

# Wild Things



*Zoo Pride volunteer Catherine Packard, of Butler, shows a cheetah pelt at Zootastic.*  
Photo by Richard Taylor

## Fun and Senses

### Zootastic

*Sponsored by Grow Hope @ SaintA*  
**Friday, April 28, 5-9 p.m.**

Zoo Pass members: \$75 for a family of four, \$25 for individual adults, \$15 for children 12 and under.  
Non-members: \$80 for a family of four, \$30 for individual adults, \$20 for children 12 and under.  
Register at [zoosociety.org/Zootastic](http://zoosociety.org/Zootastic).

Prepare yourself for a Zootastic time at the Milwaukee County Zoo. On April 28, explore the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm, Small Mammals Building, Aquatic & Reptile Center and Stearns Family Apes of Africa & Primates of the World. Work on crafts and chat with zookeepers as you travel around the Zoo. After you've worked up an appetite with all that fun, chow down on delicious food from Noodles & Company. Make sure to leave room for dessert and build yourself a sweet ice cream sundae. Once you have that sugar high, groove to the tunes of a kid-friendly DJ and take a group shot at the family photo station to capture a moment from the night.

Special thanks to Zootastic supporting sponsor Bridgewood Advisors and media sponsors News/Talk 1130 WISN, FM106.1, 95.7 BIG FM, 97-3 NOW and V100.7.

## A Hoppy Good Time

### Egg Day

*Sponsored by metroPCS*  
**Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Free admission for members with ID.

Put a spring in your step and hop on over to the Milwaukee County Zoo with your family to enjoy Egg Day. Track down the Easter Bunny and give him a big high-five before he hops away. At the Lake Evinrude Deck, kids age 8 and under can collect eggs in a scavenger hunt. Get your face painted with a bunny nose and whiskers at the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building, and watch a "bubbleologist" at the Peck Welcome Center. At 2 p.m., join or watch the parade that starts at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. Even the animals get in on the fun as they receive egg-shaped treats.



*Venessa M., 2, of Milwaukee, meets Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny at Egg Day.*  
Photo by Olga Kornienko



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# Cherishing Mom

## Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Lifeway Foods

Sunday, May 14, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Moms get free admission (no coupon necessary).

Parking fee still applies. Members get free admission every day with ID.

This Mother's Day, come to the Milwaukee County Zoo to visit Amba and her three adorable tiger cubs – Kashtan, Eloise and Bernadette. The cubs – Amba's second litter – were born Sept. 14, 2016, and are on exhibit at the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country building. Next, visit Primates of the World, where zookeepers and volunteers will be hosting a special event called M.O.M. (Missing Orangutan Mothers). Activities are designed to raise awareness of the devastating effects of non-sustainable palm oil production on the orangutan's rainforest habitat and how we can help conserve the species in the wild.

*Debbie H., of Gladstone, Mich., and daughter Hailey pose in front of the Camel Yard. Photo by Olga Kornienko*



## 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 time. Zoo animal buildings close 30 minutes before posted Zoo closing time. The Zoo's walk-in gate closes one hour prior to 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:** [zoosociety.org/Membership/Things2Know.php](http://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 & Aquariums 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](http://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

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# Sleeping Under the Wild Stars

## Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Post Consumer Brands and Sentry Foods

**Aug. 9, 10, 11 or 12, starting at 5 p.m.**

Zoo Pass members: \$150 for family of four; non-members, \$185.

For individual rates and discount details, visit [zoosociety.org/snooze](http://zoosociety.org/snooze).

Registration is online only and begins at 8 a.m. May 15 for Zoo Pass members, before it's available to the general public.

Camping and visiting the Zoo are quintessential summer activities, but Snooze at the Zoo gives you the rare opportunity to do both at the same time. These special nights include a movie, games, a buffet dinner and s'mores sponsored by the Sleep Wellness Institute. When you wake up the next morning, enjoy breakfast and a fun day at the Zoo. This is a great event for families, youth groups and first-time campers. The event fills quickly, so register early starting May 15. Plan ahead and get those tents and sleeping bags packed and ready to go.



*Debra S., of Brookfield, helps daughter Ella, 4, hammer a tent stake.*  
Photo by Bob Wickland

## Going Green to Help



### Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Co.

**Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Free admission for members with ID.

Call [414-256-5466](tel:414-256-5466) for details or to pre-register for bird-banding observation.

To celebrate the arrival of spring, the Milwaukee County Zoo will host its annual Party for the Planet. This "green" event commemorates Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day. Those who pre-register can watch zookeepers band birds early in the morning before the Zoo opens. All visitors can get "banded" like a wood thrush and visit migration stops throughout the Zoo. Check out the Seafood Watch station to learn about sustainable seafood options and participate in sea-related activities. Families can help out in the Zoo's pollinator garden with gardening expert Melinda Myers. Tree saplings will be given out to guests, and there will also be Nature Zoomobile Tours to highlight the Zoo's conservation efforts.

*Manrique V., 7, of Milwaukee, receives a sapling to plant.* Photo by Bob Wickland

# Calling Future Conservationists!



If you have young animal lovers in your family, sign them up for the Kids Conservation Club to help them learn about endangered species and how they can help wildlife. Each year, Kids Conservation Club members sponsor an endangered animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. They also are eligible to attend two workshops a year with fun crafts and Zoo tours along with a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors in August. Memberships are just \$20 and include a certificate of animal sponsorship, a fact sheet about that year's sponsored animal, collector's cards about endangered species and more. Visit [zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/ConservationClub.php](http://zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/ConservationClub.php) to learn more.

*Gavin G., 7, shows a lemur craft he made during a Kids Conservation Club workshop. Photo by Bob Wickland*

## This Mother's Day, "Seal" Your Love

She is cute, she knows how to swim and she loves eating herring. Her name is Cossette, a female harbor seal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. She was born at the Alaska Zoo on June 14, 2015, and arrived in Milwaukee last summer. According to her zookeepers, she's getting along swimmingly with the other harbor seals – Ringo, Sydney, Siku and Triton.

Each year the Zoological Society raises funds to improve exhibits, upgrade buildings and maintain quality habitats for the animals living at the Milwaukee County Zoo. By sponsoring an animal, you are contributing directly to the Society's mission to support the Zoo.

### The \$30 package includes:

- An adorable 8-inch plush-toy harbor seal
- A certificate of sponsorship
- A colorful fact sheet about harbor seals
- An invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors held in August
- Subscription to Alive magazine and Wild Things newsletter
- Sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year
- A Sponsor an Animal decal and acknowledgement card

Upgrade to the \$75 level and receive a photo of Cossette and two Zoo attraction tickets. To place an order, go to [zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php](http://zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php) or call us at 414-258-2333.

Send your gift anywhere in the continental United States (shipping and handling included). We must receive your order by May 3 to guarantee delivery for Mother's Day. The tax-deductible portion is \$24 for the \$30 package and \$64 for the \$75 package. Merchandise included in the package includes 5.6% WI sales tax. Plush-toy and decal offers are good while supplies last.

*Cossette, the Zoo's youngest female harbor seal.*  
Photo by Joel Miller

# THE MAN BEHIND THE PUPPETS

Brandon Kirkham faces a unique challenge making puppets for Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT). As a zoo-based theater group, KWT wants its shows to represent animals and nature as accurately as possible. But at the same time, the puppets talk and express human emotions. "Finding that line has always been interesting," he says.

That challenge is one of the reasons Kirkham enjoys making puppets for KWT. He has worked with the theater group since its founding in 2011, making everything from an orangutan to a glochidium, the larval stage of a mussel. He's built about 20 puppets for KWT, including three for the group's newest show, "Aldo Leopold & the Ghost of Sand County." The puppets are an important part of many KWT shows, says Dave McLellan, theater coordinator. "Puppets are an incredible tool to engage young audiences. At the most basic level, they provide exciting visuals on stage. But more importantly, they engage the imagination."

Kirkham first became interested in puppets from classic children's shows such as "Sesame Street," and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." He has a master's degree in costume and scenery design and is pursuing an online graduate certificate in puppetry arts from the University of Connecticut. He's the design supervisor for First Stage Children's Theater, where he has worked on puppets for "Spookley the Square Pumpkin," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Loveabye Dragon," among other shows.

When building a KWT puppet, Kirkham starts by talking to McLellan about the needs of the play. "You start with the script and figure out what the puppets need to do," Kirkham says. "Then you start thinking about the materials." Kirkham often makes his puppets out of foam. Next, he covers the puppets and adds details such as eyes and clothing. He typically spends 40 to 60 hours on each KWT puppet.



*Puppet maker Brandon Kirkham poses with puppets he made for "Spookley the Square Pumpkin" at First Stage Children's Theater. Photo by Paul Ruffulo*



For the new Aldo Leopold show, Kirkham created a great horned owl, a woodcock and a chickadee. The owl and chickadee are traditional "hand-in-beak" puppets, but McLellan and Kirkham wanted to find a way to show the woodcock's long, thin beak. Kirkham ended up using bicycle brakes on the puppet to work its wings and beak.

Kirkham worked with the set designer, Steve Barnes, on the entire design concept for the show, McLellan says. Aldo Leopold was a famous conservationist who lived in Wisconsin and published portions of his journals in the book "A Sand County Almanac." "So much of the show is about Leopold's journal, so we used that as the jumping-off point for the look of the show," Kirkham says. The puppets and set look like they're covered with Leopold's written words. "That project has been probably the most creative in terms of how we made the animal puppets," he says. The show is performing at schools around southeastern Wisconsin through May.

*This great horned owl is one of three puppets Brandon Kirkham designed and created for "Aldo Leopold & the Ghost of Sand County." Photo by Richard Taylor*

## BRING KOHL'S WILD THEATER TO YOU

Kohl's Wild Theater is made possible by a partnership between Kohl's Cares, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo. It travels to festivals, schools and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo, free of charge. Performances are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org). To book a show, call 414-258-2333 or email [KWT@zoosociety.org](mailto:KWT@zoosociety.org).

# Scholarship Fund Honors Society Supporter



*Bernard "Bernie" Peck with his wife, Miriam "Mickie" Peck. Photo by Richard Brodzeller*


Bernard "Bernie" Peck was a force to be reckoned with. A dedicated philanthropist, he cared about the Milwaukee community and was especially generous to organizations involving families and education. Nowhere is this more evident than in Mr. Peck's work with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. So it's appropriate that a scholarship fund created in his name will help children attend Zoo Classes and Camps who might not otherwise have been able to do so.

Mr. Peck, who passed away in 2015, served for decades on the Society's Board of Directors. He helped found the Platypus Circle for high-level donors and convinced

his daughter, Karen Peck Katz, to serve on the newly created Associate Board to encourage more young professionals to get involved with the Society. His family foundation helped fund the Peck Welcome Center and the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center on the Milwaukee County Zoo grounds. He was a long-time supporter of the Society's Animal Ambassador program, which allows children at schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods to visit the Zoo and learn more about animal science. "He was very, very involved with the Society because the Zoo encompasses all parts of the community," Karen Peck Katz says. "That's a big part of what our family has always been about."

Given Mr. Peck's passion for the Zoological Society and the Zoo, Karen proposed the idea of using memorial gifts for her father as the basis for a scholarship program. Karen and her sister, Jodi Peck, worked with the Society's Education Department to create the Bernard J. Peck Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund. The fund will award multiple families up to \$150 a year to attend Zoo Classes and Camps based on need. It will award its first scholarships for summer 2017 camps in May. "Having been a significant contributor in creating our Conservation Education Center, the Peck family wanted to create a way for more children to participate," James Mills, education director, says. "We, along with the Zoo staff, would like to help all children learn just how fascinating, precious and important the animals are that share our Earth."

Karen, Jodi and their mother, Miriam Peck, believe that Mr. Peck would be thrilled about the scholarship because it relates to his interest in helping the Milwaukee community and its families. "Peck Meat Packing (the family business that he led) employed hundreds and hundreds of families that were very important to him," Karen says. Karen and Jodi Peck and their children continue to lead by the example set forth by their father. Bernie Peck's force continues on.



Visit [zoosociety.org/education](http://zoosociety.org/education) or call **414-258-5058** to learn more about the Bernard J. Peck Memorial Scholarship. The application deadline for summer 2017 scholarships is April 28.

# Zoo Classes and Camps

Presented by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee



Most Zoo Camps include a Zoo tour. Photo by Bob Wickland

Looking for a week-long experience? Just click on the “camp sequences” button when you register and easily combine several camp days into a full week of camps.

Would you like children of different ages to attend on the same day? Our registration system makes it easy to find when camps are held at the same time for different-aged children. Just click on the “concurrent camps” button when you register.

## Spring Zoo Classes

Spring is a great time to take a Zoo Class! Your 6- or 7-year-old can sculpt his or her favorite mammal using a huge assortment of art materials in “Super-cool Mammal Sculpting.” Check out all of our classes from Stroller Safaris for infants to “Bird Photography” for adults at [zoosociety.org/education](http://zoosociety.org/education). Spring Zoo Classes are sponsored by Meijer.

## Workshops for Early-Childhood Educators

“Animal Athletes” is a three-hour workshop on Saturday, July 22, for early-childhood educators.



Learn how to incorporate a unit about animal athletes in your own classroom. Workshop includes animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a guided Zoo tour. Workshop content is mainly for educators of ages 2-5. To register, call 414-258-5058 or visit [zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu](http://zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu).

## UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

“Study of the World’s Endangered Species” runs June 24 and 25. 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.

Deborah G., of Whitefish Bay, and daughter Caroline, 2, count their arms during a “Little Love Bugs” class. Photo by Richard Taylor

## Summer Scheduling Solutions for the Busy Parent

For many busy families, summer camps come down to scheduling. Finding time to drop your child off and still get to work on time or arranging camps for all of the kids at the same time can be a challenge. Don’t worry – Zoo Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, have you covered.

Need to drop your child off early or pick your child up at a later time? A.M. Care is available starting at 7:30 a.m. until the start of camps, and P.M. Care is available after full-day camps end until 5 p.m.



Kay K., of Brookfield, works on her clay animal sculpture.

Photo by Richard Taylor

Is your school planning a field trip to the Milwaukee County Zoo? Schools can get special pricing of \$5 per student or teacher on the special summer exhibit, **BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT**, sponsored by Sendik’s Food Markets. The exhibit runs May 6-Sept. 4. Field trips must first be booked through our Education Department at [zoosociety.org/FieldTrips](http://zoosociety.org/FieldTrips) or 414-258-5058. Then call 414-256-5430 or email [Cheyenne.Mieden@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Cheyenne.Mieden@milwaukeecountywi.gov) to register your group for the special exhibit and purchase advanced tickets.

# A Wild Winter at the Zoo

The Milwaukee County Zoo is a beautiful place in winter. There's nothing quite like seeing your favorite animals against a backdrop of snow and ice. Over the course of six weeks, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (Instagram: [ZooSocietyMKE](#)) asked our followers to put their photography skills to the test for our Winter Instagram Contest using the hashtag [#WildWinterMKEZoo](#). While snow was in short supply this winter, great pictures were not. Enjoy these photos from our winners, who each received a Zoological Society gift certificate.



Photo by @daleagaus



Photo by @windy234



Photo by @sbrandt2



Photo by @kwhitts



Photo by @nblaise6233



Photo by @fiftyshades.of.rae



# See What's Under Nature's Skin

If you've been to the **BODY WORLDS** exhibition at the Milwaukee Public Museum, you may have heard the name of Dr. Gunther von Hagens. When he was a child, he was fascinated by beetles, frogs and other small creatures that he came across in the woods that surrounded his home. This fascination inspired him to travel the globe to explore nature and wildlife.

Von Hagens is the mastermind behind the Zoo's summer exhibit, **BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT**, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. Beginning on May 6, this limited-time summer exhibit aims to offer new knowledge about animals. The exhibition, the first of its kind at any zoo in the country, is designed for visitors of all ages, allowing everyone to discover the adaptations, environments and anatomical similarities of animals by giving us a whole new view of wildlife. Before your visit, here are a few things to expect:



Photos courtesy of Institute for Plastination

**1. Gain new knowledge of animal trivia:** From goats to giraffes, bulls to birds and octopuses to ostriches, you will discover the form and function of animals large and small. You will also discover interesting facts about animals – like what the giraffe's tongue is capable of and how ostrich hearts pump blood up their long necks.

**2. See the science of Plastination up close:**

In 1977, Dr. von Hagens invented Plastination.

This is a process that stops decomposition in order to preserve human and animal specimens through a precise scientific process of curing, or hardening. A hundred animal specimens are showcased to show the skeleton of a goat, the circulatory system of a horse's head, the musculature of a bull and much more. No animals were harmed or killed for this exhibition, which is made possible through donations and the cooperation of numerous university veterinary programs, zoos and animal groups.

**3. Learn about harsh weather survival:** See for yourself how animals navigate, survive and thrive in the world's extreme climates, including chilly Wisconsin winters. Learn how the reindeer navigates icy ground and how it has adapted to the extremely cold environment it inhabits.

**4. Marvel at the inner beauty of animals and yourself:** All of the wild, exotic, domestic and familiar animals on display offer a glimpse into the biology and diversity on our planet and deeper insights into our own place on earth. While our own bodies are capable of some pretty amazing feats, all animals have their own characteristics and skills that make them unique.

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Visit **BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT**, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, May 6-Sept. 4. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$8 for children 3-12. Zoo Pass members will receive 50% off exhibit admission during Nights in June, June 6-8, and Kids' Nights, July 11, 13 and 14.

# 20 Years of Conserving Bonobos



Photo by Hugo Warner



Photo courtesy of BCBI

(Top) A wild bonobo near BCBI's research station in the Democratic Republic of Congo;  
(Bottom) Dr. Gay Reinartz and Salonga National Park guards point to bonobo nests in a tree in November 2011.

Two decades ago, Dr. Gay Reinartz was managing the captive bonobo breeding program for zoos across North America. She had no intention to visit the bonobos' homeland in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). But she had worked on a bonobo conservation action plan that pinpointed the Salonga National Park, the second-largest rainforest park in the world, inside the DRC as a possible stronghold for the endangered great ape. "The report stressed that someone needed to go to the Salonga," she explains. "We didn't even know if Salonga had a significant number of bonobos."

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee created the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI) in 1997. That year a scientific mission supported by the Zoological Society and headed by experienced Congolese staff was the first to document bonobo concentrations living in the park's northern sector. The Zoological Society has maintained its commitment to bonobo conservation in the following 20 years despite a devastating civil war and continued civil unrest in the DRC. Reinartz made her first trip to the Salonga in 2001 to continue surveying the park for bonobos. Today she is BCBI director and spends six months a year in the DRC.

Bonobos weren't discovered until the 1920s, and there is still much we don't know about them. They are found in the wild only in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bonobos are often shot or caught in poaching

snare traps and sold for bush meat. The babies are often sold as pets. BCBI also works to protect forest elephants, whose populations have been decimated by the ivory trade.

BCBI supports three patrol posts in the Salonga, providing supplies and training to guards that patrol thousands of miles in the park. It recently completed an intensive four-year survey of 2,600 square miles of the Salonga, discovering approximately 4,000 bonobos and 300 forest elephants. "We've come from not knowing if bonobos existed in the park to finding possibly one of the largest continuous populations of bonobos in the world," Reinartz says. BCBI also supports local primary schools and adult literacy programs in an effort to improve the lives of villagers near the park.

Over 20 years, BCBI has made a difference, Reinartz says. She only has to compare BCBI survey findings from areas that are regularly patrolled, where bonobo populations are strong, with areas that aren't patrolled, where the populations are scant. The Zoological Society and BCBI are proud of their work in the Salonga over the last 20 years and plan to continue supporting bonobos and other wildlife there for years to come.

## A Party 125 Years in the Making

What better way to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Milwaukee County Zoo than by partying the night away at Zoo Ball? The Zoological Society of Milwaukee, along with Chairs Dr. William Stathas and Judy Holz Stathas, cordially invite you to attend **Zoo Ball: Black Tie & Tails** on June 24. Zoo Ball is the Society's largest fundraiser of the year. The evening includes cocktails, gourmet dining, live music, dancing and a silent auction. For more information, visit [zoosociety.org/ZooBall](http://zoosociety.org/ZooBall).



Zoo Ball Chairs Dr. William Stathas and Judy Holz Stathas. Photo by Richard Taylor

# Wild Throwback

## Safari Train Makes Memories Along the Track

During the warmer months, if you listen closely, you can hear the North Shore Bank Safari Train making its way around the Milwaukee County Zoo. The sound of the whistle echoes throughout the Zoo grounds.

The train is the most popular Zoo attraction – and it has been since the late 1950s, before the Zoo officially opened at its current location in 1961. “The first thing built on the Zoo grounds was the train,” says Mary Kazmierczak, information specialist at the Zoo. “People would come to the Zoo and ride the train around to observe the construction.” The custom-built train, which was donated to the Zoo by the Milwaukee Journal in 1958, has two steam engines and two diesel engines. It’s one of the few trains in operation at a zoo powered by both steam and diesel engines.

The Safari Train, which is one-quarter the size of a standard train, attracts more than 400,000 visitors every year to travel a 1.25-mile circuit around the Zoo. The train’s four engines travel 2,000 to 6,000 miles each season. The Zoo is the only place in the Milwaukee area where you can ride on a steam engine train. The engine requires 8 to 10 pounds of coal and 10 to 15 gallons of water for each 10-minute trip around the Zoo.



*Irwin Maier, chairman of The Journal Co., drives the steam engine named after him. The Milwaukee Journal donated two steam engines to the Zoo when it moved to its current location. Photo courtesy of Milwaukee County Parks Commission*



*Train riders wave during a ride on the Safari Train. Photo by Richard Brodzeller*

become an integral part of the Zoo experience, right up there with seeing your favorite animal and getting a Mold-A-Rama figurine. This multi-generational connection will remain as long as the Safari Train stays on the tracks.

For the last 56 years, Zoo guests of all ages have hopped aboard to take a trip running over two bridges, around Lake Evinrude, and past animal buildings and exhibits such the North America area and the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. “You get to see parts of the Zoo that you otherwise wouldn’t be able to see if you were on foot,” Kazmierczak says. For that reason, generations of families have connected with it. Parents and grandparents remember riding the train when they were children. Now that they’re grown, they take their children and grandchildren. It has

2017 marks the 125th anniversary of the Milwaukee County Zoo. As part of the celebration, we’ll reflect on the many memories that have been made at the Zoo. Send your favorite Zoo memories and photos to [publications@zoosociety.org](mailto:publications@zoosociety.org), and they might be included on our Facebook page or in a future issue. 

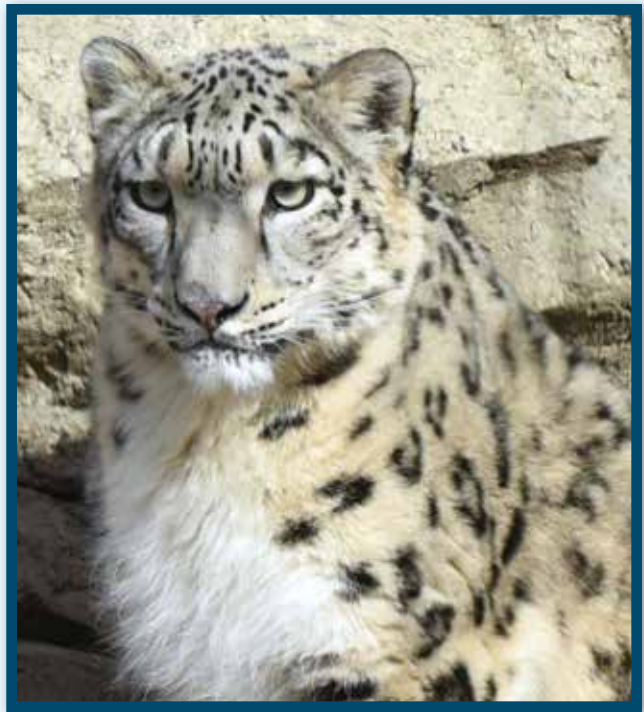
In celebration of the Zoo’s 125th year, attraction coupons included with a new or renewed Zoo Pass can be used at the North Shore Bank Safari Train, the Meijer Zoomobile, the Penzeys Spices Carousel or the Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show.

# Insider Tips

## New Cat Comes Around

The new snow leopard at the Milwaukee County Zoo is not like other animals of her kind. While the Zoo's current snow leopards are playful and interactive, Orya is quiet and elusive. She doesn't often seek attention from the zookeepers like the other snow leopards – male Asa and female Tomiris – but she can easily get their attention if she wants it.

Orya arrived at the Milwaukee County Zoo all the way from the Zürich Zoologischer Garten in Switzerland last August and was transferred to Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country in October. After months of accustoming herself to her new surroundings at the Zoo, she finally made her public debut on Valentine's Day.



*New female snow leopard Orya.* Photo by Joel Miller

The zookeepers let Orya become comfortable on her own terms, and that's exactly what she did. "It takes snow leopards a little longer to adjust to new surroundings compared to other big cats," says Katie Kuhn, big cats supervisor. "We let Orya decide when she was ready for more from us." Orya was a little timid at first. Instead of being hand-raised like Asa was, she was raised by her mom and grew to be independent. She mostly stayed to herself for the first few months. Keepers saw evidence of her playing with enrichment items and moving about the den areas, but she was good at eluding them when they would try to watch her having fun. "She would come to keepers for food, but she was more interested in getting her attention and companionship from our other snow leopards," Kuhn says. "That's good, because we want her to prefer other snow leopards over us."

Orya and Asa came to the Zoo through a gift from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Asa arrived from the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, N.Y., in October 2015. "Some cats, like Asa, want that extra attention, and that helped him settle in," Kuhn says. "Orya was not a fan of us being around at first, so we minimized our time near her. Once she showed us signs that she was becoming more comfortable with us, we started spending more time with her." Over the last several weeks, she has become much more comfortable at the Zoo. "She's starting to learn to go on and come off exhibit," Kuhn says. "She comes up to the mesh every day to eat, so she's definitely coming around." Like the other snow leopards, she is a meat lover. She eats anything from horse meat, chicks, quail and rabbits to beef, chicken and pork chunks.

The Zoo hopes Orya will breed with Asa when the time comes. "We are not in a rush, but when she and Asa are ready, they will hopefully add to the snow leopard population," Kuhn says.



Photo by Olga Kornienko

## A Splash of Fun

This summer at the Milwaukee County Zoo, have a splashing good time at the Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show. At Oceans of Fun summer camps and programs, children and adults can interact with sea mammals and assist with training. Discounts are available for Zoo Pass members. Visit [oceansoffun.org/programs](http://oceansoffun.org/programs) to learn more.

## Going the Distance for Tigers

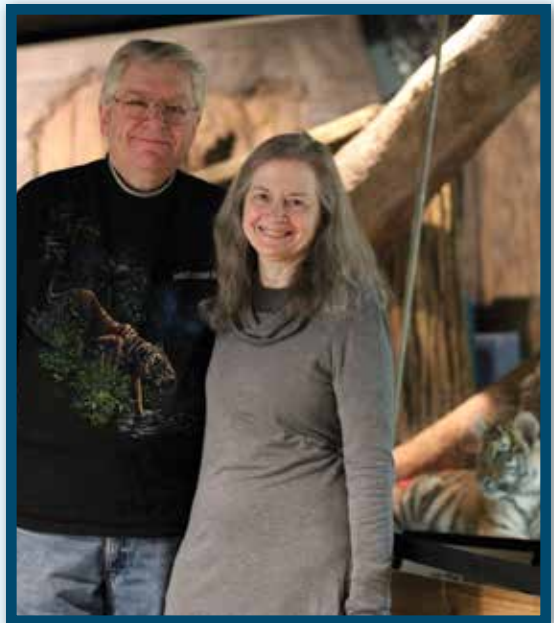
Avid sports fans often plan their vacations around their hobby, following their favorite teams and players across the country. So AnnMarie Byrnes and her husband, Tom Hartman, think it's natural to plan their vacations around their passion – zoos. They especially love to visit favorite animals that once lived at the Philadelphia Zoo, where they volunteer.

One of those favorites is Amba, the mother of the new litter of Amur tiger cubs at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Amba was born at the Philadelphia Zoo in 2003. Byrnes was assigned “cub watch,” observing Amba and her litter mates to make sure they stayed safe and healthy. When the couple learned Amba had given birth to a second litter of cubs in September, they decided it was time to visit. “Amba’s father was one of our all-time favorite tigers,” Hartman said. “We had a relationship with both of her parents. They would both chuff at us when they saw us.”

The couple traveled from their home in Lumberton, N.J. – just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia – to Milwaukee in January. They spent three days at the Zoo, most of it in the big cats building watching Amba and her cubs, Kashtan, Eloise and Bernadette. “They’re fluffier than I expected,” Byrnes said as she watched the two female cubs sleeping while Kashtan tried in vain to get them to play. They were happy to see Amba thriving in Milwaukee. “She just seems so happy here, having her second litter of cubs,” Byrnes said. (Amba’s first litter was born in 2009, and one of her grown daughters, Tula, remains at the Zoo.) After seeing Tula and the new cubs, Byrnes and Hartman have seen five generations of the same tiger family, they said. The visit also allowed the couple to indulge their passion for photography.

The couple does more than just visit animals – they’re actively supporting them, too. They have sponsored Amba through the Zoological Society since she came to Milwaukee in 2006, and they sponsor other animals at zoos across the country. They bought a Zoo Pass for their weekend at the Milwaukee County Zoo and donate many volunteer hours to their home zoo in Philadelphia. “Zoos are really valuable,” Byrnes said. “I’m a teacher, so for me the educational value of zoos is so important. They help urban and suburban people connect to the wild in a way they can’t do with a TV screen.”

*Tom Hartman took this photo of two of the tiger cubs while visiting Amba and her cubs in January.*



*Tom Hartman and AnnMarie Byrnes, of Lumberton, N.J., visited Amur tiger Amba and her cubs after sponsoring Amba for many years. Photo by Olga Kornienko*



# By the Numbers



1

## 1. Fantastic Forest

Sulav Bhattarai and his wife, Eliza Gautam, of Grafton, wander through the Fantastic Forest, sponsored by **Hawks Landscape**. Zoo visitors enjoyed trees decorated by 1,155 children, parents and youth leaders during the month of December.

Photo by Stacy Kaat

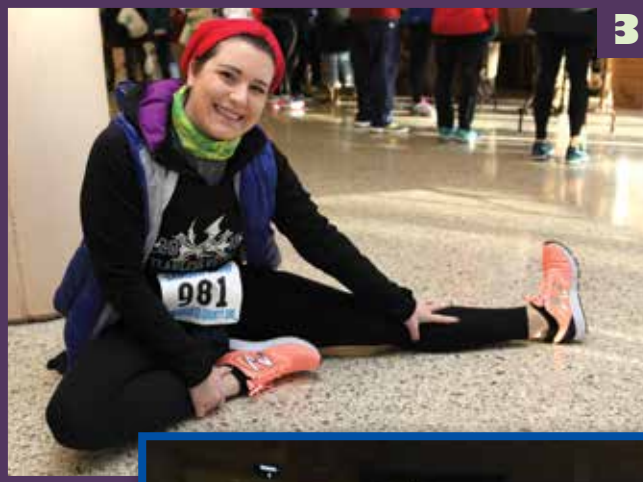


2

## 2. Breakfast & Lunch with Santa

Jack O., 9, and Lauren K., 9, enjoy kringle at Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringles**. The family-friendly event drew 1,973 people to the Milwaukee County Zoo on Dec. 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18.

Photo by Stacy Kaat



3

## 3. Samson Stomp & Romp

Kari Nabberfeld, of Milwaukee, gets ready to run in the Samson Stomp 5K race on Jan. 15. Samson Stomp & Romp, sponsored by **Amica Insurance**, drew 1,866 runners. Photo by Olga Kornienko



4

## 4. Puttin' on the Ritz

Aaron Cunningham, Gaulien Smith and Matt Sabljak enjoy each other's company at Puttin' on the Ritz on Jan. 26. The annual fundraiser at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino drew 425 attendees and raised more than \$180,000 for the Society's support of the Milwaukee County Zoo. The event was sponsored by **Husch Blackwell**. Boxing was sponsored by **Master Z's**, with the boxing ring sponsored by **Bridgewood Advisors**. Photo by Stacy Kaat

# It's OK to Enjoy the Cookies



Photo provided by John T. Bannen

As a child, my mother always told me, "Goodness is its own reward." And she was right. Still, if I was offered cookies after shoveling snow from my neighbor's sidewalk, there was no rule against eating them. The same is true with charitable giving. The good that one achieves by making a gift to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee is its own reward, but the income tax deduction, when available, is the cookie. Interestingly, the tax code gives more cookies for some gifts than for others. The gift of an appreciated stock (2016 was a good year for some stocks) yields two cookies: a charitable deduction for the market value of the stock and a pass from realizing the gain on the gifted stock. It's a two-for-one kind of benefit. If the stock market has been kind to you – mutual funds work too – and if the spirit moves you to help share your enjoyment of the Milwaukee County Zoo, making your gift might be just the ticket not only for you, but also for others who could not attend without your generosity. Truly, a life well-lived has its own reward, but as you walk down life's highway, it is OK to enjoy the cookies, too.

*John T. Bannen  
Simba Member  
Quarles & Brady LLP attorney*



***For more information about donating appreciated stock, the Simba Circle or the Platypus Circle, contact Candy Walton at 414-918-6151 or [candyw@zoosociety.org](mailto:candyw@zoosociety.org).***



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](http://zoosociety.org/Simba).

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 and invitations to exhibit premieres and VIP events. For more information, visit [zoosociety.org/Platy](http://zoosociety.org/Platy).





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Photo by Richard Taylor

## What's Happening

Details Inside

### April 15

Egg Day, sponsored by metroPCS\*

### April 22

Members-only field trip to Dane County Farmers' Market and Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison. Register by April 7 at [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org) or by calling 414-258-2333.

### April 28

Zootastic, sponsored by Grow Hope @ SaintA (pre-register)

### May 6-Sept. 4

Special summer exhibit, *BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT*, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

### May 14

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

### May 15

Online registration for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Post Consumer Brands & Sentry Foods, begins at 8 a.m. for members

### May 19

Endangered Species Day\*

### May 20-21

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

### May 27

Kohl's Wild Theater begins its summer season at the Zoo with four free shows daily\*

### June 1

Zoo Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, begin

### June 6-8

Nights in June for Zoo Pass members\*

### June 18

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

### June 24

Zoo Ball (pre-register)

### June 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; & Aug. 2

Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by Tri City National Bank\*

### July 11, 13 & 14

Kids' Nights for Zoo Pass members, sponsored by WaterStone Bank\*

### July 31

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

### Aug. 3

Online registration begins for Fall Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer

### Aug. 9-12

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Post Consumer Brands & Sentry Foods (pre-register)

### Aug. 17-20

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


\*Zoo Pass members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one vehicle per membership per day. Platypus Circle members receive free admission and parking with their card.


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 Milwaukee Zoo Pass App

