

Wild Things

WILD ABOUT CAMPS

Summer Camps

Sponsored by Penzeys Spices

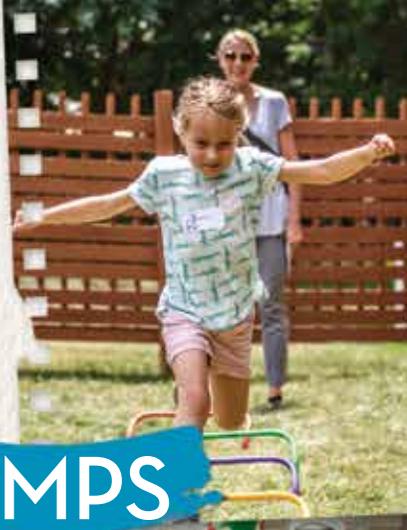
June-August 2019

The Zoological Society knows how wild your schedule can get, especially when kids are out of school for the summer. Zoo Camps are a flexible option to fit around your summer plans. You can pick single day camps or sign your kids up for a week of unforgettable fun.

NEW THIS YEAR! We are piloting a weeklong camp in July. This camp, offered for ages 6 and 7, focuses on the skills and knowledge needed to become a Zoo explorer. Each day, students will learn new aspects about the Zoo, from investigating animal misconceptions to learning animal behaviors and what animals eat. The week builds up to the final day when the kids put their knowledge to work and go behind the scenes to become an honorary zookeeper. This camp is July 22-26 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

FLEXIBLE OPTIONS: Kids of all ages can enjoy most Zoo Camps one day at a time. You can sign them up for a single camp in June, July or August. Or, you can pick out five camps and put them together to create a weeklong camp of your own. Other camps include a weeklong acting camp for 9-11-year-olds in June, art camps for your little Picasso and single-night overnight camps.

Zoo Pass members get a discounted rate on Zoo Camps and early registration starting Feb. 19. To see a list of classes for infants to adults, go to zoosociety.org/Education.



▲ *Top: Lauren F. imitates a mule deer and "hurdles" to escape predators during Animal Champions camp.*

Middle: Kaily learns to draw blood from a toy tiger with the help of instructor Emily.

Photos by Bob Wickland

IN THIS ISSUE

<< **Page 3:** Meet the new star of the farm and learn how he is preparing for his first weather prediction on Feb. 2.

Page 8: Read what it takes >> to train the bonobos for a yearly heart exam.

<< **Page 13:** We answer some of the most asked questions about the Zoo's animals.



Photo by Joel Miller



Photo by Bob Wickland

PUNCH, BLOCK, ★ FUNDRAISE ★

Puttin' on the Ritz

Sponsored by Husch Blackwell
Jan. 17 - Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

- ★ \$200 per person
- ★ \$2,000 table sponsorship
- ★ \$3,000 ringside table

- ★ Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- ★ Silent and live auction
- ★ Gourmet dinner
- ★ Amateur boxing in three-round bouts

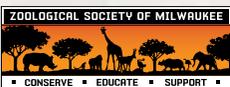
Money raised helps the
**Zoological Society fulfill its mission
to conserve, educate and support
the Milwaukee County Zoo.**



Photos by Stacy Keati

Boxers are arranged by Future Olympian Boxing Association and the boxing ring is sponsored by Bridgewood Advisors.

For more information go to zoosociety.org/Ritz or call 414-258-2333 to request a paper invitation.



MEMBERANDA

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

Zoological Society office hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.

Zoo hours through Feb. 28, 2019: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.

Zoo hours March 1-May 24, 2019: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays and weekends.

Note: The Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing time.

The Zoo's walk-in gate closes one hour prior to the posted Zoo closing time. The animal buildings close 15 minutes before Zoo closing hours.

For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please see 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).

Reciprocal zoos and aquariums: We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our members with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums in spring 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, 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.

Problems renewing or transacting online: If you experience any difficulties transacting a Zoo Pass renewal or animal sponsorship online, please contact us at 414-258-2333 so we can assist with your transaction. Our staff is available seven days a week.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 140, January-March 2019

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

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10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383
Phone: 414-256-5412 Web: milwaukeezoo.org

GET INTO THE GROOVE

Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m. Check-in at 5 p.m.

Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (unless event is full)

If the rhythm is going to get you, then make sure it gets you at the Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo. It's a great opportunity to dance with your friends or to try it out for the first time. All skill levels are welcome; just come with a positive attitude and be prepared to sweat your stress away. The routines are led by Zumba Jammer™ Rachel Beigel and other licensed instructors.

Money raised from this event goes to the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Anyone 14 and up is welcome to sign up. There will also be apparel for sale that night. Pre-register at zoosociety.org/Zumba by Feb. 22. The event has sold out in the past, so don't wait to get your ticket.



Julieta Perez shows her love for Zumba at the Zoo.

Photo by Bob Wickland

A STAR IN THE SHADOWS

Inside the Zoo's farm is an animal gearing up to be a star. Gordy the groundhog will be 10 months old when Groundhog Day comes around on Feb. 2. "He is more than ready. He's a pretty brave groundhog, so I don't know if shadows are going to be enough to scare this little guy," says zookeeper Bridget Carpenter. Gordy arrived at the Milwaukee County Zoo in May and made his first public appearance in September. When he goes outside for zookeeper talks, he has to wear a harness and a leash for his own safety. While he didn't spend a lot of time with guests this year, it was obvious he likes people. "His goofy, friendly personality is all we could ask for. It's what we wanted when we acquired him and it's working out beautifully."

Gordy was born in captivity and hand-reared, making him more personable and easier to train. "Groundhogs are by nature a pretty aggressive animal, so if they are not hand-reared we can come into some problems," says Carpenter. Gordy lives off exhibit inside the Stackner Animal Encounter building. His favorite enrichment item is paper, and he loves to shred paper bags and even phone books to make a nest. Gordy's favorite foods are banana and raw broccoli. He will occasionally get peanuts as a high reward during training.

Groundhogs hibernate in the wild, but since Gordy's home is inside a warm building, his body doesn't know it's time to hibernate. Carpenter explains he may take a long winter nap but he won't go into a full hibernation.

When Feb. 2 comes around, Gordy will be ready to go outside and take on the great responsibility of "Furry Forecaster."

Don't miss his prediction inside the Zoo at 10:30 a.m.



Photo by Joel Miller

FUN FACT:
DID YOU KNOW
GROUNDHOGS &
WOODCHUCKS
ARE THE SAME
ANIMAL?



Photo by Joel Miller

The recreation room is a large indoor space with a sand floor to help the elephants' feet and musculoskeletal health.

FOR DECADES, Zoo guests could see elephants whether they were inside or outside – there was no hiding. So it took some getting used to when Ruth and Brittany moved to their new exhibit in October. Because there are still some finishing touches to be made and the elephants need time to get used to their new home, the exhibit will not open to the public until May 2019. Until then, we thought we would keep you up to date on how the elephants are doing.

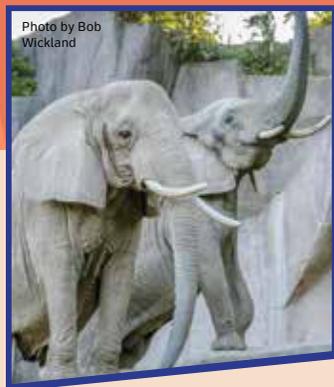
Ruth and Brittany moved into their new, state-of-the-art Elephant Care Center in October. Ruth went over first and was greeted with a new recreation room filled with browse. She quickly started eating and looking around, says elephant care coordinator Erin Dowgwillo. Brittany moved in next, greeted Ruth and then ate the browse alongside her.

From the morning of the move to the day after, zookeepers gave Ruth and Brittany a sense of normalcy. “We had decided from the very beginning that we were going to put them into their normal routines,” says Dowgwillo. Even the morning of the move, keepers did a training session with both Ruth and Brittany. Once they

moved in it was right back to a normal schedule. “We cleaned, did baths, blood draws, etc. All things as we would have done in the old barn.”

While the routines may be somewhat the same, there are some things to which the animals need to get acclimated. For starters, their flooring in the recreation room is made up of mostly sand. Having softer, more natural flooring is good for the elephants’ feet and musculoskeletal health. Dowgwillo says Ruth and Brittany seem to enjoy digging holes in their sand floors. The two also need time to get used to their new training panels. Training panels are where the elephants can present body parts, like a leg, for the keepers to treat or examine.

The added space is benefiting both the elephants and the keepers. “We have more options and with that, we are able to do more with elephant training as well as enrichment,” says Dowgwillo. The indoor space is 20,000 square feet and includes an elephant recreation room for year-round viewing and five individual stalls. We know you miss Ruth and Brittany, but they are in good hands as they get to know their new home and prepare for the grand opening in May.



A NEW HOME FOR THE ELEPHANTS IS PART OF A *BIGGER PROJECT* CALLED ADVENTURE AFRICA.

This will transform 25% of the developed footprint of the Zoo, including new exhibits for African hoofstock, hippos and rhinos. The Zoological Society has committed to raising \$25 million for these changes. We need your help to cross the finish line.

To make a donation or to see renderings of Phase I of Adventure Africa, go to elephants.Win2Wild.com.



NEW HIPPO HOME



Hippos spend about 16 hours a day underwater, making it difficult to get a good glimpse of the large animal. Your best chance for a view is when either Happy or Patti come up for air – but hippos can hold their breath for five minutes. This year, the Zoological Society is raising money for the new hippo habitat, which will include underwater viewing of our hippos. The Milwaukee County Zoo will be one of only eight zoos in North America to feature a clean view of hippos underwater. Not only will this offer a great new perspective, the new pool is better for the environment and conservation. The pool will have a filtration system that will help save more than 20 million gallons of water a year. Plus, a filtration system can keep the water clear for guests to get the best view.

The Zoo's male hippo, Happy, weighs about 5,000 pounds, while female Patti weighs about 3,000 pounds. These big animals need a big pool. The new design will be 7 feet deep and more than three times the size of the existing outdoor watering hole. Outside of the water, the Zoological Society would also like to raise money to create a beach area for Happy and Patti to enjoy their meals or bask in the sun. It's a large task, and we can't do it without your support. Gifts are tax deductible. Donations \$100 and above will receive recognition on a new electronic sign within the Adventure Africa area.

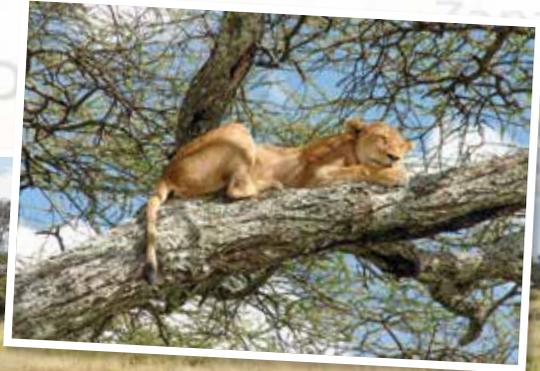
To learn more about how you can help the hippos, go to zoosociety.org.

AFRICAN SAFARI

Imagine dozens of elephants walking toward a watering hole as the sound of running zebras gets closer. In the distance, giraffes are using their long necks and tongues to pull leaves off a tree. This wildlife scenario is part of everyday life in Tanzania. This summer you can be a part of an African safari escorted by Milwaukee County Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser and Zoological Society President and CEO Jodi Gibson. With more land devoted to wildlife than anywhere else in the world, Tanzania is truly a safari paradise.

This Tanzania safari is July 23-Aug. 2, 2019. A professional guide will lead you to some of the most magnificent African animals. Each day is packed with new locations and the opportunity to not only see wild animals but also witness the natural beauty of the vast savanna, parks and forests. Wikenhauser has been on more than 15 safaris in his career and has in-depth knowledge of the animals you will see during the trip. This will be Gibson's first safari.

The trip is planned and organized by Classic Escapes, a vendor and member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For details on the itinerary and price, go to zoosociety.org/Travel/Tanzania.php.



VOLUNTEER AT THE ZOO

Hundreds of volunteers help the Zoo and the Zoological Society function on a daily basis. The volunteer program, Zoo Pride, has more than 525 members who dedicate more than 50,000 hours a year.

Interested in volunteering? We offer different types of roles to match different skill sets, personalities and preferences of our volunteers. From animal observer to Zoo tour guide to helping in our Education Department with Zoo Classes, you can give back to your Zoo while making friends and joining a community of people who share in a love of animals and conservation. Volunteers range from teens to retirees. If you would like to apply to become a member of Zoo Pride, call 414-258-5667 or visit zoosociety.org/ZooPride. Once you've completed your interview and are selected, training classes start in March.

Level I training: March 27 and 30

Volunteers who complete the basic orientation can join some of Zoo Pride's many committees by completing Level II training. Committees range in focus including making enrichment items for the animals, informing guests about animals or helping with special events at the Zoo.

Level II training: April 3, 6, 10 and 13





ADDED BENEFITS

There are various levels of Zoo Passes you can buy depending on whether you need a family pass or a pass for an adult couple. But what happens when your kids turn 18 and are no longer eligible to be listed as a child on your Zoo Pass? Or they want to go to the Zoo with their friends and not with you? Or you have friends or family who don't have a Zoo Pass and they want to come to the Zoo with you? One easy solution is to become a member of the Platypus Circle. As a Platy member, you receive transferable membership cards that provide year-round Zoo admission and parking for up to eight guests in one vehicle per card. With a transferable membership card, your friends and family can borrow your card with no questions asked.

Ben Schultz and Elizabeth Colvin recently upgraded from a Zoo Pass to a Platypus Circle membership. "One of the ways we have used our membership is to enjoy experiences and create memories with the youngest members of our family. When family visits from out of town, thanks to the transferable membership cards, we can host them on a visit to the Zoo," explains Schultz.

Other benefits for Platypus Circle members include invitations to events like the annual recognition dinner and the VIP Premiere, which includes the first look at the summer's special exhibit before it's open to the public. Schultz and Colvin also receive a private behind-the-scenes tour at the Zoo for being a Platypus Circle member. "The zookeepers always have such interesting things to share! For example, we learned that when Fezzik the sloth is in his box, he does not like to be hand fed."

In addition to the added benefits, Schultz and Colvin felt joining the Platypus Circle was a great way to support the Zoo they love so much. "Our parents took us to the Zoo frequently, and long before we met we had formed our own happy memories at the Zoo. We wanted to purchase a membership that also provided a contribution to an institution that has meant so much to us since we were young."

For more information, visit BeAPlaty.org or contact Dani Seavert at 414-918-6153 or danis@zoosociety.org.



Fezzik, the Zoo's Hoffman two-toed sloth.
Photo by Bob Wickland

COMING SOON

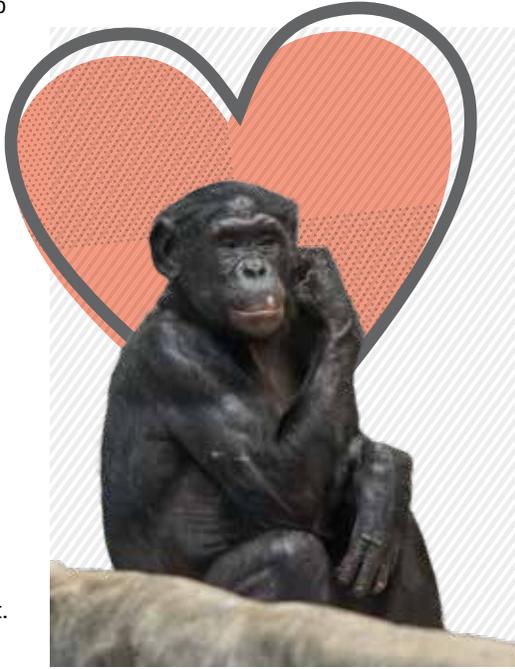
Sendik's Food Markets customers: Help complete a new home for the Zoo's elephants while you shop. This February through April, customers at all 17 Balistreri-owned and -operated Sendik's stores are invited to participate in several promotions to help put the finishing touches on Ruth and Brittany's new home at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

See details in stores beginning Feb. 1.



HEART HEALTH TRAINING

It's a Saturday afternoon in October and guests are watching a group of bonobos in their indoor exhibit. They observe the great apes sitting on the ground, eating lunch and climbing on the ropes. While guests stop in their tracks to watch their behaviors, they have no idea two more groups of bonobos are downstairs, off exhibit, ready for a special day. It's the annual cardio-roundup to check the bonobos' heart health. Bonobos are prone to heart problems and often need medication and regular exams. The test on this day is an echocardiogram – an ultrasound that will show various parts of the heart including the valves, chambers and movement of the blood through the heart. This may not sound fun, but thanks to the great training by zookeepers, the bonobos enjoy it.



 Faith the bonobo. Photo by Bob Wickland

The first group includes Zuri, Tamia and her daughter Nora. One zookeeper is distracting Tamia and Nora off to the side with a variety of fruits. Zuri goes to the overhead chute where lead bonobo zookeeper Stacy Whitaker is standing underneath. Whitaker uses a stick as a target for Zuri to touch. She then tells him to push and hold. Zuri lies flat on the chute while Whitaker rewards him with a fruit cocktail consisting of strawberries, peaches, grapes and blueberries. The 20-year-old bonobo stays flat while a sonographer puts gel on the ultrasound probe and lifts it up to his chest. Zuri doesn't flinch and continues to listen to Whitaker and eat his reward. "We only give fruit to the bonobos during training sessions," says Whitaker, making it a special reward for following instructions. The only challenge during this exam was 5-year-old Nora coming into the chute and causing a distraction.

When Zuri is done, Nora heads back to the chute to see if she gets a reward – even though she was just eating the same fruit off to the side with another zookeeper. Whitaker takes

the target stick and instructs her to touch it and push against the mesh. Nora succeeds for a couple seconds but can't hold her position. "We don't do this type of training with them until they are about 4 or 5 years old," Whitaker explains. "They're not ready yet." It's easy to see why as the youngster eagerly runs and climbs from one area to the next with the energy and mischievous behavior similar to a human toddler. While young bonobos may not be able to do a whole exam, it's beneficial for them to still be a part of the day and get involved. For example,

8-year-old Kitoko is described as very shy, but training sessions like this help. "It's good exposure. The more she sees it, the less scared she is."

The Milwaukee County Zoo was the first zoo to train bonobos for echocardiograms while awake. Some of the 19 bonobos housed in Milwaukee have diagnosed heart problems, including Zuri. Annual echocardiograms determine if the medication is working, if more medication is needed or if new problems arise. The information is also used for the Great Ape Heart Project, based out of Zoo Atlanta. GAHP is a national project collecting data to help zoos understand more about heart disease in apes and how to treat it.

To learn more about the project, go to greatapeheartproject.org.



RUN WILD

Samson Stomp & Romp

Sponsored by Amica Insurance

Jan. 20, starting at 9:30 a.m.

If you're wild about running or if your running style is a little wild, don't miss the Zoo's annual Samson Stomp & Romp. Named after the Zoo's late silverback gorilla Samson (1950-1981), there are four races to choose from:

- A competitive 5k run, which can include teams
- A two-mile fun run
- A one-mile romp
- A quarter-mile romp for children

Individual runners can pre-register for \$25 and teams for \$20 per runner. The children's romp is \$10 per child. Each registration includes a long-sleeved T-shirt, Zoo admission and parking. Same-day registration is \$30. Zoo Passes are not valid for this event. Register online now at milwaukeezoo.org and we'll see you at the starting line.



Photo by Olga Kornienko

ARMA-DORABLE

Tough on the outside but full of love on the inside.

While that may sound like someone you know, we are talking about Mira, the Zoo's youngest armadillo. She was born in January 2018 weighing about 2.6 ounces. Mira had to be hand-reared and faced many challenges including metabolic bone disease. After adjustments in her diet and physical therapy to build up her muscle and bone strength, Mira is now thriving on exhibit.



Photo by Joel Miller

Sponsor Mira this Valentine's Day. This \$35 sponsorship includes:

- A plush-toy armadillo
- A certificate of sponsorship
- A solid chocolate heart
- A colorful fact sheet on southern three-banded armadillos
- An invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors held in August
- Recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for one year
- A Sponsor an Animal decal

We must receive your order by Feb. 6 to guarantee delivery by Valentine's Day. The tax-deductible portion of the \$35 sponsorship is \$27.



Visit zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php or call 414-258-2333 to order one today.

ON TRACK IN THE OFF SEASON



Engineer Ken works on the 1924 Pacific Class locomotive, which arrived at the Zoo in 1977. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

You may not hear or see the train at the Milwaukee County Zoo during the winter months, but it's a busy time for the train engineers. It's officially maintenance season for the Zoo trains. Every piece of equipment and track is thoroughly inspected and checked. This is also the time of year for updates and long-term/specialized repairs. Most of the work is done by the engineers, but the Zoo also works with railroad contractors and boiler repair companies as needed.



MOVING AND SHAKING THINGS UP

Rock, step, march march. Rock, step, turn and march. Professional dancer Ali Rice repeats those words as 12 Kohl's Wild Theater company members practice a simple dance move. There is no audience this time, just artists working on improving their craft. "I think it's really going to improve the quality of the shows we are presenting in the community," says Zach Woods, manager of artistic direction for Kohl's Wild Theater. Most of the actors in this workshop

have some kind of dance experience whether it was tap as a child, an African dance class in college or Zumba®. But this workshop goes back to basics and gives an overview of body movement and awareness. "We're dipping our toes in dancing, but basically it's walking," Rice jokes with the class.

Kohl's Wild Theater performances have environmental, conservation and wildlife messages. The topics don't seem to go hand-in-hand with dancing, but it's all about connecting with the audience. "Inevitably with kids, you need movement. They are such kinesthetic learners," says Woods.

Woods has been a company member of Kohl's Wild Theater since 2014. You may have seen him on stage as an actor, but he also wrote and directed numerous shows. In his new role as manager of artistic direction, Woods' goal is to have a professional development series that includes working with outside experts. He aims to bring new perspectives and styles to the program. Woods is eyeing a future workshop



Roc Bauman and Solana Ramirez-Garcia use movement while engaging with the audience. Photo by Paul Ruffolo



The Zoo's four train engines inside the train shop.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

The Zoo currently has five employees who can operate the locomotives including three full-time engineers. Since there isn't an official school or class on how to operate a miniature railroad, the position involves several hours of hands-on education and in-house training. Each engineer learns how to operate all four engines (two steam and two diesel), the ballast car that holds stones used in track maintenance, two handcars that carry track tools and the flatcar used to carry extra-heavy loads.

When it comes time for the trains to get back on track this spring, the engineers use one of four engines. The miniature locomotives are a quarter of the size of a full-size locomotive, and the cab size of the diesel engines is particularly compact. Since all three full-time engineers are at least 6 feet tall, you will most likely not see the white and red diesel engine as often.



on improvisation. "Performing for children means you have to adapt on the fly. Things don't often go according to plan, and that flexibility is really important." He also hopes to bring in an expert on theater adaptations for people on the autism spectrum and provide the actors and staff with some strategies when performing for groups with special needs.

Back at the dance workshop, the actors are walking in random patterns to practice space awareness and body movement. As an ensemble, they have to walk without bumping into each other and then decide, silently, when to all freeze. Rice explains part of the exercise is to focus on what your body is doing while engaging in what others are experiencing. Without words they have to rely on the energy of the room to collectively freeze – easier said than done. Through this and future opportunities, Woods is helping strengthen the team's artistic skills to make the actors better performers, leading to better experiences for the audiences they serve.

Kohl's Wild Theater is made possible by a partnership with Kohl's Cares, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo. It performs shows throughout the year free of charge at schools, festivals and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo. For more information and to book a show, visit wildtheater.org.



Zach Woods as Captain Super Fantastic. Photo by Richard Taylor



Maura Atwood and Jordyn Stewart perform in "#PETS."

Photo by Paul Ruffolo

BY THE NUMBERS

1. Sunset Zoofari

Outdoor movies and bands attracted **11,155** to Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by Tri City National Bank. The evening event runs once a week for six weeks in the summer.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo



2



2. Ride on the Wild Side

The weather was perfect on Sept. 9 as **752** bike riders came to the Zoo for the Zoological Society's annual Ride on the Wild Side. The event, sponsored by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, along with media sponsors News/Talk 1130, FM106.1, 95.7 BIG FM, 97-3 NOW and V100.7, raised **\$30,269**.

Photo by Bob Wickland

3. Family Farm Weekend

Nick Weeks, of Greenfield, introduces his daughter to a goat during Family Farm Weekend, presented by Prairie Farms Dairy. The two-day event Sept. 8-9 brought in **12,885** people and featured animals, milk-chugging competitions, ice cream making and more.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo



4



4. Boo at the Zoo

This "Incredible" family, plus Batman, were some of the **6,666** people to attend Boo at the Zoo, presented by Prairie Farms Dairy. The evening event Oct. 12-13 included a haystack maze and live entertainment.

Photo by Olga Kornienko

5. Halloween Spooktacular

Spectacular pumpkins at Spooktacular were a big attraction Oct. 19-20. Nearly **11,600** people came to the Halloween Spooktacular, presented by Prairie Farms Dairy, to trick-or-treat, march in the costume parade and marvel at the animals.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo



YOU ASKED ... WE ANSWERED

We get a lot of questions about the animals at the Zoo through social media and at the Guest Services desk inside the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Here are some common and unique questions and answers.



WHY DO THE GIRAFFES LIKE TO LICK THE METAL POLES AROUND THEIR EXHIBIT?

According to pachyderm supervisor Joan Stasica: "The giraffes lick everything they can reach, and they lick constantly. In the wild, giraffes spend up to 85% of their time eating. Here at the Zoo, the food is a bit richer and they don't have to spend as much time eating, but they still have the urge to use their tongues and lips all day, so they lick and mouth everything."

WHY DO SOME OF THE FLAMINGOS HAVE THEIR FEET WRAPPED?

You will most likely see colorful wrapping on their feet in spring. "The bandages are there to help heal cracks they get when the humidity dips in the winter. Their feet crack just like your hands do in the winter," explains bird and Family Farm curator Alex Waier.

Photo by Joel Miller



WHAT KIND OF TREATS DO THE ANIMALS GET?

It depends on the animal and the occasion. If it's a holiday like Halloween, most animals get a pumpkin. Some just want the pumpkin, others get treats inside like fish, red meat or veggies. The Zoo's animals also get a treat on their birthday. That could mean fruit or meat depending on the animal. Other forms of a treat come as enrichment items. Many animals love to shred paper or cardboard, so don't be surprised if you see Valentine's Day cards or birthday signs in their exhibits.

Photo by Olga Kornienko



CAN THE BIG CATS JUMP INTO THE EXHIBIT BELOW AND ATTACK THE PREY?

The exhibits were designed to give a predator-and-prey look. However, large mammal curator Tim Wild explains the big cats aren't going anywhere near the prey. "The exhibits are designed so that the cats can't jump the distance even if they wanted to. If they were to get into the moat between exhibits they also cannot jump the height to get into the other exhibit. It was designed to be physically impossible." Photo by Richard Brodzeller



“TOAD” ALLY FUN

Kids Conservation Club Workshop

Saturday, March 23, at 10 a.m.

Frogs are found all around the world. With more than 6,000 different species, they are among the most diverse animals in the world. While the frogs you spot in your local park are most likely green, frogs around the world can have some of the most beautiful colors and designs. They are small but powerful creatures to learn about. That’s why the next Kids Conservation Club workshop is all about frogs and toads. Kids will not only learn about the amphibians, they will also make a toad abode along with other crafts and talk to a zookeeper about caring for the creatures.

Kids Conservation Club (KCC) is part of the Zoological Society’s Sponsor an Animal program. Each year, KCC members sponsor an endangered animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The cost is \$20 and includes:

- A certificate of sponsorship
- An animal fact sheet on that year’s animal
- Invitations to two free workshops a year
- Collector cards about endangered animals
- The child’s name on the KCC donor board in the Peck Welcome Center
- An invitation to behind-the-scenes tours during Animal Safari

To learn about becoming a member go to zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/ConservationClub.php. Already a Kids Conservation Club member? The workshop is free, but you must pre-register by March 13. Call Becky Luft at 414-258-2333 to register.



Photo by
Richard Brodzeller



The horticulture team works year-round to prepare the beautiful plant life seen around the Zoo.

Photo by Bob Wickland

CHANGE OF VIEW

Behind the Scenes Weekend

Presented by Prairie Farms Dairy

March 9-10, tours 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Do you know where some Zoo animals live in the winter? Where does the Zoo store the hundreds of thousands of pounds of food for the animals? If you find yourself asking these questions, don’t miss out on the Zoo’s Behind the Scenes Weekend. The two-day event is a perfect time to see how the Zoo operates behind closed doors. Guests can go underground and step into Winter Quarters – home to animals like the zebra, tapir and red river hogs.

Animals at the Zoo need a lot of food, and it’s all organized through the Commissary. Check out how this vital part of the Zoo keeps it all organized. Then, get an early look at the flowers that will be planted around the Zoo when you tour the greenhouses. Other tours will be available, including the train depot and the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Tours are included in the price of admission. Zoo Pass members get in free with their pass and valid ID.



Photos courtesy Shedd Aquarium

Members-only Field Trip to Shedd Aquarium in Chicago

Saturday, May 11, 2019

Cost: \$70 per person (ages 12 and up); \$60 per child (ages 3-11); \$50 ages 2 and under

In a matter of hours you can travel through the Amazon, marvel at the bottom of the Caribbean Ocean and walk past a beluga whale. All you have to do is sign up for the Zoological Society's spring field trip to the Shedd Aquarium. This field trip is a convenient way to travel and see animals not found here in Milwaukee. Your ticket includes your transportation, continental breakfast, entrance into the aquarium, a 4D Shark Experience, Aquatic Presentation, and snacks and beverages for the trip home. (Note to those with allergies: Snacks may include dairy and peanut byproducts.)

Registration ends April 9. You can register online at zoosociety.org/Travel, by phone at 414-258-2333, or fill out the form below and mail it in. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. on May 11. Buses will leave for Chicago at 8 a.m. For the return trip, buses will depart the aquarium at 5 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip.

Name(s) of Adult(s) Traveling _____

Name(s) of Child(ren) Traveling _____

Member Number(s) _____

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 the name(s): _____

Please reserve the following _____ spaces.

Adults _____ (ages 12 and up), \$70 per person

Children _____ (3-11), \$60 per person

Children _____ (2 and under), \$50 per child

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

Credit Card ... Please charge my: VISA MasterCard Discover

Acct. No. _____

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

Signature _____

Print name as it appears on card _____

Check ... Make check payable to Zoological Society.

Please mail this form and payment to:

Shedd Aquarium Trip
Zoological Society
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Space is limited. Cancellations through April 13, 2019, are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after April 13, 2019, are not refundable. Trip cost is not tax deductible. To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

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Zumba® at the Zoo,
page 3.

Photo by Bob Wickland

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Details Inside

Jan. 5

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)*

Jan. 17

Puttin' on the Ritz at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, sponsored by Husch Blackwell (pre-register)

Jan. 20

Samson Stomp & Romp, sponsored by Amica Insurance (pre-register)

Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo*

Feb. 2

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)*

Feb. 3

Winter and Spring Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, begin

Feb. 19

Online registration begins for Zoological Society Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices

Feb. 23

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

March 2

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)*

March 9 & 10

Behind the Scenes Weekend, presented by Prairie Farms Dairy*

April 20

Egg Day, sponsored by Nestlé Nesquik and Woodman's*

May 3

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

May 11

Members-only field trip to the Shedd Aquarium (pre-register)

May 12

Mother's Day at the Zoo*

May 18 & 19

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

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

INTERACT

with seals and sea lions in an Oceans of Fun class or camp.

Zoo Pass members receive a **10% discount**. For a list of programs available go to oceansoffun.org.

Photo by Bob Wickland



CONNECT WITH US!

[facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)

twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

[instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://www.instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE)

Snapchat: ZooSocietyMKE

Milwaukee Zoo Pass App



The Zoological Society is proud to bear Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.



The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is recognized for our transparency with GuideStar's Gold Seal.