

# Wild Things

## Zumba® for You & Animals

### Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

Feb. 27, 6-8 p.m.; check in at 5 p.m.

Entry fee: \$20 per person if registered by Feb. 25; \$25 at the door (if event doesn't fill prior); open to ages 14 and up. No experience or dance training needed. All fitness levels welcome.

Event takes place in the Peck Welcome Center.

Pre-register at [zoosociety.org/Zumba](http://zoosociety.org/Zumba), or call 414-258-2333.

What can you do to benefit yourself and the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo? You can participate in the third annual Zumba® Fitness Party fundraiser at the Zoo! You'll enjoy healthy exercise and feel good knowing you're also helping the Zoo's animals. It's a win-win situation! This fun-and-fitness event is led by Zumba Jammer™ Rachel Beigel and other licensed Zumba® instructors. It focuses on cardiovascular strength through easy-to-follow choreography set to upbeat world rhythms. Money raised benefits the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Remember to try your luck at a raffle to win a Zoo Pass membership or animal sponsorship.



*Zumba Jammer™  
Rachel Beigel  
gets the crowd  
sweating.*

Photo by Richard Taylor

## Good Wines and Good Times

### Wines and Beers of the World

March 3, 7-9:30 p.m. (VIP admission at 6 p.m.)

Regular tickets\*: \$50 Zoo Pass members & guests;  
\$60 non-members; \$20 designated drivers.

VIP tickets\*\*: \$60 Zoo Pass members & guests;  
\$70 non-members; \$30 designated drivers.

Pre-register at [zoosociety.org/Wines](http://zoosociety.org/Wines) or at 414-258-2333.

Wine can be paired with many types of food. But at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Wines and Beers of the World event, we "pair" wines with primates! This is the only wine-and-primates event that benefits the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Guests can sample wines, beers and savory foods while strolling through the Stearns Family Apes of Africa & Primates of the World buildings. To see a list of vendors, go to [zoosociety.org/Wines](http://zoosociety.org/Wines). Register now for this evening event because it sells out quickly. You must be at least 21 years old to attend.



*Yazmene Thomas, of Milwaukee, enjoys a glass of red wine at a previous year's event.*

Photo by Richard Taylor

\*Zoo Pass 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 (\$20 for regular designated driver ticket is not tax-deductible) and includes a complimentary etched wine glass (5.6 percent WI sales tax included). You must pre-register and you should do so early — event usually sells out. 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. Discounts for larger purchases: 5 percent off for 6 to 11 bottles; 10 percent off for 12 or more. A percentage of all wine sales benefit the Zoological Society's Annual Appeal to give the Colobus monkeys access to an outside yard.

### Connect With Us:

- [facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)
- [twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE)
- Milwaukee Zoo Pass App
- [instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://www.instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE)
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# Fun, Hands-on Zoo Classes

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

## A Zookeeper's perspective

Often the highlight of a Zoo Class or Camp is getting a chance to speak to a zookeeper. Rhonda Crenshaw, Zoo area supervisor for small mammals, is one of the keepers who regularly gives talks for Zoo Classes. "I think giving talks to young children helps them start to develop empathy for animals," she says. "They see them up close and it becomes more personal. Hopefully one day they'll want to help animals that are struggling in the wild." The Small Mammals Building is home to vampire and fruit bats. Because many people are afraid of bats, Crenshaw gives bat talks. "When I give talks the parents and kids are always amazed at how friendly and tolerant the bats are," she says. "Seeing the fruit bat's cute face usually takes away any fear they may have had. The bats are demystified and seem like any other animal." Crenshaw knows firsthand how much children learn from Zoo Classes, which is why her own children have attended them as well. "My boys have come to Zoo Classes since they were 3," she says. "They have a natural love for animals, but Zoo Classes teach them on a deeper level. They learn more about a wider variety of animals than I could teach them as a zookeeper!"



## Memberanda

We value your relationship with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The Zoological Society does not sell member/donor information to third parties, but may share limited information with the Milwaukee County Zoo for the purpose of confirming membership status.

**Zoological Society office hours:** Through April: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Zoo hours:** Through Feb. 29, 2016: Weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Weekends, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. March 1-May 22, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Tax Tips:** For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please see Tax Tips at [zoosociety.org/Membership/Things2Know.php](http://zoosociety.org/Membership/Things2Know.php)

**Tax-deductible portions for the Zoo Pass categories are:** Individual (Basic: \$60, Plus: \$71), Individual +1 or Couple (Basic: \$70, Plus: \$80), Individual +2, Family and Single Adult Family (Basic: \$75, Plus: \$95), Family +1 (Basic \$94, Plus: \$104), Family +2 (Basic: \$101, Plus: \$113), Family +3 (Basic: \$117, Plus: \$126), Affiliate (Basic: \$154, Plus: \$157), Benefactor (Basic: \$218, Plus: \$220). Or set up a MyAccount and view the tax-deductible portion of all your contributions for the tax year at [zoosociety.org/MyAccount](http://zoosociety.org/MyAccount).

**Reciprocal Zoos and Aquariums:** We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our members with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in January each year. We only reciprocate with AZA accredited

facilities and reserve the right to not reciprocate with zoos and aquariums located within close proximity of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Please be sure to contact our offices prior to your travels at 414-258-2333, or visit [zoosociety.org/Membership/Reciprocal.php](http://zoosociety.org/Membership/Reciprocal.php), if you have any questions.

**Moving?** Please call us when you change your address or name. The call saves us money because when the post office returns your mail with a forwarding address, we pay twice for mailing: to the old address and the new. If you've changed your address on your identification, replacement cards may be purchased with the new information for \$5.

### WILD THINGS

Issue No. 122, January-March 2016

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

## Spring Zoo Classes

There is still time to register for Spring Zoo Classes! Children ages 6-10 can practice cracking open a “nut” with a rock like a chimpanzee in the “Primate Explorers” class. Your whole family can go behind the scenes and practice zookeeper jobs in the “Family Zookeeper” class. Check out all of our classes from Stroller Safaris for infants to “Zoo Photography” for adults at [zoosociety.org/Education](http://zoosociety.org/Education).

## “Zoo to You” School Programs

Teachers, bring the Zoo to you! Education programs are available at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. Register now for January-May 2016 programs.

## Summer Internship Opportunities

Do you know a college student who loves working with children? We are now accepting resumes for education interns for our 2016 Zoo Summer Camps. Interns assist instructors in the classroom, lead Zoo tours and supervise high school volunteers. For requirements go to [zoosociety.org/About/Employment](http://zoosociety.org/About/Employment).

## UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

“Fit for Survival: Animal Habitats and Adaptations” takes place March 5 and 6, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Learn techniques to develop study units and how to use the Zoo as a teaching resource. Call UWM Outreach at 414-229-5255 for more information and to register.

## Workshop for Early-Childhood Educators

“Bears” is a three-hour workshop on Saturday, April 23, 2016, for early-childhood educators. Learn how to incorporate a unit about bears in your own classroom. Workshop includes animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a guided tour to see the bears at the Zoo. Workshop content is mainly for educators of ages 2-5. To register, call 414-258-5058 or visit [zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu](http://zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu).

◀ *Starbuck the fruit bat spreads his wings in front of Nathaniel, 3, and his mother, Barbara, of Menomonee Falls and Vivian, 3, and her mother, Mimi, from Franklin.*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

[zoosociety.org/Education](http://zoosociety.org/Education)

# New View of the Zoo

## Zootastic

Sponsored by *Grow Hope @ SaintA*

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

**Members:** \$75 family of four. **Individual fees:** \$15 children under 12; \$25 ages 13+.

**Non-members:** \$80 per family of four.

**Individual fees:** \$20 children under 12; \$30 ages 13+.

Your fee, less \$10 per person, is tax-deductible.

Registration is limited and fills up fast. Register online at [zoosociety.org/Zootastic](http://zoosociety.org/Zootastic) or call 414-258-2333 by April 28.

You must pre-register; fees are not refundable.

If you want to see the Milwaukee County Zoo through a different lens, come to the Zoo on the evening of April 29 for a uniquely awesome **FUN**draiser filled with family-friendly activities. It's one of the only times when the Zoo stays open late so that YOU can ask zookeepers questions about some of your favorite animals. What's more, there will be a yummy dinner of cheesy Palermo's® Pizza and food from Noodles & Company. For dessert, make your own sundae at an ice cream sundae bar. Then bust some dance moves to a kid-friendly DJ. Finally, commemorate your night with a stop at the family photo station so you'll always remember the night you partied with the animals and helped raise funds on their behalf.



*Jayden S., 5, of Milwaukee, chomps on pizza for dinner a previous event.*

Photo by Richard Taylor

# COMPETING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

How do you get 489 children from pre-K to fifth grade to raise \$1,456.15 in five days? Have them compete to raise money to sponsor three animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo! That's what educators from Roosevelt Elementary School in Kenosha did recently. "We came up with this idea to get the kids involved in the community," says Sarah Taylor, a fifth grade teacher at the school. "The kids were really excited to compete." The competition ran from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. Children were encouraged to bring in small change to put in classroom donation jars. The class that raised the most money got to choose which animals to sponsor. The winning class chose gentoo penguin Fiona, rockhopper penguin Duncan and Happy the hippo.

Many of the classes at the school have incorporated these animals into their lesson plans. "We did a whole unit on the environment and researched those animals," says Taylor. "As an International Baccalaureate school, we want our students to have an international perspective on many topics, so it's nice that none of these animals is native to the United States." In addition to learning about the three animals, the students also learned an important lesson. "They learned they can make a difference and have a positive impact on their community."

*By Zak Mazur*



*From Left: Janae R., Rosa C. and Kyle N. — all 10 years old and in the fifth grade — show off the plush-toy versions of the animals sponsored by their school.*

Photo courtesy of Roosevelt Elementary School

## Behind Closed Doors



### Behind the Scenes Weekend

*Sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy*  
**March 12 & 13, 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.,  
Milwaukee County Zoo**

Free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with ID.  
Non-members: \$11.75 adults; \$8.75 ages 3-12;  
and \$10.25 ages 60 and over. Milwaukee  
County parking fee: \$12. Call 414-256-5466  
for information.

Maybe you've wondered what goes on behind the exhibits at the Milwaukee County Zoo? Or maybe you get so engrossed by the animals you never considered what happens behind the scenes? To keep the Zoo operating, a lot goes on in places where the public normally cannot go. On March 12 and 13, however, you'll get to see areas like Winter Quarters, where the Zoo's warm-weather animals stay during the cold months. You can also see what's growing in the Zoo's greenhouses and go behind the scenes in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Finally, visit the Commissary to find out what it takes to feed the Zoo's 3,122 animals.

*Charlie P., 7, of Saukville, rings the bell of one of the Zoo's train engines at last year's event. Photo by Richard Taylor*

# Nibbling with the Bunny

## Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny

Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles

**March 19 & 20, Milwaukee County Zoo**

\$20 per child (3 and up) or adult; \$6 for children 2 & under.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

Registration required. We encourage you to register online at [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) starting Feb. 15 or call 414-256-5466.

Bunnies like to nibble on carrots and other vegetables, but most people probably prefer to nibble on sweet kringle. On one of two days in March at the Milwaukee County Zoo, you can nibble on kringle like a bunny, and you'll also enjoy a visit from the Easter Bunny or Mrs. Easter Bunny! This pre-holiday celebration includes Zoo admission, live music, a gift for each child, and, of course, a hearty meal with sweet kringle. Breakfast is served at 9 a.m. on Saturday only, and lunch is served at noon on both days. After your meal in the Peck Welcome Center, head to the apes and primates exhibits, which you can reach through indoor corridors. Gorillas, bonobos, siamangs and Colobus monkeys are fun to watch.



*Aven D., 3, of Racine, enjoys kringle at last year's event.*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

# An Egg-cellent Time



*Mariah F., 4, and her sister, Rebecca, 5, of New Berlin, show off the Easter baskets they decorated at a previous event.* Photo by Richard Taylor

## Egg Day

Sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save

**March 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Milwaukee County Zoo**

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

Milwaukee County Zoo parking fee: \$12.

Call 414-256-5466 for details.

When the weather begins to warm up in late March, it's possible to glimpse bunny rabbits, but they are elusive. One rabbit that you can't miss is the giant bunny that will be at the Milwaukee County Zoo on March 26. Kids can meet the Easter Bunny and participate in the Hop-to-it Bunny Scavenger Hunt at 10 a.m. Kids 8 and under can search for special Easter-themed tokens and redeem them for treats. Check out which animals will receive egg-shaped enrichment toys to play with. Throughout the day you can visit the Primates of the World building and design a set of bunny ears. Then hop over to the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building to get a bunny nose and whiskers. Remember to visit the Aquatic & Reptile Center to color a paper egg to take home. At 2 p.m. you can march in the parade, which begins at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm.

# Tafari Giraffe T-Shirt

Zoo Pass members get a 20 percent discount on all purchases over \$20 until Feb. 29! Make sure to get your Tafari T-shirt today!



The Milwaukee County Zoo's baby giraffe, Tafari — whose name means "he who inspires awe" in Amharic, the primary language of Ethiopia — has been a favorite among zoogoers since he was born Sept. 16 to Mom Ziggy. If you're a Tafari fan, show your love for this doe-eyed, playful giraffe with a cool Tafari T-shirt. T-shirts are available at the Zoo's gift shop. Adult sizes range in price from \$21.99 to \$24.99; kid's shirts are \$19.99. In addition to the T-shirts, you can also purchase an 18-inch-tall plush-toy giraffe for only \$24.99. When you add the plush to any other purchase, the price is reduced to \$18.99.



Tafari  
Photo by Olga Kornienko

(Above) Adult T-shirt;  
(Below) Youth T-shirt

## Volunteering

### The Volunteer of Volunteers

Rachel Jones volunteers — a lot. "My friends think I'm crazy because I volunteer so much," says Jones. She is the only remaining charter member who is active in Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's volunteer auxiliary, which she helped found more than 40 years ago. All jokes aside, "crazy" certainly doesn't describe Jones. Accurate adjectives would be "dedicated," "giving" and "passionate." That's because in addition to the 4,900 hours she's contributed to Zoo Pride, Jones also volunteers with at least six other Wisconsin-based organizations, including the Economy Center, Salvation Army, Independence First, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, the Havenwoods State Forest and the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes). "I think they're worthwhile causes and I meet people I'd never otherwise meet," says Jones. But it's Zoo Pride that she's been involved with for the longest time, by far. Because of her decades of service, Jones was awarded the *Leontideus rosalia* award on Nov. 13 at the Zoo Pride Recognition Banquet. The award recognizes exemplary service to the Zoological Society in support of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Jones has also helped the Zoological Society financially by regularly contributing to Annual Appeals and as a member of the Platypus Circle, the group for high-end donors to the Society. "Rachel is willing to help out in any way she can and cares so much about the people she works with," says Lynn Wilding, the volunteer coordinator for Zoo Pride.



Photo by Richard Erdzeller

Rachel Jones

Jones says every animal at the Zoo is her favorite animal, and she's loved visiting the Zoo since she moved to Milwaukee in 1954 from Dorchester, a small town in northern Wisconsin. Back then the Zoo was located in Washington Park. She's witnessed the Zoo — and Zoo Pride — grow over the decades. "We started with 63 volunteers," says Jones. Today there are 561 active members. "The first couple of years, all we had was an information booth, a crude structure with no top over it." Jones says she's very impressed with how the Zoo and Zoo Pride have grown over the years. "It's really changed, and I know it will be even better in the future," she says.

By Zak Mazur

# Kohl's Wild Theater: Kid Tested, Educator Approved



*After being disturbed during her daytime rest, a tiger (played by Samantha Sostarich) teaches a noisy kid (played by Zach Woods) about the benefits of sleeping well. Photo by Bob Wickland*

## Kohl's Wild Theater Outreach Plays in the Community

*Kohl's Wild Theater continues to offer free performances at community events, festivals and schools year-round.*

Kohl's Wild Theater, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's live theater program, is very successful, especially with its outreach shows. This is proven by the fact that outreach performances are fully booked months in advance. But what makes these plays — which are made possible by a partnership between Kohl's Cares and the Zoological Society — so popular? Two educators give their opinions.

### **Michael Moore, principal at General Mitchell Elementary School in West Allis**

"We've had Kohl's Wild Theater come to our school three years in a row. I think what makes it such a successful program is the performers you send out. They are amazing. They truly understand children and how to present the information at a level that the

kids can comprehend. And they make it fun. The kids are engaged, and to get 150 third- and fourth-graders engaged for an hour is impressive. What's also impressive is that later on the kids can tell us about the messages they learned from the plays.

Another point: It's a challenge for schools to bring in engaging, educational entertainment that is free. It's very difficult — and sometimes impossible — to afford to have big assemblies come to schools. Our school is thankful to the Zoological Society and Kohl's Cares for creating this free program. And those actors — they are amazing and tireless!"

### **Janet L. Key, 3rd-grade teacher at Lowell Elementary School in Milwaukee**

"We've been so impressed with Kohl's Wild Theater. They've performed at our school five times now. At our school we have six themes we focus on throughout the school year. One of our themes this year is 'Who we are.' It's a general theme about where you came from, who you are and who you are going to be. We want to be healthy, which requires eating well, getting enough sleep and exercise. So when we had Kohl's Wild Theater perform 'The Healthy Habits Hullabaloo' play on Oct. 5, it fit nicely with our theme.

Another thing that's so great about the plays is that children of different ages get something out of them. Our school is K4 to fifth grade. The youngest kids can understand many of the messages and the older kids get the more sophisticated messaging. The plays also help kids who have different learning styles. So for kids who don't do as well learning from reading books, they can understand the messages by seeing the actors talk and hearing the music.

We really appreciate Kohl's Cares investing in our community. It provides the kids with a unique opportunity to see live theater that they otherwise wouldn't get to see. The actors are polite, professional and work well with the students."

## **Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to You**

Kohl's Wild Theater will travel to festivals, schools and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo, free of charge. Performances are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. To book a performance or check available dates, visit [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org) or contact Julie B. at the Zoological Society at 414-258-2333 or [KWT@zoosociety.org](mailto:KWT@zoosociety.org) for available dates.

# Zookeeper Profile



*Humboldt penguins gather around Carol Kagy as she feeds them.*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

## Kagy Keeps her Eyes on the Prize

Some people know exactly what they want to do and work toward their goal with single-minded determination. Carol Kagy, Zoo area supervisor at the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary, is that type of person. She wanted to become a zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo. She got her foot in the door in 1979 when she was hired as an attendant in the former Children's Zoo. When it looked like the Children's Zoo might close because of budget cuts, Kagy figured out other ways to stay employed at the Zoo. She became a switchboard operator and receptionist, provided administrative assistance to the Public Relations Coordinator for the Zoo, and worked as a secretary for the Animal Department before finally becoming a zookeeper in 1989. Throughout those years, Kagy was preparing herself to become a zookeeper by earning an associate of science degree at UW-Waukesha and bachelor of science degree in zoology at UW-Milwaukee. After she became a zookeeper, Kagy worked in many areas of the Zoo as a "rover." In 2008 she obtained her current post. We talked to Kagy to learn what it's like to be a zookeeper.

**Zoological Society:** You were a surrogate mother for two lowland gorillas. You also helped hand-raise and rear other non-avian species. In fact, you said you never chose a specific species to work with, yet you ended up working primarily with birds. That said, do you have a favorite bird species?

**Carol Kagy:** There are several species that have a special meaning to me. I helped develop a hand-rearing protocol for the Micronesian Guam kingfisher. I designed a nest structure for the blue-crowned motmot allowing the successful breeding of this species. I also hand-raised Humboldt penguin Houdini.

**Zoological Society:** You are often seen feeding the Humboldt penguins and answering questions from the public. What are the most commonly asked questions?

**Carol Kagy:** There are many questions, all pertaining to how we care for the penguins: What do they eat? What do the bands on their wings mean? Do we breed Humboldt penguins here? How do we pair them up?

**Zoological Society:** What is your favorite thing about being a zookeeper?

**Carol Kagy:** My favorite thing is probably talking with the public, taking the time to talk with young children, telling them something special about the animal in my care and seeing them show an interest in the animals and return year after year.

**Zoological Society:** What is your most memorable moment or experience at the Zoo?

**Carol Kagy:** There have been so many. The funniest was my first day at the Zoo, in the Children's Zoo. We opened early for Zoological Society members. I brought out the miniature horses. When I was in the exhibit with them, a gentleman climbed the fence and entered the enclosure. I didn't know who he was, and kindly asked him to leave. It turns out he was the acting Zoo director, Robert Bullermann! Hugh Evans, the general curator, came running over explaining that I couldn't kick the Zoo director out. Mr. Bullermann came to my defense and said I had every right to have him leave since he did not introduce himself!

## Club Just for Kids

Do you know a child who loves animals? If so, get him or her a membership in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Kids Conservation Club. Kids can get the scoop on endangered species and learn ways to help these animals survive. The next Kids Conservation Club workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13 in the Peck Welcome Center from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The topic will be gorillas. We'll make gorilla crafts and visit the Zoo's gorillas for a talk from a zookeeper. Participants must register in advance and be Kids Conservation Club members. Membership is only \$20 per child. Call Becky L. at 414-258-2333, ext. 201 to register or send an email to [beckyl@zoosociety.org](mailto:beckyl@zoosociety.org).



# A TRIP TO THE SHEDD AQUARIUM

## Trip to Chicago's Shedd Aquarium

March 19, 2016, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$55 per adult (13 and older),  
\$48 per child (12 and under).

Register with form below, online at  
[zoosociety.org/Travel](http://zoosociety.org/Travel) or by calling 414-258-2333.

The Milwaukee County Zoo has some pretty impressive aquariums. But Chicago's Shedd Aquarium, home to 32,000 animals (probably more than a million if you count every coral polyp), has lots of impressive aquariums! You can see animals as large as beluga whales, which can weigh up to 3,000 pounds! If you want to explore exhibits featuring the world's oceans, rivers and reefs, then this trip is for you. This year the Zoological Society has signed up for the "Total Experience" package, which includes general admission, the Abbott Oceanarium, an aquatic show, Wild Reef, aquarium galleries, a special exhibit on amphibians and a viewing of "Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure in 4-D." You will be responsible for your own lunch. Conveniently, the Shedd offers numerous dining options, such as the Bubble Net Food Court, which includes pizza, sandwiches, burgers and more. The Soundings Café Coffee Shop is open 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on weekends. The Deep Ocean Café — located in the Polar Play Zone — offers Vienna hot dogs, mac and cheese, slushies, Dippin' Dots and Mrs. Field's cookies. And remember to visit the Shedd Aquarium's gift shops for trinkets.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo with a continental breakfast featuring fresh baked goods, bagels, fresh fruit, coffee, milk and juice. Buses depart at 8 a.m. and arrive at the Shedd by 10 a.m. Your tour includes general admission and special programs, transportation on restroom-equipped motor coaches, 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 the Shedd at 5 p.m. and return to the Zoo at 6:30 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. For questions or additional information, please call 414-258-2333.



Photo courtesy of the Shedd Aquarium

Beluga whale

## SHEDD AQUARIUM SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

Name(s) of Traveler(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Zoological Society Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Eve. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to travel with another person or group sending in a separate reservation, please indicate his/her name \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for adults (\$55)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ for kids 12 & under (\$48)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

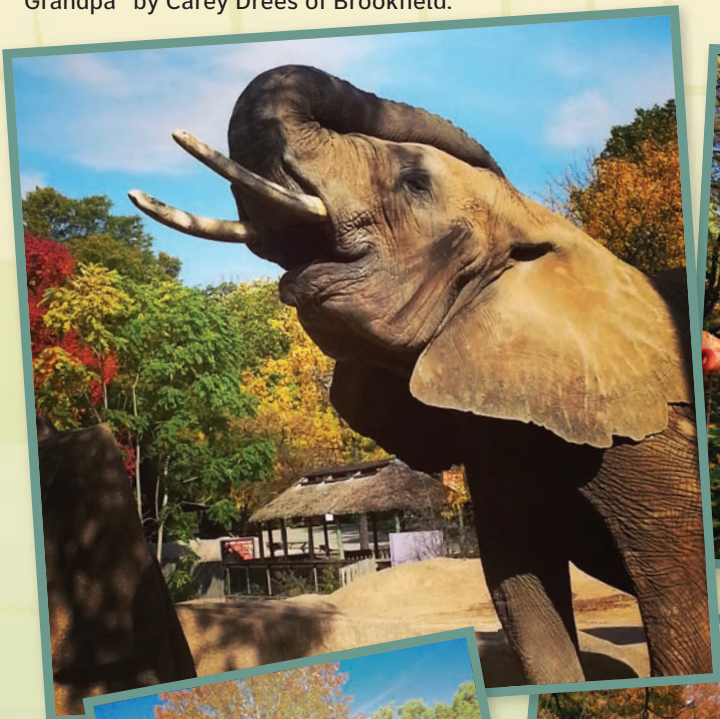
as it appears on credit card

**Check:** Make payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** and mail this order form with payment to:  
**CHICAGO TRIP**, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

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

# INSTAGRAM PHOTO CONTEST

In fall the Zoological Society of Milwaukee held its first Instagram photo contest using the hashtag #fallingoverMKEZoo. We want to give a big congratulations to winner Lindsay Hochkammer of Milwaukee for her photo called "Elephant." Finalists were "Flamingo" by Heidi Dulaney of Grayslake, Ill.; "Bear" by Amy Bronecki of Brown Deer; and "Bear Baby & Grandpa" by Carey Drees of Brookfield.



## WINTER INSTAGRAM CONTEST!

### #WildWinterMKEZoo

Beginning Jan. 8, 2016, and ending on Feb. 18, we will run a winter Instagram contest with a weekly theme. We'll look for photos taken for each week's theme using specific hashtags (see below). Winners will be announced the Friday of each week. You can upload photos any time before the deadline for that theme. Winners will receive a gift certificate from the Zoological Society. Here are the weekly themes:

**Jan. 8-14:** Big Cats #WildWinterMKEZoo #Catstagram

**Jan. 15-21:** Aquatic & Reptile Center #WildWinterMKEZoo #ARC

**Jan. 22-28:** North American Animals (Many of these animals can be found outside!)  
#WildWinterMKEZoo #GreatOutdoors

**Jan. 29-Feb. 4:** Small Mammals Building #WildWinterMKEZoo #SmallButMighty

**Feb. 5-Feb. 11:** Primates #WildWinterMKEZoo #GoApeMonkeyAround

**Feb. 12-18:** Snow #WildWinterMKEZoo #WhiteOut

*We look forward to seeing your photos!*

# Insider Tips

## Friendly Snow Leopard Adjusts Quickly

The first things you notice about Asa, the new snow leopard at the Milwaukee County Zoo, are his huge gray eyes. As he explores his new exhibit, he isn't afraid to make eye contact with visitors even as he laps up melting snow from a nearby rock. In fact, Asa is quite used to people because he was hand-raised at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park in Syracuse, N.Y. "He's very social," says Amanda Ista, a big cat keeper at the Zoo. "He adapted to a new home a lot more quickly than other cats would, especially snow leopards." The Zoo was able to bring Asa here because of a gift from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The gift also includes funds to acquire a female snow leopard, which the Zoo expects to get from a European zoo in the coming year.

Asa was born in July 2014 in Syracuse. Because of complications in his birth, the zoo decided to hand-raise him, says Peg Dwyer, a collection manager at Rosamond Gifford Zoo. At first, Dwyer bottle-fed him every two hours round the clock, taking him home each night in a heated animal carrier. Snow leopards are born blind and deaf, so it was exciting when he began to see and hear at about 2 weeks old, she says. "When Asa would hear me talking or see me coming into the room, he would chirp. As time passed, these vocalizations grew louder and more prominent as he discovered the world around him. It was exciting to witness his growth and development so close up."



*Asa as a young cub.* Photo by Maria Simmons



*Snow leopard Asa in his new exhibit.* Photo by Richard Brodzeller

By the time Asa was 6 months, Dwyer's relationship with him changed from a surrogate mother to a keeper on the other side of the mesh. "He could see his real mother and father and would start to mimic their behaviors," she says. "Stalking the deer in the exhibit next door was a great step forward as he developed into a mature snow leopard." Still, Asa kept a fondness for people. "He loved interacting with the young children who would come see him at the zoo. He watched visitors from on top of the rocks in his exhibit and then would make a running leap at them and get them all laughing."

Asa arrived in Milwaukee in October. Keepers hope that he gets along with Tomiris, the female snow leopard already at the Zoo, so they can keep each other company in the exhibit. The Zoo hopes Asa eventually breeds with the second female snow leopard it is acquiring. He could possibly breed with Tomiris, but it's unlikely because Asa would be very young to father a cub and Tomiris is reaching the end of her reproductive years. For Dwyer, seeing Asa leave for his new home was a victory: "It was an awesome experience raising Asa and one that I will always treasure. I am glad that he is healthy and able to live a normal snow leopard life. He is a great ambassador for his species."

*By Stacy Vogel Davis*

## Octopus Intelligence

When you think of the smartest animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo, you probably think of mammals like elephants and great apes. But one of the smartest animals at the Zoo isn't a land-dwelling mammal; in fact it's not even a vertebrate. It's Kayin, a female giant Pacific octopus who arrived at the Aquatic & Reptile Center on Oct. 22. Aquarist/zookeeper Jeff Johnson says the octopus is approximately 1 years old, weighs about 8 pounds and is about 4 feet long and still growing. This is small compared to some giant Pacific octopuses in the wild, which typically weigh 50 to 80 pounds.

Octopuses belong to the cephalopod family of mollusks, which includes squid, cuttlefish and nautilus. Giant Pacific octopuses are found along coastal areas of the Pacific Ocean.

Catching a glimpse of Kayin "is really hit or miss," says Johnson. She is adept at hiding in her den, which she sometimes creates by moving rocks in her exhibit. But when she comes into view, it can be striking. "She may be hiding against the rockwork and you go from not seeing her until — bam! — she's there." Octopuses do this by almost instantaneously changing the color and texture of their skin.

So, how smart are these creatures? There have been numerous examples of octopuses opening jars, solving puzzles and escaping from their aquariums. "At the Zoo we have an acrylic top to the aquarium instead of mesh or a screen to make sure Kayin can't escape," says Johnson. "We have to really watch her." In addition to their smarts, octopuses can be mischievous, too. In February 2009 at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium in California, an octopus disassembled a water recycling valve and directed a tube to spew water out of the tank for about 10 hours, according to the Los Angeles Times. Johnson says Kayin is very interactive. "Some animals will have contact with people and seem to enjoy it, but often they're really looking for food. But Kayin genuinely seems to enjoy it when I rub her head, even if there is no food reward. She sits still and relaxes. She turns a reddish tint and her skin isn't spiked up but is instead smooth."

By Zak Mazur



A giant Pacific octopus at the Zoo. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Tia, when she was a joey, pokes her head out of Kiama's pouch.

Photo by Dawn Fleuchaus

## "Tree" Generations of Kangaroos

Kiama, a Matschie's tree kangaroo at the Milwaukee County Zoo, is a record holder. She has had the most offspring in captivity of any tree kangaroo, with a total of six. According to Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor for North America and Australia, Kiama's offspring have been sent to zoos across the United States. "She's a grandmother a number of times over," says Fleuchaus. But in a first at the Zoo, there are now three generations of tree kangaroos in the Australia Building. "We did a pouch check on Tia, one of Kiama's daughters, and confirmed she has a joey," says Fleuchaus. "We estimate she had the joey in late August."

Owing to the Zoo's success with tree-kangaroo husbandry, Fleuchaus arranged to have the annual Association of Zoos and Aquariums Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Plan® conference held at the Zoo. These programs are designed to manage genetic diversity among captive species. The conference ran Nov. 19-22 and attracted about 30 zookeepers from across the country who work with tree kangaroos. "We discussed topics such as exhibit design, diets, behavior, breeding, medical concerns and outreach to the public," says Fleuchaus.

Fleuchaus says you can help the Zoo's four tree kangaroos by purchasing enrichment items for them. Simply go to the Zoo's webpage, [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org), click on "Wish List" and then click on "North America and Australia." Who knows, maybe when you come to the Zoo you'll see Tia's joey playing with an enrichment item you bought.

By Zak Mazur

## Laidback Little Lizard

The crickets crawl and hop inside the plastic container, oblivious to the danger lurking nearby. The danger in question: a 10-inch-long female leopard gecko, one of the newest additions to the Stackner Animal Encounter building in the farm area at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Luckily for these two crickets, the leopard gecko, named Joey, is full after consuming two other crickets earlier. The two living crickets get a reprieve, for now. The ones that were consumed earlier weren't so lucky. "She strikes fast, and when she gets a cricket you can hear a crunch from the cricket's exoskeleton being crushed," says Andrea Lawrence, a seasonal farm attendant in the Stackner Animal Encounter building.



*Joey, the leopard gecko, in her terrarium. Photo by Richard Brodzeller*

With Joey's meal finished, it's time to go home. The laidback lizard is picked up and placed in her terrarium, which has a substrate of white sand and is decorated with hide-rocks, halved coconuts, fake plants and a water dish. A heat pad underneath the terrarium provides warmth. That's because leopard geckos, like all lizards, are ectotherms, meaning they require an external heat source to regulate their body temperature.

You might be able to see Joey this summer during Animal Encounter talks, held daily in front of the Stackner Animal Encounter building at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 2 and 3 p.m. During these talks, farm staff introduce guests to various animals such as rabbits, chickens, snakes, guinea pigs and, of course, Joey. "We take out three animals at each talk," says Heritage Farm supervisor Lisa Guglielmi. "When the talk is finished we allow the public to touch two out of the three animals." Because leopard geckos are small and delicate, the public will not be able to touch Joey, even though she is a mellow little lizard.

*By Zak Mazur*



*Newly arrived Chilean flamingos at the Zoo. Photo by Richard Brodzeller*

different, meaning they have different traits, so they will be easily recognized as different from the Caribbean flamingos."

Chilean flamingos are 3.6 to 4.3 feet tall and are light pink in color with some scarlet feathers running along their flanks. Caribbean flamingos stand between 4 and 4.8 feet tall and are the brightest of all flamingos. Like all flamingos, Chilean flamingos get their characteristic pink coloring from their diet, which in the wild consists of algae and crustaceans that contain beta carotene, the same compound that makes carrots orange. Without beta carotene in their diet, flamingos would be white. "At the Zoo we incorporate beta carotene into the pellets they eat," says Waier. "They also get some algae that contains beta carotene that they filter from the pond at the Zoo."

This spring, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the new flamingos when they make their way to the front of the pond to preen and honk in front of onlookers.

*By Zak Mazur*

## A Mixed Flamingo Flock

When colorful flowers bloom and trees blossom at the Milwaukee County Zoo this spring, zoogoers can enjoy a new hue among the scarlet-colored Caribbean flamingos. That's because eight pink Chilean flamingos have joined the flock.

Alex Waier, bird curator, said he acquired the Chilean flamingos in order to contrast the two species. "I don't think people even know there are six species of flamingos," he says. "The Chilean flamingos are phenotypically

# By the Numbers

## 1. Family Free Day

Children pose for a photo at the North Shore Bank photo board at one of six Family Free Days, sponsored by **North Shore Bank** (media sponsor: **FOX 6**). A total of 56,026 people attended the admission-free Saturdays in 2015. Photo by Bob Wickland



## 2. Senior Celebration

Sue Paulin, of Cedarburg, plays pickleball at Senior Celebration, sponsored by **Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health**. Paulin was one of 4,553 people who attended the event on Sept. 4. Photo by Richard Taylor



## 4. Ride on the Wild Side

Micah W., 8, of Milwaukee, and his brother Mac, 9, get ready to roll at Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride, held on Sept. 13 and sponsored by **Wheaton Franciscan – Midwest Spine & Orthopedic Hospital/ Wisconsin Heart Hospital**. A total of 606 people attended the event, which raised \$26,270. Photo by Olga Kornienko



## 5. Spooky Nights

There was tons of Halloween fun at the Milwaukee County Zoo on four nights in October! On Oct. 16 and 17, a total of 10,711 people attended Boo at the Zoo. On Oct. 23 and 24, 17,956 people got to trick-or-treat during Halloween Spooktacular. Both events were sponsored by **Sendik's Food Markets**. From left: Hailey S., 4, of Muskego, Cheyenne U., 5, of Milwaukee, and Hannah S., 6, of Muskego, show off their costumes at Halloween Spooktacular.

Photo by Olga Kornienko



## 3. Family Farm Weekend

Charlie L., 4, of New Berlin, churns ice cream at Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by the **Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board**. The event, held on Sept. 12 and 13, attracted 13,419 people.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



## 6. Zoo Brew

Zoo Brew, held Oct. 22, raised approximately \$39,000 for the Colobus monkey Annual Appeal. A total of 649 people attended the event. Photo by Bob Wickland

# Couple Goes All In

It all started with Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's volunteer auxiliary. In 2013, retired pharmacist Mark Westen learned about the group from a friend who was a member. Westen decided to join. "I began working with children in the Education Department," he says. Westen recounted his experiences to his wife. "He made it sound interesting," says Patricia, a retired medical technologist who worked at the same hospital as Mark. So in April 2015 she joined, too. From then on the Westens were all in with the Zoological Society. By May they became animal sponsors. By August they joined the Simba Circle, the group for people who have included the Zoological Society in a will or estate plan, and the Platypus Circle, the group for high-end donors to the Society. We asked the Westens what motivated them to get so involved with the Society.



Mark and Pat Westen Photo by Stacy Kaat

**Zoological Society:** Why did you become Simba Circle members?

**Mark:** We were doing our estate planning and came up with a list of organizations that were important to us. The Zoological Society was one of them.

**Zoological Society:** Between your volunteerism in Zoo Pride and becoming Simba Circle members, you were already doing a lot for the Society. What motivated you to go above and beyond and join the Platypus Circle?

**Patricia:** Because it's a way to support the Zoological Society immediately.

**Mark:** It's also a great way to get people to know the Zoo because you can let them use your Platypus card, and then hopefully they'll become supporters.

**Zoological Society:** You both really upped the ante when you became animal sponsors. What was your motivation?

**Patricia:** Well, in May it was Mark's birthday, so I thought it would be a nice gift for him to sponsor an alpaca; Shalia and Sulaiman, the gorilla mom and baby; and a Humboldt penguin.

**Zoological Society:** Why should people support the Zoological Society, whether as Simba Circle members, Platy members or in other ways?

**Mark:** We feel it's very important that the Zoo will exist into the future.

**Patricia:** So many animals are going extinct around the world, and the Zoological Society has many conservation programs.

**Zoological Society:** Finally, what are your favorite animals at the Zoo?

**Patricia:** I like the red panda — he's so cute!

**Mark:** I like rhinos. I love the way they bask in the sun and seem to enjoy life.

## Make a Planned Gift – Simba Circle

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have already established a planned gift benefiting the Zoological Society. For more information, please visit our website at [zoosociety.org/Simba](http://zoosociety.org/Simba) or contact Candy Walton in the Development office at 414-918-6151 or [candyw@zoosociety.org](mailto:candyw@zoosociety.org).

## Become a Platypus Circle Member

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





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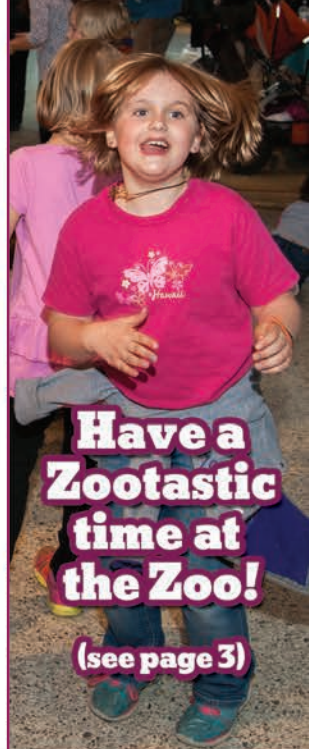


Photo by Richard Taylor

## What's Happening

Details Inside

### Jan. 8-Feb. 18

Winter Instagram Contest.

### Jan. 9, Feb. 6 & March 5

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: FOX 6.

### Jan. 17

Samson Stomp & Romp, sponsored by Amica Insurance (pre-register at 414-256-5466).

### Jan. 28

Puttin' on the Ritz dinner and boxing fundraiser, sponsored by Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino (pre-register at 414-258-2333).

### Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo.\*

### Feb. 3

Members-only online registration begins for Zoological Society of Milwaukee Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices.

### Feb. 13

Kids Conservation Club workshop (pre-register).

### Feb. 27

Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo (pre-register).

### March 1

Zoo hours change to 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

### March 3

Wines and Beers of the World (pre-register).

### March 12 & 13

Behind the Scenes Weekend, sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy.\*

### March 19

Zoo Pass members-only field trip to the Shedd Aquarium (pre-register at 414-258-2333).

### March 19 & 20

Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles (pre-register).

### March 26

Egg Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Welch's & Pick 'n Save.\*

### March 30 & April 2

Level I Zoo Pride volunteer training. Call 414-258-5667 before March 23 for an interview and application.

### April 6, 9, 13 & 16

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

### April 29

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

### May 7

Zoo Pass members-only field trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago (pre-register at 414-258-2333).<sup>+</sup>

### May 8

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

### May 14 & 15

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

### May 16

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

### May 28

Zoo's summer season begins; special summer exhibit, **BUGS! Larger than Life**, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets.<sup>+</sup>

### May 28

Zoo's hours change to 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

### May 28

Kohl's Wild Theater performances return to the Zoo.<sup>+</sup>

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

<sup>+</sup>More details in the April issue of Wild Things.

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