

Wild Things

Zoological Society of Milwaukee Members' Newsletter
February - March 2010



PARTY ANIMALS FOR A NIGHT!

Zootastic

Sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc.

April 23, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

\$75 per family of four. Individual fees: \$15 children under 12, \$25 ages 13+.

Register at www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333 by April 9

Hey, it's an animal party! It's the first-ever family evening event at the Zoo in spring. Join us for a wildly fun evening of insider animal trivia, yummy food and more! Feast on pizza donated by Palermo's® Pizza. Invent a dessert at the ice cream sundae bar. Get answers to your very personal questions about the tiger cubs or Happy the hippo. (Zoo Pride volunteers are the experts.) Gyrate with the gorillas and belly dance with the bonobos as you boogie to an energetic DJ. Help us raise money for the animals by testing your luck in the family-themed raffle, which could include prizes such as waterpark passes or certificates to family-friendly restaurants. Then create a fun memory of the evening at a free photo station. It'll be "zootastic"! **Photo:** Kids can dance up a storm at the event.



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on the Web!

More stories & photos: zoosociety.org

Follow us daily on Twitter: twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

Into the Congo: Our bonobo researcher's field diary: zsmke.com/FIELD09

Peeking Into the Past: How we developed the Zoo: zoosociety.org/100years

Letter from the Editor

Surprise! If you're a longtime Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) member, you've probably noticed that *Wild Things* got a total makeover. If you just got a Zoo Pass, welcome to our revamped newsletter! After 15 years and 86 issues, we've upgraded to full color! Plus, we've created a new magazine-style format that's easier to read. Here's more:

- Animals look better in color. For a particularly stunning example, see the octopus photo on page 14.
- We're recognizing friends and supporters in a new section called Helping Hands (pages 12 and 13). View fun event photos and get ideas on giving a helping hand to the Zoological Society and the Milwaukee County Zoo. Check out ways you can make a difference: **Web:** zoosociety.org/Support/.
- The ZSM is celebrating its centennial in 2010. This year, every issue of *Wild Things* will feature vintage photos, retro trivia and special promotions—such as a sponsorship of a new Zoo hippo called Happy, and three safaris to Kenya in August 2010 (pages 8 and 9).
- Like what you see in *Wild Things*? Go online for more! Our site, www.zoosociety.org, has Web-only animal stories, photos, videos and special features such as our bonobo conservationist's field diary from Africa (www.zoosociety.org/field09). Plus, we invite you to connect with us on social networking sites. We share daily ZSM tidbits on the "micro-blogging" site Twitter, www.twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE. Our YouTube channel features fun videos on everything from Zoo jaguars to ZSM summer camps, www.youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo.
- We won't mess with a good thing. Favorite *Wild Things* features such as Insider News (where we highlight new animals) remain the same. See pages 14 and 15 to meet a young moose named Robin, an octopus, swans and birds called blacksmith plovers. For more animal stories: **Web:** zoosociety.org/gnu.



Do you have story ideas, suggestions or comments? E-mail us at publications@zoosociety.org or write to *Wild Things* Editor, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. We'd love to hear from you. Enjoy the new *Wild Things*!

Julia Kolker
Editor



Memberanda

WILD THINGS

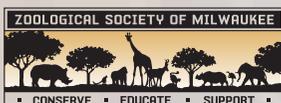
Issue No. 87, February-March 2010

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

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Write to any of us at the Zoological Society
10005 W. Blue Mound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Web site: www.zoosociety.org



Zoological Society office hours:

Through May 22, 2010: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

New Zoo hours: February: Weekdays, 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.; Weekends, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. March 1-May 28: 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.

New Zoo Pass Cards: Watch for new, plastic Zoo Pass cards in March. These convenient cards will track attraction coupons digitally, and will be scanned for admission to the North Shore Bank Safari Train, Penzeys Spices Carousel, MillerCoors Seal/Sea Lion Show, the National City Zoomobile and the special summer exhibit, Adventure Dinosaur! We will no longer have paper coupons.

For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please see zoosociety.org/memberinfo.

Bunny Ears on the Side

Breakfast and Lunch With the Bunny

Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles

March 27 & 28, 9 a.m. & noon, Milwaukee County Zoo

\$14 per child or adult; \$6 for children 2 and under; parking is \$11
Registration required.

Call 414-256-5466 for form or register

at www.milwaukeezoo.org starting March 1.

Delicious kringle, live music and visits with the Easter Bunny... what better way to get in an Easter mood? This Milwaukee County Zoo event includes a festive meal, a gift for each child, live entertainment, Zoo admission and, of course, a visit from that famous bunny. Breakfast is served on March 27 only, at 9 a.m., and lunch is at noon both days in the Zoo's Peck Welcome Center. After eating, spend the day at the Zoo (warmer-weather animals such as zebras may be out). All seats are reserved, and registration is limited. Please note that the Zoo cannot provide booster seats or accommodate strollers. (Note: Easter is April 4.)

Photo: Zoo Pride volunteer Jennifer May helps serve breakfast at last year's event.

Bunnies, Bubbles & Parades

Egg Day

Sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save

April 3, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID

Others: \$13.25 adults; \$12.25 ages 60 & over; \$10.25 ages 3-12; ages 2 & under, free
Milwaukee County parking fee: \$11. Call (414) 256-5466 for details.

Hop along to the Milwaukee County Zoo on April 3, the day before Easter. The fun begins in the Zoo's entrance atrium, where a "bubbleologist" will create giant soap bubbles during several shows throughout the day. Then, join the Easter Bunny and his friends at a festive parade that starts at 2 p.m. in front of the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm for music, costumed bunnies and a chance to show off your Easter best. Another way to get hoppin' is the "Hop to it Bunny Hunt" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids ages 8 and under can hunt for tokens and turn them in for treats (with tokens, younger children get a chance at prizes). Other festivities include crafts such as bunny ears, Easter baskets and coloring activities. **Photo:** Bunnies and zoogoers march in the 2009 parade.



CHICAGO FIELD TRIP, Saturday, March 13, 2010

Name(s) of Traveler(s) _____

Member Number(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____

If you wish to travel with another person or group who is sending in a separate reservation, please indicate the name (s): _____

Please reserve _____ spaces for \$50 per person* (ages 13+)

Please reserve _____ spaces for \$30 per person* (ages 4-12)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ (Trip cost is not tax-deductible.)

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 card

Check Make check payable to **Zoological Society**

Online registration: Go to www.zoosociety.org

Please mail this form and payment to: Flower Show
Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

Space is limited. Cancellations through March 5, 2010, are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after March 5, 2010, 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.

BEASTLY BOWL-A-THON, Saturday, March 6, 2010

Fill in team information (if registering as an individual, fill in your name, address and phone).

Team Captain _____ Team Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____

E-mail Address _____

Team Members' Names _____

Sign up _____ bowlers at \$20 each. Total \$ _____

Sign up _____ non-bowling guests at \$5 each. Total \$ _____

Sign up _____ team(s) at \$135 per team* (five members per team). Total \$ _____

Check one: 11:30 a.m. shift 2:30 p.m. shift

Bumper lanes are needed: Yes No For whom: _____

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 card

Check Make check payable to **Zoological Society**

Online registration: www.zoosociety.org, select Events

Please mail this order form and payment to:
Bowling, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

Of the \$20 entry fee, \$5 is tax-deductible; of the team fee, \$60 is tax-deductible; the \$5 non-bowling guest fee is not tax-deductible; fees include 5.6% WI sales tax. To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

*Team signup includes one lane sponsorship.

A Blooming Trip

Chicago's Flower & Garden Show Saturday, March 13, 2010

Cost: \$50 per person ages 13+, \$30 ages 4-12,
not recommended for children under 4
To register, go to www.zoosociety.org,
call (414) 258-2333 or send in the form at left

Exotic flowers, creative gardens, prize-winning fruits and vegetables... Chicago's Flower and Garden Show will be a feast for all the senses. Travel with the Zoological Society to this garden extravaganza on Chicago's Navy Pier. The event includes garden exhibits featuring everything from decks to ponds, a marketplace with more than 100 vendors, and culinary demonstrations by gourmet chefs. The popular horticultural competitions will showcase the best in houseplants, gardening and plant photography. For the youngsters, there's a Kids' Activity Garden with "green"-themed fun.

Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo. We board the buses and leave the Zoo at 7:30 a.m. Cost of the trip includes admission to the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, plus continental breakfast at registration, transportation on restroom-equipped motor coaches, beverages donated by PepsiAmericas, and a snack on the return trip (note to those with allergies: snacks may include dairy and peanut byproducts). We depart from Chicago at about 5:15 p.m. and return by about 7 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. Space is limited. The registration deadline is Friday, March 5; cancellations through March 5 are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after March 5, 2010, are not refundable.

Check it out!

Web: See a photo slideshow of Zoo flowers and gardens: zoosociety.org/zooflowers



stock photography

Rollin' Bowling

Beastly Bowl-a-Thon

March 6, 2010, AMF Bowlero, 11737 W. Burleigh St., Wauwatosa

Registration begins: 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Bowling: 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

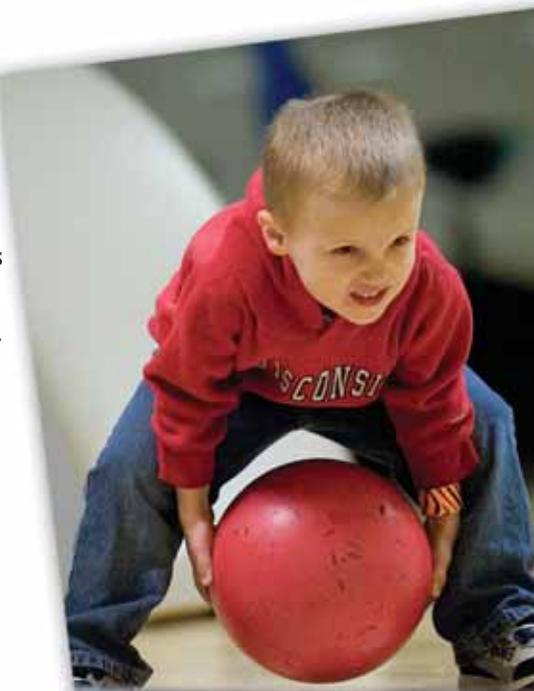
\$20 entry fee per bowler; \$5 entry fee per non-bowler; \$135 for team of 5 (includes lane sponsorship)

Register at www.zoosociety.org by March 3;

call (414) 258-2333 or send form at left

Bowling is a great way to bond and have fun. Parents can give youngsters tips on rolling that perfect strike. Toddlers will relish getting on all fours to push a bowling ball down the bumper lane. Adults can show off their bowling prowess (especially if bowling with a team). And it's all for a good cause: this family-friendly event raises money for Milwaukee County Zoo animals through the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program (see pages 9 and 10 for more on animals you can sponsor). Raise pledges, and you could win Zooper Grand Prizes with a minimum of \$100 in pledges. The Zooper Dooper prize will be awarded to the individual who raises the most in pledges. The \$135 team fee includes recognition for your team or company on your lane. **Photo:** Ooff! Gaven Lorenzen, 3, of Menomonee Falls, tried to roll his bowling ball at last year's event.

*Bumper bowling is available for children, and the lanes are handicapped accessible. Bowler fees include shoe rental, three games, samples of Palermo's® Pizza, entry into door-prize drawing and keychain. Non-bowler fee includes snacks. There's a maximum of five bowlers per lane. For teams, pledge sheets will be sent to the team captain.



Education

Through a Child's Eyes

A 3-year-old girl and her dad are wide-eyed when they get an up-close look at a lion in the Zoo's feline building. A mom guides her 2-year-old boy as he carefully pets a bunny. What better place for kids and parents to bond than at the Zoo? All of the Zoological Society's conservation education classes for ages 2, 3, 4 and 5 are offered for a child to take with one grown-up. "Parents often comment that they use classes as special one-on-one time with their child," says Patty Trinko, the Society's assistant education director. "The class curriculum is not only for the child, but also for the adults."

For example, in the Bunnies class for 2-year-olds, adults show children how to touch a bunny. "Sometimes this is the children's first chance to touch a live animal, and the child is dependent on their adult to guide them through a great learning experience," says Trinko. A game of tag in the Lions...ROAR class for 3-year-olds introduces kids and adults to predator-prey relationships when they pretend to be lions and zebras. "Everyone has a chance to learn," says Trinko. Everyone also has a chance to have fun: In a class for 3-year-olds called Colorful



Chameleons, participants learn that chameleons eat insects. Adults then blow large soap bubbles that are make-believe insects, and kids pretend to be chameleons by "catching" the bubbles.

Some spring classes for 2- and 3-year-olds (including the bunny, chameleon and lion classes) still had openings when we went to print. To check for dates, times, prices and to register, please go online: www.zoosociety.org/Education/SpringClasses.php.

Photo (bottom): Anne Melik, 3, of Oak Creek, created a craft with help from Dad Jason at a class in 2008.

Summer Camp Priority Registration

The Summer Camps brochure was mailed with your January issue of *Alive*. It lists all ZSM summer camp offerings for 2010, including camps featuring the Zoo's special summer exhibit on dinosaurs. Members-only priority, online registration begins Feb. 10. For available classes and to register, **Web:** zoosociety.org/Education/SummerCamps.

Summer Internship Opportunity

Internships are a great way for college students to stand out in the job market. College students and recent college graduates can get real-world experience working with children ages 2-14 as interns in the ZSM's summer camps at the Zoo. After substantial training, college interns help with educational activities, lead Zoo tours, prepare camp materials, and help supervise and evaluate high school volunteer assistants. (Interns do not handle animals directly.) Cover letter and resume are due by Feb. 15, 2010. Interviews will be held in March. For details, call Patty at (414) 258-5058, ext. 419, or e-mail pattyt@zoosociety.org

3 decades of educational fun!



Web: Centennial Celebration: 30 years of learning at the Zoo: zoosociety.org/educationmemories



High School Assistant Volunteers

High school students: are you considering a career in education or animal science? Consider volunteering in the Conservation Education Department's summer camps for two to three weeks. Students ages 15-18 will help with children's activities, Zoo tours and camp set-up. Zoological Society members and non-members may apply. Call (414) 258-5058, ext. 428, for an application and interview information. Application deadline is April 2, 2010.

Tips for Teachers

- **Programs for School Classes at the Zoo**
In spring, the ZSM publishes a brochure listing the many education programs offered either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools.
Brochure on the Web: zoosociety.org/Education/SchoolPrograms.
- **Workshop for Early Childhood Teachers**
Kids love apes and monkeys. Early childhood teachers (preschool through second grade) can learn fun ways to present primate facts to children at a 2½-hour workshop at the Zoo on April 17. Download the registration form from the School Programs section of www.zoosociety.org or register by phone, (414) 258-5058. Fee: \$20 (includes parking and Zoo admission).
- **UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers**
Observing Animals at the Zoo, a two-day course on April 10 and 11, explores animal behavior and behavior-research

techniques used by scientists in the wild and in zoos. The course runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Zoo on both days, and includes tours, discussions, and activities to help teachers develop study units. Teachers of grades 3 through high school can receive undergraduate or graduate credit from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by taking this one-credit ZSM course. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255, for fees and to register.

Photo below: Kristen Charlson, of Wauwatosa, watches her daughter, Grace, 2, meet a rabbit at a Bunnies class (see story on opposite page). ZSM instructor MaryLynn Conter Strack holds the animal.



An Insider Day

Behind the Scenes Weekend

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank

March 13 & 14, 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID. Milwaukee County parking fee: \$11. Call (414) 256-5466 for information

Quick: What's a favorite toy of the Zoo's tiger cubs? (Feathers.) What's Snow Lilly the polar bear's favorite treat? (Apples and peanut butter.) Learn fun facts about your favorite Milwaukee County Zoo animals at this once-a-year event when zoogoers can go behind the scenes. You could visit areas such as the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country, the elephant area and the aviary. Members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary, will guide tours and answer questions on everything from animal diets to how keepers care for these animals. You can also see animal artifacts up close at the Remains to be Seen Carts in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Note: Due to the popularity of this event, you may not be able to see all behind-the-scenes areas at the Zoo. **Photo at left:** Young zoogoers learn what it means to "eat like a bird" in the Zoo's Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary at the event last year.



Centennial

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) is turning 100 in 2010. All year long we will feature stories, photos and special offers that celebrate our century of conserving animals, educating people and supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo. Join the party!



Photo from Milwaukee Zoo News

Photo: Directors of the Washington Park Zoological Society (which later became the Zoological Society of Milwaukee) meet a leopard cub in 1953. From left are Zoo director George Speidel, vice president Larry H. Smith, president Philip Orth, vice president E.J. Copps, secretary/treasurer Hartley Joys and vice president William A. Lohse. The Zoo's present-day big cat cubs are Tula and Nuri, the Amur tigers born in July 2009. See zoosociety.org/tigers for more.



Photo: Early elephant keepers. Photographer unknown.

Celebrate our birthday online!



Web:

- Where did Zoo animals come from: zoosociety.org/buyinganimals
- A century of education at the Zoo: zoosociety.org/educationmemories
- Memories of Samson the gorilla: zoosociety.org/Samson
- From 1910 to 1947: the Society and the Zoo: zoosociety.org/earlyhistory

Happy Birthday to us!

Celebration

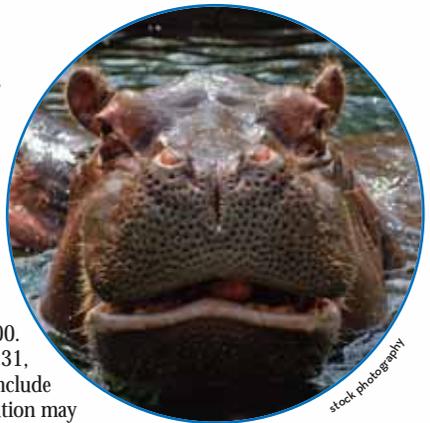
Centennial Safaris

Take a trip 100 years in the making. To celebrate our centennial, the Zoological Society is offering three safaris to Kenya in August 2010. All trips begin on different days, but conclude on the same day in Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve for a Grand Finale Gala party. The three safaris are: a budget-friendly tent and lodge safari, a mid-priced safari and a top-of-the-line safari. Led by experts from the Zoo and the ZSM, each trip will offer the chance to see incredible wildlife and nature. Join us at an information session about the trips on Thursday, Feb. 25, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Zoofari Conference Center (9715 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, just east of the Zoo). A representative from Adventure Seekers travel agency, the trip organizer, will be on hand to answer questions. Please call Lisa B. at (414) 258-2333 to register. For more information, see www.zoosociety.org/safaris.

A Happy Sponsorship

A hippopotamus called Jacob was one of the first animals the ZSM acquired for the Milwaukee County Zoo. Jacob came here from Germany in 1913, and quickly became one of the Zoo's animal stars. Celebrate our 100th anniversary by sponsoring a modern-day star: Happy the hippo, who came here from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., in fall 2009. Give \$1 for each year in the ZSM's history with this \$100 sponsorship. To order, send in the form on page 10, go to www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333. The limited-time package includes:

- An adorable plush-toy hippo
- A colorful hippo fact sheet
- An invitation to Animal Safari, a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors
- Special Centennial Club recognition on a Zoo donor board
- A Zoological Society centennial decal
- A certificate of sponsorship
- A 5x7 photo of Happy the hippo
- Two Zoo attraction tickets



stock photography

Send your gift anywhere in the continental United States for \$100. The tax-deductible portion is \$83. Offer is valid through Dec. 31, 2010. Plush-toy, photo and decal offers are not tax-deductible, include 5.6% WI sales tax and are good while supplies last. Your contribution may qualify for matching gifts; check with your employer. The proceeds from the Sponsor an Animal program help all of the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. In accordance with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

Centennial Souvenirs

Create a centennial memory with a T-shirt. These comfy, light-blue shirts feature our centennial celebration logo and a stylish zebra pattern. Youth sizes and adult sizes (small through extra-large) are \$5 each; adult sizes 2X and 3X are \$7. Shipping and handling are \$7 extra. To order, go to www.zoosociety.org, stop in our office at the Zoo or call (414) 258-2333. Members: Show your ZSM pride with the centennial decorative decals. They will arrive in the mail with your renewed membership cards.



It'll be "moose"-ic to my ears...

Celebrate a happy ending for Valentine's Day or any spring occasion with a sponsorship of Robin, the Zoo's new moose. Robin was found orphaned in an Alaskan backyard last May (see story on page 15). She was rescued by the resident family and sent to the Milwaukee County Zoo. Robin is now on exhibit with her new companions, resident Zoo moose Clifford and Finn. This \$30 sponsorship package includes a plush-toy moose, a chocolate "moose," a certificate of sponsorship, a moose fact sheet, an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors, sponsor recognition on a Zoo donor board and more. To order, go to www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333.



Photo: Robin in the Zoo's moose yard.



SPONSOR A HIPPO see page 9

- I'd like to sponsor Happy the Hippo. I'd like to sponsor Happy the Hippo as a gift.

Name _____
(to Appear on Recognition Board and Certificate. No punctuation. Please print)

- Memorial Designation

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____
E-mail Address _____

* The gift recipient will receive the Animal Safari invitation by mail as well as *Alive* magazine and *Wild Things* newsletter throughout the year.

Gift Card Message _____

Name _____ Office Use Only
Address _____ C _____
City, State, ZIP _____ D _____
Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____ R _____
E-mail Address _____ ID _____

I would like _____ package(s) at \$100 each. I would like _____ additional plush-toy(s) at \$10 each.
I would like _____ additional photos at \$6 each. I would like _____ additional decals for \$1.00 each.
(Plush toys, photos & decals include 5.6% WI sales tax and are not tax-deductible.)

Send gift package to: Recipient Donor **Send renewal notice to:** Recipient Donor

Package must arrive by: _____ **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 check payable to **Zoological Society**

Please mail this order form and payment to:
Happy, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226



Awesome Amphibians

Kids Conservation Club Workshop

Feb. 20, 10 a.m., Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center
Free benefit for Kids Conservation Club members (with one adult).
To register or join the club, go to
www.zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/ConservationClub.php
or call Becky by Feb. 15, (414) 258-2333.



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Kids: toads need your help! Why toads? Amphibians such as toads and frogs are threatened with extinction. These critters may seem creepy-crawly, but they actually help keep the Earth healthy. Learn how they help at a Feb. 20 workshop for Kids Conservation Club members.* Create a "toad abode" for frogs in your backyard, learn fun facts about critters such as salamanders, and visit the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile

Center to see these animals and chat with a zookeeper. Snacks are included; children must be accompanied by an adult (age 18 and over). **Photo:** Marshall Dvorak, 5, of Muskego works on a craft project at a Kids Conservation Club workshop last year.

*The Zoological Society's Kids Conservation Club educates children about endangered species. Each year, club members sponsor an endangered animal chosen by the Zoological Society. The \$20 membership includes a certificate of sponsorship, a fact sheet on that year's animal, collector cards on endangered animals, the child's name on the Kids Conservation Club donor board and an invitation to Animal Safari, a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo.

Sign up here: [Web: zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/ConservationClub.php](http://Web:zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/ConservationClub.php)



Recycling for Animals

Did you know that a rummage sale can help animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo? The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) new Cans for Cash for Critters program is a recycling challenge open to schools, families, youth groups and companies. Recycle or sell unused items in your home, give the proceeds to the non-profit ZSM for our Sponsor an Animal program and win fun prizes such as animal sponsorships. For program guidelines and tracking forms, go to www.zoosociety.org/cans or call Becky at (414) 258-2333. Sign-up begins Feb. 14.

The Sponsor an Animal program benefits all the animals at the Zoo. You can sponsor many Zoo animals; current featured sponsorships include a moose (see opposite page) and a hippo (page 9). The deadline for turning in forms and money is Aug. 6. Winners will be announced Aug. 28 at the ZSM's Animal Safari, a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo.

Appeal for Seals & Polar Bears

The Zoological Society's 2010 annual appeal is all about cool shades—shade structures to give our seals and polar bears relief from the hot summer sun. You'll be more likely to see these animals during warm summer days thanks to these add-ons to their exhibits. The appeal will also include a new surface in the seal pool that'll allow keepers to do talks, upgraded saltwater baths for the seals, and new signs with the latest information on these animals. A Web camera in the polar bear den will give you a chance to see the bears behind the scenes.



stock photography



Donate here!

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

Helping Hands

Want to give us a helping hand? Whether you're excited about our events, education programs or conservation efforts, you can help! **Details on the Web:** zoosociety.org/Support/

Centennial Celebration

Almost 1,200 guests came to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Centennial Celebration Kickoff, sponsored by **Tri City National Bank**, on January 9. The event, held at the Milwaukee County Zoo, featured an animal-themed cake-decorating contest with 16 "wild" cakes created by Wisconsin bakeries. Guest judges chose a 3-foot-tall giraffe-themed cake made by Regina's Bay Bakery as the first-place winner. Eat Cake, which created a hippo-shaped cake, was the runner-up and the people's choice award winner. For a list of all the participants, guest judges and cake photos, see www.zoosociety.org/100years. Historical interpreters from Old World Wisconsin strolled about in 1910-era costumes to the live sounds of Easy Days barbershop quartet. Guests enjoyed free hot chocolate and coffee courtesy of **Nestlé** and **Alterra Coffee Roasters** in cups provided by **Chinet**®. The Milwaukee Public Museum's replica of Samson the gorilla, one of the most popular animals in Zoo history, was the guest of honor. **Photo:** Bakers from Cakes While U Wait decorated a cake live at the event



Take a peek!

Centennial stories and fun historical facts on pages 8 and 9 or

Web: zoosociety.org/100years.

Very Merry

Winter at the Zoo means sightings of polar bears, caribou and...Santa and Mrs. Claus. That's right-jolly St. Nick and his spouse made an appearance at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Breakfast and Lunch with Santa, sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringles**. More than 2,380 people enjoyed meals and holiday sing-a-longs during the course of the event Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20. Each child got a gift. **Top photo:** Musician Fred Turk sings a holiday song to families at the event. **Bottom photo:** Chase Krauter, 3, of Waukesha, relishes his scrambled eggs at the event.



Halloween Scene

The Milwaukee County Zoo turned into a Halloween fantasia in October. On Oct. 23 and 24, the Zoo's Boo at the Zoo, sponsored by **westbury bank**, brought 5,736 people out for a light-and-music show at the Wolf Woods exhibit and ghostly train rides. The spooky fun continued Oct. 30 and 31, when more than 8,700 visitors came to the Zoo's Halloween Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular, also sponsored by the bank. **Photo:** westbury bank representatives hand out treats during the Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular. Cedric Brown (foreground), 9, of Milwaukee, gets candy and glow sticks from the trick-or-treat stop.





Free & Fun Days

A mild Nov. 7 and a sunny Dec. 5 brought nearly 29,000 people altogether to the Milwaukee County Zoo for Family Free Days, sponsored by **North Shore Bank** and **FOX 6**. Free days are held one weekend day a month November through April (the county parking fee still applies). In 2009, North Shore Bank and FOX 6 also sponsored Free Days on Feb. 7, March 7 and April 4. Free days are a great time to bring lots of guests and see colder-weather animals such as the elk and reindeer. The next Family Free Days are Feb. 6, March 6 and April 10.

Photo: Andrew Flanagan, 4, of Ixonia, gets a tattoo from a North Shore Bank representative on Dec. 5.

Sprucing Up the Zoo

Visitors could go walkin' in a winter wonderland in the Zoo's U.S. Bank Gathering Place last December. This entrance atrium featured 36 evergreen trees in the Zoological Society's Fantastic Forest, sponsored by **Hawks Nursery**, Dec. 4, 2009, through Jan. 4, 2010.

Milwaukee-area youth groups decorated the trees with colorful handmade ornaments.

Photo: Guangpei Chen of Brookfield and his wife, Yanhang Cai, admire a tree all in pink.



Notes from the Field

For more than 12 years, Dr. Gay E. Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator, has worked in Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo to help save the bonobo—a rare, endangered great ape. As part of her latest trip in fall and winter 2009, Dr. Reinartz shared updates from the field on our Web site, www.zoosociety.org/field09. As head of our Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative, Dr. Reinartz spends almost six months each year in Africa. Bonobos, native only to the Congo, face threats such as poaching, rain-forest destruction and war. From a research station called Etate in the Congo's Salonga National Park, Dr. Reinartz and the Zoological Society's research team survey bonobo habitats, develop anti-poaching strategies and work with the Congolese to help save these great apes. **Photo:** Murph, a bonobo at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Grants Received

Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) programs and projects have received the following grants:

- For ZSM general operations, which support our mission to conserve wildlife, educate the public and support the Milwaukee County Zoo, \$75,000 from the **Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation**; \$10,000 from the **David & Julia Uihlein Charitable Foundation**, \$7,500 from **Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation**, \$2,000 from the **Fred & Marge Brossmann Fund**, \$1,000 from the **Lois & Donald Cottrell Fund**, \$500 from the **Marilyn & Richard K. Vitek Fund** (all funds of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation), and \$250 from the **George L.N. Meyer Family Foundation**.
- The **Ladish Company Foundation** gave \$40,000 to support ZSM science-based programs for school classes (either at the Zoo or in the school) for the 2009-2010 year.
- The ZSM's Animal Ambassador 2009-2010 education programs, which bring the world of animals and conservation to elementary-school students (many attending schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods), received \$7,000 each from the **Peck Foundation Milwaukee Ltd.** and **Wells Fargo Bank**, and \$3,500 each from the **Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation**, the **Weyco Group Charitable Trust** and **Rockwell Automation**.
- **The Dr. Scholl Foundation** has given \$5,000 to the ZSM's Conservation Education Department for the college student intern program in summer 2010.

Insider Tips

Awesome Octopus

The Milwaukee County Zoo's new giant Pacific octopus can be a fascinating animal to watch. For example, she likes to eat food out of enrichment "toys"—items given to animals to keep them active and entertained. Zookeepers place herring, capelin and squid into tubes and jars with lids, which she opens with her tentacles, says Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) area supervisor Jessica Munson. Octopuses have many cool adaptations. They can change colors quickly when disturbed. They squirt ink when faced with predators. The suckers on their eight arms double as hands and tongues. Unfortunately, most female giant Pacific octopuses (including the Zoo's previous octopus, Nicole) usually live only about three years. See this amazing creature while you can in the ARC's octopus tank (but be patient—this newbie likes to hide behind rocks).

Photo: An octopus at the Zoo.



Log on and look around!

On the Web

New birds at the Zoo
Blue-bellied rollers:
zoosociety.org/gnu

The Zoo's tiger cubs
in the spotlight
zoosociety.org/tigers

Two New Musicians on Lake Evinrude

After three years of swan silence on Lake Evinrude, a new duet has taken the stage as a symbol of conservation. From 1989 to 2006, the highly musical trumpeter swan pair, Greg and Rachael, nested at Lake Evinrude and produced 56 offspring. Their "songs" were low-pitched, deep calls that sounded like trumpets (thus the trumpeter swan name). The duet ended when Rachael died, and Greg was moved to the pond in front of the Mahler Family Aviary in June 2006. But in July 2009, the Zoo introduced two new trumpeter swans to Lake Evinrude, a male, 6, and a female, 4, from a private breeder in Minnesota. The new pair, named Vincent and Veronica, is continuing the Zoo's musical tradition. Meanwhile, Greg and his new partner, Isabella, who came to the Zoo in September 2006, can be seen at the aviary pond. Both pairs of trumpeter swans are part of the follow-up to the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program, a conservation project that has restored trumpeter swans to Wisconsin. In the 1800s, people hunted trumpeter swans for their beautiful feathers, which were used to make hats, quills, and powder puffs. As a result, the trumpeter swan population dramatically decreased. The Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee partnered with Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources on the swan project. Between 1989 and 2009, 387 cygnets (swan chicks) hatched at the Zoo, and were given to the Department of Natural Resources for eventual return to the wild. "The Zoo has a long history with this species," says Zoo Bird Curator Alex Waier, "and I think that exhibiting two pairs highlights our commitment to this very successful reintroduction program." If the new trumpeter swans produce young, the Zoo probably will release them into the wild to continue to build Wisconsin's swan population.



Plucky Plovers

If you hear a hammer-like sound in the Milwaukee County Zoo's aviary, you're probably near the blacksmith plovers. These birds are said to be named after their call, which sounds like a blacksmith's hammer hitting metal. Two adult blacksmith plovers are on display across from the aviary's African Savanna exhibit, and two youngsters that hatched last July are housed behind the scenes. The photos at right shows the chicks, Wembley and Mokey, cuddling up to Mom when they were about a week old. Named after characters in Jim Henson's 1980s TV show "Fraggle Rock," the chicks now look a lot like their parents, says aviary keeper Bryan Kwiatkowski. The youngsters will join other zoos in the spring. Blacksmith plovers are very common in their native southern and eastern Africa, where their adaptations come in handy against predators such as birds of prey and snakes. These aggressive birds can camouflage themselves and use the small spurs on the sides of their wings for defense and protection.



Lucky Moose

Let's start with the happy ending. Robin, an orphaned moose from Alaska, is doing well at the Milwaukee County Zoo. She has a big outdoor yard to romp in and moose companions to play with. This moose youngster wasn't always so lucky. Last May, Robin was separated from her mother and chased by a pack of dogs into a suburban backyard in Big Lake, Alaska. The residing family rescued her and tried to find Robin's mom, to no avail. Robin cried. She was just a few days old, and her umbilical cord was still hanging from her stomach. Eventually, rangers from the Alaska Fish and Wildlife took Robin to Anchorage's Alaska Zoo, which had housed many orphaned moose. The Milwaukee County Zoo, in the meantime, had been looking for a female moose. Robin was soon on her way to Wisconsin, and joined the Zoo's moose yard in November.

She took well to her new companions, 13-year-old male moose Clifford and his grandson, Finn. "She's holding her own against the boys," says Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor of the North America area. (Robin also gets along with the mule deer and wild turkeys that share the moose yard.) You can tell who's who because Robin is the smallest moose in the yard, and, as a female, she is the only one who will not grow antlers. The Zoo may receive more orphaned moose in the future, says Fleuchaus. Moose live in northern woods from coast to coast in the U.S., Canada, Alaska and in parts of Europe and Russia. Their populations are declining in northwestern Minnesota, which some scientists attribute to climate change. However, moose are still plentiful in Alaska, and the state's wildlife authorities must occasionally find homes for orphaned calves such as Robin. **Photo:** Robin (right) and Finn in the Zoo's moose yard.



Help the Polar Bears & Seals

In Our Annual Appeal, page 11



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What's Happening

Details Inside

Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo; call (414) 771-3040 for details.*

Feb. 4

Wines and Beers of the World, sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors; wine-and-beer-tasting fund-raiser for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM), 7-10 p.m., call (414) 258-2333.

Feb. 6, March 6 & April 10

Family Free Days at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank and FOX 6. Feb.: 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. March & April: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Feb. 10

Online registration for ZSM's summer camps begins at 3 p.m.: www.zoosociety.org

Feb. 25

Information session on Centennial Safari Series, 7-8:30 p.m., Zoofari Conference Center. Call Lisa, (414) 258-2333, to register.

March 6

Beastly Bowl-a-Thon fund-raiser for the ZSM.

March 13

Zoological Society field trip to Chicago's Flower & Garden Show.

March 13 & 14

Behind the Scenes Weekend at the Zoo, sponsored by Tri City National Bank*



Beastly Bowl-a-Thon

March 27 & 28

Breakfast and Lunch with the Bunny at the Zoo, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles. Pre-register.



Egg Day

April 3

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

April 7 & 10

Two-session Zoo Pride introductory volunteer orientation; call (414) 258-5667.

April 14, 17, 21, 24

Four-session follow-up Zoo Pride volunteer training

April 23

Zootastic, sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc., the ZSM's family-friendly event at the Zoo, 5-9 p.m. Pre-register.+

May 9

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort*+

May 10

Members' online registration for Snooze at the Zoo begins; go to www.zoosociety.org+

May 15 & 16

Party for the Planet at the Zoo*+

May 29 - Sept. 6

The Zoo's summer special exhibit opens: Adventure Dinosaur!, \$2.50 per person entry fee+

*Zoological Society members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

+More details in the April issue of *Wild Things*