beehler says, "A significant portion of the veterinary equipment, the outstanding Animal Health Center, and the renowned veterinary programs at the Zoo has been made possible with the generous support of donors, including ZSM members, major companies and philanthropists. Thank you!"



Celi Jeske feeds a newborn impala.

By Paula Brookmire

# Sponsor a Gentoo Penguin Family

If you're looking for a cool gift for Mother's Day or Father's Day, sponsor Fiona, Oscar and their son, Simon. From the day Simon hatched (December 5, 2013), Fiona and Oscar worked hard to raise him. They built a nest of rocks to prevent their egg from rolling away and took turns incubating their egg. After Simon hatched they kept him warm and fed him regurgitated fish every couple hours daily. Thanks to their devoted care, Simon is now fully grown and healthy. Sponsor this new penguin family for only \$30 as a gift to honor your parents this Mother's or Father's Day. Limited-time sponsorship package includes:



- An adorable plush-toy penguin chick
- A certificate of sponsorship
- A colorful fact sheet about gentoo penguins
- An invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors held in August
- A one-year subscription to *Alive* magazine and *Wild Things* newsletter
- Sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year
- An Animal Sponsor decal and gift-acknowledgment card

Send your gift anywhere in the continental United States for \$30 plus \$5 shipping and handling (per package).

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## SPONSOR A GENTOO PENGUIN FAMILY

- I would like to sponsor a gentoo penguin family.  
 I would like to give a gentoo penguin family sponsorship as a gift.

**Gift Recipient:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift card message: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Giver:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Package must arrive by:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ package(s) at \$30 each. **Add \$5 per package for shipping & handling** ..\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ additional plush-toy penguin(s) at \$5 each .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ additional decal(s) at \$1 each .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to make an additional donation to support all the Zoo's animals .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Plush toys & decals include 5.6% WI sales tax and are not tax-deductible.)

**Total amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Online:** Go to [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org) and click on the plush-toy penguin picture to order or call (414) 258-2333.

**Credit Card:** Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard

Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Gentoo Penguin Family** offer good through June 30, 2014. Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Merchandise included in the package is not tax-deductible and includes 5.6% WI sales tax. **Plush toy and decal 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.

# insider tips

## Ducks from Down Under

There are tens of thousands of chestnut teals in southern Australia. Yet there are only 16 in North American zoos, spread out among nine zoos. With the arrival of four chestnut teals on Oct. 18, 2013, the Milwaukee County Zoo hopes to increase the population. “We acquired these birds because they aren’t well represented in North America,” says Alex Waier, curator of the Zoo’s Herb and Nada Mahler Family Aviary. The Zoo’s two breeding pairs made their way to Milwaukee from the Pinola Preserve in Shreveport, La. Although the ducks have only been here for several months, they feel at home. Need proof? They’ve already laid eggs. “It means



*A chestnut teal at the Zoo.*

they’re comfortable enough here to breed,” says Waier. If the eggs hatch and the chicks thrive, the Zoo will be able to provide other Association of Zoos and Aquariums institutions with the chance to introduce chestnut teals to their collections. As dabbling ducks, chestnut teals feed off the surface rather than dive for food. What makes these birds especially interesting, says Waier, is they can forage in both salt water and fresh water. This makes them a versatile bird for zoos to display. Another bonus—chestnut teals have a mild-mannered nature that makes them a great choice for shared-species indoor exhibits. “They don’t cause a ruckus.” *By Dana Christen*

## A Laid-Back Tarantula

Its head has eight eyes. Its eight legs can smell, taste and feel vibrations from prey. Its fangs inject prey with venom. Would you hold this creature in the palm of your hand? It’s the Mexican redknee tarantula—and it’s nothing to fear, says zookeeper Joan Pappas. “They’re very hesitant to bite.” Pappas is excited about the Milwaukee County Zoo’s Mexican redknee tarantula that arrived in late 2013 from the St. Louis Zoo. While Pappas works with the Zoo’s lumbering giants like elephants, she’s also fond of small “creepy-crawlies.” Yet she doesn’t think tarantulas are creepy. In fact, she finds them beautiful. She’s particularly fond of the redknee’s striking orange patches on the joints of its legs and other parts of the body. She’s handled redknees and other species of tarantulas many times. “Tarantula feet feel like Velcro on your hand,” she says. “I think people are creeped out by all the legs, their fangs, and their size.” The adult females are larger than males, about 6 inches in diameter. The Zoo’s redknee tarantula is a young female and only about 3 inches in diameter.

These tarantulas are found along the central Pacific coast of Mexico and up to a couple hundred miles inland. They play an important role in the ecosystem by eating insects, small frogs, lizards and mice, thus keeping those populations in check. In fact, some of the insects they eat carry diseases harmful to humans. When hunting, Mexican redknees hold their prey in pedipalps (front



limbs) and use their fangs to inject venom. The venom paralyzes prey and liquefies its insides. Then the tarantula sucks up the proteins and fat. If a Mexican redknee tarantula bit you—and with proper handling it won’t—it would feel like a bee sting. However, their venom is less potent than a bee’s. Because of habitat loss and the pet trade, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Endangered Species lists Mexican redknees as near threatened. You can see the Zoo’s Mexican redknee tarantula in the Aquatic & Reptile Center between the Chinese crocodile and Flooded Amazon exhibits. *By Zak Mazur*

*A Mexican redknee tarantula at the Zoo.*

## Giving Chicks a Hand

Gentoo penguins are mostly monogamous. Of the Milwaukee County Zoo's seven gentoos, there are two pairs: Fiona and Oscar, and Olive and Felix. Marvin, Gretel, and Daphne are single. But Daphne laid two eggs during nesting season last November. How'd that happen? "Felix was seen mating with Daphne," says Katy Poggenburg, an aviary zookeeper. Single motherhood is rare among gentoos because it takes two to nest and incubate eggs, and later to keep the chicks warm and fed. In the wild, for example, one gentoo must incubate the eggs or keep their chicks warm while the other is feeding at sea. Gentoos usually lay two eggs in case one isn't fertile. Daphne was struggling to incubate her two eggs. As soon as zookeepers realized one of Fiona and Oscar's eggs wasn't fertile, they replaced it with one of Daphne's fertile eggs. But when Fiona and Oscar's egg hatched, zookeepers had to remove Daphne's egg. "It's not possible for the birds to raise a chick and simultaneously incubate an egg," says Poggenburg. The egg was immediately put into an incubator. Meanwhile Daphne was struggling to incubate her remaining egg and barely left her nest. "It was remarkable," says Poggenburg. "She was very committed." For reasons unknown, on the 33rd day of incubation (incubation can last 41 days), Daphne left the nest. Luckily this happened during the day and zookeepers rushed the egg into the incubator with her other egg.



*Katy Poggenburg keeps the hand-reared chicks on a towel-covered cool pack to prevent overheating.*

Around Christmas 2013 Daphne's chicks hatched. "They were just tiny, cuddly little fuzzy chicks," says Poggenburg. The chicks were moved to a brooder box—a mobile heating unit set at 96.5 degrees. Zookeepers fed the chicks a warm, blended formula of filtered water, herring fillets, krill, and vitamins. The warm mix mimicked the regurgitated food that gentoos feed their chicks. The formula was put into a tube and into the chicks' mouths. The chicks required round-the-clock feeding. That meant zookeepers had to take them home after work in the brooder boxes. All the aviary zookeepers pitched in. "It was stressful having them at home," says Poggenburg. "They vocalized a lot, and it would wake you up throughout the night." Within two weeks the penguins could stay at the Zoo full time. By then they could regulate their body temperatures. Gentoos require cold temperatures because they come from the Antarctic Peninsula and nearby islands. To prevent overheating, the air around them must be 40 degrees. When you visit the aviary this spring, you'll see four chicks: Daphne's two, Fiona and Oscar's, and Olive and Felix's. By then the chicks will look full-grown.

*By Zak Mazur*

# 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](http://zoosociety.org/support).

## A Stomp in the Snow

Seeing their breath didn't stop 1,994 runners, walkers, joggers, and rompers from taking over Milwaukee County Zoo walkways during the Samson Stomp & Romp on Jan. 19. Donning hats, gloves and race bibs, guests chose a competitive 5K, 2-mile fun-run, or 1-mile race. Pint-sized participants could join in on a ¼-mile mini-romp. This year's event, sponsored by Amica Insurance, marked the 34th annual run that honors the Zoo's most famous great ape, Samson the gorilla. Proceeds from the event support the Zoo's animals. Zoogoers were also encouraged to bring in cell phones to be recycled in support of endangered lowland gorillas. Recycling cell phones reduces the need for coltan, a mineral found in many small electronics, which is mined in the African Congo and threatens the habitats of gorillas and bonobos.



(Above) Kids race past the starting line at the event.

(Right) Emelie Linke, of Whitefish Bay, smiles as she finishes one of the races at the event.



Photos by Richard Taylor



Photo by Richard Taylor

Mark and Noleta Jansen, of Germantown, contemplate wine choices at the event.

365 zoogoers during the Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo on Feb. 22. But it wasn't just heart rates being raised—nearly \$6,000 was raised in support of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Sponsor an Animal program. This high-energy event had the crowd sweating for the animals.

## Worldwide Wines

Vino, wein, vin, vynas, vi, diven, wijn, iwayini. However you say it, one thing's clear: wine is worldwide. On Feb. 6, more than 540 guests attended the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) wine-and-beer-tasting fundraiser held at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Stearns Family Apes of Africa and Primates of the World buildings stayed open for this late-night event allowing guests to wine and dine near animals. After sipping wine samplings from countries like Italy, France, and Chile, guests also enjoyed savory snacks and sweet desserts from more than 25 Milwaukee-area vendors. More than \$28,000 was raised for the ZSM and its support of all animals at the Zoo.

## Zumba® at the Zoo

Latin beats and dance moves from salsa, merengue, and samba pumped up



Zumba® instructor Amy Morgan gets the crowd jumping.

## An Elegant Appeal

A gourmet banquet, bowties, and boxing highlighted the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) 19th annual Puttin' on the Ritz fundraiser on Jan. 23. More than 435 guests dressed to the nines for the event, held at Potawatomi Bingo Casino and sponsored by **Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.** A live auction had guests bidding high for such items as signed sports memorabilia and rounds of golf at the Milwaukee Country Club. Amateur boxing, arranged by the Future Olympian Boxing Association, offered hard-hitting entertainment. **Legends of the Field** sponsored the bouts, and **Bridgewood Advisors** sponsored the boxing ring. A total of \$151,000 was raised for the ZSM and its support of the Milwaukee County Zoo.



Photos by Richard Taylor

*(Top, from left) Jim Johnson, a Puttin' on the Ritz committee member, poses with ZSM Associate Board members Tony Hopkins, Kent Oren, Mark Zimmerman, Brian Boecker, Jim Olson, and Neziha Hasanoglu.*

*(Right) Daniel and Anne Nagy, of Hales Corners, chat with Daniel and Jodi Kitzrow, of New Berlin, at the event.*

## Planned Giving—Simba Circle

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have named the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) in their will or other estate plans. By making this thoughtful commitment, you create a legacy ensuring that the ZSM can continue its mission to **conserve** wildlife and endangered species, **educate** people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and **support** the Milwaukee County Zoo. If you've already included the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County in your giving plans, please let us know. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.



### Simba Circle members enjoy:

- Invitations to the Annual Simba Circle Recognition Dinner and VIP premieres for each summer's special exhibit
- Recognition on Zoo signage and in ZSM publications
- Peace of mind knowing the ZSM and Zoo will continue to enrich future generations

You can designate your gift to a specific area or program at the Zoo. For more information, please visit our website at [zoosociety.org/simba](http://zoosociety.org/simba) or contact Kim Peterson at (414) 258-2333, ext. 310, or email [simba@zoosociety.org](mailto:simba@zoosociety.org).



Zoological Society of Milwaukee County  
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383  
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Photo by Richard Taylor

## What's happening

Details Inside

### Now-May 23

Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) education classes for children ages 2-14 and families.

### April 5

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank.

### April 12

Zoological Society members' day trip to Galena, Ill. Register at [zoosociety.org/galena](http://zoosociety.org/galena).

### April 12 & 13

Breakfast and Lunch with the Bunny, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles (414) 256-5466.\*\*

### April 19

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

### April 25

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Zootastic!, sponsored by Grow Hope @ SaintA, 5-9 p.m.\*\*

### May 11

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Lifeway Foods; all moms get free Zoo admission (parking not included).\*

### May 17 & 18

Party for the Planet, sponsored by American Transmission Co.\*

### May 19

ZSM members' online registration for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands and Sentry Foods.\*\*+

### May 24-Sept. 1

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

### May 24-Sept. 1

The Zoo's special summer exhibit: Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, \$2 per person entry fee.†

### May 28 & 31

Level I Zoo Pride training. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.

### June 2-Aug. 13

Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, for children ages 2-14 and families. Registration now open.

### June 2, 3 & 4

ZSM members-only Food Truck Safari, featuring six food trucks, and free viewing of Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, 5-9 p.m.†

### June 4, 7, 11 & 14

Four sessions of Zoo Pride volunteer training, level II. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.

### June 15

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

### June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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

### June 28

Zoo Ball 2014, presented by ManpowerGroup and Everett Smith Group.\*\*+

### July 8, 10 & 11

Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank. ZSM members only.\*\*+

### July 28

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by Fiduciary Management, Inc. Call Special Events at (414) 258-2333.\*\*+

### Aug. 6-9

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods. ZSM member online registration begins May 19.\*\*+

\*ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The Sting Ray & Shark Bay exhibit admission is extra, except for ZSM members June 2-4 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for free exhibit admission on these dates. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

\*\*Pre-register for this event.

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