

Wild Things

MAKING WINTER MORE "BEARABLE"

Zootastic!

Sponsored by *Grow Hope @ Saint A*

April 24, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo.

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

Non-members: \$80 per family of four. Individual fees: \$20 children 12 and under; \$30 ages 13+.

Your fee, less \$10 per person, is tax-deductible.

Registration is limited and fills up fast. Register online at zoosociety.org/Zootastic or call 414-258-2333 by April 23. You must pre-register; fees are not refundable.

Winter's short days, long nights and frigid temperatures make many people wish they could sleep through the season. In this sense, bears have it easy. While we're trudging through snow, bears are sleeping in their cozy dens in a hibernation-like state called torpor. But soon the bears will become more active! Come to the Milwaukee County Zoo on April 24 to see them and learn about their amazing ability to slumber through winter. You can also visit apes and primates. Zookeepers will be on hand to answer all of your animal-related questions. Later, bust some dance moves to a kid-friendly DJ. Fill your tummy with cheesy Palermo's® Pizza, Noodles & Company's mac and cheese and fluffy baguettes from Breadsmith of Wauwatosa. You can build your own sundae for dessert, courtesy of Cedar Crest Ice Cream. Dairy State Foods will provide boxes of animal crackers, too! Then, commemorate your night with a stop at the family photo station so you'll always remember the night you partied with the animals.

Roughing it with the Animals

Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by *Kellogg's & Sentry Foods*

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, August 12, 13, 14 or 15 starting at 5 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo.

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

For individual rates and discount details, go online: zoosociety.org/Snooze.

Registration is online only and begins May 18 at 8 a.m. for Zoological

Society members; registration for non-members starts May 19 at 8 a.m.

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

Ordinarily, sleeping under the stars in the vicinity of bears would be dangerous — but not if you're at the Milwaukee County Zoo! You can snooze near bears and other exotic animals 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 morning, enjoy breakfast and a day at

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Sophia K., 5, of Brookfield, enjoys a bowl of macaroni and cheese at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Taylor



Max B., 5, and dad Andrew, of Racine, put up their tent for Snooze at the Zoo at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Taylor

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Roughing it with the Animals

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the Zoo! This ZSM fundraiser is a fun, safe camping experience for families (especially for first-time campers) 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: Buy any two Kellogg's cereals and/or Kellogg's Pop-Tarts and save \$10 per family or \$3 per individual. Please visit zoosociety.org/Snooze for instructions on how to redeem this special offer.

Siblings Sawyer, 6, Xander, 10, and Matt, 6 – of Franklin – relax in their tent at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Taylor



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 through May 22: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 23-Labor Day:** Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours through May 22: Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 23-Labor Day:** Daily 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.

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/Membership/Things2Know.

The tax-deductible portions for the following Zoo Pass 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: Each year we update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our members through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. We only reciprocate with AZA-accredited facilities and reserve the right not to reciprocate with zoos and aquariums within close proximity of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Please be sure to contact our office prior to your travels at 414-258-2333, or visit zoosociety.org/Reciprocal, if you have any questions.

Moving? Please call us when you change your address or name. The call saves us money on mailing expenses. If you've changed your address on your identification, replacement cards may be purchased with the new information for \$5.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 117, April-May 2015

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

Everybody for the Earth!

Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Co.
May 16 & 17, 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.

Just as springtime heralds the return of migratory birds, it's also the time of year when the Milwaukee County Zoo celebrates our planet. Come to this "green" event at the Zoo to commemorate Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day and learn about the amazing feat of bird migration. You can watch zookeepers band birds (Saturday only) and get banded yourself. Then, follow a simulated migration path through the Zoo. You'll face the same risks as migrating birds, and you can learn how to help save birds' lives by crafting bird decals for windows to help prevent collisions. Tree saplings will be handed out at Macaque Island and you can learn about the importance of tree diversity and the dangers of the emerald ash borer. There will also be self-guided tours of trees in the Zoo's urban forest and a Nature Zoomobile Tour that highlights conservation efforts on Zoo grounds.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Sisters Shiri and Kira Z. (8 and 6 respectively), of West Bend, stand with their arms out to compare their wingspans to a bird's wingspan at last year's event.

Two Cool Kudu Moms

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Lifeway Foods
May 10, 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 more information, call 414-256-5466.

This Mother's Day, drop by to say "Hi" to Rachel and Noeli, two new kudu moms at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Rachel gave birth in January and Noeli in February. Like many African hooved animals, kudu calves grow up fast. In the wild, kudu moms hide their offspring for four to five weeks, regularly returning to nurse the little ones. Once weaned, kudu calves stay close to their moms for about six months. Check out Rachel and Noeli in the African Waterhole Exhibit while they're still bonded with their calves. After visiting the kudus, stroll to the Primates of the World building to see scarves painted by the Zoo's two orangutans, Tommy O. and M.J., for the Missing Orangutan Mothers Campaign (see story on page 6). You can also visit new bovine moms Ellie and Katie (see story on page 10). Ellie is a red-and-white Holstein and Katie is an Ayrshire. Each had a calf in late 2014.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Two female kudus at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

RETURN OF THE DINOSAURS

The dinosaurs are returning to the Milwaukee County Zoo for this year's special summer exhibit: Expedition Dinosaur, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. You'll see old favorites like T. rex, stegosaurus and the water-spitting dilophosaurus, but there will be new ones, too.

Many things about dinosaurs remain a mystery. Were they hot-blooded or cold-blooded? What were their mating rituals? What types of sounds did they make, if any? Despite the mysteries, paleontologists can uncover new facts about dinosaurs from recreated skeletons based on fossil remains and clues at dig sites. Dinosaurs lived only during the Mesozoic Era (65.5-251 million years ago), which is often called the "Age of Dinosaurs." Utah has perhaps the best Mesozoic rock record in the world. That is why we contacted Dr. James Kirkland, the state paleontologist for the Utah Geological Survey. Kirkland discovered important dinosaur fossils during his career. Thanks to his decades of expertise, we're able to provide some interesting facts about the new dinosaurs you can see this summer.



Dr. James Kirkland digs for fossils.



Photo courtesy of Billings Productions

CITIPATI

Size: 9 feet long, 6 feet tall at the head, 200 pounds

Diet: Carnivore

Time Period: Late Cretaceous (75 million years ago)

Known locations: Mongolia

"Citipati is an example of a dinosaur exhibiting bird-like behaviors," says Kirkland. "It had feathers and lived in dune fields. We've found fossils of citipati shading its eggs with its wings." Kirkland surmises that citipati was protecting its clutch, perhaps during a sandstorm, when it was buried in cascading dune sands and later fossilized.

DIABLO CERATOPS

Size: 15 feet long, 5 feet tall at the hips, 1-2 tons

Time Period: Late Cretaceous (80 million years ago)

Diet: Herbivore

Known locations: Utah

Dinosaurs with horns on their brows, like triceratops, are called ceratopsids. A primitive ceratopsid was diabloceratops. This dinosaur sported more horns than any ceratopsid that came after it. Why did later ceratopsids have fewer horns? "It was probably because breaking your horn was detrimental to survival," says Kirkland. Broken horns probably bled, he says. More horns meant more horn-related injuries.



Stock photo

PROTOHADROS

Size: 20-25 feet long, 10 feet at the hips, 2 tons

Time Period: Late Cretaceous (94-99 million years ago)

Diet: Herbivore

Known locations: Northcentral Texas

Nowadays northcentral Texas is semi-arid, but 99 million years ago it was a wet delta region. Since swamps have a lot of vegetation, paleontologist theorize that protohadros probably ate aquatic plants. Sure enough, the shape of its skull seems to confirm that. "Its head is unusual in the way the beak curves downward," says Kirkland. "It's probably related to what it ate, which was likely aquatic plants."



Photo courtesy of Billings Productions



Photo courtesy of Billings Productions

COMPSOGNATHUS

Size: 2-3 feet long, 10 inches tall at the hips, 2-3 pounds

Time Period: Late Jurassic (150 million years ago)

Diet: Carnivore

Known locations: Western Europe

Compsognathus was one of the smallest dinosaurs, and its closest relative — sinosauroptryx — was one of the first feathered dinosaurs discovered. Were you to put feathers on compsognathus — and it may have been feathered — it's easy to imagine this turkey-size dinosaur as an ancestor of modern birds. "By coincidence the compsagnathus fossil was found in the same rocks as one of the earliest birds," says Kirkland.

PLATEOSAURUS

Size: 20 feet long, 12 feet tall, 1-2 tons

Time Period: Late Triassic (204-214 million years ago)

Diet: Herbivore

Known locations: Germany, France, Switzerland and Greenland

"Plateosaurus was one of the first plant-eating dinosaurs that we know of," says Kirkland. "It was bipedal and had a long neck, which allowed it to reach high branches." Other famous plant-eaters, like brontosaurus, developed later.



Photo courtesy of Billings Productions



Photo courtesy of Billings Productions

DIMETRODON (NON-DINOSAUR)

Size: 11.5 feet long, 3 feet tall at the hips, 550 pounds

Time Period: Permian (roughly 280 million years ago)

Diet: Carnivore

Known locations: Texas, Oklahoma and Nova Scotia, Canada

Dimetrodon stands out from all the other dinosaurs precisely because it wasn't a dinosaur. Kirkland says it was more closely related to mammals. "Dimetrodon was the beginning of the line that eventually led to us, whereas dinosaurs led to birds."

By Zak Mazur

Remember, Zoological Society members can check out the dinosaurs for free the evenings of June 2, 3 and 4 during the Prehistoric Preview event. Watch your next issue of Wild Things for your invitation.

PAINTING APES

Tommy O. is getting off to a slow start artistically. Normally the orangutan — one of two at the Milwaukee County Zoo — is an enthusiastic painter, but today he has to be coaxed to stroke his paintbrush along a silk scarf held by Trish Khan, curator of primates and small mammals. “He’s a little pensive today,” she says. “But artists can be that way.”



Photo by Scott Engel

M.J. paints a silk scarf held by a zookeeper.



The finished scarves. Photo by Robert Wickland

The scarves will be sold during special events, including Mother’s Day at the Zoo, to raise money for orangutan conservation (see story on page 3).

Orangutans are extremely intelligent, so they need a variety of activities to stimulate and challenge their minds. Tommy and M.J. have always enjoyed painting on canvas and other media, and it is a regular part of their enrichment program. But it seems the keepers are having just as much fun with the scarves as the apes, experimenting with different colors, techniques and types of paint. For example, today they’ve wrapped the scarves around small stones held with rubber bands. Once the paint dries, they remove the stones to reveal a bull’s-eye effect. Later, Beehler will take the scarves home and put them in a setting bath, then dip them in fabric softener and iron them.

M.J. and Tommy have different styles. M.J. is gentler and needs more encouragement, which comes in the form of praise, grapes and juice. “Touch! Touch!” Khan urges her. When she does touch the brush to the scarf, she’s rewarded with a squirt of juice in her mouth. Unlike Tommy, M.J. likes to eat paint, so she has to use a brush with a plastic square around the handle that keeps her from pulling the brush through the grate into her exhibit. (The paint is nontoxic, but it’s best if the orangutans don’t eat it.) Tommy throws himself into the project, painting rapidly with large brush strokes. The result is a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns.

You can pick up a scarf as a gift or for yourself on Mother’s Day for \$60. You’ll be proud knowing your fashionable accessory supports orangutan conservation.

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Zoological Society staff member Kim Peterson models one of the scarves.



Photo by Robert Wickland

Where to find the scarves:

A limited number of scarves will be for sale during the Missing Orangutan Mothers (MOM) event in the Primates of the World building on Mother’s Day, May 10. All proceeds will benefit orangutan conservation and rehabilitation through the nonprofit organization redapes.org.

CHICKENSAURUS REX

Kohl's Wild Theater returns to the Zoo

New shows premiere: May 23; four free performances a day, seven days a week.

What do a chicken and Tyrannosaurus rex (T. rex)—one of the largest carnivores that ever lived—have in common? This might sound like a line from a joke, but it's a serious question loosely tied to an ongoing worldwide crisis: extinction. Extinction is the theme of the latest Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) play: "The Time Traveler's Chicken."

"This summer's special exhibit at the Zoo is on dinosaurs," says Dave McLellan, KWT program coordinator. "This gives us a great opportunity to address the issue of extinction. We explore how the Milwaukee County Zoo helps combat the extinction of endangered animals and how everybody can do his or her part." Kohl's Wild Theater, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) live theater program, is made possible by a partnership between Kohl's Cares and the ZSM. It is the largest zoo-theater group in the country.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

A silver-laced Wyandotte chicken at the Zoo.

One of the play's protagonists is Clucky, a bumbling chicken who accidentally breaks her own egg. Dr. Thinker, a physicist, sees this as a perfect opportunity to test a time machine by going back 10 minutes to rescue the egg before it was cracked. Instead, they accidentally travel back 70 million years and are confronted by a T. rex. Although Clucky learns that T. rexes went extinct, she also learns their extinction isn't so cut and dry. "Not all dinosaurs became extinct if you consider that some developed into birds," says McLellan. "We came across a study showing that chickens are the closest modern relative of Tyrannosaurus rex." And thus the riddle from the opening paragraph is solved: T. rex is Clucky's great, great, great, great — etc. — grandparent.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

A Guam kingfisher at the Zoo.

Because birds are related to long-extinct dinosaurs, the play highlights two species of birds that have gone extinct owing to human actions: the dodo and the passenger pigeon. "These two examples teach us what happened in the past so we can avoid making the same mistakes again," says McLellan. The play also addresses the plight of the critically endangered Guam kingfisher and what must be done to save the species. The Zoo has a Guam kingfisher on exhibit.

In addition to checking out the dinosaur exhibit, McLellan suggests that Zoogoers visit the Herb and Nada Mahler Family Aviary to see the Zoo's Guam kingfisher. Guests can also visit chickens in the new chicken coop in the farm area. "It's fascinating to look at chickens and realize they're the modern descendants of an animal like a T. rex.," adds McLellan.

By Zak Mazur

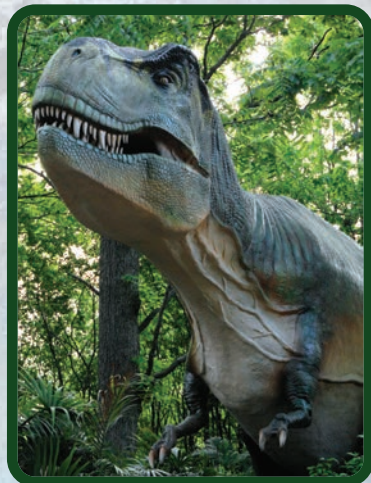


Photo by Ulla Aryan

An animatronic T. rex from a previous special summer exhibit at the Zoo.

Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to you

Kohl's Wild Theater outreach continues to reach festivals, schools and community events within a one-hour radius of the Milwaukee County Zoo, free of charge. Performances are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Julie B. at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, 414-258-2333 or KWT@zoosociety.org, for available dates. For more information, go to wildtheater.org.

Volunteering

Four Decades of Zoo Pride

In 1975, Rachel Jones saw a notice in the Milwaukee Journal that the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) was starting a volunteer auxiliary group. It sounded like fun, so she went to a meeting at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Forty years later, she still volunteers twice a month with Zoo Pride and is the last remaining active charter member.

Zoo Pride, celebrating its 40th anniversary in April, has certainly grown and evolved over the years, says Lynn Wilding, Zoo Pride's volunteer services coordinator. The organization started with 63 charter members. Today there are 561 active members performing a wide range of tasks to support the Zoo and the ZSM. "The first couple of years, all we had was an information booth," Jones says. "It was a very crude structure — no top to it — and it was outside and hotter than Hades in the summertime." Over the decades Zoo Pride has evolved into a multifaceted organization, providing critical assistance to the Zoo and ZSM.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Rachel Jones

Zoo Pride volunteers organized special events at the Zoo before the Zoo or ZSM had professional event-planning staff. Robin Higgins, who joined Zoo Pride in 1981, has fond memories of working at events such as "Teddy Bear Days" and an annual haunted house in the basement of the Pachyderm Building. Higgins became Zoo Pride's first paid staff member in 1988 and is now the ZSM's vice president of communications, marketing and membership.

Higgins says Zoo Pride has refined its objectives over the years. "What they do today is so much more conservation-oriented and education-oriented." Volunteers built the first "Remains to be Seen" carts, which let guests see and touch animal artifacts and learn more about the animals from trained Zoo Pride members. Volunteers on the Animal Watch committee observe the animals, helping keepers monitor their health and well-being. Zoo Pride has also helped the ZSM expand its educational programming since the Society moved into a large, dedicated education building in 2004.

Dean Rockstad, a Zoo Pride member for 33 years, has noticed changes in the Zoo's animal care. "Enrichment wasn't really something we did back then," he says. "The animals were in tall cages. Look where we are today — they have more natural environments and toys to play with. It's wonderful." A Zoo Pride enrichment committee helps prepare treats and toys for the animals, such as paper elephant huts, treat-filled pumpkins at Halloween and papier-mache eggs at Easter.

In fall 2014, Zoo Pride reached a new milestone as the organization — along with the ZSM and Milwaukee County Zoo — hosted the national Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents & Volunteers conference. More than 400 people from the U.S., Canada and Australia attended the week-long event, which included numerous activities and dozens of educational presentations. Participants left with a new appreciation for the Milwaukee County Zoo.

By Stacy Vogel Davis



Photo by Mary Machare

Nolan L., 6, of Denmark, Wis., learns about elephant teeth from Zoo Pride volunteer Margie Puls, of Wauwatosa.

Join Zoo Pride

You can become a Zoo Pride volunteer by attending a two-session introductory training. Additional training is available depending on your areas of interest. For more information, call 414-258-5667 or visit zoosociety.org/Zoopride.

Fun, Hands-on Zoo Classes

All classes and camps are run by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM).

With 27 Spring Classes and 38 Summer Camps to choose from, there is something to interest almost any child! Here is just a snippet of our educational offerings.

Spring Classes

Motion-sensing cameras, GPS tracking devices and night-vision equipment. What do these things have in common? They're all tools a wildlife biologist uses! Children ages 6-10 can learn the tips and tricks of being a wildlife biologist in May Zoo classes. Children ages 4-5 can go "Globetrotting" as they make their own passport and collect animal stickers on their expedition through the Zoo. Join the fun!

Summer Camps

It's not too late to sign up for Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices. In "Carousel" 2-year-olds can make a carousel animal, practice counting and ride the Zoo's

carousel. In our Family Camps, children ages 4-14 can go on a dinosaur fossil hunt with their parents — and so much more! Most camps have an outdoor component, so kids can get some fresh air while learning about the animals at the Zoo up close. Registration is open now. Go to: zoosociety.org/Summer.

"Zoo to You" School Programs

Teachers, bring the Zoo to you! Education programs are available at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. Register now for October 2015-May 2016 programs at zoosociety.org/SchoolPrograms.

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

"Study of the World's Endangered Species" takes place on June 20 and 21. Learn techniques to develop study units and how to use the Zoo as a teaching resource. Call UWM Outreach at 414-229-5255 for information and registration.

Workshop for Early-Childhood Teachers

"Dinosaurs" is a 2½-hour workshop on Saturday, July 25, for early-childhood teachers. It includes background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a tour of the special summer exhibit on dinosaurs. Register online at zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu.

High-tech gear in tow, 6- and 7-year-olds debunk animal myths and solve a Zoo mystery in *Spy Kids* camp.

Photo by Richard Taylor



Animal care: College intern Catherine Purdy helps Sydney W., of Brookfield, Katie C., of Milwaukee, and Ainsley M., of New Berlin, check the health of a goat in the "What's Up, Doc?" summer camp for 8- and 9-year-olds.

"My daughter has participated in Zoo classes since she was 4 years old. She really enjoys learning about the Zoo animals, doing the activities and visiting the animals. It's great to see her face full of excitement when I pick her up. Thank you."

Denise and Carlos Gonzales-Dorger
Muskego, Wis.



zoosociety.org/Education

Insider Tips

Cozy Coop and Cute Calves

They come with names such as Omelet, Pancake and Quiche — the common ingredient, of course, being eggs. These names for the new chickens at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm are a nod to the valuable food product chickens provide, says Lisa Guglielmi, farm area supervisor. The chickens arrived in fall 2014 to fill a new coop on the north end of the farm.

This is actually the second flock of chickens for the farm; a small flock lives in the Stackner Animal Encounter building and is used for educational programming. The new flock came from hatcheries in Texas. It includes six silver-laced Wyandottes and three light Brahmas, Guglielmi says. “We picked these birds because not only are they winter hearty, they’re also heavier birds so they tend not to be fliers,” she says. In summer, they have a small yard to wander during the day but are unlikely to hop the fence, and they don’t mind small spaces, she says. In winter, the chickens are housed in an off-exhibit building at the farm.

The Zoo had a flock of chickens roaming the farm for many years, but it stopped the practice a decade ago during the international bird-flu scare, Guglielmi says. The new coop, built by Zoo staff and paid for with funds from Northwestern Mutual, allows visitors to once again see a common Wisconsin farm animal. “They’re fun to watch,” Guglielmi says. The chickens will start appearing outside again in late spring.

Those aren’t the only new animals at the farm. Two calves were born in late 2014. Belle, a red-and-white Holstein, was born to mom Ellie in October, and Ginger, an Ayrshire, was born to mom Katie the day after Christmas. They’re in the heifer barn and have occasionally spent time outside over the winter. They will spend more time outside as the weather warms this spring and summer, so make sure to come visit.

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Silver-laced Wyandotte chickens are one of the newest additions to the farm area.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Red-and-white Holstein calf Belle relaxes in the heifer barn.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Eye of the Tiger ... Salamander

Besides exotic animals from around the world, the Milwaukee County Zoo's 209 acres is also home to native species like red foxes, flying squirrels, skunks, raptors and amphibians such as the blue-spotted salamander. But prior to urban development near the Zoo during the 1960s and 1970s, there was another salamander that roamed the grounds: the tiger salamander.

"Tiger salamanders will migrate for miles to find ponds, which are their preferred habitat," says Craig Berg, curator of reptiles and aquarium. "But development blocked their access to the Zoo's grounds." Blue-spotted salamanders, on the other hand, prefer wooded habitat, which is plentiful at the Zoo, adds Berg. Recently, a tiger salamander returned to the Zoo. Its name is Sal, and it lives in the Stackner Animal Encounter building in the farm area.

Tiger salamanders used to be abundant in some of the less developed suburbs of

Milwaukee, says Lisa Guglielmi, heritage farm supervisor who cares for Sal. "Growing up in the 1970s in New Berlin, I could find them all the time," she says. "Now I can't find them." Although elusive in urban areas, tiger salamanders are the most wide-ranging salamander species in North America and are not endangered. However, deforestation, pollution and rising acidity levels in their breeding pools could spell trouble in the future. Many are even killed by cars as they cross roads in spring en route to or from their breeding sites.

Tiger salamanders can grow up to 14 inches, but the average size is 6 to 8 inches. Sal is about 6 inches long, although his age is unknown. (Tiger salamanders can live 10 to 16 years in the wild.) During the day, tiger salamanders live in burrows up to 2 feet below the surface. At night they emerge from their burrows and feed on worms, frogs, insects and even other salamanders.

Although Sal is dark brown with yellow spots, tiger salamanders can have different colors and markings. Base colors can be greenish or gray and their markings can be brown. Some have no markings at all. Guglielmi says tiger salamanders are "really cool to look at because they have cute faces, little beady eyes and sort of look like they're smiling." Although catching frogs, toads and other critters is a part of childhood for many — as it was for Guglielmi — she says people shouldn't pick up salamanders because they have sensitive skin. This summer Sal and other critters will be exhibited in front of the animal encounter building in the farm area four times per day. Guglielmi says to check the signs in the farm area to find out when you can meet Sal.

By Zak Mazur



Sal the tiger salamander.

Photo by Bob Wickland



Photo by Bob Wickland

Helping Hands

Want to give 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.

Snacking with Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus joined 2,291 lucky kids for some festive meals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Breakfast & Lunch with Santa, sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringles**, was held the weekends of Dec 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21. Lunch was served on Saturdays and Sundays, while breakfast was available only on Saturdays. Guests enjoyed sweet iced kringle with their meals, sang holiday carols, met Santa and Mrs. Claus, and received special gifts.

Stompin' and Rompin'

In a state like Wisconsin — where some people jump into the freezing waters of Lake Michigan on New Year's Day — it's not surprising that 2,153 runners, walkers, joggers and rompers braved the cold to participate in the Milwaukee County Zoo's annual Samson Stomp & Romp on Jan. 18. To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the event, the Zoo offered special prizes for each race. There were four races to choose from: a competitive 5K, 2-mile fun run or 1-mile race. Pint-sized participants could join in on a quarter-mile mini-romp. The event, sponsored by **Amica Insurance**, honors the Zoo's most famous great ape, Samson the gorilla. Proceeds from the event support the Zoo's animals.

Where Fashion Sits

Gourmet food, tuxedos and elegant dresses, spirits, fine cigars and action-packed amateur boxing highlighted the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) 20th annual Puttin' on the Ritz fundraiser. Held Feb. 5 at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino and sponsored by **Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.**, the event attracted 555 guests. A live auction had guests bidding high. 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 record-breaking \$200,000 was raised for the ZSM and its support of the Milwaukee County Zoo.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Julian D., 4, of Sussex, munches on yummy kringle.



Photo by Olga Kornienko

Mathew Hayes, of Milwaukee, runs in the 5K race.

Guests of Bridgewood Advisors pose before enjoying gourmet dinners.

Photo by Olga Kornienko



A Zootender Event

Dr. Robert Davis, president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, faced off against Peggy Williams-Smith, corporate vice president of Marcus Hotels & Resorts, to see who would reign as the best bartender. The friendly competition, held on Feb. 17 at Blu in The Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee, raised nearly \$2,000 for the nonprofit Zoological Society. "Not only did everybody have a great time, we raised money for a great cause," says Davis. In the end, there was no "best bartender" winner. Added Davis: "Everybody participating in the event won."

A World of Wines (and Beers!)

Wonderful wines, bubbly beers, savory snacks and delectable desserts were enjoyed by 637 guests at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Wines and Beers of the World fundraiser on March 5. The Stearns Family Apes of Africa and Primates of the World buildings stayed open for this late-night event at the Milwaukee County Zoo, allowing guests to wine and dine near animals. Nearly \$32,000 was raised for the Society and its support of animals at the Zoo.

Zooing Zumba®

Catchy Latin beats and dance moves from salsa, merengue and samba kept 363 zoogoers sweating for the animals on Feb. 28 at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's second annual Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo. This high-energy event, led by licensed Zumba® instructors, raised over \$5,800 for the Sponsor an Animal program.



Photo provided by Z2 Marketing

Dr. Robert Davis at the event.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Joe Bachmann (left), of Shorewood, and Brian James, of Mequon, check out a research-station diorama located in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building at a previous event.

The Peck Welcome Center was packed with people sweating for the animals.

Photo by Bob Wickland



Annual Appeal

Renovations for Red Pandas

Currently the Milwaukee County Zoo has one red panda — Dash. But the Zoo hopes to get more red pandas in the future. One day there may even be some baby red pandas. That's why for the 2014-15 Annual Appeal, we hope to add additional things to the exhibit like:

- A taller, more secure structure to protect the red pandas from wild animals, such as raccoons, that can pass on diseases
- A roof to provide shade on hot summer days because red pandas prefer cooler conditions
- More trees and branches for climbing, resting and watching Zoo guests
- Special areas for enrichment activities and food treats to keep the pandas' minds active

When construction is completed, the Zoo hopes to introduce young female red pandas to our male. Hopefully they'll produce little red pandas and create some panda-monium in the renovated exhibit!



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Dash pokes his head out of a hollow log.

Donate Here

To give to the Zoological Society's 2014-15 Annual Appeal, please see the flyer packaged with this magazine, go online to helpmzc:redpandas.com, or call 414-258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.

The funds raised will help upgrade the red panda exhibit. Donors of \$100-\$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; donors of \$1,000 or more receive larger individualized recognition; and donors of \$2,500 receive individualized recognition on a bench to be placed in the Milwaukee County Zoo. To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

Amazing Marine Mammals

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

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

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

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

You can enrich your children's lives as they help enrich the lives of the harbor seals and California sea lions of the Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion show, sponsored by Anderson Seal, LLC. At Oceans of Fun summer camps and programs, children and adults can interact with seals and sea lions and assist with training. All programs have limited openings, and reservations are required. Prices vary on camps (see website above for details and new camp offerings).

- Sea Lion Splash (2½ hours): Children ages 5-10 learn about animal training.
- Aquatic Adventures (1½ hours): Children ages 6 and up go behind the scenes to touch, feed, and play with marine animals.
- Animal Training Job Shadowing (3½ hours): Kids ages 13 and up shadow trainers, get hands-on interactions with the animals and learn about marine mammal care.
- Camps: Children ages 7-13 learn about marine mammals in 2-day or 5-day camps. To learn more and to register, go to oceansoffun.org/Camps.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

A trainer signals a California sea lion to perform a demonstration of behavior.

Be Philanthropic and Reap Financial Rewards

With tax season nearly behind us, we can all breathe a sigh of relief. Ironically, this is also the perfect time to think about making meaningful changes to your 2015 tax return. By being strategic now, it's possible to do greater good with your assets and reduce your tax burden.

Capital gains is an area where it may be possible to achieve both goals of doing good things for your community — such as supporting organizations like the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) — while reducing your tax burden.

A capital gain occurs when you make a profit resulting from the sale of a security (stock, bond, mutual fund, etc.). Capital gains can even occur unintentionally. For example, if you own a mutual fund that has a year-end capital gain distribution, the gains resulting from this distribution are considered a capital gain and are subject to special taxation.

Most of us pay a capital gains tax rate between 15 percent and 31.8 percent depending on our tax bracket and the impact of the Alternative Minimum Tax, which can add an additional tax of 3 to 5 percent. Beyond that, there is a 3.8 percent Medicare surcharge. **Long story short: Capital gains can lead to high taxation.**

There are several ways to avoid paying tax on capital gains:

- Sell the investment, renounce your citizenship and move to a country with no extradition laws. (Just kidding!)
- Give investments to family members. (However, then your family members will be required to pay capital gains tax.)
- Keep the security until you die. (Your heirs pay no tax, but you'll have been stuck holding an investment that perhaps you should have sold.)

Those don't sound like very good options. Thankfully, there is a much better way to reduce paying taxes on capital gains: **Simply donate the security to your favorite charities.** When you invest in your favorite charity, you'll get a tax deduction for its full current value. And since charities pay no tax, your gift is maximized to its highest potential.

Is this strategy right for you? Look at your tax return. If you have long-term capital gains on line 13, and charitable contributions on line 16 of Schedule A, this might be an excellent way to reduce your tax burden. Restrictions may apply, so talk with your CPA, attorney or financial advisor to learn more.

By Mike Arnow, a CPA, CRP® and fee-only financial advisor with SJA Financial Advisory. He is also a member of the ZSM Simba Circle steering committee.



Mike Arnow

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Make a Planned Gift — Simba Circle

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have already established a planned gift benefiting the ZSM. For more information on creating your planned gift, please visit our website at zoosociety.org/Simba or contact Kim Peterson in the Development office at 414-918-6151 or at kimp@zoosociety.org.





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**Have a
 Zootastic
 time at
 the Zoo.
 See cover.**

Photo by Richard Taylor

What's Happening

Details Inside

Now-May 23

Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM)
 Spring Zoo Classes for children ages birth-14.
 Registration opens for Summer Camps,
 sponsored by Penzeys Spices.

April 4

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

April 24

Zootastic! at the Zoo, sponsored by
 Grow Hope @ SaintA (pre-register).

May 10

Mother's Day at the Zoo,
 sponsored by Lifeway Foods.*

May 16 & 17

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

May 18

ZSM members' online registration for
 Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by
 Kellogg's & Sentry Foods.

May 23

The Zoo's hours change to
 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

May 23

Expedition Dinosaur,
 sponsored by Sendik's
 Food Markets, opens.†

May 23

Kohl's Wild Theater
 performances return
 to the Zoo.†

June 1

Zoological Society Summer
 Camps, sponsored by
 Penzeys Spices, begin
 (through Aug. 13).

June 2-4

Prehistoric Preview, ZSM members-only evening event
 featuring free viewing of the summer dinosaur
 exhibit, AND a variety of food trucks.†

June 21

Father's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by
 Prairie Farms Dairy.*†

June 24, July 1, 8, 15 & 29

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

June 27

Zoo Ball 2015, presented by
 Johnson Controls, Inc.†

July 7, 9 & 10

Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank.*†

July 27

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by
 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.†

Aug. 12, 13, 14 & 15

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by
 Kellogg's & Sentry Foods.†

Aug. 20-23

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
 a la Carte presented by Meijer.*†

*ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. Expedition Dinosaur admission is extra, except for ZSM members during the Prehistoric Preview on June 2, 3 and 4 from 5:30 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.

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

“Like”
 us at
[Facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)
 for great photos,
 animal news
 & fun!



Kohl's Wild Theater Photo by Richard Brodzeller