

Wild Things

VIEWING THE ZOO ANEW

Zootastic

Sponsored by *Grow Hope @ SaintA*

April 29, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

Zoo Pass 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 28. Walk-ins will be accepted, unless the event fills up prior to that date. Fees are not refundable.

Zoo-tas-tic *n.* A unique evening of animals, music, food and family-friendly fun

Sure, there are plenty of events that take place after hours at the Milwaukee County Zoo, but none of them are like this fantastic family-friendly FUNdraiser put on annually by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee! We invite you to see the Zoo through a different lens on the evening of April 29. What makes this event unique? Well, do you have questions about animals? Zookeepers will be on hand to provide answers. Do you like food? How does cheesy Palermo's® Pizza, food from Noodles & Company and a yummy build-your-own sundae bar sound? Do you like to dance? You can bust some dance moves to a kid-friendly DJ. You can also commemorate your night with a stop at the family photo station so you'll always remember the night you partied with the animals and helped raise funds on their behalf. And now you know a few things that make this event special!

Dreaming of Animals

Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by *Kellogg's & Sentry Foods*

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

Zoo Pass 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 16 at 8 a.m. for Zoo Pass members; registration for non-members begins May 17 at 8 a.m.

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

If you want to camp in bear country, you'll have to drive far outside of Milwaukee County. Or, you could stay close to home and drive to the Milwaukee County Zoo where you can camp near bears and other exotic animals at the Zoological Society's popular camping event. Each night features a movie, kid-friendly activities, s'mores around a

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Bailey S., 3, of New Berlin, inspects the pelt of a snow leopard at a previous event. Photo by Richard Taylor



Anna S., 7, of Milwaukee, helps her sister, Josie, 4, pound a tent stake at a previous event. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

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group campfire (sponsored by The Sleep Wellness Institute) and a buffet dinner. The next morning, enjoy breakfast and a day at the Zoo! This 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 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. If you or a member of your party has special needs, please let us know in the comments area online.

Special Offer: Send in a Sentry Foods receipt showing the purchase of any two Kellogg's cereals and/or Kellogg's Pop-Tarts and take \$10 off one family rate or \$3 off one individual rate.

Bex S., 5, of Brookfield, holds a camping lantern in front of his van tent at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Memberanda

We value your relationship with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The Society 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/Membership/Things2Know.php

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: We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our

members with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) each year. We only reciprocate 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/Membership/Reciprocal.php, 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. 123, April 2016

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

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Web: zoosociety.org

WATCHING OUT FOR SEAFOOD

Kohl's Wild Theater returns to the Zoo

Shows premiere: May 28; four free performances a day, seven days a week.

If you're from the Milwaukee area, you've probably enjoyed a Friday night fish fry or two, or three ... or maybe you've been eating fish fries your entire life! But was the fish you enjoyed at your last fish fry raised or harvested in a sustainable manner? Was it something you even thought about? This summer Kohl's Wild Theater, made possible by a partnership between the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Kohl's Cares, is spreading the message about sustainable seafood with the help of Humboldt penguin puppets.



A pirate, played by Johnathan Koller, talks with a Humboldt penguin puppet in the Kohl's Wild Theater play "The Treasure of the Sea." Photo by Richard Brodzeller

In the play "The Treasure of the Sea," a Humboldt penguin teaches a greedy pirate about the importance of sustainable seafood. It's one of four free 15-minute shows Kohl's Wild Theater will perform daily this summer in the farm area of the Milwaukee County Zoo. "Some ocean fish species and marine invertebrates are being over-harvested, threatening not only their populations but the other creatures — such as penguins — that depend on their existence in a food web," says James Mills, director of conservation education for the Zoological Society. The play performance is not the only place where a Humboldt penguin will spread the sustainable seafood message. Actors will also use puppets and perform skits to engage zoogoers and share information about sustainable seafood at the Humboldt Penguin Exhibit daily from 11-11:30 a.m., weather dependent.



Kohl's Wild Theater actor Samantha Sostarich performs a magic trick for zoogoer Angela M., 3, of Wauwatosa, at the Humboldt Penguin Exhibit. Actor Sherrick Robinson operates the Humboldt penguin puppet. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

In addition to Kohl's Wild Theater, the Zoological Society focuses on sustainable seafood with a Seafood Watch information cart staffed by members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary. Jennifer Herbert, who co-chairs Zoo Pride's Seafood Watch Committee with her son Makinon, says the Zoological Society is spreading the message to all ages. "Kohl's Wild Theater is teaching children about sustainable seafood, and the Seafood Watch cart offers adults and older kids information on how they can eat fish sustainably and protect fish populations in the wild." The Seafood Watch cart can be found throughout the year at the Aquatic & Reptile Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) and on weekends (10 a.m.-3 p.m.).

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.

Fun, Hands-on Zoo Classes

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

Zoo Summer Camps – Did You Know?

Kerry Scanlan, coordinator of Zoo Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, stands outside the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center on a beautiful summer day last year. She's escorting camp participants as they enter the building. "I love to see the children's excitement as they begin their day," says Scanlan.

While the excitement on the children's faces is easily discernable, what is less well known is that the Conservation Education

Department offers A.M. and P.M. child care for Summer Camps. "Camps begin at 9:30 a.m., but for a nominal fee you can drop off your child as early as 7:30 a.m.," she says. "Camps end at 3 p.m., but you can also sign your child up for P.M. care so that your child can stay with us until 5 p.m." During A.M. and P.M. care, children are supervised in a camp classroom with free-choice activities. Care is available to children ages 6-14.



Zoo Pride volunteer Jim Brill leads 8- and 9-year-old kids on a tour during a Zoo Summer Camp called "The Scoop on Poop." Photo by Bob Wickland

"Another thing that sets our Summer Camps apart is that children can attend for a single day, two days or even a whole week," adds Scanlan. "For several age groups, you can combine multiple camp days into a full week of camp." Scanlan often gets suggestions from parents that help improve the registration system. For example, many parents wanted to sign up multiple children on the same day. "After getting this feedback, we added a 'concurrent camps' option to the registration system to make it easier to schedule camps on the same day for multiple children," she says.

"I was thrilled with my son's first Zoo Camp experience. It was so well organized that we signed him up for three more camps!"

**Teresa R.,
Vernon, Wis.**

There are new offerings for summer 2016 as well. "For the first time we're offering the popular Stroller Safari program in the summer, and also 'Zoo Photography' for adults," says Scanlan.

Summer Camp registration began on Feb. 3. Many camps are still available and can be found at zoosociety.org/Summer.

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

"Endangered Species," a two-day UW-Milwaukee course for teachers, will be held at the Zoo June 25 and 26. This one-credit course explores animal survival and how zoos help animals; it runs 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Call UWM Outreach, 414-229-5255, for fees and registration.

Workshop for Early-Childhood Educators

Early-childhood educators have the option to sign up for "Bears," a three-hour workshop on Saturday, April 23, 2016, or "Bugs" on Saturday, July 23, 2016. Workshops include animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a guided tour of the Zoo. Workshop content is mainly for educators of ages 2-5. To register, call 414-258-5058 or visit zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu.

Spring Zoo Classes

Spring is a great time to take a class at the Zoo! Register now because Spring Classes end May 23, 2016! To register, go to zoosociety.org/Spring.

Looking up to Mom

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Lifeway Foods

May 8, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

Free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

For more information, call 414-256-5466.

Most children look up to their mothers, figuratively and literally. When your mother is Ziggy — an 11½-foot-tall giraffe — you have to crane your neck to see her face, even if you were 5 feet 9 inches tall at birth. Ziggy is the Milwaukee County Zoo's newest giraffe mom. She gave birth to a male calf, Tafari, on Sept. 16, 2015. Bring your mom to the Milwaukee County Zoo on May 8 and meet Ziggy and Tafari. After that, stroll to the Primates of the World building to see scarves for sale painted by the Zoo's orangutan, Tommy O., for the Missing Orangutan Mothers (MOM) campaign. In the Small Mammals Building you can also visit Nieve, a Goeldi's monkey mom who gave birth to a baby last May and another in November.



Breann Z., of Jefferson, poses in front of the African Lakes Exhibit with children Keenan, 7, and Kessley, 3, at last year's event. Photo by Bob Wickland

GOING GREEN IS GOOD!



A Zoo Pride volunteer helps Andy F., of New Berlin, and son Bennett, 2, select a seedling for their home garden at last year's event.

Photo by Bob Wickland

Zoo, searching for "food" and stable hunting grounds. Tree saplings will be handed out and there will be fun Nature Zoomobile Tours that highlight conservation efforts on Zoo grounds.

Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Co.

May 14 & 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Milwaukee County Zoo

Free activities. Free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

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

Ah, spring! The trees are blossoming and the flowers are blooming. Nature's perfume wafts through the warm air. This time of year makes many people want to jump for joy and celebrate the wonders of our planet. If that sounds like you, come to the Milwaukee County Zoo's annual "green" event that celebrates our planet and commemorates Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day. Visitors can band birds at 7 a.m., 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. before the Zoo opens (please pre-register at 414-256-5466). Guests can also get "collared" and migrate like a polar bear on the Hudson Bay, moving from stop to stop throughout the

Volunteering

Pushing Buttons

There are many ways to support conservation. Some people travel and physically participate in conservation efforts. Others donate large sums of money. But not everybody can travel and work in the field, and not everybody has deep pockets. However, visitors to the Milwaukee County Zoo can easily support conservation by obtaining conservation buttons from Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's volunteer auxiliary. The two latest types of buttons feature a leopard shark and a sea turtle.

"Conservation buttons support conservation projects that the Zoo is involved with," says Gayle Rzany, who oversees the Zoo Pride Conservation Committee with Mary Zelenka.

"We ask for a \$1 donation." Funds go toward

various conservation projects, such as purchasing tracking tags for leatherback sea turtles to assist the

Ocean Spirits program in Grenada. "Tags give us crucial life histories of individuals so researchers can track them over time," says Billie Harrison, supervisor for the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC). Funds also helped Zoo Pride purchase a microphone and amplifier for shark talks that take place on Monday and Thursday afternoons in front of the Pacific Exhibit in the ARC.

Conservation buttons are a "leaping off point to start a conversation about conservation with Zoo guests," says Zelenka, adding: "We will keep offering the buttons until they run out." Zoogoers can donate money for buttons at conservation carts in the Peck Welcome Center during the cold months, outside when it's warm, and, from time to time, at the shark talks. Buttons representing previous Zoo-related conservation efforts are also available. Buttons can also be obtained from the Zoo Pride office in the basement of the Peck Welcome Center or by calling 414-258-5667.

By Zak Mazur



A sea turtle button and leopard shark button.

Maintaining High Standards



Chuck Wikenhauser
Photo by Richard Brodzeller

It's no easy feat for a zoo or aquarium to achieve accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). A zoological institution must maintain the highest standards of animal care, welfare, management, veterinary care, conservation, education, staffing, facilities, safety, guest services and more. Out of 2,800 zoological institutions licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, only 231 are accredited by the AZA. Of those institutions, 119 have received AZA accreditation continuously for 25 years or more. However, out of those 119, only four have been accredited longer than the Milwaukee County Zoo. "We've been accredited for 39 years," says Chuck Wikenhauser, Zoo director. "It's quite an accomplishment."

Recently the AZA sent the Zoo a Quarter Century Award plaque commemorating the Zoo for its accomplishment. The award didn't surprise Wikenhauser. One reason is because he's chairman of the AZA's Accreditation Committee. Despite his post, the Zoo doesn't receive any special consideration when it comes to accreditation. "Being chair means there's more pressure, actually, because our Zoo has to look great," he says.

Accreditation is important. "It's the hallmark for being one of the best zoos or aquariums in North America," says Wikenhauser. There are other benefits as well. "Accreditation helps prequalify the Zoo for grants." It also enables the Zoo to house endangered species, which normally requires special permits from the state of Wisconsin. Wikenhauser doesn't take all the credit for the award. "We're a great Zoo because of our entire staff," he says. "Zoos are inspected by AZA personnel every five years, but accreditation is something you earn every single day."

By Zak Mazur

Annual Appeal

Colobus monkeys
Photos by Richard Brodzeller

Sunshine on Their Shoulders

Each spring it happens: There's that first day when you can feel the sun's warmth on your body. Soon, the Milwaukee County Zoo's Colobus monkeys will feel the warmth of the sun, too. For the 2015-16 Annual Appeal, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee will raise money for the Zoo to create an access corridor to an outdoor yard so the Colobus monkeys can experience fresh air, sunshine and trees for the very first time — ever!

Renovations will include:

- Building a secure access corridor to the outdoor yard
- Installing an inline scale to weigh the monkeys within the corridor
- Installing a device that allows medical staff to have protected contact in giving health exams and administering medications without having to use anesthesia
- Adding additional behavioral enrichment areas to place leaves and browse that interest the Colobus monkeys and stimulate their natural foraging behaviors

Benefits for You!

Imagine being able to observe the amazing acrobatic skills of the Colobus monkeys as they propel themselves through the canopy of this large, outdoor exhibit. And for the first time, being able to hear their fascinating vocalizations — a low rumbling, almost growl-like sound.



Donate here!

To give to the Zoological Society's 2015-16 Annual Appeal, please go online to zoosociety.org/Appeal or call 414-258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.

Party with Pups!

There are two new California sea lion pups you can see this summer at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show, sponsored by Anderson Seal, LLC. Male Zeus, born in March 2015, and female Reese, born in July 2015, are inquisitive and playful. Oceans of Fun summer camps and programs allow children and adults to interact with the sea mammals and assist with training. Programs have limited openings; reservations are required. Prices vary by camp. Zoo Pass members receive discounts.

To see descriptions of the camps, their costs, dates, times and how to register, go to oceansoffun.org or call 414-453-5527, ext. 1.

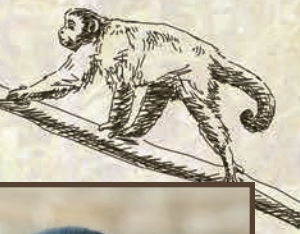


California sea lion pups,
Reese (top) and Zeus.

Photos courtesy of Oceans of Fun



TRIP TO CHICAGO'S LINCOLN PARK ZOO



May 7, 2016, 7:15 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$40 (ages 3 and up); \$30 (children 2 and under).

Register with form below, online at zoosociety.org/Travel or call 414-258-2333.

What does Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo have that the Milwaukee County Zoo does not? Well, first of all, it's in an urban setting compared to our forested campus. It has several species of animals that we do not have on exhibit, including a Hoffman's two-toed sloth — which you can find in the Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House — as well as chimpanzees that live in the Regenstein Center for African Apes. Observe how the chimps are different from the Zoo's bonobos, their closely related cousins. Other animals you'll see there but won't find here include African wild dogs, a bald eagle, a puma, an armadillo and many others.

Check in starts at 7:15 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo and includes a continental breakfast. Buses leave the Zoo for Chicago at 8:30 a.m. Your field trip fee includes transportation on restroom-equipped motor coaches, a tip for bus drivers, breakfast, bottled water or soda and a snack bag for the ride home. (Note to those with allergies: Snacks may include dairy and peanut byproducts.) Soda is donated by PepsiAmericas®. We depart Chicago at 5 p.m. and return by approximately 6:30 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. Call 414-258-2333 for questions.



A chimpanzee (above) and its close cousin, a bonobo from the Milwaukee County Zoo. Bonobo photo by Richard Brodzeller

LINCOLN PARK ZOO SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

Zoo Pass Membership No. _____

Your Name and Guest(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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

If you wish to travel with another person or group sending in a separate reservation, please indicate their name _____

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$40 per person, ages 3 and up

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$30 per child 2 and under

Total amount \$ _____

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:

LINCOLN PARK ZOO TRIP, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

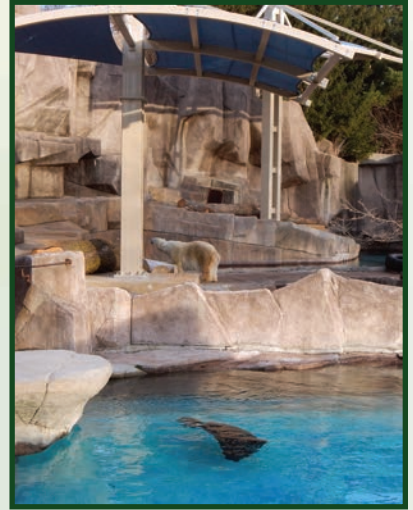
Cancellations prior to April 29, 2016, are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after April 29, 2016, are not refundable. Call 414-258-2333 for more information. Trip cost is not tax-deductible. To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

Home Improvement - Zoo Edition

Visitors might not see it, but there are always upgrades and improvements happening at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "We are constantly evaluating the integrity and therefore the safety of animal exhibits and off-exhibit areas," says Beth Rich, director of animal management and health. "As we replace older exhibits, new systems and materials allow us to install components that improve animal comfort." That's true of several renovations at the Zoo, which include the Polar Bear and Harbor Seal Exhibits, the Black Bear Exhibit, and the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary.

Polar Bear and Harbor Seal Exhibits

Snow Lilly, the Zoo's popular polar bear, came off exhibit for a couple of months in late 2015 as the Zoo created new shade structures for her and the harbor seal family next door. The structures were funded by donations to a Zoological Society Annual Appeal. "They will help the animals stay comfortable in summer by cooling down the polar bear's rockwork and seals' water," says Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor for North American animals. The shade structures also will reduce glare in the seals' eyes. "The bright sunlight can be hard on the structures of their eyes."



The new shade structure offers relief from glare and summertime heat for the harbor seals and polar bear Snow Lilly.

Photo by Stacy Vogel Davis

Black Bear Exhibit

Renovations at the Black Bear Exhibit started several years ago with a grant

from MillerCoors for water conservation. The Zoo installed a recirculating pump and filter to reuse water. "With the remaining funds, we are adding plants and substrate to soften the exhibit, nooks to hide food, and a second waterfall and a stream," Fleuchaus says. The Zoo also plans to plant grasses, fruit trees, berry bushes and shade trees, as well as shady areas made of logs and rockwork. Last year, the Zoo renovated the bears' off-exhibit dens and the keeper areas, giving keepers better visibility and safer access to the bears and the



Workers from Cost of Wisconsin, Inc., renovate the Black Bear Exhibit. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

ability to weigh them. Renovations should be completed after the black bears emerge from hibernation this spring.

Aviary

The aviary work has been obvious to visitors because it has required the building to shut down for several months. The roof needed replacing, and the Zoo took the opportunity to reengineer the skylights spanning the entire area, says Alex Waier, bird curator. The new skylights will have fans to release heat from the peak of the skylights to keep the building cooler in the summer. To accommodate the new design, a walkway had to be built down the center of the building. When the aviary reopens in spring, visitors will notice a new look to the stream and feeding zone in the Free Flight Area, which had to be rebuilt to allow machinery access to the building.

By Stacy Vogel Davis



Workers from Allcon Construction LLC remove granite to allow machinery to reach parts of the Free Flight Area. Photo by Zak Mazur

BUG OUT THIS SUMMER!

Insects are the foundation of life on earth. Without them our ecosystem would collapse. These tiny life-forms perform important natural services that are often taken for granted. They're pollinators, leaf-litter sweepers, garbage collectors, soil conditioners and natural fertilizer-producers. The following are fun facts about the insects and arachnids you'll get to see at this summer's special exhibit, BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. The exhibit runs May 28 to Sept. 5. Admission is \$2.50 per person.



Black ants

You've probably encountered black ants outdoors or even in your home. They live in colonies of several thousand, including males, females and one or two egg-laying queens. These tiny omnivorous bugs eat other insects, fruits, vegetables, greasy or oily foods, cornmeal and plant secretions.

◀ Blue-eyed darter dragonfly

These beautiful insects mate during flight. Once the female's eggs are fertilized, she places them in warm, slow-moving waters like ponds, swamps, creeks and small streams. Once hatched, the nymphs live in the water for a few years. When they're fully grown, they crawl out of the water, shed their "skin" and fly away.

Bombardier beetle ▶

Bombardier beetles boast an extreme form of self-defense: chemical warfare. They create explosive chemical reactions inside their bodies so they can spray burning, caustic liquid from their backsides. The liquid can reach up to 22 miles per hour at temperatures around 200 degrees!

Devil's flower mantis

From the top it looks like a leaf, but when it rears up in self-defense, its underside sports dazzling red, white, blue and black markings. The devil's flower mantis is also very large at almost 4 inches long.

Emperor scorpion

The emperor scorpion is the largest of all scorpions, but despite its impressive size — adult females are about 8 inches long, males 6 inches — it's said to be one of the most timid. Size has nothing to do with the potency of its venom, either, which is weak compared to other scorpion species. Its sting is painful but not deadly.



Madagascar sunset moth

Most moths are active at night, but these moths are active during the day. They sport bright colors and resemble a swallowtail butterfly. When in their caterpillar or larva phase, sunset moths eat only plants from the family *Omphalea*, which are toxic to most animals. The toxins remain in their bodies throughout their lives, making them toxic to predators.

◀ Meadow grasshopper

These grasshoppers are found in Europe and adjoining areas of Asia. They live in grassy meadows near lakes and ponds. When feeling threatened, meadow grasshoppers enter water and cling to plants for several minutes.





◀ Mexican red-kneed tarantula

Mexican red-kneed tarantulas are docile and have beautiful orange-red leg joints. Owing to their docility and beauty, they're popular pets. Less beautiful, perhaps, is how they eat. Their venom first paralyzes prey and then begins the digestion process, liquefying the innards so the tarantula can suck up the proteins and fats. All that's left is a small ball of undigested body parts.

Orb-web spider

Also known as orb-weaver spiders, these arachnids are members of a family of spiders that includes more than 2,800 species! Some species do not spin webs. Instead, they use their silk to dangle a sticky blob that contains pheromones to attract male moths. Once the moth is stuck, the spider reels it in to be eaten.

Red-tailed bumblebee ▶

You've probably never encountered this species of bumblebee unless you've spent time from May to September in the United Kingdom, where they are common. Like their counterparts in North America, red-tailed bumblebees are important pollinators.

Say's firefly

Indiana students are trying to get this bug named the official Indiana state insect. The Say's firefly, like all fireflies, produces light in special cells near the abdomen. The light is produced from a complex chemical reaction resulting from the oxidation of a substance called luciferin. Fireflies use their lights to attract mates.



◀ Seven-spot ladybird

The "gardener's best friend" would be an apt name for this species of beetle because it feeds on aphids, which devastate crops. Seven-spot ladybirds and their larvae can devour more than 5,000 aphids during their yearlong lifespans. Although native to Europe, seven-spot ladybirds have been imported to North America as a natural pest control against aphids.

Stag beetle

Stag beetles are spectacular-looking bugs found worldwide. The males sport giant antler-like mandibles that are used in courtship displays and for wrestling with other males. The mandibles look fearsome, but they cannot be closed with any force. Stag beetles are also large. Males are about 1 to 3 inches long and females are 1 to 2 inches long.

By Zak Mazur

Photos courtesy of Billings Productions

Insider Tips

Mold-A-Rama: The Next Generation

Most people come to the Milwaukee County Zoo to see the animals. But for two 5-year-old boys, the animals come in second to something they deem much more interesting: plastic figurines from the Mold-A-Rama machines. "I have 16 molds," says Easton K., from West Bend. The other boy, Jonathan M., from Grayslake, Ill., says he has eight.

Apparently these 1960s-era machines haven't gone out of style.

According to their mothers, both boys are avid collectors. Although they're at the age when kids like to play with toys, their Mold-A-Rama collections are for bedroom decoration only. "I keep them on my bookcase so that my brother can't get them and break them," says Jonathan. Easton says he also keeps them on a bookshelf. "Easton is quite the collector of things," says his mom, Katie. "We call him our little hoarder."

Not surprisingly, both boys are on never-ending quests to find molds they need for their collections. "When we go to Zoo Classes, Jonathan starts talking about what molds he needs and where they are located — he has it all planned out," says mom Kelly. "Every time I walk around the Zoo I find Mold-A-Ramas and I think about which ones I need," says Easton, who supports his Mold-A-Rama passion with generous funds from his father's coin jar. "Mom is helping me out," says Jonathan. But Mom has a caveat: "He gets a mold if he has a good report from his Zoo Class teacher," says Kelly.

Mold-A-Ramas have been at the Zoo since 1980. Since then more than 2 million molds have been sold. Currently the Zoo boasts 13 molds, however new ones are usually introduced for special summer exhibits. The Mold-A-Rama is a true piece of Americana. It became popular



Jonathan M. (left) and Easton K. pose near some of their Mold-A-Rama figurines. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Mold-A-Rama Facts!

- **Mold-A-Rama figurines include:** lion, gorilla, bat, polar bear, elephant, kangaroo, giraffe, monkey, alligator, cow, tiger, moose, hippo and a special summer exhibit mold. A skull figurine is available around Halloween.
- Each mold costs \$2.
- In 2015, the Zoo made \$159,495 in Mold-A-Rama sales.
- **Neat idea:** When a mold is still warm, you can etch the date on the bottom of the mold with a pen or sharp object.
- **Another neat idea:** Cut a mold in half to create a cookie cutter!

in the 1960s, an era when plastic was the new "wonder" material and began appearing everywhere. "The whole idea of the machine is you can look under the bubble and watch the mold come together," says Paul Jones, president of Mold-A-Rama, Inc., located in Brookfield, Ill. The interactivity definitely appeals to Easton. "I like that I can make the machine make the mold."

The mold figurines are a way for kids to express love for their favorite animal, or in Jonathan's case, animals. "His favorite animal changes every three months," says Kelly. "Right now I like lizards," adds Jonathan. As for the famous, or some would say, infamous, Mold-A-Rama smell — an acrid, melting plastic scent — Easton says he likes the smell. "It smells like a gorilla because when I got a gorilla one it really smelled like a gorilla!"

By Zak Mazur

Zookeeper Profile

Small Mammals and Big Goals

As a youngster, Stephanie Harpt displayed some of the telltale signs shared in childhood by most zookeepers: She had pets and a deep love of animals. Harpt had fish, hamsters, a cat and, later, dogs. Her love of wildlife extended to some of the tiniest creatures. "I would try to avoid running over ants when I rode my bike," she says. Harpt also wanted to save lives. "Whenever I found an injured bird, I'd put it in a shoebox and try to save it."

The Madison, Wis., native knew she wanted to work with animals ever since kindergarten after visiting SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla. "I liked animals before, but when I saw the dolphins I became really inspired," she says. As a young adult, Harpt obtained three associate's degrees from Moorpark College in Ventura County, Calif. (exotic animal training, management and wildlife education), which she said was an invaluable experience because "they have a student-run zoo on campus." Later she earned a bachelor of science degree in biological aspects of conservation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

After graduating in 2008, Harpt had a short stint at the Racine Zoo before moving on to the National Aquarium in Baltimore, where she trained animals and worked with reptiles and birds. She also participated in educational programs for guests. After four years, Harpt decided to come back to Wisconsin to be near family. She landed her current job at the Milwaukee County Zoo in 2013. She's worked primarily in the Small Mammals Building ever since. "I love to train the animals and see them progress," she says. "I also love feeding them. Since we work with small animals, I can go in their exhibits to feed and train them." Harpt says she doesn't have a favorite species of animal. Rather, she likes individual animals based on their personalities. She has a fondness for Apollo, a straw-colored fruit bat. "He's a sweet old man!" She says an animal with particularly cute behavior is Pee Wee, a kinkajou. "Once he gets to know you, he'll

let you pet him through the mesh," she says. "He presents himself by putting his chest up against the mesh and extending his front legs upward, his tongue hangs out — he looks adorable."

Like any job, being a zookeeper comes with its challenges. One of them is working the night shift, which most zookeepers are required to do occasionally. "It's a little creepy," she says. One time Harpt accidentally cornered a skunk by the bear area, but luckily it held its fire. "Now I turn the truck's flood light on and check for skunks and other critters." Halloween time is really scary. "The scarecrows the Zoo sets up can really startle you because you think they're humans!"

Although Harpt loves working with small mammals, she's keen to learn how to work in as many areas of the Zoo as possible. "I've started getting trained in primates, the monkey beat. I'm hoping to get trained in apes, too." For Harpt, the most important thing is that she continues to gain more experience. "I definitely like to learn all the time. And being a zookeeper at the Zoo allows me to do that."

By Zak Mazur



Stephanie Harpt holds straw-colored fruit bat Apollo.
Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Dinner is served: Stephanie Harpt prepares food for the Zoo's small mammals. Photo by Zak Mazur

By the Numbers



1. Greater Milwaukee Foundation

The grand finale of the **Greater Milwaukee Foundation's (GMF's)** centennial Gifts to the Community included six days of free admission and free parking to the Milwaukee County Zoo Dec. 26-31. The free week, which attracted 23,095 guests, was headlined by Asa, a snow leopard the foundation helped the Zoo acquire. Another snow leopard is on the way, also thanks to the GMF. Here, Zoo Pride volunteer Priscilla Kuehn, of Milwaukee, helps Jayce, 2, his sister Zoe, 5, and mom Kaleena N., of Waukesha, make animal tracks in a sandbox during free week.

Photo by Stacy Kaat

2. Breakfast and Lunch with Santa

Deonna D., 5, of Milwaukee, joins other children on stage for a sing-along during Breakfast with Santa. The event, which was held at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20, attracted 2,009 people. Guests enjoyed yummy kringle, provided by event sponsor **Racine Danish Kringles**.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



3. Samson Stomp & Romp

As part of her warmup, Anna Linstedt, of Neenah, stretches before participating in the Samson Stomp and Romp on Jan. 17 at the Milwaukee County Zoo, sponsored by **Amica Insurance**. Despite frigid temperatures, 2,000 runners, rompers and stompers participated in four different races. Photo by Olga Kornienko

4. Puttin' on the Ritz

Guests from Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek pose for a photo before dinner at the 21st annual Puttin' on the Ritz, sponsored by **Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek**, on Jan. 28 at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino. They and 529 other attendees helped raise \$201,000 for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and its support of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Photo by Olga Kornienko



The Little Boy Who Stomped Bugs



John T. Bannen Photo provided by John T. Bannen

When I was a little boy, if I saw a bug on the sidewalk I stomped on it. I am not sure how or why some little boys come to do this. To the best of my recollection, my father was not a bug stomper. Nevertheless, such was my relationship to the insect world at that time. For this reason, I feared the worst when, while visiting my 4-year-old grandson, a bug began to make its way across the floor of my son's screened porch. Imagine my surprise when instead of raising his foot, my grandson reached for a small plastic cup with a magnifying glass on the top and coaxed the bug into it. After a few salient remarks about the huge variety of insects in the world, and after closely examining the bug, my grandson liberated the tiny creature into the backyard garden where it wandered off in its bug-like way, no worse for wear from its intersection with the human world.

I am not sure how my grandson became a nascent entomologist instead of a bug stomper, but I wonder if his many visits to the Milwaukee County Zoo may have played a part. As young minds learn about the world they share with a multitude of diverse creatures, an empathy and compassion for their surroundings arise. They appreciate its beauty and its complexity, and they begin to respect it. I submit that a mind and a heart formed with those values is more likely than a bug stomper to make the world a better place and positively change the attitudes of those around us.

Sometimes when I think the world can sink no lower and will never change, my spirit is lifted by a boy looking at a bug crawling in a plastic cup and appreciating its value and perfection. Zoos do that sort of thing. I am writing this article in the hope that you will support the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and its mission to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

By John T. Bannen

John T. Bannen is an estate planning attorney with Quarles & Brady LLP and serves on the Simba Circle steering committee.

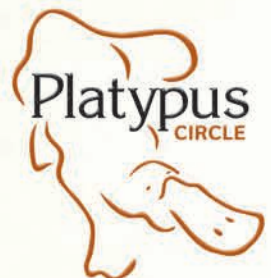


Make a Planned Gift – Simba Circle

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have named the Zoological Society of Milwaukee in their wills or other estate plans via a planned gift. By making this thoughtful commitment, you create a legacy ensuring that the Zoological Society continues to carry out its mission for future generations. Members enjoy a wide array of benefits. For more information about the Simba Circle, visit our website at zoosociety.org/Simba or contact Candy Walton in the Development office at 414-918-6151 or candyw@zoosociety.org.

Become a Platypus Circle Member

The Platypus Circle includes individuals, corporations and foundations who share the Zoological Society's passion for conserving wildlife and endangered species, educating people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo. Members receive benefits such as behind-the-scenes tours, invitations to exhibit premieres and VIP events. For more information, go to our website at zoosociety.org/Platy, or call Candy Walton in the Development office at 414-918-6151 or candyw@zoosociety.org.





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Photo by Richard Brodzeller

What's Happening

Details Inside

Now-May 23

Zoological Society of Milwaukee Spring
 Zoo Classes for children ages infant-14
 and adults.

April 6, 9, 13 & 16

Level II Zoo Pride
 volunteer training.
 Call 414-258-5667
 for more information.

April 29

Zootastic at the Zoo,
 5-9 p.m., sponsored by
 Grow Hope @ SaintA
 (pre-register).

May 7

Zoo Pass members-only field
 trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo
 in Chicago (pre-register).

May 8

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

May 14 & 15

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

May 16

Zoo Pass members-only online
 registration begins at 8 a.m. for
 Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by
 Kellogg's & Sentry Foods
 (non-members registration
 begins at 8 a.m. on May 17).⁺

May 28

Zoo's summer season begins; special
 summer exhibit, BUGS!, Larger than Life,
 sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, opens.
 Kohl's Wild Theater performances return to the
 Zoo. Zoo's hours change to 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

June 1

Zoological Society Summer Camps,
 sponsored by Penzeys Spices, begin.

June 7-9

Nights in June, Zoo Pass members-only evening
 event featuring free viewing of the special summer
 bug exhibit and a variety of food trucks.**

June 19

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

June 25

Zoo Ball, sponsored by
 Briggs & Stratton Corporation.
 (pre-register)⁺

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

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

July 12, 14 & 15

Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank.**

July 25

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament,
 sponsored by GRAEF (pre-register).⁺

Aug. 4

Zoo Pass members online registration for Fall
 Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, begins.

Aug. 10-14

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

Aug. 18-21

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

Aug. 27

Animal Safari.**

*Zoo Pass members get free Zoo admission with their
 Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The bugs exhibit is extra, except
 for Zoo Pass members during Nights in June (7-9) 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.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Father's Day at the Zoo

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 us on **Pinterest**
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 ZooSocietyMKE](https://www.pinterest.com/ZooSocietyMKE)**.