

Wild Things

Grazing, Gazing & Music



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
a la Carte at the Zoo

With major support from MillerCoors

August 18-21. Hours: 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Aug. 18, 19, 20; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21.

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID. For others: adults (ages 13-59), \$13.25; ages 3-12, \$10.25; ages 2 & under, free; ages 60 and older, \$12.25. Value (multi-day) tickets (\$26 adults; \$18 children) available for purchase through Aug. 21 at Tri City National Bank locations. Milwaukee County parking fee: \$11 (Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking). For details, call (414) 256-5466 or go to: www.milwaukeezoo.org



Lisa Eskau, of Menomonee Falls, steals a spoonful of ice cream from Mathew Simms, of Sussex, at last year's event.

You can't eat as much as an elephant or a lion, but you can give it your best shot at this popular Milwaukee County Zoo festival. With more than 25 Milwaukee-area restaurants to choose from, vegetarians will find ample grazing opportunities and carnivores can satiate their animal appetites! As always, this food-and-music event features extended hours, live music, a wide choice of food and a chance to gaze at the animals. You can purchase food from a variety of Milwaukee-area restaurants and food distributors, such as Café El Sol, Robert's Frozen Custard, Trinity Three Irish Pubs, and Whole Foods Market. New this year: U.S. Cellular's Fan Favorite promotion invites all zoogoers to vote for their favorite restaurant (promotion details at the event). Then enjoy live music at any of the six stages, including the Ralph Evinrude Landing Stage, sponsored by U.S. Cellular®. This year's headliners are: Thursday, Jerry Garcia Band, featuring Melvin Seals; Friday, Sister Hazel; Saturday, TBA; Sunday, the 52nd Street Band (music of Billy Joel). There are wine tastings for adults at the Giraffe Village Wine Tent. The entire park and all animal buildings will be open at night (the Mahler Family Aviary closes at dusk).

CRUISE WITH THE CRITTERS

Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride

Sponsored by The Wisconsin Heart Hospital and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St. Joseph
Media sponsors: FM 106.1, AM 920 The Wolf and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Sunday, Sept. 18, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Register online at www.zoosociety.org/bike by Sept. 14, with form on page 4 or call (414) 258-2333 for a brochure. For Zoological Society members: adults (ages 14 and over), \$35; children (ages 2-13), \$12; family of four, \$85. Non-members: adults, \$40; children, \$15; family of four, \$100. Day of: adults, \$45; children, \$20.



Bikes, kids, critters—what a great combination! Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, you'll love this family bike ride that starts at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Children can show off their favorite animal toys in the Critter Caravan, a special 2.5-mile kids' route through the Zoo. The animal toy can ride in a bike basket or backpack. Plus, after the ride, kids and their plush pets can head to the Kids 'n Critters Corral to grab a snack, get a temporary tattoo and create crafts. For adults this ZSM biking fund-raiser includes two distance rides (17 and 27 miles) that start at the Zoo and continue north along Menomonee River Parkway and the Oak Leaf bike trail. Rides start at 8 and 8:15 a.m., and all routes begin and end at the Zoo. The registration fee includes entry to the Zoo and parking, a continental breakfast, a picnic lunch and a long-sleeve T-shirt.

With her toy giraffe, Cortney Schuk, 5, of Milwaukee (foreground) heads last year's Critter Caravan kids' route.

Connect With Us:

facebook.com/ZooPass

twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo

Meet Kohl's Wild Theater actors, wildtheater.org

Fall kids' classes at the Zoo, zoosociety.org/Education/fall

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



More than three decades ago a mother took her two young sons to the Milwaukee County Zoo to see Samson, the Zoo's most famous gorilla. A large crowd had gathered in front of his exhibit. The older boy made his way to the front of the crowd to get a good look. Suddenly, Samson threw a tire at the window. BOOM! The boy ran back to his mother, frightened. That boy was me. That experience instilled in me a life-long respect for animals. Samson died in 1981. Now, 30 years later, I am honored to write about him as I take on the mantle of editor of *Wild Things*. I look forward to promoting our

mission of conservation, education and support of the Zoo. (To be clear, I'm the primate on the left.)

Zak Mazur, Editor

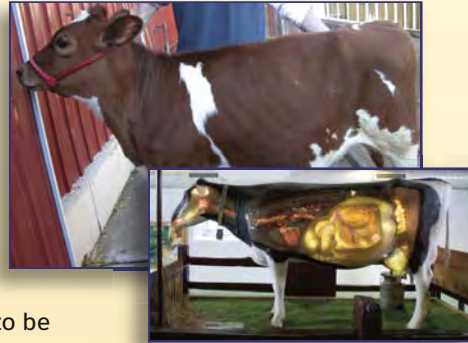
Samson photo by
Sam LaMalfa.



The Zoological Society's Annual Appeal: **Belle of the Barn**

Belle, the fiberglass Holstein cow in the Milwaukee County Zoo's dairy barn, helped teach a generation of kids how milk is made. As part of our 2011 annual appeal, the Zoological Society is giving Belle an interactive makeover to teach the next generation of kids. Updates include a display that young children can touch and learn from, new movies about cows in the Dairy Complex theater, fun dairy facts and more. The appeal also raises money for additional Zoo support. Donate \$2,500 or more, for a special limited-time offer, and receive individualized recognition on a bench to be placed in or around the Dairy Complex. Donors of \$75-\$249 will have their names listed on a sign; donors of \$250-\$499 will receive larger recognition on a sign; donors of \$500-\$999 will receive individualized recognition and a plush-toy cow; and donors of \$1,000 or more will receive individualized recognition, get to sponsor one of our cows for one year and receive a plush-toy cow and a photo. To give a gift, please see zoosociety.org/appeal or call (414) 258-2333.

Top: A profile view of Fiona, an Ayrshire cow.
Bottom: Belle's profile is transparent and offers viewers a glimpse of a cow's anatomy.



MEMBERANDA

Zoological Society office hours: Through Sept. 5:
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours: Through Sept. 5: Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Please note that the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. The animal buildings close 15 minutes before posted Zoo closing hours.

Company Picnics: For members visiting the Zoo with a company picnic, Zoo Pass members' free-admission or free parking benefits do not apply. The fees paid for company picnics include admission and parking and usually include additional Zoo-visit benefits.

Zoo admission: If you've misplaced or lost your card, replacement cards may be purchased for \$5.

Visiting other zoos and aquariums: We have agreed to participate in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums listing of accredited institutions. Some accredited zoos and aquariums choose not to participate in this program and therefore do not appear on our list. Most facilities honor free or discounted admission for two adults and two minor children. Members should call ahead to the facilities they plan to visit to get current information. In a few cases, we have opted not to reciprocate with some institutions that are in close proximity to our Zoo. Members are encouraged to review the updated list by going online to www.zoopass.com

Who can use member cards? The person(s) named on the Zoo Pass is the owner of the card and benefits are not transferable to anyone else. We need to have the number of members' minor children/grandchildren in your household reflected in your membership records for the Zoo's admission gates. Foster children are covered on your membership. **Day-care providers for children:** *Your Zoo Pass membership does not cover children for whom you provide baby-sitting or day-care services.* The ZSM and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any membership being used inappropriately.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 95, July 2011

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

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E-mail: publications@zoosociety.org

Web site: www.zoosociety.org

Seniority at the Zoo

Senior Celebration

Sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health

Media sponsor: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Friday, Sept. 2. Free Zoo admission 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for seniors ages 55 and older with an ID.

County Zoo parking fee: \$11 (Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking)

Walking is one of the best forms of exercise for health and fitness; so put on your walking shoes and join us for this year's senior day at the Milwaukee County Zoo! Stroll the park, see the animals, learn useful health tips and participate in some of the athletic events (such as throwing horseshoes) offered by Wisconsin Senior Olympics. If you still have energy, get ready to dance and sway to live music from yesteryear. Other fun includes

bingo, complimentary cookies, tips from master gardeners and entertainment on two stages, both sponsored by Humana MarketPOINT. San Camillo will provide free ice cream on a first-come-first-served basis. For details, call the Zoo at (414) 256-5466.



Above: Competing at horseshoes are Shirley Theis and Randy Kohl, the Wisconsin Senior Olympics representative at last year's event.



Left: Rita Dais, of Pewaukee, enjoys ice cream at last year's event.

TwiliGht Tunes

Sunset Zoofaris

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank

July 6, 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3, 6-9 p.m.

Flamingo Patio Gazebo stage

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with photo ID

Non-members: Adults, \$6.50; ages 3-12, \$5.50; or

\$20 per carload (with a maximum of 10 people)

No parking fee. For details, call (414) 771-3040.

As the afternoon sunlight wanes, you find yourself in the Zoo's twilight zone. It's the middle ground between splashing hippos and snoozing bears, between strutting peacocks and strumming musicians. You have entered Wednesday band nights, with a different live band each week. The musicians play and the animal buildings stay open until 8:45 p.m. (except the Mahler Family Aviary, which closes at dusk). The special summer exhibit, Butterflies! In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, will be open (exhibit admission is \$2.00 per person; see page 11). Purchase dinner from the Zoo's Flamingo Café and Lakeview Place restaurants, or bring a picnic and dine alfresco. The Zoo closes at its regular weekday time of 5 p.m., and then re-opens at 6 p.m. for these events. The band lineup is: **July 6**, 3D, an acoustic pop/rock band; **July 13**, the rock band Pinstripe; **July 20**, 5 Card Studs playing '60s and '70s classics; **July 27**, the LoveMonkeys performing pop, rock and reggae; **Aug. 3**, Dirty Boogie with cover hits from the BoDeans and more. Bands start at 6:15 p.m., and if it rains will be in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place.



Top: The Milwaukee band Hat Trick played in June 2010 (from left: Steve Kohrs, Mark Cooper and Larry Kubiayk).

Bottom: Hannah Holbrook, 3 (left), of New Berlin spins to music with her sister Gabrielle, 8, in June 2010.

Tri City National Bank customers: Get a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel. Stop at any branch and get a free-ride ticket while supplies last. (Valid July 6, 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3, only during evening Sunset Zoofaris. Does not include Zoo admission or parking. One ticket per person per bank visit.) Visit tcnb.com for bank locations.

RIDE ON THE WILD SIDE, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 See story on page 1.

Name & age: _____

Name & age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Zoological Society Membership No. (if applicable): _____

E-mail _____

Entry Fees Enclosed* (Circle which apply and fill in fees):

	Zoo Society Member	Non-Member	Day of Ride	
Adult (14 & over)	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$ _____
Child (2-13)	\$12	\$15	\$20	\$ _____
Family of 4**	\$85	\$100		\$ _____
			Sub-total	\$ _____
			Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

Please choose route:
 27-mile ride
 17-mile ride
 2.5-mile ride

Entry fee is not tax-deductible. Sales tax included. To comply with WI statute section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

*Entry fee includes entry into the Zoo, parking, continental breakfast and picnic lunch, and long-sleeved T-shirt.

**A family of four is defined as 2 adults & 2 children.

Circle T-shirt size wanted and state quantity:

Adult: _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL **Child:** _____ 6-8 _____ 10-12 _____ 14-16

Due to printing deadlines, only limited sizes of shirts will be available for participants whose registrations are received after Sept. 14. T-shirts not guaranteed for day-of-ride registrants. Children under age 2 may ride free in a bike seat or be pulled in "carriers." They must wear a helmet. Shirts are not available for kids age 2 and under.

Credit Card Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Acct. No. _____

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

Signature: _____

Print name as it appears on credit card: _____

Online zoosociety.org/bike

Check Make payable to Zoological Society and send with form to:

Bike Ride, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN GALENA FIELD TRIP, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011

Zoological Society of Milwaukee Member No. _____

Name(s) of traveler(s) _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

If you wish to travel with another person or group who is sending in a separate reservation, please indicate the name(s): _____

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$40 per person (ages 3+)

Please reserve _____ spaces at \$30 per person (ages 2 & under)

Special Traveling needs: _____

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

Credit Card Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Acct. No. _____

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

Signature: _____

Print name as it appears on credit card: _____

Online zoosociety.org/travel

Check Make payable to Zoological Society and send with form to:

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

Registration starts July 25

*Space is limited. No reservations before July 25, 2011. Cancellations prior to Sept. 10, 2011, are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after September 10, 2011, 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.

Hooray – Animal Sponsor Day!

Animal Safari

Sponsored by Welch's & Pick 'n Save

Aug. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; behind-the-scenes tours run 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Call (414) 258-2333 to become an animal sponsor or see www.zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal

Want to learn more about your favorite animals at the Zoo? You can at this behind-the-scenes event if you sponsor a Zoo animal or join the Kids Conservation Club* by Aug. 27. Choose an animal to sponsor through the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Sponsor an Animal program. Our featured animal for this event is Brewster the black rhinoceros, for \$20. Sponsors can participate in a scavenger hunt and visit areas of the Milwaukee County Zoo that are usually off-limits to the public, such as the aviary kitchen and the camel barn. Tours are open to animal sponsors only. All zoogoers, however, can participate in all other activities, such as talks in front of animal exhibits, temporary tattoos, kids' crafts and more. When you register at the event, you will get a chance to win a private tour with a zookeeper in the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. The tour is at 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 27 and can include up to four people.

*Kids Conservation Club features endangered animal collectors' cards, workshops with crafts and a sponsorship of an endangered animal at the Zoo. Annual membership costs \$20 per child; to join, see zoosociety.org/kidsclub or call (414) 258-2333.



Zachary Schlesselman, 2, of Sussex, and his grandmother, Jaclynn Schaefer, of Milwaukee (left), learn about seal-training toys last year from Zoo Pride volunteer Kim Haebig.

Free Kids Conservation Club membership offer:
Send in a Pick 'n Save cash-register receipt showing the purchase of five Welch's products, along with a completed club application form, to the address on the form.
Offer good through August 2011.



Kids' 'Green' Art Contest

Materials for making works of art are all around you! Use your imagination to create art from discarded material that can be recycled for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Kids' Green Art Contest. Register by Aug. 12. Submit projects between Aug. 22 and Aug. 26. For details, visit zoosociety.org/artcontest or call Becky at (414) 258-2333.

Briyauna Willis, 8, of Milwaukee, created this Dream Green House for last year's Green Art Contest.

Will We See Ya in Galena?

The Historic Downtown Galena Field Trip

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, 6:15 a.m.-8 p.m.

Cost: \$40 per person (ages 3+); \$30 per person age 2 & under

Register starting July 25 with form at left, online at zoosociety.org or by calling (414) 258-2333

With specialty shops, galleries, boutiques and more, downtown Galena, Ill., is a shopper's paradise. Travel with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee to this historic city on the mighty Mississippi for Galena's annual open-air Market Day. Browse booths of merchandise staffed by people in turn-of-the-century attire. Dine at one of 25 restaurants—and remember to buy fresh baked goods to bring home. Enjoy downtown Galena's mid-19th century architecture and visit historic sites, such as the Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historical Site, the Old Market House State Historic Site, The Old Blacksmith Shop and more. If you need a break from walking, a free visitor shuttle operates between the Old Train Depot and the Old Market House.



A Garden of

Butterflies! In Living Color

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

Through Sept. 25 daily; \$2 per person exhibit admission. Half-price admission for Zoological Society members July 12, 14 & 15 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. with Zoo Pass card & photo ID.

Butterflies emerge from their chrysalises every day and add to the Milwaukee County Zoo's kaleidoscopic summer exhibit. Different butterflies arrive each week. So there's always something new and beautiful to see in this garden getaway full of flurry and flutter. While gliding into this greenhouse oasis, complete with soft sprays of mist and delicate lighting, look above. You'll notice monarch butterflies clinging to the netted ceiling in preparation to take flight. Below you, catch sight of all the great southern white butterflies practically sweeping the floor. These gentle insects' wispy white wings are easy to spot against the dark greenery. Take careful steps to avoid an accident as they circle your legs. While following the pathway farther into the garden, stop by one of several dishes where colorful sponges soaked in sugar water give you a chance to see a butterfly taking a breather. Or, take a breather yourself and wait for a butterfly to land on you. If you're lucky, one might just perch on your shirt, your arm, your hair or even your forehead! Use the laminated butterfly identification sheet at the exhibit to distinguish these creatures. Remember to peruse the pupae housed in glass enclosures on the platform in the center of the exhibit. Plan for a sauna-like experience filled with friendly butterflies.

VOLUNTEERING

ZOO PRIDE OPENS DOORS



When a teenaged Amber Graham began toying with the idea of volunteering at the Milwaukee County Zoo four years ago, she knew it would be fun. After all, she loves animals. But she also had other considerations. "I knew it would look good on my resume," says Graham, now 20 and a graduate of the Milwaukee High School of the Arts. She joined Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary, in March 2007. Graham, a Milwaukee native, completed her second semester at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee last spring, and she credits her Zoo Pride volunteer experience for helping her to get admitted. "I think showing that you did different volunteer

Amber Graham (left), of Milwaukee, and teenager John McCann, of West Allis, answer questions about elephants from Melissa and Jim Deutsch, of Gurnee, Ill., and daughters Elizabeth (foreground), 2; Anna, 4; and Emily, 7 months.

Butterflies



The Balistreri family of Sendik's Food Markets marvels at a monarch butterfly during the May 26 exhibit premiere. From left are Erin Balistreri with son Drew, 7; daughter Lexi, 5; husband Nick; sister-in-law Margaret Harris, all of Mequon; and brother-in-law Ted Balistreri, of Milwaukee.



Sydney Horning (left), 4, of Greenfield, and her sister, Kaitlyn, 2, try to identify butterflies in the exhibit.

Cate Mills, 4, of Wauwatosa, admires a butterfly with her mom, Patty, at the butterfly exhibit premiere.



Sponsor a Monarch

You can sponsor a monarch butterfly for only \$25. The sponsorship helps all the Zoo's animals and includes a plush-toy monarch, a seed packet filled with a mix of butterfly garden plants, an invitation to an August behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors, a fun animal fact sheet and decal, and sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year. For more information, go to www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333.

activities on your college admission application helps—especially if you can say that you volunteered at a nationally recognized zoo."

Nathan Hale High School sophomore John McCann, a Zoo Pride volunteer for about a year, concurs. "In college admissions they look for people with volunteering experience," he says. McCann knows he wants to study at the University of Minnesota. He intends to major in science because his dream is to become a veterinarian. Zoo Pride, he says, is helping him attain that long-term goal. "Zoo Pride training has definitely given me an advantage in biology class," he says. "Zoo Pride training immerses you in animal taxonomy." Volunteers can choose from more than 20 Zoo Pride committees, from serving as building guides to making crafts.

Of course, boosting one's resume isn't the only reason to volunteer at the Zoo. "Being a Zoo Pride volunteer has helped me connect my knowledge of animals to reality," says Graham. "I love being able to share that information with the public." McCann, an admitted "fact geek," says that sharing animal information with zoo-goers helps people enjoy the Zoo more.

NEXT TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Get started in Zoo Pride with Level I fall training. The two required sessions give you Zoo basics and allow you to join six of Zoo Pride's numerous committees.

Sessions run:

Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. OR 6:30 p.m.
and Sept. 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Level II is a more extensive, four-day training, held Sept 14 at 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m., Sept. 17 at 8:30 a.m., Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.

Level II training includes Zoo tours and offers more opportunities for volunteering.

Call (414) 258-5667 for details.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Tour the Zoo with a Zoo Pride volunteer. Walks of 1 ½ to 2 hours focus on outside exhibits and feature animal facts and conservation efforts. For information, go to www.zoosociety.org/ZooPride or call (414) 258-5667.

INTO THE TREETOPS

It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Human visitors could climb into an ape “treehouse” without the apes. At a Platypus Society/VIP premiere of the Milwaukee County Zoo’s new bonobo outdoor exhibit on May 5, more than 300 guests got the opportunity to climb through loops of mesh chutes, towers and “playrooms” ranging from 4 feet to 26 feet off the ground. The outdoor exhibit, which connects to the Stearns Family Apes of Africa Pavilion, was opened to guests on a cool day. Bonobos don’t go in the outdoor units unless it’s warm and good weather. This summer zoogoers can view them outdoors from a wooden deck. The mesh ape exhibit is one of three major upgrades to the Zoo’s bonobo area, thanks to a generous gift to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) from an anonymous donor. A second upgrade, made to the indoor exhibit last winter, features more tree trunks and climbing ropes that simulate the vines and trees of bonobos’ natural habitat in African forests. The third upgrade, completed in spring, features dramatic



Lori Martin, of Crystal Lake, Ill., and her husband, Mickey, view the new bonobo exhibit and a sign. Some of exhibit graphics were made possible by a donation from GE Healthcare on behalf of Lori.

new graphics and interactive displays in public hallways at the indoor bonobo exhibit. Here you can follow Dr. Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society’s conservation coordinator, studying and protecting these endangered great apes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Members of the Platypus Society, the ZSM’s premier giving group, are invited to exhibit premieres and other special events. For more information, call (414) 258-2333.

Left: Billie Jean Smith, a Zoological Society Board member, climbs a ladder to check out the view near the treetops. Below: Visitors explore the bonobos’ “chutes and ladders” playground during the premiere.



On Stage at the Zoo



Orrie the orangutan with her baby.

While it's fun to see animals play, it's just as fun to see a play about animals. At the Milwaukee County Zoo this summer you can view three animal-themed plays. Even if you've seen one of the plays already, you'll want to catch the other two. Performed by professional actors, the shows are full of humor, songs and fun. The conservation-themed plays were commissioned by the Zoological Society for Kohl's Wild Theater, which is made possible by a partnership with Kohl's Cares. The three family-friendly plays — each 15 minutes long — rotate through five free performances every day at the Zoo, ending on Labor Day. Show times are 10 a.m., 12 noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Audience members can share in the fun and become part of the action by singing songs and helping the onstage characters. In "The Mysterious Case of the Disappearing Bees," the audience assists Detective Appletree in finding ways to help bees. A polar bear and swan help kids discover the impact of carbon footprints in "Lights, Camera, Arctic!" In "A Climb Through Time With Clues and Rhyme," kids can do a count-down to help Kiddo travel through time to save orangutans. Since the performers rotate characters, it's fun to watch shows repeatedly just to see how different people play the same character. In addition to the plays on stage, zoogoers will find impromptu skits at some animal exhibits and short performances on Zoo pathways.

Bobby Johnson (left) and Michael Black prepare to jump in a time machine.



Dylan Marks plays Ursus the polar bear. Kelly Doherty (in back) plays a film director.



Samantha Sostarich is the queen bee in a detective story.

Interacting with actors are members of Girl Scout Troop No. 1207 of St. Sebastian School in Milwaukee.



Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to You

In October, Kohl's Wild Theater will travel to schools, libraries and special events or festivals within a one-hour radius of the Zoo, free of charge. Performances are booked on a first-come-first-served basis.

Please contact Lisa B. at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, (414) 258-2333, or KWT@zoosociety.org for available dates.

For more information, go to wildtheater.org.



Christian Kennedy, 4, of Twin Lake, Mich., proudly displays his freshly molded gorilla figurine.

This Mold Never Gets Old

You're strolling through a building at the Zoo when you catch a whiff of melting plastic. The acrid odor carries you back in time. Your eyes zero in on a machine that looks like it's from a bygone era—and it is. It's the Mold-A-Rama, a vending machine invented in the 1950s.

"It's not your usual vending machine," says Paul Jones, president and part owner with his father, William, of Mold-A-Rama Inc., based in Lyon, Ill. "The smell is definitely a trigger to your memory." The Mold-A-Rama was introduced at the Milwaukee County Zoo in 1980 by Dr. Gil Boese, then Zoo director.

"Before I came here I was the Deputy Director of the Brookfield Zoo and was responsible for marketing," says Dr. Boese. "We had some Mold-A-Ramas and they provided a steady flow of revenue. Within one month, I brought three here." The Zoo now boasts 13 of the vending machines. In 1980, a Mold-A-Rama souvenir cost only 50 cents; today it's \$2. This little concession is an important revenue source for the Zoo, says Karl Hackbarth, Zoo operations coordinator. Since 1980, 1.5 million to 2 million molds have been sold. In 2010 alone, about 62,000 molds were sold for a total of about \$124,000. He says the most popular molds have always been gorillas and elephants.

Photo by Allen Davies

The Mold-A-Rama is a true piece of Americana. It became popular in the 1960s, an era when plastic was the new "wonder" material and began appearing everywhere. The Mold-A-Rama fit perfectly into the "wave of the future" mentality sweeping the nation. "The whole idea of the machine is you can look under the bubble and watch the mold come together," says Jones. "People love to watch how stuff is made."

As for the aroma, you either love it or hate it. "I've seen people smelling their mold while it's still warm," says Jones. Dr. Boese, on the other hand, says he preferred the revenue to the odor. He notes that the molds are still popular today because they're inexpensive. "Children without much money can get one."

Although they generate less revenue than Mold-A-Rama, two other types of interactive vending machines can be found at the Zoo: the penny press (only 50 cents) and the I.D. tag (\$5 per souvenir). The Zoo has 13 penny press machines and 10 of them have three different dyes, which makes for 33 different patterns. The penny press has some diehard fans. Gabbi Chee—a 2010 publications intern for the Zoological Society—has collected pressed pennies since the eighth grade. She was excited to discover the Zoo had penny press machines. "I made it my mission to track them all down," she says. And she came close—adding 30 more pressed pennies to her collection.



Christian Kennedy (left), 4, and his brother Brayden, 7, watch the Zoo's Mold-A-Rama machine with their mother, Beth.

By Zak Mazur

fun, hands-ON Learning Programs

Summer Camps Still Open

You can still register for the Zoological Society's fun and fascinating summer day camps, sponsored by Noodles & Company. Camps run through Aug. 12 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Some examples are listed below; to check on availability, dates, times and prices, please go online to zoosociety.org/education/summercamps.

Photo by Julie Cheng

- **Age 2 (with one adult):** Kids make a pig costume and roll in a "mud puddle" for a squealin' good time at **This Little Piggy** camp.
- **Age 3 (with one adult):** In **Gentle Giants**, kids create a giraffe with a long neck and lots of spots before eating a leaf-a-licious snack and then galloping through the Zoo to visit these long-legged creatures.
- **Ages 4 & 5:** Children make their own tiger costume and then stalk and pounce over to see these majestically striped felines in **Tigers** camp.
- **Ages 6 & 7:** Learn cool facts about the ocean food chain and its ultimate predator—the shark—in **Underwater Safari**. Find your creative side as you experiment with awesome art supplies in **Oodles of Art**.
- **Ages 8 & 9:** In **Scoop on Poop**, learn how and why animal poop is produced and how it can be used. You'll learn interesting facts; for example, an elephant produces enough poop every day to fill the trunk of a family car.



A group of 6- and 7-year-olds passes the Zoo's farm during a summer camp called Zoo's Clues. From left are college-student intern Samantha Martinson, Brandon Gang, Ashleigh Koenig, Brooke Pfister and Jacob Abhold.

Fall-Winter Class Signup

Watch for the September-December 2011 Education Adventures at the Zoo brochure, featuring classes for ages 2-14. The fall brochure was mailed with this issue of *Wild Things*. Registration is online and members are given priority when registration begins.

Programs for Schools

In fall and spring, the Zoological Society publishes a brochure listing our broad variety of education programs, which are offered at either the Zoo or as outreach to schools. The school brochure also can be found at zoosociety.org/school. Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is under way.

Early Childhood Teachers' Workshop

Come to the Zoo to discover fun and engaging ways to present animal units to children from preschool to second grade. An **Insects** workshop on Saturday, July 16, includes animal background information, project and station ideas, craft samples and a Zoo tour. Continuing education certificates are provided. To register, call (414) 258-5058, ext. 401, or download a registration form from the School Programs section of zoosociety.org.

Scouting Programs

Scouts and Scout Leaders – Earn a scout badge at the Zoo with our Badge in a Day Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs. We are currently offering the Animals Try-it for Brownies and Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement for Bear Cubs and the Naturalist Activity Badge for Webelos. Program dates are limited to some weekends, "kids days off" from school and early release dates. For a schedule of available dates and times, please contact Christopher Uitz at (414) 258-5058, ext. 428, or e-mail chrisu@zoosociety.org.

UWM Course at the Zoo for teachers

Teachers, you can get graduate or undergraduate credit when you complete the **Study of the World's Predators & Carnivores** course, held Oct. 15 and 16 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This one-credit Zoological Society teacher-educator course runs 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both days. Explore the adaptations of these animals and learn to use the Zoo as a teaching resource. Credits are offered by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Call UWM Outreach at (414) 229-5255 for fees and registration.

HELPING HANDS

Want to give us a helping hand? Whether you're excited about our events, education programs or conservation efforts, you can help! Details on the Web: zoosociety.org/Support/

April Fool's Party

On April 1 kids learned how animals use camouflage and other techniques to "fool" predators and prey at this year's Zootastic family night, sponsored by **Noodles & Company**. The Zoological Society fund-raising event featured music by a DJ, **Palermo's® Pizza**, **Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches**, **Cedar Crest Ice Cream**, eco-friendly crafts and displays of animal artifacts. New this year was a silent auction, held in conjunction with the annual Zootastic raffle. Families enjoyed a dance party in the Peck Welcome Center and zookeeper encounters in the Aquatic & Reptile Center.



Robby Karpinsky, a brave 5-year-old from Waukesha, wasn't fooled by the Honduran milk snake—handled by reptile zookeeper Christopher Fendos—which has markings that mimic the venomous coral snake.

Visiting Animal Moms on Mother's Day

Lucky moms who visited the Milwaukee County Zoo on Mother's Day, May 8, could spend quality time with their offspring while meeting some of the Zoo's new offspring, thanks to event sponsor **westbury bank**. About 12,355 Zoo attendees on May 8 had a chance to see "zooborns," including three joeys, ranging in ages from 3 to 6 months, which were cared for by their doting kangaroo mothers, Gidget, Ellie-May and Annie. Other moms included Zomi, a bonobo, who was taking care of her 1-year-old daughter, Kitoko. Moms strolling through the Primates of the World building couldn't miss gentle M.J., the Zoo's female orangutan who is surrogate mother to 4-year-old Mahal.

Stacy Scott, of Oak Creek, and her daughter, Delaney, 3, pose in front of a giraffe on May 8.



Green Is Good

Green was the theme at the Milwaukee County Zoo May 14 and 15 during its annual Party for the Planet, sponsored by the **American Transmission Company**. This eco-fest, which celebrated both Earth Day and International Migratory Bird Day, drew 5,827 people to the Zoo for some rainy-day fun. Kids learned about the dangers that migratory birds face, as well as things they can do in their own yards to help birds. The weekend event also included kid-friendly music, sponsored by **Coleman Repellents**; butterfly garden tips from University of Wisconsin Extension master gardeners; woodcarving demonstrations from the Greater Milwaukee Wildfowl Carvers; and bird banding by zookeepers.



Paw to Paw: Lincoln Goldsmith, 2, of Brookfield, touches the paw of Smokey Bear at the event.



Sherrod Swafford Jr. (left), 13, and Milan Williams, 12, encountered a monarch butterfly at the exhibit premiere in May.

Dishes with colorful sponges soaked with sugar water attract butterflies, and soft sprays of mist create a steamy habitat. Glass-encased pupae are hatching more butterflies all summer to populate the exhibit.

Butterflies to Please the Eyes

These butterflies are friendly. They'll land on your hand or your head, or anywhere they please. They're part of the Milwaukee County Zoo's special summer exhibit, Butterflies! In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. The exhibit opened with a special premiere on May 26 and runs through Sept. 25. Stop in to admire the vibrant colors and varying sizes of some 40 butterfly species.

Bouncy Easter Bunnies

A few new furry friends found their way to the Milwaukee County Zoo on April 16 and 17. Various versions of the Easter Bunny hopped up to greet children at Breakfast and Lunch with the Bunny during this week-before-Easter weekend. Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles, the springtime event featured flavorful platters of sweet kringle

followed by a full breakfast or lunch. Families listened to children's musician Fred Turk and even "hopped" up onstage to sing and dance along to his banjo ditties.

Mrs. Easter Bunny also brought plush-toy otters for all the kids who came to see her.

Hailey Heller, 4, of Oak Creek, snuggles with the Easter Bunny after breakfast.



Three Cheers for Bunny Ears

Whiskers were everywhere at Egg Day, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save. With painted whiskers and matching bunny ears, kids hopped throughout the Milwaukee County Zoo ready for Easter fun.

While children were on the prowl for tokens in the Hop-to-it Bunny Scavenger Hunt, animals enjoyed the April 23 event with special enrichment toys to engage both their minds and bodies. The annual celebration also included an Easter parade led by costumed characters and a Dixieland jazz band plus a show by bubble magician Geoff Akins. More than 8,340 "egg-zuberant" zoogoers added to the "egg-citement" of the day.

LaTodd Houston, 3, of Milwaukee, meets the Easter Bunny at the Zoo. Photo by Rick Heinlein

Grants Received

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) has received the following grants since March 2011:

- From **U.S. Cellular**[®]: a) one grant for our Conservation Education Department 2011-2012 Animal Ambassador education programs that bring the world of animals and conservation to elementary-school students (many attending schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods); and, b) a grant for the ZSM's Programs for Disadvantaged Youth, which allow children from disadvantaged neighborhoods to attend ZSM camps at the Zoo in summer.
- From **Joy Global Foundation**: a grant for our 2011-2012 Animal Ambassador programs.
- From **Dr. Joan Prince/Safe Alternatives for Youth** for our 2011-2012 Animal Ambassador and Programs For Disadvantaged Youth.

INSIDER TIPS

Some (Lizards) Like it **Hot**

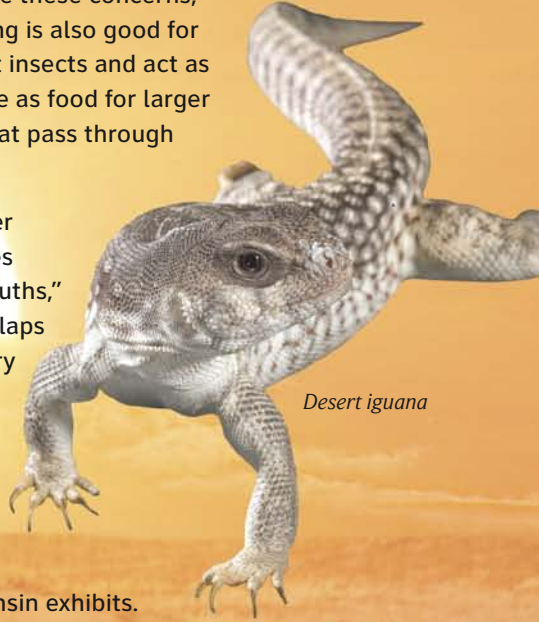
Black-collared lizard



A small slice of the baking Sonoran Desert in the American Southwest—and five of its lizard natives—can now be found at the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The lizards, which are diurnal (active during the day), are perfectly comfortable in 95- to 100-degree heat. But if global warming trends continue, these five lizards—a desert iguana, a black-collared lizard, a desert spiny lizard, a zebra-tailed lizard, and a spot-tailed earless lizard—might find the heat unbearable. “When these lizards get too hot, they’ll find a crevice and stay where it’s cooler,” says Craig Berg, the Zoo’s aquarium and reptiles curator. “This means they spend less time foraging for food and won’t be able to build up the fat reserves required for reproduction.” Despite these concerns, their populations are healthy—and their well-being is also good for the health of the ecosystem they live in. “They eat insects and act as a natural pest control,” says Berg. “They also serve as food for larger animals.” Finally, he adds, they distribute seeds that pass through their digestive system, thus spreading vegetation.

Desert lizards are exquisitely adapted for life under the scorching Southwestern sun. “They have scales that can channel dew to run directly into their mouths,” says Berg. “Some of the desert lizards have little flaps on their rear toes to help them run on sand and dry powder. The spot-tail earless lizard has no ears because they would get filled with sand.” The lizards arrived in February from the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. You can find them sharing space with a beaded lizard and chuckwalla in the ARC’s Western exhibit, between the Boelens pythons and lowland Wisconsin exhibits.

Desert iguana



Although Berg believes each lizard is special, he is partial to the black-collared lizard. “They’re personable; they’re not afraid of anything,” he says. “And when they get running, they will actually run on their hind legs! With their big heads, they kind of look like a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.”

By Zak Mazur



Zebra-tailed lizard

Desert spiny lizard



INSIDER TIPS

Return of the Scarlet Ibises

After a 30-year hiatus, vibrant, orange-red birds called scarlet ibises once again are gracing the Zoo's Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. The beauty of these birds left an enduring impression on Carol Kagy, who has worked at the Zoo since 1979. "I remembered the scarlet ibises from 24 years ago," says Kagy, aviary area supervisor, and she asked to bring



A pair of scarlet ibises at the Zoo

them back. She got her wish in early May when a male and female were released into the east aviary. They're doing well, and zookeepers hope the pair will mate. Scarlet ibises get their striking color from eating beta-carotene-rich red crabs and algae. It's the same fare that zoos commonly use to maintain the reddish coloring of flamingos and roseate spoonbills. Scarlet ibises are common in the tropical Caribbean and areas of Central America and northern South America. Although these birds are not listed as threatened, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species cites over-hunting and habitat destruction as causes for concern. Another pair of juvenile scarlet ibises is due for release into the east aviary later this summer. This pair will not be as easy to spot as the adults because they have not built up enough beta-carotene yet. That will take about three years, says Kagy.

Naturally at Home at the Zoo

Are Canada geese part of the Zoo's animal collection? What about trumpeter swans? Squirrels? Those free-roaming peacocks and peahens? The answers are no, yes, no, yes. Besides exotic animals from around the world, the Milwaukee County Zoo is also home to thousands of native species, if you include insects. These animals are not "on exhibit," but you can still see many of them because they live naturally on—and above—the Zoo grounds. The Zoo's 209 acres are home to red foxes, flying squirrels, turkey vultures, skunks, raptors (hawks and great-horned owls), two species of mice and the feral cats that eat them. About 146 species of migratory birds also visit the Zoo, among them threatened species such as the Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler and hooded warbler. When the Zoo closes for the night, five species of bats take wing. Meanwhile the peafowl and the two pairs of trumpeter swans that ARE part of the Zoo's collection like the Zoo just fine and don't fly away. So next time you're at the Zoo, look up in the trees or down at the ground to see the other animals that you might have missed.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Details Inside

Now through Aug. 12

Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM)
Summer Camps at the Zoo, sponsored by
Noodles & Company

Now through Sept. 5

Kohl's Wild Theater, offering five free shows
daily in the Zoo+

Now through Sept. 25

The Zoo's special summer exhibit: Butterflies!
In Living Color, sponsored by Sendik's Food
Markets; \$2 entry fee (opens 9:30 a.m. daily)

July 6, 13, 20, 27 & Aug. 3

Sunset Zoofaris, sponsored by
Tri City National Bank, 6-9 p.m.*

July 12, 14 & 15

Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank,
for ZSM members only, 5:15-9 p.m.*

July 25

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored
by MillerCoors; call (414) 258-2333 for details.

Aug. 10-13

Limited openings: Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored
by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods

Aug. 18-21

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte, with
major support from MillerCoors*

Aug. 27

Animal Safari, sponsored by Welch's &
Pick 'n Save, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*

Sept. 2

Senior Celebration at the Zoo, sponsored by
Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health*

Sept. 7 & 10

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

Sept. 10 & 11

Family Farm Weekend, sponsored in part by
Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board*+

Sept. 14, 17, 21 & 24

Four-session follow-up Zoo Pride training

Sept. 17

Elephant Appreciation Day at the Zoo*+

Sept. 18

Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride,
sponsored by The Wisconsin Heart Hospital &
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St. Joseph

Sept. 24

ZSM members' field trip to Galena, Ill.

Oct. 21 & 22

Boo at the Zoo, sponsored by Sendik's Food
Markets*+

Oct. 22

Wolf Awareness Day at the Zoo*+

Oct. 27

Zoo Brew (Pre-register)+

Oct. 28 & 29

Halloween Spooktacular, sponsored by
Sendik's Food Markets*+

Nov. 5

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by
North Shore Bank and FOX 6

Nov. 12

ZSM members' holiday trip to Chicago's
Magnificent Mile+

* ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The special butterfly exhibit admission is extra, except during Kids' Nights, July 12, 14 & 15 (50% off), starting at 3 p.m. each day of the event. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for reduced admission. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

+More information on these events will appear in future issues of *Wild Things*.