

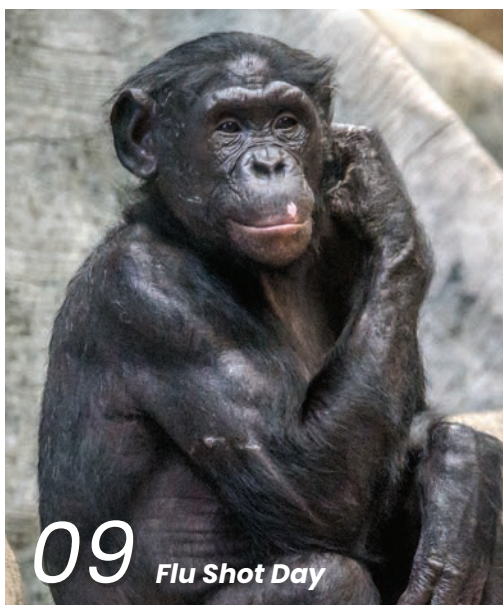
WILD THINGS

JAN-APR
2021



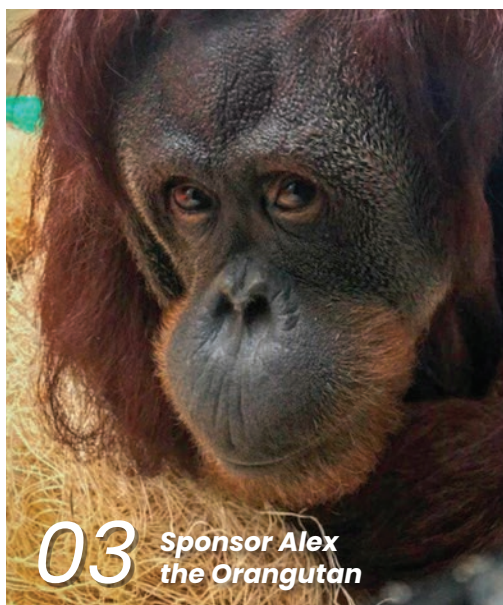
04

Winter
Fun at
the Zoo



09

Flu Shot Day



03

Sponsor Alex
the Orangutan



GRANT RECIPIENT

The Zoological Society is grateful to be one of the 385 cultural organizations to receive a grant from the state to help with the drastic loss in revenue due to COVID-19. Like many organizations, we had to make difficult but necessary decisions to cancel programs, eliminate events, cut expenses and adjust our staff.



This grant will help us advance parts of our mission that conserve wildlife and endangered species and educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment. The added funds also help us cover costs associated with the safe delivery of those programs such as the transition to virtual education classes.

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present or exhibit cultural disciplines such as music, dance, theater, literature, and the visual arts, or items of environmental or scientific interest.

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:
January–March, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Zoo hours until further notice: 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Note: The Zoo's admission and walk-in gates close 1 hour prior to the posted Zoo closing time. The animal buildings close 15 minutes before posted Zoo closing hours.

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

2020 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. zoosociety.org/MyAccount

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.

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.



WILD THINGS

Issue No. 151, Jan.–Apr. 2021

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

Editor: Katie Krecklow

Designer: Scott DuChateau

Contact the Zoological Society at:
10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226
Phone: 414-258-2333 **Web:** zoosociety.org

Contact the Milwaukee County Zoo at:
10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226
Phone: 414-256-5412 **Web:** milwaukeezoo.org

Cover photos | Red panda & bonobo by Bob Wickland.
Orangutan by Kara DeLanty.



Recycle: When your publications arrive in the plastic bag, please recycle it at your local grocery store.

This publication is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

SPONSOR AN ANIMAL



Zookeepers say Alex is very sweet and enjoys spending time outside when it's warm.

Photo by Joel Miller

Orangutans are red, some flowers are blue. Sponsor Alex this Valentine's Day to show your heart is true.

Alex is a 37-year-old female orangutan who has stolen the hearts of many. Her kind eyes and shy behavior have stopped guests in their tracks. In the warmer months, she is often found outside climbing around. You may even notice when she climbs upside down on the mesh roof; she will usually go backwards to her next location.



This Valentine's Day, for \$50, you can sponsor Alex and receive an 8-inch plush-toy orangutan, plus...

- A certificate of sponsorship
- A colorful fact sheet about orangutans
- An invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors held in August
- Sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year
- An animal sponsor decal
- A chocolate heart

Upgrade to a \$75 sponsorship to receive a photo of Alex plus two Zoo attraction coupons.

To sponsor Alex or to see the other animals available for sponsorship visit zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal or call 414-258-2333.

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is a nonprofit organization and sells animal sponsorships as a way to raise money for its mission to conserve, educate and support the Milwaukee County Zoo. The tax-deductible portion of this sponsorship is \$38 (\$50 level) and \$58 (\$75 level).

WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT WINTER AT THE ZOO

When winter hits Wisconsin, activities usually include sledding, skiing or staying warm inside. The Zoo is a great place to visit during these cold and snowy days. Here is what we think you need to see this winter.

The seals are very active in the winter. One of the best ways to watch them is the underwater viewing. Check out the seals as they coast toward the glass only to make a last-minute turn showing you their bellies. New seal pup Bosco is interested in watching you watch him.



Photo by Garrett Hopkins

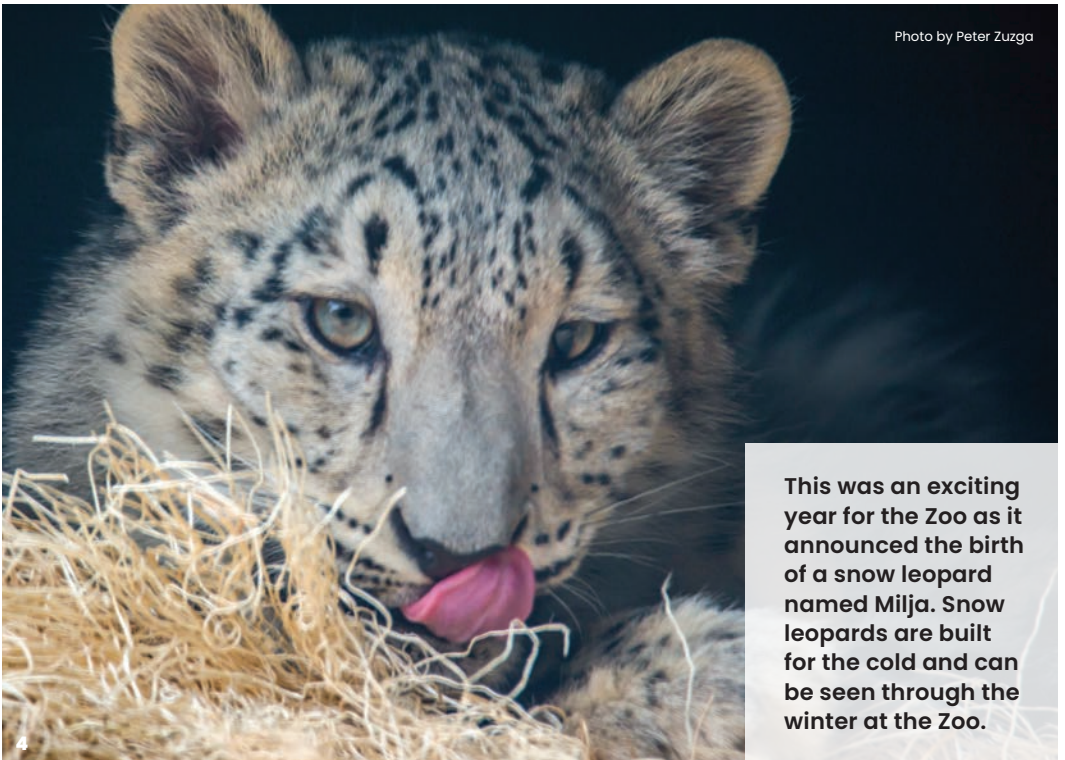


Photo by Peter Zuzga

This was an exciting year for the Zoo as it announced the birth of a snow leopard named Milja. Snow leopards are built for the cold and can be seen through the winter at the Zoo.



If you need to take a break from the cold, many buildings are open to the public including the Elephant Care Center. Ruth, Brittany and Belle can be seen inside enjoying their sand recreational area or training with the keepers.



The Zoo is a safe and beautiful place for you to stretch your legs. With a Zoo Pass you can come as often as you like for a short or long walk. While you're out, you may see the otters, camels, tigers, polar bear, peacocks and many more.

MORE MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS



Photos by Garrett Hopkins

If you are looking to help the Zoological Society in a bigger and broader way while getting more benefits and VIP opportunities than a Zoo Pass membership provides, consider joining the Platypus Circle.

Individual Platypus Circle Membership

- Transferrable cards allow you to share your membership with friends or family.
- Each card allows up to eight people - in one vehicle - free access to the Zoo during regular Zoo hours.
- Memberships start at \$750 with increased benefits at different levels.
- Join other individuals who share a passion for supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo, conserving endangered species and educating people about the importance of wildlife and the environment.
- Invitations to VIP events at the Zoo.
- Private, behind-the-scenes tours.

Corporate Platypus Circle Membership

- Transferrable cards you can use as a one-of-a-kind fringe benefit for employees and key clients.
- Each card allows up to eight people - in one vehicle - free access to the Zoo during regular Zoo hours.
- Memberships start at \$1,000 with increased benefits at different levels.
- Great corporate visibility with sign recognition inside the Milwaukee County Zoo
- Discounts on Zoo facility rentals.
- Invitations to VIP events.
- Private, behind-the-scenes tours.

A Platypus Circle membership is a gift that allows the Society to accomplish our three-fold mission to conserve, educate and support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

To learn more about becoming a member of the Platypus Circle call 414-918-6153 or visit BeAPlaty.org.



VIRTUAL ZOO CLASSES

This winter and spring, go on a Zoo adventure from your home. The Zoological Society's education team offers educational and fun virtual experiences for kids ages 3 to 14. Just like our popular at-Zoo programs, each virtual topic is specifically tailored to be age-appropriate. ZooConnect, sponsored by The Corners of Brookfield, includes Zoo Class Explore, which are 30 minutes long and connect each learner with teachers, scientists, actors and Milwaukee County Zoo staff. For a 4-year-old class, an educator might use a puppet to help engage with the children to imitate an animal they learn about, activating their imagination. Classes for older children address advanced and complex topics and involve more critical thinking.

We also offer 25-minute "Mystery Animal Spotlight" experiences that bring a featured animal ambassador into the classroom. Get an up-close look at an animal and get your questions answered by one of our educators.

New classes for winter and spring are being finalized now. Be sure to log in to zoosociety.org/ZooConnectHome to see our latest offerings.



Educators use visual pieces and even animals to teach students about wildlife and conservation.



4-year-old Teddy interacts with his educator during a virtual Zoo Class he took with his grandma.

CUTTLEFISH NOT SO CUDDLY

The newest additions to the Aquatic & Reptile Center have deceiving names. Cuttlefish are neither cuddly nor fish. They are deep-sea predators and are cephalopods – similar to a squid or octopus. Their size doesn't seem too intimidating, since they are considered babies right now. When they mature, they will be about 12 to 18 inches.

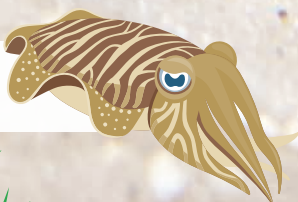
Cuttlefish are highly intelligent, and that is one of the main reasons Aquatic & Reptile Center curator Shawn Miller wanted to bring them in. Miller explains one of the ways they show their intelligence is their color-changing ability. "When they are stalking prey, they can strobe

different colors to mesmerize and slow down the prey." Cuttlefish can also use muscles to change their skin texture from smooth to rough, making it easier to hide among the rocks. Other defense mechanisms include the ability to squirt ink at a predator to distract it while the cuttlefish escapes.

The Zoo's cuttlefish eat krill, shrimp and fish guts. In the wild, they are native to the Mediterranean Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea. At the Zoo, you can find them in the former moon jellyfish habitat. Don't worry; the Zoo plans to bring moon jellies back at some point in a different aquarium that better suits their needs.



Find them at the ARC in the former moon jellyfish habitat!



FLU SHOTS

Most doctors recommend you get a flu shot each year. At the Milwaukee County Zoo, the experts recommend the bonobos get one as well. Bonobos are great apes and, because they share over 98% of their DNA with humans, they are highly susceptible to the same illnesses that humans contract. Bonobos are also the only animals at the Zoo to receive a flu shot.

Zookeepers are always mindful of their germs around animals. Head bonobo keeper Stacy Whitaker explains even before COVID there were PPE guidelines in place such as mask- and glove-wearing. The off-exhibit home of the bonobos is underground and rarely seen by outsiders. Despite these precautions, bonobos are still in contact with keepers, vet staff and contractors who are also in contact with the public. That's why it's so important for the bonobos to receive their flu shot.

At the end of October Whitaker starts the process. It takes about a week for all

19 bonobos to get their shot. Everything went smoothly thanks to their training and intelligence. "They are trained to present a body part when I show them the syringe.

They are allowed to choose where they want the vaccine – left or right, thigh or arm. Most prefer the thigh," says Whitaker. Training to get to this point takes a lot of hard work. "It is a major trust-building exercise with them, because there is some pain involved with the needle stick, as you know." Whitaker says some bonobos take

longer to train than others, but once they figure it out it's a smoother process for everyone involved. Of course, the sweet reward of fruit is always a good motivator during training sessions.

Wild bonobos are only found in the forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Classified as endangered, bonobos are threatened by poaching and habitat loss. Bonobos are also rare in human care; only seven accredited zoological facilities in North America house these great apes.



Zookeeper Stacy Whitaker allows the bonobos to choose where they want the shot.
Photo provided by Whitaker

KOHL'S WILD THEATER

Meetings, classes and chats through our phones and computers are fairly common these days. For Kohl's Wild Theater, it is no different. The free theater program has joined the virtual realm and is performing its musicals online. Erin Bailey is a third-grade teacher with Golda Meir School in Milwaukee. She has booked KWT shows for years, and this year having a virtual option is just what she and her students needed. "The change to fully virtual schooling has taken so many experiences like this away from our students. Providing a virtual option for a performance allowed our students to continue to receive the wonderful lessons KWT teaches despite the current learning situation," says Bailey.

Thanks to a partnership with Kohl's, this professional theater group offers free performances about conservation and wildlife. Bailey booked the show "Welcome to the Zoo!" in the fall. Children in grades

3-5, about 250 students, were able to watch from their homes and then discuss with the teachers afterward. This show is about a solitary student, Skylar, on a school trip to the Zoo. Skylar learns valuable lessons from the animals and is able

to overcome a fear of interacting with others.

Social-emotional learning is a topic that Bailey feels is important for her students. Golda Meir starts at the third-grade level, meaning many of the third-graders have had to meet all of their new friends virtually, trying to form bonds in this unusual way.

"Often we get too caught up with 'standards' as teachers in the crunch to get everything taught. This allowed us to take a step back as educators and reflect on if we are truly meeting our students' social-emotional needs, and it allowed students to be reminded that these are things we continue to discuss," Bailey explains.



Calvin, a third-grader in Ms. Bailey's class, watches a KWT performance while learning virtually.

To book a performance, visit wildtheater.org.



Virtual shows are available for booking.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo

NAME THAT GROUP

Most of you know the general names of animals at the Zoo: elephant, tiger and bear. But do you know what animals are called when they are in a group? For example, a group of elephants is called a herd.

Test your skills and check your answers on the back cover.

Skunks	sleuth
Donkeys	congregation
Whales	shrewdness
Apes	mischief
Bears	clowder
Giraffes	murder
Alligators	herd
Hippopotamuses	pace
Leopards	tower
Cats	bloat
Rats	cackle
Rhinos	leap
Toads	prickle
Elephants	crash
Crows	surfeit
Turtles	knot
Hyenas	bale
Porcupines	pod



Photo by Bob Wickland

FALL AT THE ZOO

In case you missed it, the fall colors and Halloween spirit did not disappoint Zoo guests in 2020. Here is a look at some of the beauty and special decorations for the Zoo's first ever drive-thru event, Boo at the Zoo, sponsored by AAA.





Photos by Paul Ruffolo and Claire Mezzanotte

EVENTS IN 2021

COVID-19 led to the cancellation of numerous events in 2020. As we start a new year, the Zoo and the Zoological Society continue to look at options to make sure events can be safely held. Decisions are still being made about events this winter and early spring, and we encourage you to check the Zoo's website, milwaukeezoo.org, and the Zoological Society's website, zoosociety.org/events, often as things may change.



Photo by Olga Korrienko

January: Samson Stomp & Romp

This year, it will not be an officially timed race. The Zoo is working on a plan to allow runners access to the Zoo in the morning in addition to a commemorative T-shirt to help the Zoo raise money.

February: Groundhog Day

Will Gordy the groundhog see his shadow? Will it be an early spring or six more weeks of winter? Keep checking back for possible activities at the Zoo associated with this annual tradition.



Photo by Joel Miller



The Milwaukee County Zoo

and the Zoological Society have social media accounts to keep you entertained, educated and informed. Follow the Zoo at [Facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo](https://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo) for your favorite animal videos, behind-the-scenes info and latest information about the Zoo.



Zoo Pass members are encouraged to also follow [Facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass) for insider information about their Zoo Pass, exclusive deals for Zoo Pass members and Zoo Class details, in addition to animal photos and facts.



H₂O FOR ELEPHANTS

This year the Zoological Society is raising money to help the Zoo build a filtration system for the elephants' pool. Elephants love water and love to make mud that they roll around in or throw on their bodies. Right now, keepers empty, clean and refill the pool weekly. It takes several people an entire day and that means the elephants have to stay inside.

Your donation can help...

**CONSERVE
WATER**

**ALLOW MORE
OUTDOOR TIME FOR
THE ELEPHANTS**

**SAVE
TIME**

**GIVE TODAY AND MILLER
BREWING COMPANY WILL
MATCH YOUR DONATION!**

To donate, call 414-258-2333, stop by Guest Services inside the Zoo or visit zoosociety.org/appeal.

Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized on electronic signs in the Conservation Outpost within Adventure Africa. Signs will be updated quarterly.



Zoological Society of Milwaukee
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383



15

Help the Elephants

Photo by Garrett Hopkins

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Due to COVID-19 and health and safety guidelines, the Zoo and Zoological Society have had to make changes to events. For the most up-to-date information about these and other events, visit zoosociety.org/events.

Jan. 2
Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank, media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)*†

Feb. 2
Groundhog Day

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

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

* To maintain controlled attendance, this event will be by online reservation only. Zoo Pass members and non-members will need to reserve a ticket online through the Zoo's website, milwaukeezoo.org.

† Zoo Pass members get free regular 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.

P.11 name game answers:

- Alligators: a congregation
- Apes: a shrewdness
- Bears: a sleuth
- Cats: a clowder
- Crows: a murder
- Donkeys: a pace
- Giraffes: a tower
- Hippopotamuses: a bloat
- Hyenas: a cackle
- Leopards: a leap
- Porcupines: a prickly
- Rats: a mischief
- Rhinos: a crash
- Skunks: a surfeit
- Toads: a knot
- Turtles: a bale
- Whales: a pod

CONNECT WITH US!

facebook.com/ZooPass

twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE

youtube.com/ZooSocietyMKE

Milwaukee Zoo Pass App

8540K20



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.