

Wild Things



Poison dart frog

Be a Fool for Fun

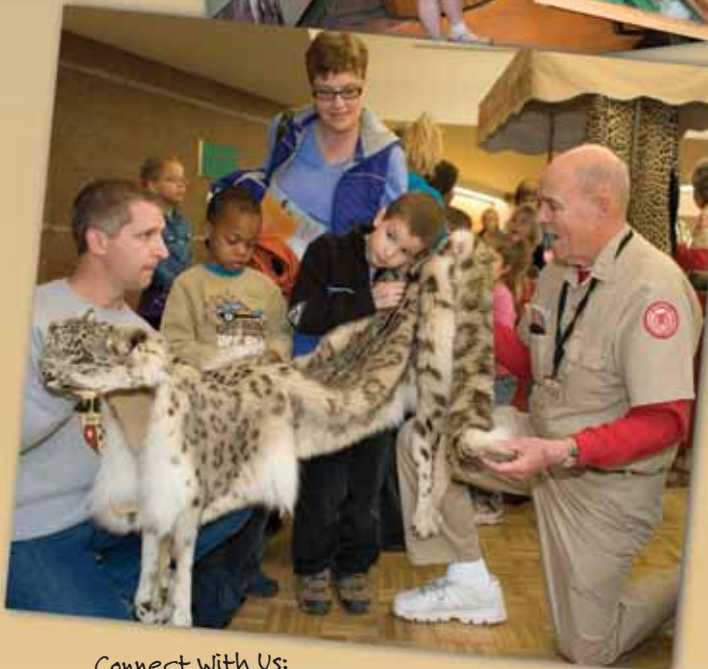
Zootastic (A family event with animals, food & music)

Sponsored by Noodles & Company

April 1, 5-9 p.m.

\$75 per family of four. Individual fees: \$15 children under 12, \$25 ages 13+. Your fee, less \$10 per person, is tax-deductible. Register at zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333 by March 25. You must pre-register; fees are not refundable.

Spend April Fool's at the Zoo. Discover how some animals "fool us" as you track down their "tricks" with help from our Zoo Pride volunteers. Then create your own craft and get foolish dancing to a DJ's dance party. Snack on a light dinner, featuring pizza from Palermo's® Pizza. Create your own dessert at the ice cream sundae bar, with toppings donated by the Masterson Company. For animal fun, you can prowl the night with the nocturnal cats in the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. Or frolic near funky frogs and fishes in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Help us raise money for the animals by testing your luck in the family-themed raffle; prizes could include vouchers for airfare on American Airlines or certificates to family restaurants. Save your memories of this evening by getting a picture at a free photo station. It'll be "zootastic"! **Photos:** Top: Jack Lampasona, 5, of Wauwatosa enjoys pizza at last year's event. Right middle: Zookeeper Dawn Kruger talks about Mahal the baby orangutan (peeking through window). Right bottom: Zoo Pride volunteer Jim Redding (right) shows a snow leopard pelt to the Bryan Enos family of Rockton, Ill.



In This Issue...

- Wine- and beer-tasting fund-raiser...page 3
- Chicago's Brookfield Zoo field trip ...page 5
- Walking the Zoo ...page 9
- Zookeepers together for 20 years...page 10
- Frisky foxes, an emu and what are bulbs?...page 14

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ZSM Notes

Award-Winning Egg Ad

A tiny boy lies atop a huge ostrich egg, his whole body trying to protect it. "There's an easier way to help save endangered animals," note the words next to him. This cute advertisement (right) for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Kids Conservation Club recently won an award from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Called the Building Partners in Humanity Award, the honor earned the ZSM a \$1,000 donation from the newspaper. The ad was part of a pro bono ad campaign created by DMC Advertising Agency, which submitted the ad to the Building Partners in Humanity program. The ads were evaluated and voted upon by a national panel of judges. The ZSM was one of three Milwaukee-area, non-profit award recipients. To learn more about the Kids Conservation Club, go to zoosociety.org/kidclub.



Joining a Library Network

Mary Kazmierczak, the librarian and information specialist for the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM), has been elected to the board of the Library Council of Southeastern Wisconsin for a two-year term ending August 2012. The council represents specialized libraries (such as the Zoo's), school libraries, university libraries and public libraries. The council promotes inter-library cooperation and continuing education. Kazmierczak (left) works part time for the ZSM and is also a member of Zoo Pride, the ZSM's volunteer auxiliary.



The Zoo "On Demand"

What inspired Zoological Society artists to design whimsical poetry displays at the Zoo? Tune in to Time Warner Cable's Channel 411 for the scoop on the Milwaukee County Zoo's Language of Conservation poetry project and other goings-on. This channel features short videos that you can watch at any time about animals and programs run by the Zoo and Zoo-

logical Society. The latest updates feature poetry displays, the Zoo's young Amur tigers and a family who sponsors one of the Zoo's biggest animals: Happy the hippo. Channel 411 is free to all Time Warner Cable subscribers in eastern Wisconsin.

Memberanda

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 92, February-March 2011

Wild Things is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee six times a year:

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For Zoo Pass benefits and other details,
please see zoosociety.org/memberinfo.

Zoological Society office hours: Through May 22, 2011:
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday,
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Zoo hours: February: Weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,
Weekends, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. March 1-May 22: 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.**

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

All or part of your Society membership is tax-deductible.

The tax-deductible portions for the following categories are:

Individual (Basic: \$50, Plus: \$48), Individual + 1 or Couple
(Basic: \$55, Plus: \$53), Individual + 2, Family and Single-Adult
Family (Basic: \$65, Plus: \$67), Family + 1 (Basic: \$74, Plus: \$77),
Family + 2 (Basic: \$83, Plus: \$86), Family + 3 (Basic: \$102, Plus:
\$105), Affiliate (Basic: \$149, Plus: \$142), Advocate (Basic: \$212,
Plus: \$205), Benefactor (Basic: \$270, Plus: \$263).



A Drink for the Cow



Wines and Beers of the World

March 24, 2011, 7-10 p.m.

Tickets: \$40 for Zoological Society members & guests (registering at same time as member) through March 11, unless event fills prior to this date; \$50 for non-members. After March 11, phone registration for \$50 only, members & non-members. Pre-register at zoosociety.org, with form on page 4, or call (414) 258-2333. Fees are not refundable.

Want cheese with that wine? How about some cheesy pizza with your beer? You can nibble on a bunch of gourmet foods while sipping wine or beer. As you do, you'll be helping the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) raise money to upgrade Belle the Dairy Cow



along with other parts of the Milwaukee County Zoo's Dairy Complex. Our annual wine-and beer-tasting fund-raiser includes food samples, dessert wines and desserts, tips from wine and beer connoisseurs and the chance to observe the Zoo's apes and primates from 7 to 9 p.m. You must be at least 21 years old to attend, and your fee, less \$25, is tax-deductible and includes a complimentary, etched wine glass (5.6% WI sales tax included). You must preregister; fees are not refundable. **New this year: VIP tickets for ZSM members and their guests.** For \$50, you can score early admission at 6 p.m. and enter a drawing for

a behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo. **Photo top:** Sylvia Howell of Milwaukee at last year's event. **Photo bottom:** Cheryl Langman of Waukesha gets an Irish cream cupcake from Noelle's Bake Shoppe & Cupcakery of Cedarburg.

ANIMALS WIN THE GAME

Beastly Bowl-a-Thon

Feb. 26, 2011, 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.

Register at zoosociety.org by Feb. 11 or call (414) 258-2333



Make it go this way...please! That's what young kids seem to be saying as they try for a bowling strike. And maybe it's not just the kids with that plea. The Zoological Society's annual bowling fund-raiser for the animals is a fun-and funny-event as everyone expresses emotion connected with the trajectory of a heavy ball. Whether you're on a team or helping a toddler with his first-time game, it's all about fun, friendship and fund-raising. This family-friendly event raises money for Milwaukee County Zoo animals through the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. 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:** Monica Jeske of Milwaukee directs her son, Drew, 3, on which way to aim the ball.

*Bumper bowling is available for children, and the lanes are handicapped accessible. Bowler fees include shoe rental, three games, snacks, samples of Palermo's® Pizza, entry into door-prize drawing and a keepsake. 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.

BROOKFIELD ZOO FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, April 16, 2011 (see story at right)

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 12-64).*

Please reserve _____ spaces for \$45 per person (ages 3-11 and 65+).*

Please reserve _____ spaces for \$30 per person (ages 2 and under).*

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 credit card

Online registration: Go to zoosociety.org, select Events. Or, **call** the Zoological Society at (414) 258-2333.

Check Make check payable to **Zoological Society**

Please mail this order form and payment to:

Brookfield Zoo Trip, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

* Space is limited. Cancellations through April 1 are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after April 1 are not refundable. 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.

WINES AND BEERS OF THE WORLD REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, March 24, 2011 (see page 3)

Name _____

Zoological Society Membership No. (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____

E-mail Address _____

Name of other guests _____

(Guests must register at same time as member)

NEW THIS YEAR: I wish to purchase _____ VIP ticket(s) at \$50 each. (Zoological Society members & guests)

I wish to purchase _____ ticket(s) at \$40 each. (Zoological Society members & guests)

I wish to purchase _____ ticket(s) at \$50 each. (Non-members)

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

Online registration: Go to zoosociety.org, select Events. Or, **call** the Zoological Society at (414) 258-2333.

Check Make check payable to **Zoological Society**

Please mail this order form and payment to:

Wines & Beers, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

Reservations must be received by March 11, 2011. Only phone reservations will be accepted after March 11, 2011, for \$50 per person with a credit card, unless the event fills prior to that date. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. Tickets will be mailed. All ticket sales are final. Proceeds benefit the Zoological Society. To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request. Your fee, less \$25, is tax-deductible; 5.6% WI sales tax included.

Bears, Dolphins & Horses

Field Trip to Chicago's Brookfield Zoo

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Cost: \$50 per person (ages 12-64); \$45, seniors & ages 3-11; \$30, ages 2 and under
To register, see zoosociety.org, call (414) 258-2333 or send in form at left

The Brookfield Zoo's Great Bear Wilderness exhibit is a bit like visiting a national park. This large, naturalistic habitat is home to polar bears, grizzlies, wolves, bald eagles and bison, plus displays that highlight their status in the wild. Join the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) for our spring field trip to the Brookfield Zoo near Chicago. The Brookfield Zoo and the ZSM don't reciprocate free admission; so take advantage of this chance to see it economically. In 2010, the Brookfield Zoo celebrated 50 years of dolphin care by renovating its Seven Seas dolphin exhibit, where you can view five dolphins in educational shows. For the kids, there's the Hamill Family Play Zoo, home to 300 animals and an interactive area where youngsters can plant gardens or dress up as a bird. New animals at the zoo include endangered Przewalski's horses, California sea lion pups, and American white pelicans rescued from the Gulf Coast oil spill last summer.

Registration for the trip starts at 6:30 a.m. on April 16 at the Milwaukee County Zoo with a continental breakfast featuring pastries, bagels, fresh fruit, coffee, milk and juice. Buses depart from the Zoo at 7:30 a.m., and arrive at the Brookfield Zoo at 9:30 a.m. Your tour includes general admission to the Brookfield Zoo; admission to the dolphin show, the Hamill Family Play Zoo, Motor Safari trams, and carousel; and beverages donated by PepsiAmericas and a snack bag on the return trip. (Note to those with allergies: snacks may include dairy and peanut byproducts.) We depart Chicago at 4:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. Please call (414) 258-2333 with questions. **Photo:** grizzly bear



The Inside Scoop

Behind the Scenes Weekend

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank

March 12 & 13, 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

Why do peacocks and peahens wander freely at the Milwaukee County Zoo? Why do some penguins live in the aviary and others live outside? Which African warm-weather animals can go outside in winter? Find the answers to these and other questions at this once-a-year event when you can explore the Zoo's closed corners and private nooks. You can go behind the scenes in such buildings as the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary, elephants or giraffes (specific areas will be decided later). Members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary, will be your guides. Get an inside look at animal diets and favorite toys. And check out animal artifacts such as horns and teeth at Remains to be Seen Carts located in Primates of the World, the MillerCoors Giraffe Experience, and the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. Note: due to the popularity of this event, you may not be able to see all behind-the-scenes areas. **Photo:** Melanie Buellesbach of New Berlin and daughter Ava, 7, peer at an orchestra of crickets in the Zoo's aviary kitchen at last year's event. Stock photography of peacock.



Fun & Interactive Learning Programs

Zoo: A Living Classroom

Animals and kids are a recipe for fun and education. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) popular conservation education programs offer classes and camps at the Milwaukee County Zoo for kids ages 2-14. These include many child *plus* adult programs you can enjoy with your child. As a ZSM member, you get "first pick" and discounted pricing. Online registration is easy. Most classes feature Zoo tours, and some have a live animal in the classroom. Parents love our classes. In 2009, 59% of our child participants took two or more classes; 37% took three or more.

Spring Classes Still Open

The following Zoological Society classes still had openings when we went to press. For availability of these and other Education Adventures at the Zoo and to register online, check zoosociety.org/Spring.

- **Age 2 (accompanied by an adult)** Flutter like a butterfly or buzz like a bee at **Little Love Bugs** in February. In March, put on your ears and cottontail, and then paint a giant rabbit at **Bunnies** class.
- **Age 3 (accompanied by an adult)** Create a lion costume complete with tail, paws, ears and a painted face in the February class called **Lions...ROAR!** Design your own chameleon costume and make a pet snake at **Colorful Chameleons** and **Sssssuper Snakes in March**.
- **Ages 4 & 5:** Create an animal decoder and sneak around the Zoo during **Animal Detectives** class in February. In March, catch fish like a bear and slide on your belly like an otter in **Otters & Beavers & Bears, Oh My!** Classes are offered for kids only OR for a child accompanied by an adult.
- **Ages 6 & 7:** Visit the Zoo's animal architects and test your skills as you build an animal structure in February's **Animal Architects**. Tour the Zoo to discover "magic" skills some animals have, and then learn your own magic trick at **Madagascar Magic** in March.
- **Families with children ages 4-10:** Work as a team to unravel riddles, answer questions and decode messages in **Sleuthing Runs in the Family** in March.

Summer Camp Priority Registration

More than 11,000 people attend Zoological Society Summer Camps, sponsored this year by Noodles & Company. The Summer Camps brochure was mailed along with your January issue of *Alive* magazine and lists all 2011 ZSM camp offerings. Members-only priority, online registration begins Feb. 10. Check the Web site for availability and online registration information: zoosociety.org/Summer



Kids in a 2010 summer camp. Photo by Julie Cheng

Internships for College Students

College students and recent college graduates: Want to get experience working with children ages 2-14 and have fun this summer? Apply for an internship in the 2011 Zoological Society summer camps. After substantial training, college interns help with educational activities, lead Zoo tours and help supervise high school assistants. (Interns do not handle animals directly). A cover letter and resume are due by Feb. 14, 2011. Interviews will be held in March. For details, call Patty at (414) 258-5058, ext. 419, or e-mail pattyt@zoosociety.org

High School Assistant Volunteers

High school students, are you looking for something fun and educational to do this summer? Consider volunteering in the Zoological Society's summer camps for two to three weeks. Students ages 15-18 will help with children's activities, Zoo tours and camp set-up. Call (414) 258-5058, ext. 428, for an application. Application deadline is April 1, 2011.

Tips For Teachers

- **Programs for School Classes**
See <http://zsmke.com/SP> for a listing of the many education programs that are offered either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools.
- **Workshop for Early Childhood Teachers**
From the tundra to the jungle, bears survive in a variety of habitats. Early childhood teachers (preschool through 2nd grade) can learn fun ways to present bear facts to children at a 2½-hour workshop at the Zoo on April 9, 2011. To register, see <http://zsmke.com/SP> (Professional Development link) or call 414-258-5058. Fee: \$20 (includes parking and Zoo admission).
- **UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers**
Fit for Survival: Animal Habitats and Adaptations will be held April 9 and 10. The course explores animal survival and how modern zoos help animals; it runs 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255, for fees and to register.



Be my Bunny?

Egg Day

Sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save

April 23, 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.

If you're fond of bunnies, bubbles and Easter baskets, the Milwaukee County Zoo is the place for you on April 23, the day before Easter. The activities begin in the Zoo's entrance atrium, where a "bubbleologist" will create giant soap

bubbles during several shows throughout the day. Another hoppin' event 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). Want your own bunny ears and Easter basket? You can make them at craft stations. Remember that you can march with the Easter Bunny and his friends in a musical parade that starts at 2 p.m. in front of the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. It's a chance to show off your Easter best. **Photo:** Lily Karczewski, 22 months old, cuddles in the arms of a bunny at last year's event.

Not Just Eggs

Breakfast and Lunch With the Bunny

Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles

April 16 & 17, Milwaukee County Zoo

\$14 per child or adult; \$6 for children 2 and under. Milwaukee County parking fee: \$11.

Registration required. Call (414) 256-5466 for registration form or pre-register at milwaukeezoo.org starting March 1.

Spring at the Zoo is full of music and sweet kringle when you sit down for a meal with the Easter Bunny in mid-April. With new animals and renovated exhibits at the Milwaukee County Zoo, we guarantee your horizon will expand beyond the Easter egg. This Zoo event includes a fun meal (breakfast or lunch), a gift for each child, live entertainment, Zoo admission and, of course, a visit from that famous bunny. Breakfast is served on April 16 only, at 9 a.m., and lunch is at noon both days in the Zoo's Peck Welcome Center. After eating, visit the Zoo's new fennec fox and emu (page 14) and check out renovations to the bonobo exhibit (page 11). All seats are reserved, and registration is limited. Please note that the Zoo cannot provide booster seats or accommodate strollers. (Note: Easter is April 24.) **Photo:** Mary Beth Radluff of Menomonee Falls points to her 3-year-old daughter Nicole's nose during a sing-along at last year's breakfast.



Volunteering at the Zoo

It's Just Plain Fun, Say Mom, Daughter

One mother and daughter spend as much time laughing at the Milwaukee County Zoo as they do greeting their favorite animals. Kathy McConville and her daughter, Denise Zylow, find fun in everything from watching otters Buddy and Oscar dive for fish to seeing zookeepers herd vultures into the barn at the end of each summer day. "It's just the funniest thing," says McConville as she describes how stubborn the vultures are and how keepers act like bigger vultures to corral the birds. Meanwhile, the cheetahs, whose yard overlooks the vultures in a predator-prey exhibit, are eyeing the birds. "You can almost hear them saying, 'We could help you with those birds.'"

That sense of fun at the Zoo has led them to support the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) both with their time (as volunteers) and with their finances (as members of the Platypus Society, the ZSM's premier giving group). McConville joined Zoo Pride, the ZSM's volunteer auxiliary, in August 2006 and by January 2011 had put in just over 1,002 volunteer hours. Zylow tagged along to a few Zoo Pride functions and then joined in March 2010. They also started a tradition of giving ZSM animal sponsorships to kids in their family as gifts because the children "already had everything they wanted," says Zylow.

Joining the Platypus Society was a natural progression for the mother and daughter as they became more serious about the Zoo and ZSM's missions and wanted to support the ZSM at a higher level. "Some people think that it's terrible animals live their lives in captivity, but many of these animals (such as the male jaguar, Guam kingfishers and ornate box turtles) wouldn't be alive without us," notes Zylow. Platypus Society membership also gives them the chance to learn even more about animals through behind-the-scenes tours and invitations to premieres of new animal exhibits. "The more you find out about the Zoo's animals, the more you want to know," says McConville.

Their close-knit relationship with the Zoo stems back about 15 years, when McConville retired, bought a Zoo Pass and began visiting the Zoo a few times a month to walk the grounds. Zylow became a regular zoogoer 11 years ago after starting her job as a cardiac monitor technician at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital just a short distance away. Two years ago she began visiting daily to walk (see story on opposite page). A trip to Alaska in May 2008 motivated the mother-daughter duo to come to the Zoo often to practice their "animal photography skills so all their Alaskan wildlife shots did not turn out blurry." These days, the two have made the Zoo their second home. It's quick to get to from their homes in West Allis and Greenfield. "Now we have a group of friends who are friends to both of us," McConville says. "They know us at the same level."

Photo: Denise Zylow (left) and Kathy McConville watching birds at the Zoo.

By Erica Breunlin





A Walk in the Park

A lot of people walk at the Zoo for exercise, but Zoo Pride volunteer Darlene Winter comes out to bond with animals. “The kangaroos and bears look up when they see me,” says Winter, who walks at the Milwaukee County Zoo most mornings in good weather. “They follow me, and I say hello. It really gives you a connection to the Zoo.”

The Zoo attracts plenty of people who enjoy walking—including members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society’s volunteer auxiliary. After all, it’s a safe and beautiful place to take a stroll. It’s open year-round. The walkways are cleared in winter and there are plenty of animal buildings in which to warm up. Walking at the Zoo is good exercise that’s therapeutic to boot.

For example, volunteer Carol Stefanich took up walking at the Zoo after suffering a stroke last July. She was back in the park by mid-August, walking two or three times a week and taking more than 10,000 steps each time (the recommended amount for good health). Walking makes you feel good, and spending time with animals can help counter anxiety and depression, adds Stefanich, a retired registered nurse. “My motivation for getting better was volunteering in Zoo Pride again,” she says. Stefanich appreciates the group’s supportive atmosphere, which helped her deal with grief when she had a death in the family several years ago, she says.



For Zoo Priders, walking at the Zoo has another benefit: they can stay on top of animal goings-on. Volunteers keep tabs on changes and enhancements in exhibits and act as the “eyes and ears” of the zookeepers. Stefanich once noticed an eland that had eye discharge and alerted zookeepers so they could check on its health. Winter sees something new every time she changes her walking route through the park, she says. One day, when she was in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building, Cassius the gorilla came up to the window when he saw Winter. He laid his head against the glass, Winter recalls, and “it was almost like I could have touched him.” She adds: “When I’m at the Zoo, I forget the outside world.” **Photos:** Carol Stefanich (in hat) takes 10,000 steps on her Zoo walks. Darlene Winter walks in front of the elephants.

Want to volunteer at the Zoo?

Consider joining Zoo Pride. The next basic, two-session volunteer training is March 30 and April 2. This training allows you to join six of Zoo Pride’s numerous committees. A more extensive four-day training, held April 6, 9, 13 and 16, lets you do more in Zoo Pride. Call (414) 258-5667 for details and to sign up.

By Julia Kolker

FELINE DREAM TEAM

Nobody knows cats like Val, Chris and Neil. Whether it's a tiger with a tummy ache or a lion with a mean body slam, they've learned how to solve cat problems. And they may have set a record along the way. For 20 years, three zookeepers – known throughout the Zoo by their first names – have worked together caring for the Milwaukee County Zoo's big cats. Valerie Werner has been with big cats the longest, nearly 32 years, starting in April 1979. Neil Dretzka has been area supervisor of felines since Dec. 1, 1990. And Chris John has been in cats since August 1990. They all say they've had no strife or "cat fights" in all those years.

"We respect each other. We've never had any arguments, just calm discussions," says Dretzka. "There's usually more than one right answer; my idea isn't always the best; so I've always tried to listen to Chris and Val." Adds Werner: "Each of us has both strengths and weaknesses, and we seem to balance each other. Neil and Chris are stronger than I am when it comes to moving a crated animal. But I'm small and can get into a den box to clean it easier than they can."

The three also know that their lives depend on the others "covering their backs," notes John. Our Zoo has a two-person lock policy, which is not common in U.S. zoos, he says. Werner explains: "When cleaning animal areas, two people must verify that animals are locked out of the area. After cleaning, two people must know that all equipment is out of the area and the cage doors are locked before moving animals back in. We talk to each other a lot when moving animals so each person knows what the other is going to do...and is prepared to stop the partner from making a 'wrong move.'"

Together, the three have nearly 84 years of zookeeping experience, including time before coming to big cats. Still, favorite memories involve the cats. Werner tells of male lion Amon Ra getting a running start outdoors, body-slamming into display windows and cracking nearly one a year (the windows were too thick to break). They slowed him down by placing branched trees in front of his

yard window to act as "speed bumps." They helped the tiger with tummy problems by following veterinarian advice to feed her chicken instead of red meat (as well as medications). John remembers naming Rigel the snow leopard cub and being able to weigh the docile cub when he was 65 pounds and had a 4-foot-long tail. Dretzka recalls cheetah brothers Ace, Onyx and Juba surrounding a fledgling robin in their yard. "We shooed the cats away with a rake, rescued the robin and it flew away. The cheetahs, for being wild animals, were really a bunch of wussies." The keepers could go into the yard with them because the cheetahs had been hand-raised at the Zoo by Werner and others. Today keepers are never in a space with a big cat. **Photo:** Chris John (back left), Valerie Werner, Neil Dretzka with cheetahs in back.

By Paula Brookmire



Log on!

For more memories of the big-cat keepers, go to zoosociety.org/catkeepers

ANNUAL APPEAL: HELP BELLE

Belle, the fiberglass Holstein cow in the Milwaukee County Zoo's dairy barn, helped teach a generation of kids how milk is made. In 2011, the Zoological Society is giving Belle a makeover as part of our annual appeal. Updates include an interactive display for young children, new movies about cows in the Dairy Complex theater, fun dairy facts and more. The appeal also raises money for additional Zoo support. To give a gift, please see zoosociety.org/appeal or call us at (414) 258-2333.



A "Stella" Gift



Some dream of a Jaguar car for Valentine's Day, but you could give your loved one a real-life jaguar! Consider sponsoring the Milwaukee County Zoo's elegant female jaguar, Stella, as a gift for any special occasion this spring. The sponsorship costs \$30 and helps support all Zoo animals through the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. The package includes a plush-toy jaguar, a solid chocolate heart, a sponsorship certificate and other goodies. To order, see zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333.

Shipping and handling is \$5 per package; the tax-deductible portion of the sponsorship is \$22. In accordance with WI statute section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request. Plush-toy and candy offers good while supplies last.

BONOBO PLAYGROUND

If the Zoo's 17 bonobos seem even more playful on your next visit, it's probably thanks to new climbing equipment in their indoor exhibit. New ropes, swings and logs placed in the exhibit last December encourage these fun-loving great apes to romp to their hearts' content. This update is part of a major gift from an anonymous donor who's also helping the Milwaukee County Zoo to create a diorama and new graphics near the indoor exhibit plus an outdoor bonobo exhibit. The outdoor space will feature nearly 500 feet of elevated mesh passageways for bonobos to explore in the forest next to the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building. You can see posts for the mesh tunnels this winter (photo above), and the exhibit will be finished in late spring. **Photo (right):** Ricky the bonobo by Mark Scheuber.



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/

Halloween Hoopla

From ghouls and goblins to pirates and a parade, the Milwaukee County Zoo's Halloween celebrations were so frightfully delightful that more than 27,600 came to the Zoo. The Zoo's Boo at the Zoo, sponsored by **westbury bank**, drew 9,842 people on Oct. 22 and 23 to see 250 jack-o-lanterns, take a ghostly train ride and view scenes such as an eerie light and music display near Wolf Woods. The candy came out on Oct. 30 and 31 at the Zoo's Halloween Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular, where 17,830 people—mostly kids in costume with parents in tow—enjoyed mild weather while trick-or-treating. Spooktacular was also sponsored by **westbury bank**. **Photo above:** On Oct. 30, sculptor Gregory Butauski, of Rock On Ice in Columbus, Ohio, carved a lion (in back) out of a huge pumpkin. **Photo right:** Nora (top), Natalie and Jack Walter of West Bend dressed as bumblebees Oct. 22.



A greener green

As the Zoo continues to work toward a greener environment, it was extra green this holiday season. Forty-five evergreen trees decorated by area youth groups lit up the U.S. Bank Gathering Place with ornaments made entirely of recycled materials. It was all part of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Fantastic Forest, sponsored by **Hawks Nursery**, from Dec. 3, 2010, through Jan. 2, 2011. **Photo left:** Admiring ornaments on a tree at the Zoo were Daniel Borgh, 6, of New Berlin, and his sister, Amanda, 5.

Snow and Icing-topped Kringle

Santa and Mrs. Claus sprinkled the Milwaukee County Zoo with snow as they dropped in for the first day of the Milwaukee County Zoo's 2010 Breakfast and Lunch with Santa. Sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringles**, the holiday event served up meals and live holiday jingles on Dec. 4 and 5, 11 and 12, and 18 and 19. The meals included sweet frosted kringle, of course. Santa even handed out plush-toy animals to each child who came to see him. The popular event was sold out, with 2,289 people attending. **Photo right:** Sydney Geise, 5, of Oconomowoc nibbles on kringle.



Fun & Free Days

What's better than a free visit to the Milwaukee County Zoo? More than 57,800 people came to the Zoo during six Family Free Days in 2010, thanks to sponsors **North Shore Bank** and **FOX 6**. These free Saturdays offer zoogoers free admission into the Zoo (except for parking) once each month November through April. Mild weather for Family Free Days in April and November made those Saturdays extremely popular at the Zoo. The next free days are scheduled for these Saturdays: Feb. 5, March 5 and April 2.

Photo: Erik and Jill Tschekunow, of Kiel, Wis., and their 2-year-old son, Isaak, savor the snow at the Zoo on Dec. 4, 2010, a free day.



On the Web: Into Africa!

African Safari Blog:

zoosociety.org/africablog

Take a Swing at Swahili:

zoosociety.org/Swahili

Stock photography



Grants Received

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

- The ZSM has received \$95,000 from an anonymous donor to further support the ZSM's efforts to help save the endangered bonobo, a great ape living in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Salonga National Park. Thanks to a previous grant, we are also making improvements to the exhibits for the Milwaukee County Zoo's group of 17 bonobos (see page 11). The ZSM runs the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI) and has a research station in the Salonga. BCBI also received a \$39,000 in-kind donation of ArcGIS desktop software through the **Esri Nonprofit Organization Program**. The software will help to map bonobo habitats in the Congo. As part of ZSM's collaboration in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the **World Wildlife Fund** recently awarded \$35,000 to BCBI. Other grants to BCBI include \$3,790 from the **Wildlife Conservation Network** of Los Altos, Calif., \$550 from **Steve and Betty Rosenthal**, and \$500 from **Nicole Ricci and Michael McNelly** of Monte Serano, Calif. BCBI locates and studies bonobo populations, preserves bonobo habitat, and helps impoverished communities that depend on the rain forest for their subsistence.
- For ZSM general operations, which help support our mission to conserve wildlife, educate the public and support the Zoo, we received the following grants: \$75,000 from the **Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation**; \$25,000 from the **David & Julia Uihlein Charitable Foundation**, \$7,500 from the **Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation**, \$4,800 from the **Harry & Martha Walsh Fund**,* \$4,860 from the **Rodney F. Park & Betty Park Family Fund**,* \$3,000 from the **Fred & Marge Brassmann Fund**,* \$1,000 each from the **Cottrell Balding Fund*** and from the **Donald and Barbara Abert Fund**,* and \$600 from the **Marilyn & Richard K. Vitek Fund*** (*These funds are part of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation).
- The **Ladish Company Foundation** gave \$40,000 and the **Gene & Ruth Posner Foundation** gave \$1,000 to support ZSM science-based programs for school classes (either at the Zoo or in the school) for the 2010-2011 year.
- The ZSM's Animal Ambassador 2010-2011 education programs, which bring the world of animals and conservation to elementary-school students (many attending schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods), received \$7,000 from the **Peck Foundation Milwaukee Ltd.** and grants of \$3,500 each from the **Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation** and **Wells Fargo Bank**.

Insider Tips

Let's Get Foxy

Long, lean and leggy, Daisy is quite the fox. The 1-year-old fennec fox arrived at the Milwaukee County Zoo Oct. 14, 2010, bursting with energy and playfulness. While her fennec fox friend, Duke, also 1 year old, shies away from the attention of zookeepers and zoogoers, Daisy gladly soaks up the spotlight. She's often "flirting" and wrestling with Duke. They're both fun to watch, especially when Daisy totes around a plush toy. As the smallest of the foxes, fennec foxes move with considerable speed. They're quick diggers while hunting prey or burrowing under the sand to

hide from predators like caracals and owls. "They're really interesting because of how they're built," says Rhonda Crenshaw, area supervisor of the Small Mammals Building, where the foxes are on display. "These guys have so many unique features that enable them to survive in the African desert." Excess fur on the soles of their feet provides traction to make digging faster and easier, and also protects their paws from the hot desert sand. Oversize ears dissipate heat and equip them with hearing that can track prey moving underground nearly a mile away. Extra thick sandy fur warms them on cold nights and camouflages them in the daylight. And specially adapted kidneys allow them to last long periods without water and to extract most of their water from plants they eat. Keepers will encourage Daisy and Duke to breed. "We haven't had fennec fox babies for at least 15 years," Crenshaw says. **Photo:** A fennec fox at the Zoo.

Be Quick to See These Birds

Flapping and fluttering every which way, white-cheeked bulbuls rarely hover in one place for long. "They're very nosy little birds," says zookeeper Bryan Kwiatkowski. They're also noisy—but in a cheerful way, as they make "chik check churr-wick," "bzzrrp" and "plee-plee-plee" calls. Aviary area supervisor Carol Kagy describes their constant chirping as "a melodious chatter." Four of these sprightly birds—two males and two females—arrived Sept. 9, 2010, at the Milwaukee County Zoo from Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom Park. This is the first time the Zoo has featured white-cheeked bulbuls. While one male and female are getting to know each other in the holding area above the Herb and Nada Mahler Family Aviary exhibits, the other pair share the Tropic 3 Exhibit (middle of the aviary) with a pair of marbled teals and a female American oystercatcher. Also known as Himalayan bulbuls and white-eared bulbuls, white-cheeked bulbuls originate in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan and have a stable population. Boasting trademark white cheeks and a bright patch of yellow or orange on their rumps, males and females are nearly impossible to tell apart and weigh between .69 and .90 of an ounce, with 8 inches from head to tail. Here at the Zoo, the four eat a ground fruit mix that may contain apples, bananas, grapes and melon; vegetables such as carrots and yams; bird pellets; dog food for extra protein; and bugs sprinkled on top. There are no plans to breed the four bulbuls, but it's a possibility. "We've been very successful with breeding

birds, but there's a lot of research that goes into it," says Kagy. Finding a home for the fledglings is the first step, she says, since most bird offspring can't stay with their parents due to territorial disputes, aggression or the chance of inbreeding. Our aviary has limited holding space and keepers would need to send any offspring to another zoo. **Photo:** white-cheeked bulbul.





An Easygoing Emu

Dangle a bunch of grapes in front of Ella the emu, and you're bound to be her best friend. Ella, along with most emus, loves grapes so much that zookeepers planted a trail of them to coax her inside her stall during training. Ella, 13 (see photo), came to the Milwaukee County Zoo on Oct. 12, 2010, from the Kansas City Zoological Park, where she roamed freely among other Australian animals and even Zoo visitors. Zookeeper Dawn Fleuchaus says she's a very calm, people-friendly emu who, unlike most birds, likes to be scratched by keepers. When Ella was introduced to the Zoo's 17-year-old male emu, Arnold, the two showed no aggression, Fleuchaus says, and "Arnold respected her space." To identify the two nearly identical birds, look for Arnold's orange leg band and Ella's green one. Both have very vibrant, reddish orange eyes, iridescent blue skin near their ears, and two feathers to each follicle that creates a unique rustling noise as they move. These big birds make a "booming" call when excited or nervous. Fleuchaus says the two aren't in any organized breeding program as emus are common. When emus do breed, the females lay bluish green eggs that the males incubate. Australian emus

are the second largest bird in the world next to African ostriches, and what's notable is their resemblance to each other. While emus may have sharper memories than ostriches, the two species share long necks, long legs and an aptitude for running. As Fleuchaus says, "It's interesting that these birds evolved on separate continents, and they're very similar. They each found their niche on those continents." Ella and Arnold don't like deep snow, but otherwise they're often outside in winter, although they can go indoors whenever they want.

Going Green Solar Screens

The Milwaukee County Zoo's efforts to go green are looking up. While driving into the Zoo, you'll see seven screens "hovering" above the ticket booths (see photo at right). They look like they're almost straight out of a science-fiction film. The screens are solar panels facing the sun to draw energy as a part of the Zoo's progressive "green" initiatives. Together, the screens produce 10 kilowatts of power and supply the operating booths enough energy during the busiest traffic times. Another eerie sight is a super solar flower panel next to Lakeview Place restaurant near Lake Evinrude (see photo below). Shaped like a bright red, yellow and black eight-pointed daisy, it adds a bit of art to the surrounding landscape while generating 1,400 kilowatt hours of power a year. The flower is a donation from We Energies. The solar power project allows the Zoo to save money through the power company's buyback program during non-peak traffic hours. Look for other "green" attractions coming soon to the Zoo, including rain gardens.



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What's Happening

Details Inside

Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo,
10:30 a.m. ceremony at the Zoo

Feb. 5, March 5, April 2

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 Zoological Society of
Milwaukee (ZSM) Summer Camps, spon-
sored by Noodles & Company, begins for
ZSM members at 5 p.m., zoosociety.org

Feb. 26

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

March 12 & 13

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



Behind the Scenes Weekend

March 24

Wines and
Beers of the
World ZSM
fund-raiser, 7-10 p.m.,
call (414) 258-2333. Pre-register.

March 30 & April 2

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

April 1

Zootastic, sponsored by Noodles & Company,
the ZSM's family-friendly event at the Zoo,
5-9 p.m. Pre-register

April 6, 9, 13 & 16

Four-session
follow-up Zoo
Pride volunteer
training

April 16

ZSM field trip to
Chicago's Brookfield Zoo



Egg Day

April 16 & 17

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

April 23

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

May 8

Mother's Day at the Zoo*+

May 9

Members' online registration begins for Snooze
at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands
and Sentry; see zoosociety.org

May 14 & 15

Party for the Planet at the Zoo, sponsored
by American Transmission Company*+

May 28 - Sept. 25

The Zoo's summer
special exhibit opens:
Butterflies! In Living
Color, \$2.50 per
person entry fee+



Butterfly Summer Exhibit

May 28 - Sept. 5

Kohl's Wild Theater shows open;
five free shows daily in the Zoo+

* Zoological Society members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass.
Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.
+More information in the April issue of *Wild Things*.