

Wild Things

A Toast to the Animals

Wines and Beers of the World

Feb. 7, 2013, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Regular tickets*: \$40 Zoological Society members & guests; \$50 non-members.

VIP tickets:** \$50 Zoological Society members and guests; \$60 non-members.

Pre-register at www.zoosociety.org/winertasting or at (414) 258-2333.

Will siamangs scream as you sip your wine? Will orangutans ogle as you drink a beer? Find out at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's wine-and-beer-tasting fundraiser. Register now for this evening event at the Milwaukee County Zoo—it often sells out. Stroll through the Stearns Family Apes of Africa and Primates of the World buildings after you select your beverage in the Peck Welcome Center. Try drinks from Wisconsin, Africa, Europe, New Zealand, and more. Enjoy cheeses to pair with wines and nibble on savory samples, including Palermo's® Pizza. Then satisfy your sweet tooth with desserts! Event proceeds support all the animals at the Zoo. You must be at least 21 years old to attend.

Special thanks to: GreatBrewers.com—featuring Belukus Marketing, Inc. and St. Killian Imports, Horny Goat Brewing Co., Kensington Liquor, MillerCoors, Sprecher Brewery, A Bianchini Experience, Alterra Coffee Roasters, Amy's Gourmet Apples, Ball 'n Biscuit Catering, Beans & Barley, Café Manna, The Cheesecake Store and More, Clock Shadow Creamery, East Shore Specialty Foods, Gigi's Cupcakes, Gourmet Cheesecake Shop & More, Larry's Market, The Oilerie® Brookfield, Palermo's® Pizza, PepsiAmericas®, Potawatomi Bingo Hotel, Racine Danish Kringles, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sassy Cow Creamery, Usinger's Famous Sausage, Vin Slush, and Zilli Hospitality Group.

*ZSM members' guests must register at same time as members. **VIP ticket holders get early entry at 6 p.m. and are entered into a drawing to win a behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo. Your fee, less \$25, is tax-deductible and includes a complimentary, etched wine glass (5.6% WI sales tax included). All ticket sales are final and are not refundable.

Wine can be ordered at the event. However, Wisconsin state licensing laws do not allow us to sell wine at the event. You can pick up and pay for your order at Kensington Liquor (4496 N. Oakland Ave, Shorewood 53211). Discounts for larger purchases: 5% off for 6 to 11 bottles; 10% off for 12 or more. A percentage of all wine sales benefits the ZSM annual appeal.

Family Bowling Day

Beastly Bowl-a-Thon

Feb. 2, 2013

AMF Bowlero, 11737 W. Burleigh St., Wauwatosa

Registration: 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Bowling: 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Entry fee: \$20 per bowler ages 11 and up; \$10 per bowler ages 10 and under; \$5 per non-bowler (includes snacks);

Register at www.zoosociety.org/bowling by Jan. 25; after that date, call (414) 258-2333.

This year's bowling fundraiser is extra special. It marks 20 years of family-friendly bowling! It also marks 30 years of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM) Sponsor an Animal program. Since its inception in 1993, this bowling event has raised more than \$259,000 for the Zoo's animals. In celebration of these anniversaries, lane-sponsor fees are reduced. You can now sponsor TWO lanes for only \$30 (a great way to recognize your family or promote your business while supporting the animals). The \$20 entry fee includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, snacks like pizza samples donated by Palermo's® Pizza, entry into a door-prize drawing and a keepsake. For information on the Zooper Dooper prize and more, go to www.zoosociety.org/bowling. To reserve a lane (maximum of five bowlers per lane), sponsor a lane or donate a prize, please call Becky at (414) 258-2333.



Jessica Bacovsky, of Menomonee Falls, and her 2-year-old nephew Cayden Richler, of Milwaukee, clap as their ball rolls.

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- [youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo](https://www.youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo)

fun, hands-on education programs

Spring Classes Still Open

The following classes still had openings when we went to press. For availability of these and other education classes at the Zoo and to register online, check our Web site at zoosociety.org/spring or call (414) 258-5058.

- **Age 2 (accompanied by an adult):** Hop like a cricket and crawl through a giant anthill in the February class, **Little Love Bugs**. In March, create a bunny costume with face paint, whiskers and a nose. Then paint a giant rabbit and hop on our bunny trail during **Bunnies**.
- **Age 3 (accompanied by an adult):** In the February class, **Lions...ROARI**, you'll create a lion costume before we prowl over to see the Zoo's lions. Crawl like a chameleon and make a snake to take home in the March class, **Colorful Chameleons & Sssuper Snakes**.
- **Ages 4 & 5:** Touch real fur and feathers and follow clues that lead us to our mystery animal in **Animal Detectives** offered in February for kids only OR (in separate classes) for a child accompanied by an adult. In March you can gather sticks like a beaver, catch fish like a bear and slide on your belly like an otter during **Otters, Beavers & Bears**. Classes are offered for kids only OR for a child accompanied by an adult.



Photo by Richard Taylor

A boy views a sea star during an ocean-animals class.

Summer Camp Priority Registration

The brochure for Zoological Society Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, is packaged with this issue of *Wild Things*. It lists all ZSM summer camp offerings for 2013. Registration begins on Feb. 6. Check for availability and online registration information at zoosociety.org/summer.

Summer Internships in Education

College students and recent college graduates: Want to get experience working with children ages 2-14 and have fun this summer? Then apply for a 2013 summer-camps internship at the



MEMBERANDA

Zoological Society office hours: Through April 2013: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Zoo hours: Through Feb. 28: Weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Weekends, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Beginning March 1: Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Please note that the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. Zoo animal buildings close 30 minutes before posted Zoo closing time.**

Payment information at Zoo admission gates: The Milwaukee County Zoo staff does not accept checks for Zoo Pass purchases or renewal payments at the Zoo's admission gates.

For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please see Tax Tips at: www.zoosociety.org/things2know.

Reciprocal Zoos and Aquariums: We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our members with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in January each year. We reciprocate only with AZA-accredited facilities and reserve the right not to reciprocate with zoos and aquariums within close proximity of the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Please be sure to contact our offices at 414-258-2333, or visit www.zoosociety.org/recv prior to your travels, if you have any questions.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 104, January-March 2013

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

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Web site: www.zoosociety.org

Zoological Society. After substantial training, college-age interns help with educational activities, lead Zoo tours, prepare classroom materials, and help supervise and evaluate high school volunteer assistants. Interns are mentored by education staff and focus on developing professional skills. (Interns do not handle animals directly.) Cover letter and resume are due by Feb. 11, 2013. Interviews will be held in March. For details, call Patty T. at (414) 258-5058, ext. 419, or e-mail pattyt@zoosociety.org.

High School Students Can Volunteer at Camps

High School students, want to do something fun and educational this summer? If so, consider volunteering at the ZSM Conservation Education Department's camps for two 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, after Jan. 1 for an application and interview information. Application deadline is April 1, 2013.

Programs for School Classes at the Zoo

In fall and spring, the Zoological Society publishes a brochure listing numerous education programs offered either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. The school brochure also can be found at www.zoosociety.org/school.

Teacher Workshop: African Animals—Saturday, March 16

From towering giraffes to enormous elephants, early-childhood teachers learn about some of the biggest animals in Africa during this 2½-hour session at the Zoo. Workshop includes: animal background information, project and station ideas, craft samples and a Zoo tour. A fee of \$20 includes parking and Zoo admission. To register, call (414) 258-5058 or download the registration form at www.zoosociety.org/teacheredu.

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

Observing Animals at the Zoo: Behavior, a two-day University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee course for teachers (third grade through high school) will be held April 13 and 14 at the Zoo. The course, run by the Zoological Society, focuses on animal behavior and how scientists observe animals. It runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Included are tours, discussions and activities to help teachers develop study units. This one-credit course can be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255 for fees and registration.

Be a Zoo Insider

Behind the Scenes Weekend

**March 9 & 10, 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.,
Milwaukee County Zoo**

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID. Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

Call (414) 256-5466 for information.

Everyone who loves the Zoo's trains will love this March event when they can go behind the scenes at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This is the one time a year when you can visit the Train Shop and learn how the Zoo's charming steam engines and robust diesel engines are maintained. The Train Shop is near the Zoo's three greenhouses at the south end of the Zoo. Meanwhile, in the central part of the Zoo, you can discover where warm-weather animals go during winter, a place called Winter Quarters. Many other Zoo areas will also be open! Members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary, will guide tours and answer questions.



Quinn Prost and his 3-year-old son, Reid, of Menomonee Falls, sit in a train engine at a previous event.

Bunny Banquet

Breakfast and Lunch With the Bunny

Sponsored by Racine Danish Krinkles

March 23 & 24, Milwaukee County Zoo

\$15 per child or adult; \$7 for children 2 & under
Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

Registration required. We encourage you to register
at www.milwaukeezoo.org starting Feb. 18.

Or, call (414) 256-5466.

Have you ever wanted to dine with an over-size rabbit? Then bounce your bunny tail over to the Milwaukee County Zoo for a morning meal or lunchtime munch with the Bunny! This pre-holiday celebration includes Zoo admission, live music, a gift for each child, and, of course, a hearty meal that includes sweet kringle treats. Breakfast is served at 9 a.m. on March 23 only, but lunch can be enjoyed at noon on either day. When your tummy is full, see how big baby Bactrian camel Addi Jean has grown and check out our two new female gorillas, Naku and Shalia.



Lauren Polmatier, 3, of New Berlin, dons bunny ears during breakfast at the Zoo last year.

Candy & Cottontails

Egg Day

Sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save

March 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Milwaukee County Zoo

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID. Others: \$11.75 adults; \$10.25 ages 60 and over and \$8.75 ages 3-12; ages 2 & under, free.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

Call (414) 256-5466 for details.

Here comes the most famous cottontail, hopping through the Milwaukee County Zoo on the day before Easter. Put a spring in your step and join the Zoo's bunny for the Zoo's annual early spring celebration, including the parade. Bunny-hop over to the Primates of the World building to get bunny ears. Hop a little farther to add whiskers and a bunny nose in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building. Kids ages 8 and under can take their baskets to the Hop-to-it Bunny Scavenger Hunt from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They hunt for tokens to exchange for treats (with tokens, younger children get a chance at prizes). Then see Zoo animals get treats of their own! An expert "bubbleologist" will make whimsical bubble art at several shows in the Zoo's entrance atrium. At 2 p.m., shake your cottontail with the Bunny and his friends in a musical parade that starts at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm.



The Easter Bunny leads a parade of zoogoers in 2012.

Special Offer: Get a free carousel ride with a Welch's purchase. See www.zoopass.com for details.

Zoo After Hours

Zootastic

(A night of animals, music and fun)

April 26, 2013, 5-9 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo

\$75 per family of four. Individual fees: \$15 children 12 and under, \$25 ages 13+. Your fee, less \$10 per person, is tax-deductible.

Register online at zoosociety.org/Zootastic or call (414) 258-2333 by April 13.

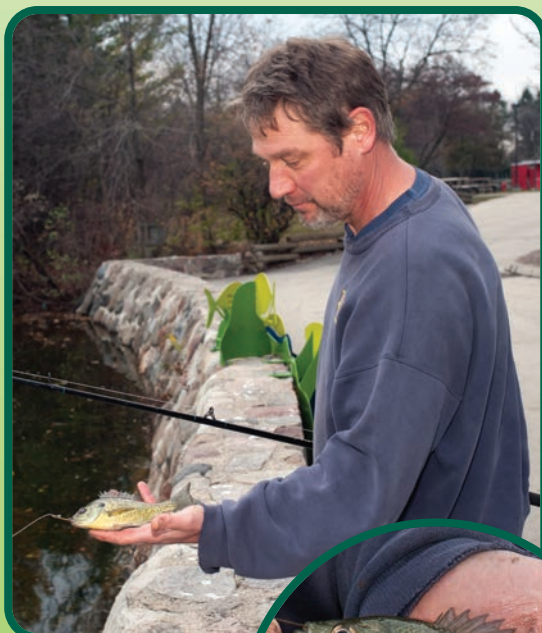
You must pre-register; fees are not refundable.

Want to be part of a fantastic after-hours Zoo party? Then grab your family and R.S.V.P. for this year's Zootastic for a night of animals, food and fun! At this fundraiser, you'll get exclusive, insider facts from Zoo staff and volunteers. Prowl over to see big cats like lions, Amur tigers and the cute jaguar cubs. Show off your creative side while making animal-themed crafts. Fill your tummy with cheesy Palermo's® Pizza, an ice cream sundae bar and more. Then shake, shimmy and twirl your way across the dance floor to a kid-friendly DJ. All guests under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Furry new friend: Katie Scanlan, 4, of Milwaukee, touches a tarantula at last year's event.

FISHING FOR SAVINGS



Zookeeper Chris Fendos holds a bluegill caught at the Zoo.



When you visit Lake Wisconsin at the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center, take note of the bluegills. These common fish are actually quite special. That's because they're fished out of Lake Evinrude at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Fishing is prohibited on all lakes and ponds at the Zoo. There is one exception. Twice a year Zoo staff fish for bluegills. Then they add these fish to the Zoo's Lake Wisconsin Exhibit. Catching bluegills at the Zoo is cheaper and safer than importing them from an outside source. "There is a disease called viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)," says Craig Berg, aquarium and reptile curator. "It's infectious and deadly; so we don't transfer fishes from one place to another." VHS-free, certified fish hatcheries sell bluegills for \$20 per fish. But Lake Evinrude does not have the VHS disease. So it's a free source of exhibit-quality fish. Berg says he's saved thousands of dollars this way. Fishing usually occurs in spring and fall. Perhaps you're wondering why the exhibit is stocked with "pan fish" twice a year? The goal is to exhibit native Wisconsin fish, but Berg adds: "They can get eaten by the northern pike and muskies." In the wild, big fish eat little fish. The age-old food cycle happens in Lake Wisconsin, too.

By Zak Mazur

'Arctic Ambassador' Is Born



Photo provided by Emily Nettlesheim

Emily Nettlesheim stands next to a bear trap.

Amanda Ista of the Milwaukee County Zoo, and MaryLynn Conter Strack, enrichment program coordinator for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). Both the Zoo and ZSM funded the trip. Emily joined 14 other teens from the U.S., Canada and Australia. "Emily had to do a presentation on why she should be an Arctic Ambassador," says Conter Strack. "She was chosen because of her ability to communicate thoughts and ideas, her leadership experiences, and her passion." Emily has been a Zoo Pride volunteer for almost two years. She says her experiences in the ZSM's volunteer auxiliary helped prepare her for the competitive selection committee. "In Zoo Pride you speak to the public about animals," she says. "It helped me get comfortable with public speaking."

Seeing polar bears in the wild was exciting but also sobering for the teen. "It really hit home that their habitat is disappearing because of global warming," Emily says. Many scientists say global warming is caused by human-produced carbon emissions. As Emily explains it, "The emissions cause a blanket effect on Earth, trapping heat and causing temperatures to rise." Rising temperatures affect the Arctic, where polar bears live. Polar bears need pack ice for hunting ringed seals. But the ice is melting earlier each summer and freezing later each winter. Polar bears fast during the summer, and now their fast is longer. "They're basically starving," says Emily.

All is not lost. There are ways you can help. "Reduce your carbon footprint and turn off lights, turn down the thermostat a couple degrees. Walk more and drive less," Emily says. Since her return, Emily has become a true Arctic ambassador: "I'm more outspoken about getting people to be more eco-friendly." Recently she saw a friend at school toss an aluminum can into the regular garbage bin. "I asked her to take it out and showed her where the recycling bin was."

By Zak Mazur

Join Zoo Pride

Get started in Zoo Pride with Level I spring training. The two required sessions give you Zoo basics and allow you to join up to six of Zoo Pride's numerous committees. Level I sessions run: March 20 at 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. AND March 23 at 8:30 a.m. Level II sessions (on four days) run April 3 at 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. AND April 6 at 8:30 a.m.; April 10 at 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. AND April 13 at 9 a.m. Training level II includes Zoo tours and offers more opportunities for volunteering. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.



Photo provided by Emily Nettlesheim

A polar bear in Manitoba sniffs the air.

A TRIP TO GLOW ABOUT

**Early Spring Trip to
Chicago's Field Museum**
Saturday, March 9, 2013; 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Cost: \$60 per person ages 12-64;

\$55 for seniors ages 65 and up and
children 11 and under.

Register online at zoosociety.org/museum,
call (414) 258-2333, or send in
form below.

The flicker of a firefly floating on a
summer evening breeze. The flash
of a fish in the icy ocean depths.
Animals that glow are called biolumi-
nescent. They can generate their own
light. And they're found throughout
the world. Learn about these dazzling
animals at **Creatures of Light**, a special
traveling exhibit opening in March at
Chicago's Field Museum. Register now
for the Zoological Society's early spring
field trip to the museum. If you prefer

fashion to glowing animals, the museum also has a special exhibit of eccentric clothing by
Maria Pinto, a Chicago fashion designer. She chose objects at the museum to inspire her de-
signs. Another special exhibit, **Images of the Afterlife**, brings you face to face with ancient
Egyptian mummies from Field Museum collections. The museum also has 35 permanent exhibits
such as Sue, the largest and most complete *T. rex* dinosaur fossil ever found. When you get hun-
gry, stop at the Field Museum's Corner Bakery on the north side of the main level. McDonald's
is also available, on the south end of the ground level.

Your fee includes an All Access Pass (basic admission to the museum, entrance to the special and permanent exhibits
plus the 3-D movie) and a continental breakfast at the Flamingo Café in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Your fee also
includes 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 products). Registration starts
at 8 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo; we leave at 9 a.m. We depart from Chicago at 4:30 p.m. and return to the Zoo
around 7 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. Space is limited.



*Male ponyfish beckon to females with a special pattern
of flashing light. The source of the light is a ring of tissue
around the male's throat that is packed with bioluminescent
bacteria. Internal structures channel the light to clear patches
on the fish's flanks, where it shines out so females can pick
up the signal.*

©AMNH/D. Finnin

CHICAGO'S FIELD MUSEUM TRIP, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2013

Name(s) of Traveler(s) _____

Zoological Society Membership No. _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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

If you wish to travel on the same motor coach with a person who is sending in a separate reservation,
please indicate the name _____

Please indicate any special needs: _____

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$60/per person ages 12-64; _____ spaces at \$55/per person
ages 11 and under; and _____ spaces at \$55/per person ages 65 and up. **Total amount \$** _____

Credit Card: Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Acct. No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____ (Last 3 digits in signature area on back of credit card)

Signature _____ Print Name _____
as it appears on credit card

Check: Make payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** and mail this order form with payment to:
Chicago Trip, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

Space is limited. **Cancellations through Feb. 20, 2013, are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee.** Cancellations
after Feb. 20, 2013, 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.

ANNUAL APPEAL

Virtual Zoo for You

What do the animals do when you're not at the Milwaukee County Zoo? You can find out wherever there's an Internet connection. Yep, we're rolling out Web cams in more indoor and outdoor areas at the Zoo this year. A must-see are the two jaguar cubs born Nov. 13. The Zoo Web site already has a camera in their behind-the-scenes area. Jaguar mom Stella was a "cover girl" on *Alive* magazine. Their famous dad Pat the Cat has a book about his capture by ranchers in Belize, his rescue and his journey to Milwaukee. Now the popular couple has started a family. As a wild-born jaguar, Pat's genes are critical for the health of the North American captive jaguar population. Enjoy these cute cubs as they grow.

Donors of \$100 or more to the Zoological Society's 2013 Annual Appeal get early access to the new Web cams as they go live this year. You'll see the jaguar outdoor yard (Pat the Cat goes out in winter if it's above freezing), polar bears Snow Lilly and Willhelm, North American black bears Cinnamon and Dakota, and elephants Ruth and Brittany. Animals that already have Web cams, thanks to last year's Annual Appeal, are the lions, tigers, orangutans (two cams), and all three of the Zoo's species of penguins: gentoos and rockhoppers in a shared indoor exhibit, and the Humboldts in their outdoor exhibit. A Web cam under water inside the Zoo's Lake Wisconsin Exhibit went live in December and is available just to 2012 Annual Appeal donors of \$100 or more until February. Donors to the 2013 Annual Appeal get various benefits: Donors of \$75-\$249 have their names listed on a sign; donors of \$250-\$499 receive larger recognition on a sign; donors of \$500-\$999 receive individualized recognition; donors of \$1,000 or more receive larger, individualized recognition; and donors of \$2,500 receive individualized recognition on a bench to be placed in the Zoo.



Top to bottom: Ruth the elephant eats pumpkin; Cinnamon is a red-tinged American black bear; jaguar Pat the Cat is a new dad.



Donate here!

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

Let's Go to LAMBEAU!

Field trip tour of Lambeau Field and the Packers Hall of Fame

Saturday, April 20, 2013; 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Cost: \$60 per person.

Register online at zoosociety.org/lambeau, call (414) 258-2333, or send in form below.

Okay, Packers fans, listen up: we're heading to the "Frozen Tundra"—that's Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Just think—you can see over 80 years of Packers history. The Packers Hall of Fame has about 80 exhibits, including all four Super Bowl trophies and a re-creation of Vince Lombardi's office. Walk through the players' tunnel and get a Packers perspective of what it's like when they stomp into the stadium. We'll take a 1½-mile, behind-the-scenes walking tour. The Packers Pro shop will also be open for you to peruse or purchase Packers paraphernalia.

Cost is \$60. Fee includes a continental breakfast at the Flamingo Café in the Zoo's entrance plaza and a catered lunch at the Hall of Fame. Your fee also covers 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 products). Registration starts at 7 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo; we leave at 8 a.m. We depart Green Bay at 4:30 p.m. and return to the Zoo around 6:30 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. Space is limited.



stock photo

GREEN BAY PACKERS HALL OF FAME & LAMBEAU FIELD TOUR, APRIL 20, 2013

Name(s) of Traveler(s) _____

Zoological Society Membership No. _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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

If you wish to travel on the same motor coach with a person who is sending in a separate reservation, please indicate the name _____

Please indicate any special needs: _____

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$60/per person. **Total amount \$** _____

Credit Card: Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Acct. No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____ (Last 3 digits in signature area on back of credit card)

Signature _____ Print Name _____
as it appears on credit card

Check: Make payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** and mail this order form with payment to:
Lambeau Trip, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

Space is limited. **Cancellations through April 5, 2013, are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee.** Cancellations after April 5, 2013, 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.

Hippo Fami

Have you noticed that the Milwaukee County Zoo's two female hippos—Patti and Puddles—are never in the same enclosure as Happy, the male hippo. Why? Because if Happy were to join the female hippos, there might be a 50- to 120-pound bundle of baby hippo joy eight months later. And there's no space for a baby, yet. Shortly after Happy came to the Zoo in September 2009, notes pachyderm zookeeper Erin Dowgwillo, "we put the girls on birth control because we...can't take any chances." Determining if the birth control is reliable, however, is a long process. In the meantime, Happy can get quite close to Patti and Puddles, but there's always a separation barrier. The goal is to get all three hippos together because hippos in the wild live in groups (also known as pods, sieges, rafts or bloats). It could be a few years, however, before an expanded hippo exhibit is built.

So, how do you know if the birth control is working? Answer: endocrinology testing. Specifically, you test a hippo's levels of progesterone, the hormone that stimulates the uterus for pregnancy. Luckily, Dowgwillo has experience with pachyderm endocrinology. She learned how to use endocrinology field test kits during a Zoological Society of Milwaukee-funded research trip to South Africa's Addo Elephant National Park in fall 2009. There, she studied elephant and rhinoceros reproduction. Dowgwillo realized she could apply what she learned in Africa to the Zoo's hippos. The Zoo was already sending specimens to an outside lab for hormone testing. Dowgwillo figured she could do it faster and cheaper at the Zoo. The labs test for exact progesterone levels. Field test kits measure a range of progesterone levels. Still, it's possible to determine if the birth control is working using field test kits. In January 2011, the Zoo hired Tim Wild as the new curator of large mammals. Dowgwillo approached him with the idea of using field test kits and setting up a small lab at the pachyderm building. He was enthusiastic.



Erin Dowgwillo places a hippo stool sample into a plastic bag.

ly Planning

Obtaining samples of progesterone is simple and the hippos provide plenty of testable material. Yep—you can determine progesterone levels from hippo manure. “We separate the girls every Monday and Friday and collect samples,” says Dowgwillo. Data on who the poo belonged to and when it was collected is recorded. The samples are put in test tubes, weighed and then frozen. Once 25 to 30 samples are collected, Dowgwillo takes them to her makeshift lab in the Pachyderm East building. She thaws the test tubes, adds ethanol and shakes them up. Then the test tubes are spun in a centrifuge at high speed for 20 minutes, separating feces from liquid. “The liquid has the hormones,” says Dowgwillo. Finally, she adds various chemicals to the liquid, places the mixtures into wells in the plastic test kit, and waits for them to turn a blue hue. “Dark blue means progesterone levels are low, which is what we want.”

The liquid birth control—MGA, a progesterone-like substance—is squirted into the hippos’ mouths. But, remember, the girls were put on birth control right after Happy arrived. So, Dowgwillo didn’t have a normal progesterone baseline to test against. She remedied that by collecting data from hippos at other facilities.

“We realized we needed to increase their birth control doses,” she says. After three months, testing was resumed. “Our data indicated the birth control was working, but we still needed to get the samples validated at a lab,” she says. That was accomplished last June, and the birth control proved to be working. Now Dowgwillo could interpret the data at the Zoo with confidence and sufficient accuracy. Test results no longer had to be sent to an outside lab. “We will only send them to a lab if we get questionable data,” she says.



Happy



Dowgwillo places test tubes in a centrifuge in her makeshift lab.

Wild says Dowgwillo’s achievement is significant. “Using field testing kits on [captive] hippos has never been done before. Doing your own hormone testing saves a lot of money and gives you more control over your own breeding program.” He also says there are plans for expanding the hippo exhibit, but they depend on funding. Dowgwillo says her success with the field kits means other animals at the Zoo could be similarly tested. In fact, her work is so groundbreaking that she hopes to write an academic paper with a colleague from the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. Wild says he “expects that other zoos will find the field-testing kits and the information gained on this particular method of birth control to be valuable in the management of their own hippos.”

By Zak Mazur

HELPING HANDS



Photo by Rick Heinlein

Ciera Glenn, of Milwaukee, watches the polar bears with daughter Sanijah, 9 months.

Free Days for Family Fun

Exotic animals, good weather and free admission proved to be a winning combination for the Milwaukee County Zoo's six 2012 Family Free Days. More than 75,000 zoogoers attended one of the free-admission Saturdays courtesy of **North Shore Bank** and **FOX 6**. April 14's 50-degrees Family Free Day even drew a record attendance of more than 36,850 people. With a warmer-than-usual winter in 2012, zoogoers at Family Free Days saw many animals enjoying the sunshine in their outdoor exhibits,

including the Zoo's elephants, giraffes, polar bears and hippos. Cooler days brought guests to the Zoo's indoor buildings to see the bonobos playing and climbing in their exhibit, or the otters splashing in their pool. When weather was good, the North Shore Bank Safari Train took visitors on a winding rail tour of the Zoo. Visit www.zoosociety.org for 2013 Family Free Days, which are also sponsored by **North Shore Bank** and **FOX 6**.

Beer and Big Cats

An evening brimming with frosty brews, fun snacks and some furry felines attracted a sold-out crowd to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Zoo Brew event on Oct. 25. More than 20 breweries filled up the 655 guests' tasting mugs; mugs were sponsored by **MillerCoors**. Pork and chicken sandwiches, savory soup samples and bite-sized cake pops complemented the beer selections. Zoogoers were shuttled to the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country to see the Zoo's lions lounge and tigers pace while sampling more beer and food. Food trucks were there offering outdoor food samples. VIP ticket holders were admitted to the brew-fest an hour early and could enter to win a private behind-the-scenes Zoo tour. The fundraiser supported the Zoological Society's 2012-2013 annual appeal to install Web cams at the Zoo.

Helen Boomsma, of Wauwatosa, and Craig Bennett, of Milwaukee, enjoy beer samples at Zoo Brew.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller



(Above) Janiah Sams, 6, receives candy from Sendik's employee Brianna Ramus, of New Berlin. (Right) Vanshika Thakur, 4, of New Berlin, shows off her pirate costume.

Tricks & Treats at the Zoo

Costumed volunteers, spookily decorated grounds and dozens of jack-'o'-lanterns filled the Milwaukee County Zoo with Halloween spirit during the last two weekends of October. **Sendik's Food Markets** sponsored the weekend Halloween events, which also featured eerie train rides, a pirate show, and an indoor haystack maze. Boo at the Zoo kicked off the Halloween festivities on Oct. 19 and 20 with bat-themed zookeeper talks and bat-ear crafts. Nearly 9,300 people attended the event. Cool weather during Halloween Spooktacular brought more than 15,610 bundled-up and costumed guests to the Zoo on Oct. 26 and 27. Zoogoers trick-or-treated at candy stops throughout the Zoo, watched Zoo animals receive pumpkin treats, and marched in a costume parade.

Jolly Holiday Meal, Festive Trees

Santa and Mrs. Claus took a break from the North Pole to join kids for some merry meals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Breakfast and Lunch with Santa, sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringsles**, was held the weekends of Dec. 1-2, 8-9 and 15-16. Lunch was served on Saturdays and Sundays, while breakfast was available only on Saturdays. The meals drew about 2,300 guests. Participants could enjoy sweet iced kringle with their meals, sing holiday carols, and meet Santa and his Mrs., who gave each child a special gift. Afterward, zoogoers could continue the holiday cheer by touring a festive forest donated by **Hawks Nursery** in the Zoo's entrance atrium. Milwaukee-area youth groups decorated the 63 evergreens with hand-crafted ornaments during the Zoological Society's Trim-a-Tree event on Nov. 27, 29, and 30.



Sierra Zoromski, 2, of Slinger, enjoys a holiday breakfast at the Zoo.

insider tips

A New 'Roo in Town

If you want the mob to grow in numbers, you need new blood—the type that doesn't shy from taking care of business. Luckily, the red kangaroo mob (a group of kangaroos is called a mob) at the Milwaukee County Zoo will benefit from such a personality in Wileroo. He's a 2-year-old male red kangaroo that arrived last October from the Kansas City Zoo. Although the 60 pounder has not yet reached his adult weight of up to 200 pounds, the frisky fellow is already showing interest in the Zoo's three mature female red kangaroos. "We definitely brought him here to mate," says zookeeper Kim Pankonien. Although an adolescent, Wileroo's old enough to sire joeys. He's also become mates—in the Australian sense of the word—with Ace, the neutered adult male kangaroo. The Zoo's five red kangaroos make a smaller mob than zookeepers prefer; but growing the gang shouldn't be difficult. Red kangaroos are a fertile, rugged species. "Female red kangaroos can breed year-round," says Pankonien. "When a joey reaches the pouch and starts suckling, the mother becomes fertile again." If an egg is fertilized, its development is temporarily halted—called embryonic diapause—until the joey in pouch finishes suckling and leaves the pouch. "They can have three generations at a time," says Pankonien: one in diapause, one suckling in the pouch and a young adolescent at foot by Mom's side.



Wileroo investigates his new home.

By Zak Mazur

Spot that Turtle

What do spotted turtles and people have in common? We both tend to get more spots as we age. For people, the spots are the result of sun exposure. For spotted turtles, they serve as camouflage. "Round, solid black objects are rare in nature," explains Craig Berg, aquarium and reptile curator. "When the turtles are small, they're harder to see and need fewer spots. As they age and grow, spots help break up their silhouette." During their long lives—up to 50 years—some spotted turtles become heavily speckled with yellow spots. Yet curiously others grow only a few spots. The palm-size turtles are found in the eastern United States, Michigan and across northern Illinois just shy of the Wisconsin border. "Their preferred habitats are bogs and wetlands," says Berg. Unfortunately, those types of habitats are stressed by pollution, drained for urban sprawl or used for agriculture. As a result, spotted turtles are listed as threatened in many states and endangered in Indiana and Canada. Other than humans, their greatest threats are

animals that can break through their hard shells. You can spot these spotted turtles at the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center. You'll find them in the last exhibit near the exit, across from the African Lakes exhibit.

By Zak Mazur



On the Zoo's young spotted turtles you can see spots on the head and some developing on the carapace (top shell).

Funding Charitable Bequests From IRAs

When a person sits down to do an estate plan, an important part of the process is “who gets what.” Some assets may be more desirable than others. Individual Retirement Account (IRA) assets may not be as good as a CD or a mutual fund outside of an IRA. Why? Because money taken out of a traditional IRA account is taxable income. When I receive a dollar of IRA distribution, I lose 38 cents of the dollar in taxes (state and federal) and net only 62 cents from my \$1.00. So if I had a choice, I would rather take the \$1.00 of a CD or mutual fund than 62 cents of an IRA. However, if the donor made a planned gift of an IRA to a charity, there would be no tax at the time of death. An officially recognized charity (a non-profit with 501c(3) status), such as the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM), gets to keep the full value of assets in an IRA. In a sense, the government is matching a portion of the donor’s gift by giving the charity the tax it did not collect. So if money is going to a charity, it is best to give the charity the taxable dollars. This in turn frees up more non-taxable dollars for the children or other heirs.

While it is not hard to add a charity or two to an IRA beneficiary designation, most people who make charitable contributions have more than one or two organizations they would like to help; sometimes a dozen. Often they would like to place a condition on the gift such as the contribution should be used to support a specific conservation program. In this case, it is often easier to set aside a dollar amount, or a percentage of the IRA assets, and then simply make the funds payable to a charitable distribution trust (CDT). A CDT is a separate trust (or part of the Revocable Trust used to avoid probate), and its only function is to collect IRA assets and distribute them to charity. These are the advantages of a CDT:

- Only one charitable beneficiary appears on the IRA beneficiary designation,
- Your trustee, not the charity, controls the timing of the distribution of the IRA assets,
- Your trustee can enforce any special conditions you desire,
- The disposition of the non-charitable share of the IRA is not held up by the charitable distributions, and
- Your trustee can ensure that the charitable bequests are paid out in time to allow non-charitable beneficiaries (your children or heirs) to stretch out the distribution of the remaining IRA assets over their lifetime, maximizing the deferral of income taxes.

By John T. Bannen, a partner at the Milwaukee Law Firm of Quarles & Brady LLP who specializes in estate planning and related tax matters

Planned Giving—Simba Circle

The Simba Circle was formed by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee to recognize and thank those special people who have remembered the Society with a planned or deferred gift. When you make this type of gift, you create a legacy of support that will ensure that the Zoological Society can continue to carry out its mission to support the Milwaukee County Zoo, educate the public and conserve wildlife for generations to come. By informing us that you’ve named the Zoological Society as a beneficiary of your will or other legacy gift, you will become part of the Simba Circle. For more information, please contact Kim Peterson in the Development office at (414) 258-2333, ext. 310, or e-mail simba@zoosociety.org.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Details Inside

Jan. 5, Feb 2, March 2, April 6

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

Jan. 20

Samson Stomp & Romp for the Zoo, sponsored by Amica Insurance, 8 a.m. registration. For details, call (414) 771-3040.

Jan. 24

Puttin' on the Ritz gourmet dinner and boxing fundraiser for the ZSM at Potawatomi Bingo Casino. For details, call Special Events, (414) 258-2333.

Feb 1-May 24

ZSM education classes for children ages 2-14 and families.

Feb. 2

Beastly Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser for the ZSM.

Feb. 2

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

Feb. 6

Online registration for ZSM Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices.

Feb. 7

Wines and Beers of the World, ZSM fundraiser at the Zoo, 7-10 p.m.; call (414) 258-2333. Pre-register.

Feb. 23

Zoological Society (ZSM) Kids Conservation Club workshop, 10 a.m.-noon.

March 9

ZSM Field Trip to Chicago's Field Museum. Pre-register.

March 9 & 10

Behind the Scenes Weekend at the Zoo, 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.*

March 20 & 23

Zoo Pride Training Level I. Call (414) 258-5667.

March 23 & 24

Breakfast (March 23 only) and Lunch with the Bunny, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringsles. Pre-register.

March 30

Egg Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*

April 3, 6, 10 & 13

Zoo Pride Training Level II. Call (414) 258-5667.

April 20

ZSM Field Trip to Lambeau Field. Pre-register.

April 26

Zootastic at the Milwaukee County Zoo, 5-9 p.m. Pre-register.†

May 12

Mother's Day at the Zoo.**

May 18 & 19

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

May 20

Snooze at the Zoo online registration for ZSM members begins. See zoosociety.org for details.†

May 25

Zoo's summer season begins and its special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, opens.

*Zoological Society members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one car per membership per day.

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

