

Wild Things

June 2009

Zoological Society of Milwaukee Members' Newsletter • www.zoosociety.org

Welcome Back, MEMBERS ONLY! Summer

Nights in June

June 17, 18 OR 19, 5:15-9 p.m.

Free admission with Zoological Society Zoo Pass card & ID
Reduced Milwaukee County parking fee: \$9 from 5:15 to 8:30 p.m.
Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking.

Your invitation is enclosed

Enjoy the sights, sounds and colors of summer at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Nights in June. This family-friendly event just for ZSM members features three evenings of after-hours fun at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Catch the honking and splashing of favorite warm-weather animals such as Caribbean flamingos and hippos. All animal buildings at the Zoo will be open throughout the evenings (the aviary will close at dusk). Spot bright Australian parrots in the summer bird exhibit, Wings From Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's. Starting at 3 p.m. each day of the event, ZSM members receive free admission to this exhibit, held in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building; just show your Zoo Pass card and ID (see below for story). All other Nights in June activities start after 5:15 p.m., when parking is \$9. Parking during the day is the regular price of \$10. Please note that the Zoo's admission gates will close for the day by 4:15 p.m. and re-open for this members-only event at 5:15 p.m.; however, members may stay in the Zoo during this time.

Catch live music all evening long. Tim Castle & Young Southern will play country tunes on the Zoo Terrace Stage, sponsored by American Family Insurance. The Flamingo Patio Stage, sponsored by Potbelly Sandwich Works, will feature a rock band. The Caribbean Eclipse Steel Drum Band will perform rhythmic rock in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. This indoor atrium will also host backyard critter chats by Wildlife In Need, wildlife photography tips from Photos by Raspberry and the Extravaganzoo Sale. Plus, visit a booth by EdVestSM, Wisconsin's official college savings plan. Also, meet an aviary zookeeper and learn about the ZSM's annual appeal to renovate the Humboldt penguin habitat at the Zoo (see page 4). Fun on Zoo grounds includes Stackner Animal Encounter shows in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm and animal artifacts at the Remains to Be Seen carts. Tasty treats will be available for purchase at Zoo restaurants and at booths of area eateries such as the Chancery Pub & Restaurant, the HoneyBaked Ham Café, Noodles & Company, Palermo's[®] Pizza, Pedrano's Mexican Restaurante and Saz's Catering—all open till 8:45 p.m. For dessert, savor sweets from Gourmet Cheesecake and More or head to the "Monkey Hut" near Macaque Island for a root beer float to help support the ZSM's Sponsor an Animal program.

The Penzeys Spices Carousel and the North Shore Bank Safari Train will run till dusk (weather permitting) at regular prices. To accommodate traffic flow at the Zoo, the National City Zoomobile will not operate. You are invited on the night specified on your invitation (see enclosed); however, if that date is inconvenient, you may attend on one of the other evenings. The event will be held rain or shine. Photo: Scott Jentsch of New Berlin and his daughters Amanda, 7 (center), and Lauren, 3, dance at last year's Nights in June.



A Palette of Parrots

Wings From Down Under

Sponsored by Lowe's

May 23 – Sept. 7; \$2.50 per person exhibit admission
Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building

A free-flying rainbow of color is one way to describe the Milwaukee County Zoo's special summer bird exhibit. Three species of small Australian parrots—cockatiels, parakeets and eastern rosellas—will flutter throughout two meshed-in aviaries in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. The parakeets sport hues as diverse as blue, white, green and yellow. The eastern rosellas are a splash of shockingly bright red, orange and blue. Gray cockatiels are the darkest of the birds, but they stand out thanks to the tall crowns of feathers on their heads, orange patches on their cheeks and long tails (in the wild, they enter nest holes tail-first!). You can touch, hold and even feed these friendly and engaging birds. All three species will enjoy pecking at the millet seed sticks included with exhibit admission (extra food sticks are available for \$1).

If you don't wish to touch the birds, you can still watch them and hear their "queels" outside the aviaries. Photo: Lucas Schanen, 5, of Muskego, meets a cockatiel that belongs to aviary zookeeper Mike Frayer.



What's Happening

May 1-July 31

Super Summer Raffle for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM)

May 9

Beastly Bowl-a-Thon fund-raiser for the ZSM. Call (414) 258-2333 to sign up.



May 10

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort; moms get free Zoo admission (parking not included)*

May 16 & 17

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

May 23-Sept. 7 (daily)

Summer exhibit: Wings From Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's; \$2.50 entry fee

June 3-Aug. 18

ZSM Summer Camps at the Zoo, sponsored by National City

June 6 & 7

Scouting Weekend at the Zoo; call (414) 771-3040.

June 10 & 13

Two-session Zoo Pride volunteer orientation; call (414) 258-5667 (another offering in September).

June 17, 18, 19

Nights in June for ZSM members only, 5:15-9 p.m.*

June 21

Father's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Chinest[®] & Pick 'n Save; dads get free Zoo admission (parking not included)*

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

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



June 27

Zoo Ball 2009, sponsored by American Airlines & American Eagle and U.S. Cellular[®]; for information, call (414) 258-2333

July 1-Aug. 30

Playhouse Raffle 2009, sponsored by Northwestern Mutual Foundation (prizes & kid-sized, themed playhouses raffled off)+

July 14, 16 & 17

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

July 27

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by MillerCoors

Aug. 12, 13, 14 or 15

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods; for information, go to www.zoosociety.org



Aug. 20-23

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte at the Zoo*+

Aug. 29

Animal Safari, sponsored by Welch's & Pick 'n Save*+

Aug. 29

Great Lakes Bat Festival at the Zoo*+

Sept. 4

Senior Day at the Zoo*

Sept. 12 & 13

Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by GG Golden Guernsey Dairy[®] & the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board *+

Sept. 13

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

Sept. 19

ZSM members' field trip; location TBA+

Oct. 23 & 24

Boo at the Zoo*+

Oct. 30 & 31

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular*+



* ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. The summer bird exhibit is extra, except during Nights in June (free admission) and Kids' Nights (50% off), starting at 3 p.m. each day of the events. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

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

Did You Know?

BEHIND THE SCENES ARE SOMETIMES GREEN

Did you know that thousands of plants are grown in the Milwaukee County Zoo's greenhouse every year? The greenhouse is just one of the "staff-only" areas visitors had a chance to see at the March 14 and 15 Behind the Scenes Weekend, sponsored by Tri City National Bank. At the greenhouse, you could watch demonstrations on replanting leaf cuttings. The Zoo staff creates a huge number of new plants each year by taking cuttings from more mature plants. At the Zoo's train shop, visitors saw where "the train sleeps at night," talked with train engineers, and even had the chance to take a seat inside one of the two trains. In other behind-the-scenes areas, zoogoers could view buggy bird food in the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary kitchen and see enrichment toys for the big cats in the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. More than 12,200 visitors experienced this once-a-year Zoo event. Tours were given by members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary. Photo: Quinn Prost and his 3-year-old son, Reid, of Menomonee Falls, sit in the engine of a Zoo train.



CATERPILLARS, CRAFTS & KIDS

What does a sock caterpillar have to do with bird conservation? Songbirds often eat insects such as caterpillars. These insects live on native Wisconsin plants, which provide good food for birds, says bird researcher Vicki Piaskowski. A fun way for kids to grasp this lesson is to make a caterpillar craft out of a sock, soil and seeds. Children water the "insect" and watch as it sprouts grass, which looks like body hairs many caterpillars have. Piaskowski helped guide this project and talked about food birds eat at a Feb. 28 workshop held through the Zoological Society's Kids Conservation Club. The club, funded in part by the ATC Environmental Stewardship Fund of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, introduces children to endangered animals and features workshops on Earth-friendly topics.



SERENGETI CIRCLE LUNCHEON

A photo presentation of Zoo and Zoological Society 2008 events, projects and programs was a highlight of the March 20 Serengeti Circle luncheon. This event honored corporations and foundations that support the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo through grants and sponsorships. The event also featured a gourmet lunch and classical music by a student string quartet from the Milwaukee High School of the Arts. New supporters honored at the event were CNH Case New Holland, Lowe's Companies, Inc., M: Milwaukee's Lifestyle Magazine, Dorothy J. Nelson Living Trust, Wells Fargo and Zizzo Group Advertising & Public Relations. Photo (right): Aaron Stierman, a Lowe's store manager, attended the luncheon. Photo (below): Representatives of Zizzo Group Advertising & Public Relations meet up at the event. From left are Dan Augustine, Kristin Settle, Sun A. Torke and Alysha Witwicki.



The \$20 club membership also includes information on a featured endangered animal; an invitation to Animal Safari, a behind-the-scenes event held at the Zoo Aug. 29; baseball card-style collector's cards with fun animal facts; a certificate of sponsorship; and the child's name on a donor board in the Peck Welcome Center. To sign up, go to www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333. Photo (above): Eliana Kiltz, 4, of Wauwatosa shows off a caterpillar project at the event. Photo (right): Vicki Piaskowski, the Zoological Society's main bird researcher, holds a pair of pliers to demonstrate that birds like grosbeaks and cardinals have very strong beaks. These birds use their beaks like pliers to hold and crack seeds.



RECYCLE A CELL PHONE, SAVE A GORILLA!

Do you have an old cell phone tucked away in the back of a drawer? Don't throw it away! Instead, bring it to the Zoo's U.S. Bank Gathering Place and drop it in the collection box next to the Zoo's administration office. The Milwaukee County Zoo has partnered with ECO-Cell, an eco-friendly company that recycles cell phones. Cell phones that are in good condition will be refurbished and donated to charities, hospitals and developing countries. Non-working phones will be recycled under Environmental Protection Act guidelines to keep dangerous materials such as arsenic and lead from reaching landfills.

One such material, the mineral coltan, used to coat components of cell phones, also threatens the endangered lowland gorilla. Unfortunately, coltan is found only in a few places in the world. They include the forests of Africa's eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, right in the middle of gorilla habitat. If we can recycle more old cell phones instead of throwing them away, fewer new ones will need to be created. Less demand for coltan means gorillas and their habitats have a better chance of surviving. Before recycling your cell phone, remember to cancel service and delete sensitive information such as phone numbers, financial data, text messages, pictures, e-mails, etc. See your cell phone manual or service provider for details, or go to www.zoosociety.org for a link to directions on erasing data from hundreds of cell phone models.

GRANTS RECEIVED

Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) programs and projects have received the following grants:

- The ZSM's bonobo conservation program, the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative, recently received \$22,000 from the World Wildlife Fund as part of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership program and \$2,000 from the Milwaukee County Zoo. These grants support efforts to help save the endangered bonobo in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The ZSM's Conservation Education Department received \$15,800 for its Program for Disadvantaged Youth, which allows children from neighborhood centers to attend summer camps at the Zoo. The grants were \$8,800 from U.S. Cellular, \$5,000 from the Ralph Evinrude Foundation and \$2,000 from the R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation.
- The ZSM's Animal Ambassador education programs, which bring the world of animals and conservation to elementary-school students in central city schools, have received a \$10,000 grant from U.S. Cellular. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Animal Ambassador programs.



IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND

Vic Milford lived life to the fullest. Tragically, the MillerCoors executive was killed last January in Milwaukee during an attempted robbery. In memory of Milford's "larger than life" presence, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) sponsored the Zoo's African elephants, Lucy and Brittany. Milford, originally from South Africa, loved elephants. His family in Africa even raises these animals on a ranch. The sponsorship was presented to Milford's friend Lorri Aiono Dimoff at a March 14 fashion show in Milwaukee's Moct Bar. Dimoff launched the Vic Milford Charity at the event. The fashion show proceeds will go to the ZSM, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin, Inc., and PrideFest (part of the proceeds from the June 13 Vic Milford Run for Charity 2009 will go toward the elephant sponsorship as well). Tri City National Bank has also launched the Vic Milford Fund, and donations will be split among the above groups.

A DAY FOR SCOUTS

Watch Boy Scouts go green at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Scouting Weekend on June 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. Root for "Cubmobile" races held in the Zoo's parking lot and in front of the U.S. Bank Gathering Place (scouts will drive mini-cars made out of recycled materials and pinewood). Other activities include handmade rope bridges and cooking demonstrations. Call (414) 771-3040 for more information.

Memberanda

Zoological Society office hours: Through May 22, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. weekends. May 23-Sept. 7, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends.

Zoo hours: Through May 22, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. May 23 - Sept. 7, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily. Please note the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing time. Animal buildings close 15 minutes prior to posted Zoo closing time.

School field trips: For members visiting the Zoo with an organized class field trip or company picnic, members' free-admission benefits do not apply. Due to the many busloads of school groups visiting the Zoo, gate staff is not able to board each bus to verify memberships without causing potentially dangerous traffic backups onto Blue Mound Road. The fees paid for educational outings and company picnics usually include additional class materials or Zoo-visit benefits as well.

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 close to our Zoo. New lists will be enclosed with membership cards, and members are encouraged to review the updated list by going online at www.zoopass.com or request a list by calling us at (414) 258-2333.

Help us get new members! In spring we mail our membership acquisition materials. Sometimes, if addresses or names don't match exactly with the names on magazine lists we rent, a member may receive our mailing. If that should happen, please pass it along to a friend, with your encouragement to join the Zoological Society. We get many new members this way.

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 ZSM 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.

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. 82, June 2009

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

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Volunteering at the Zoo

Creating Toys for Critters

Tigers paw at papier-mâché Easter eggs stuffed with food. Elephants dig fruits and veggies out of frozen "treatsicles" with their trunks. Humboldt penguins nest in colorful boxes made of plastic crates. That's just a sampling of the animal "toys" created by the Animal Enrichment Committee of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's volunteer auxiliary.

Enrichment activities let Zoo creatures use natural instincts such as hunting and foraging. Many enrichment toys encourage exercise and break up the animal's routine. "I think of enrichment as direct customer service for the animals," says committee co-chair Mary Pat Schuetz. Lions and wolves, for example, like pouncing on papier-mâché sculptures shaped like prey animals, one of the committee's projects. Other creations range from grape-vine wreaths stuffed with food for the primates to holiday-themed gift packages for animals from bears to hyenas. The committee even makes enrichment items for animals' special occasions. When Zero the polar bear turned 19 last winter, he received a papier-mâché gift box that zookeepers filled with fish and magazine perfume samples (bears like to sniff scents). These projects are so important to animal well-being that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums requires accredited zoos to have a formal enrichment program and staff to lead these efforts.

Spending time with animal keepers is one of the committee's perks, says chair Jodi Grzeczka. Volunteers work closely with the Zoo's curators and veterinarians when making food toys such as holiday "cookies." These treats can have ingredients as varied as bananas, fruit juice, food pellets and sweet potatoes, depending on an animal's nutritional needs, explains Grzeczka. Keepers and volunteers also work together to create low-sugar treats for diabetic animals such as Kitty the bonobo and heart-healthy, low-calorie snacks for the gorillas. (These great apes tend to suffer from cardiac disease.)

No animal is too big or too small for handmade treats. The committee once concocted a treatsicle that fit into a 10-gallon bucket for the Zoo's African elephants, Ruth and Brittany. It took a truck and two staffers to cart it from the Zoo's food warehouse to the elephant exhibit. The smallest enrichment toy, says co-chair Jan Nosse, was a tiny treatsicle for one of the Zoo's sugar gliders (a small mammal). Last year, the committee's 50 members made 200 holiday cookies, 88 treatsicles and more than 70 papier-mâché Easter eggs (about 10 volunteers work on each project). The projects are enriching for volunteers, too, says Nosse, because they get to be creative and get to watch animals dig vigorously into their toys. Grzeczka remembers spotting Moses, one of the Zoo's camels, happily gnawing on a treatsicle with his young son, Franklin.



Tommy the orangutan liked to playfully chase former partner Saba for a taste of her food toys. Says Grzeczka: "Enrichment is a wonderful diversion for the animals." Photo: Animal Enrichment Committee co-chairs hold a handmade nest box for the Zoo's Humboldt penguins. From left are co-chair Jan Nosse, chair Jodi Grzeczka and co-chair Mary Pat Schuetz.

by Julia Kolker

Volunteer Training in June

As a Zoo Pride volunteer, you could make animal enrichment toys, help with special summer events such as the Zoological Society's Nights in June and talk with zoogoers about animals. A two-session Basic Volunteer Orientation will be held June 10 AND June 13, and again Sept. 9 AND Sept. 12 (two Wednesday and Saturday sessions). A more extensive, four-day New Volunteer Training will be offered Sept. 16, 19, 23 and 26 (four sessions over two Wednesdays and two Saturdays). Please contact the Zoo Pride office at (414) 258-5667 to schedule an interview.

Education Programs

MINI-ZOOKEEPERS ON THE JOB

What's it like to be a zookeeper? Kids ages 4 through 7 can find out in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Senior and Junior Zookeeper camps. These popular, hands-on camps take children behind the scenes at the Milwaukee County Zoo to help clean, feed and care for the animals. Youngsters can explore a future career as they learn about Zoo jobs. "The camps place each child into the role of a zookeeper and introduce them to the challenges and fun that come with the job," says ZSM educator Chris Uitz.

The Junior Zookeeper camp for ages 4 and 5 takes kids to the Zoo's Northwestern Mutual Family Farm to help care for favorite animals such as Bandit, a pinto horse. The Senior Zookeeper camp for 6- and 7-year olds features an in-depth look at ways zookeepers protect and study animals. Kids learn how keepers create healthy meals for animals and keep them active through enrichment activities (for more on enrichment at the Zoo, please see above). Children also observe animals and create a Zoo map or a Zoo-themed board game. Both camps had open sessions when we went to print. For dates, times and prices, please go online at www.zoosociety.org/Education/SummerCamps. Photo (above): Megan Bingenheimer of Brookfield helped rake hay at a Senior Zookeeper camp last year. Photo (bottom): Braeden Newman of Brookfield (center) and Jack Hollander of Wauwatosa raced wheelbarrows to the finish line at one of last year's Senior Zookeeper summer camps.

SUMMER CAMPS STILL OPEN

Kids can do everything from creating animal art to shadowing zookeepers "on the job" (see above) at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) popular summer camps, sponsored by National City. The camps below still had openings when we went to print. To check on dates, time and prices, please go online at www.zoosociety.org/Education/SummerCamps.

- Age 2 (accompanied by adult): Take a spin on the Zoo's Penzeys Spices Carousel and learn all about merry-go-rounds in Carousel camp.
- Age 3 (accompanied by adult): Design a huge hippo head, eat a hippo-style snack and see the Zoo's hippos in Hip, Hippo Hurray.
- Ages 4 & 5 (accompanied by adult): In Globetrotting, create an animal "passport" and learn how animals survive in the wild.
- Ages 8 & 9: Pretend to be a famous artist as you paint, draw, sculpt and design animal art in Great Animals, Great Artists.
- Ages 10 & 11: Discover how animals attract mates, scare off predators and communicate in the Secret Language of Animals.



FALL-WINTER CLASS SIGNUP

It's not too early to start planning for fall and winter 2009 conservation education classes at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Watch for your September-December 2009 Education Adventures at the Zoo brochure featuring Zoological Society classes for ages 2-13. The brochure will be mailed with the July-August *Wild Things*. Zoological Society members enjoy priority registration, which starts online Aug. 5: www.zoosociety.org/Education.

SCHOOLS, SCOUTS & TEACHERS

- New Scouting Programs: Girl and Boy Scouts can now earn badges at the Milwaukee County Zoo with our "Badge in a Day" program. We are offering "Animals Try-It" for Brownies and "Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement" for Bear Cubs. Program dates include 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
- For Schools: In fall and spring, the Zoological Society publishes a school programs brochure listing our broad variety of education programs offered either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. The school brochure also can be found at www.zoosociety.org/Education/SchoolPrograms/. Registration for the 2009-2010 school year began on April 28.
- UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers: Study of the World's Endangered Species, a two-day course on June 20 and 21, explores the decline of some wildlife species and the efforts of zoos to conserve them. Teachers of grades 3 through high school can receive undergraduate or graduate credit from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255, for fees and to register.



Education photos by Margo Pactanac

Twilight Tunes

Sunset Zoofaris

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29,

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID

Non-members: Adults, \$6; ages 3-12, \$5; or \$18 per carload

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

Catch cool tunes and warm breezes at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Sunset Zoofaris this June and July. The Zoo is open after hours on six Wednesday evenings, which feature a different live band each week. You can visit all of the Zoo's animal buildings (the aviary closes at dusk) as well as the Zoo's special summer exhibit, Wings From Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's. (Exhibit admission is \$2.50 per person; see cover for story.) Bring a picnic or purchase dinner in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place or in Lakeview Place restaurant. The Zoo closes at its regular weekday time of 5 p.m., and then re-opens at 6 p.m. for Sunset Zoofaris. The bands play between 6:15 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. (If it rains, they'll be in the Flamingo Café.) Photo: Singer Lynda Lee of Bobby Way and the Fabulous Wayouts sounded a high note at a Sunset Zoofari last year.



OF MOMS & ORANGUTANS

Mother's Day at the Zoo, May 10

Sponsored by Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort

Moms get free Zoo admission 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., no coupon necessary (parking not included); Zoo gates close 45 minutes before Zoo closes

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$10

For information, call (414) 771-3040

M.J. the orangutan is one of the Zoo's best-known animal moms. In February 2008, she became surrogate mother to orphaned orangutan toddler Mahal. Learn about ape moms such as M.J. at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Mother's Day celebration. This year again, all moms get free Zoo admission (parking not included). Plus, moms can register to win a free two-night stay at the Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort, the event's sponsor. Afterward, head to the Project M.O.M. booth (open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) near the orangutan exhibit in Primates of the World. It stands for "missing orangutan mothers" because these great apes are highly endangered on their native South Pacific islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Palm oil plantations are destroying much of orangutan habitat. Learn to avoid products with palm oil and discover how you can help save orangutans in the wild.



Looking for a one-of-a-kind Mother's Day gift? Sponsor Ronnie, a grizzly bear mom at the Zoo. Go online at www.zoosociety.org or call (414) 258-2333 to place an order. Photo: Liberal Butler, 1, of Neenah, explored the bird world with Mom Jennifer at last year's Mother's Day at the Zoo.

DADS BOND WITH KIDS

Father's Day at the Zoo, June 21

Sponsored by Chinnet® and Pick 'n Save

Dads get free Zoo admission 9 a.m.-5 p.m., no coupon necessary

(parking not included); Zoo gates close 45 minutes before Zoo closes

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$10

For information, call (414) 771-3040

The Milwaukee County Zoo is one of the city's top spots for dads and kids. Youngsters love riding on Dad's shoulders to get a closer look at outdoor animals such as the elephants, giraffes and polar bears. Another popular pastime is petting domestic and Wisconsin critters such as ducks, and turtles at the Zoo's Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. Farm attendants host Stackner Animal Encounter presentations five times a day (check the Zoo map for times) starting Memorial Day Weekend. The farm is also where kids can create cute "No. 1 Dad" buttons with Chinnet® paper plates. Complete the day of bonding at the Zoo's special summer exhibit, Wings From Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's. Kids and dads can touch, hold and even feed hundreds of small, friendly Australian parrots such as cockatiels, parakeets and eastern rosellas.



Looking for a fun gift for Dad? Consider sponsoring Cassius, a silverback gorilla at the Zoo. See below for details. Photo: Aaron Kreel of West Allis and his 15-month-old son, Cole, bonded at the Zoo last summer.

SUMMER ANIMAL SPONSORSHIP

Cassius the Gorilla

Did you know that 2009 is the year of the gorilla? Cassius, the oldest male western lowland gorilla at the Milwaukee County Zoo, is an imposing sight. This is your chance to sponsor Cassius, a silverback who turns 23 this year. Gorillas are thought to show emotions, solve problems and communicate through signs and symbols. They share about 98% of their genes with humans, making them our closest relative after chimpanzees and bonobos. Unfortunately, these great apes are endangered because of hunting, habitat loss and disease. That's why several zoological groups, including the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Jane Goodall Institute, dedicated 2009 to gorillas. The sponsorship through the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program supports all the animals at the Zoo! This offer is good through September 30, 2009.

The sponsor package includes:

- A plush-toy gorilla
- A certificate of sponsorship
- Information about gorillas
- An invitation to Animal Safari, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save, a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo Aug. 29
- Sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year
- A Sponsor an Animal decal

Send a gift anywhere in the continental United States for \$30.

To give a gorilla package, go online at www.zoosociety.org and click on the gorilla picture to order by credit card; fill out this form and mail it in; or call (414) 258-2333. Your contribution may qualify for matching gifts. Please check with your employer. Photo: Cassius.



The gift recipient will receive the event invitation by mail, as well as *Alive* magazine and *Wild Things* newsletter throughout the year. Proceeds from the Sponsor an Animal program help all of the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. In accordance with WI statute section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request. Your contribution may qualify for matching gifts. Please check with your employer. The tax-deductible portion is \$24. Plush-toy animals and decals are not tax-deductible and include 5.6% WI sales tax. Plush-toy offer good while supplies last.

SPONSOR A GORILLA

Cassius the Gorilla Sponsorship

- I'd like to sponsor Cassius the Gorilla I'd like to sponsor Cassius the Gorilla as a gift.

Name _____
(to Appear on Recognition Board and Certificate. No punctuation. Please print)

- Memorial Designation Date to appear on certificate: _____

My Name

My Name _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____
E-mail Address _____

Office Use Only
C _____
D _____
R _____
ID _____

Recipient's name

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____
E-mail Address _____

(Plush toys and decals include 5.6% WI sales tax and are not tax-deductible.)

Gift Card Message _____

- I would like _____ package(s) at \$30 each.
I would like _____ additional plush-toy gorilla(s) at \$5 each.
I would like _____ extra decals at \$1 each.

Send gift package to: Me Recipient Send renewal notice to: Me Recipient

Package must arrive by: _____ Total amount \$ _____

Credit Card Please charge my: Visa MasterCard \$ _____

Acct. No. _____

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

Signature _____ Print Name _____
as it appears on credit card

Check Make check payable to **Zoological Society**

Go online at www.zoopass.com and click on the gorilla picture to order, or call (414) 258-2333 anytime with your credit card order.

Please mail this order form and payment to:

Gorilla Sponsorship, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226



10005 W. Blue Mound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226
(414) 258-2333

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver Promptly

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PAID
Milwaukee, WI 53226
Permit No. 4073

Summer Raffle

What if you could watch your favorite movies on a 52-inch, flat-panel LCD television? That's one of the great prizes in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Super Summer Raffle, which raises money for the ZSM's conservation education programs. Other prizes are: main-cabin, round-trip air transportation for two provided by American Airlines & American Eagle; a Sony VAIO SR notebook computer; a Sony cyber-shot digital camera; a Garmin GPS system; a Nintendo Wii system; and an iPod. The drawing will be held at the Milwaukee County Zoo at 1 p.m. on July 31, 2009. You need not be present to win. To buy a raffle ticket, call Julie B. at (414) 258-2333 or stop in the Zoological Society office at the Zoo.

A SUMMER FULL OF ZOO FUN

Get ready to flock to the Milwaukee County Zoo for another exciting summer season! Birds are the focus of the Zoo's special summer exhibit this year. Starting May 23, you can visit Wings From Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's, and surround yourself with hundreds of parrots. Parakeets, cockatiels, and eastern rosellas will fly freely in naturalistic habitats indoors. Admission to this exhibit is \$2.50 per person and includes a food stick for these seed-eating species. But don't stop with parrots. You can see interesting birds throughout the Zoo. In the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary, you'll find some of the most endangered birds in the world, such as Guam kingfishers and Guam rails. In the pond in front of the aviary, keep an eye out for our graceful trumpeter swan pair as they glide over the water on a warm summer's day. Go from graceful to grumpy when you visit the at-times cantankerous Hornrietta the African ground hornbill in the Holz Family Impala Country yard. Nearby stop at the African Waterhole exhibit to view the long-legged marabou stork and ostrich. For more leg, take a walk by the Idabel Wilmot Borchert Flamingo Exhibit and Overlook, near the Animal Health Center, and enjoy the fashionista flamingos. Six more Caribbean pink flamingos arrived in spring. For some hands-on fun, you can pet a duck or a Cochon chicken in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm's Stackner Animal daily starting Memorial Day Weekend.

While in the farm, remember to see a Birds of Prey and Friends Show, sponsored by the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation, to meet some very intelligent raptors, crows and other birds. Admission is free and shows run several times daily starting Memorial Day Weekend.

Summer isn't all for the birds. The Zoo features special summer events such as Tri City National Bank's Wednesday Sunset Zoofaris (6 to 9 p.m. June 24 and July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29) and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte (Aug. 20-22, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Aug. 23, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.). Please see the cover for a complete list. Remember, Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) members get discounts on many events and advance registration in our popular summer camps and family campout at the Zoo. The ZSM also has several of its own events this summer (see cover for a full list of summer events), including:

May 1-July 31 – The Zoological Society's Super Summer Raffle offers prizes such as a 52-inch Sony Flat-Panel LCD HDTV, air transportation provided by

American Airlines & American Eagle; a Sony VAIO SR notebook computer, and an iPod. Tickets are sold through the ZSM; call (414) 258-2333.

June 17, 18, or 19 – Nights in June is a members-only event with food, entertainment and activities from 5:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starting at 3 p.m. on each day of the event, ZSM members get free admission to the Zoo's special summer bird exhibit, Wings From Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's.

July 1-Aug. 30 – Playhouse Raffle, sponsored by Northwestern Mutual Foundation, showcases and raffles off creative children's playhouses as well as some new prizes this year. Tickets will be sold through the ZSM starting July 1; playhouses will be displayed at the Zoo in August. The media sponsor is metroparent, with support from www.milwaukeemoms.com.

July 14, 16, or 17 – Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank, is a members-only event with entertainment and activities geared to our young zoogoers. This fun event runs 5:15-9 p.m. Starting at 3 p.m. on each day of Kids' Nights, ZSM members also get 50% off on admission to Wings from Down Under, sponsored by Lowe's.

Aug. 12-15 – Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods, is the only camping event for the public at the Zoo. Zoological Society members get first chance to register, and camping spots fill up fast. Register now at www.zoosociety.org/Snooze: online registration starts May 4 for ZSM members; May 5 for non-members.

Aug. 29 – Animal Safari, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save, and the Great Lakes Bat Festival. Tour the Zoo's behind-the-scenes animal areas at Animal Safari, an event for animal sponsors. Sponsor one of the Zoo's bats and you, too, can get a "back-stage" pass. Plus, all zoogoers can learn about bats and their role in the ecosystem.

Sept. 13 – Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride, a ZSM fund-raiser sponsored by The Wisconsin Heart Hospital & Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St. Joseph, has three routes starting at the Zoo. The media sponsors are FM 106.1, AM 920 The Wolf and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

by Brianne Schwantes



Nel Schradle of Clayton, Wis., filmed her husband, Shawn, and their daughter Isabelle, 7 months, in front of the Zoo's elephants last summer.

Insider Tips on the Zoo

A SPIKY PORCUPINE

Remember Koosh balls? These rubber toys with hundreds of soft spikes were all the rage in the 1980s and '90s. They've even inspired a name for Koosh, a porcupine who came to the Milwaukee County Zoo last January. Like his namesake, 11-year-old Koosh sports thousands of quills all over his body and tail. Unlike the toy, his spikes are very sharp! That's because porcupines use quills to ward off predators such as bobcats and fishers. Besides their quills, North American porcupines are famous for their size. They're the third-largest rodent species in the world after capybaras and beavers. Found throughout Canada, the U.S. and northern Mexico, North American porcupines live in habitats as diverse as forests and deserts. More than 20 other species of porcupines are found in Europe, Africa and Asia. See Koosh in the Zoo's Northwestern Mutual Family Farm this summer. Photo: A North American porcupine.



ZOO TUBE

You've seen them at the Zoo; now see them on the Web. A new YouTube channel hosted by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo features animal videos such as Zero the polar bear splashing in his pool. Go to www.youtube.com/user/MilwaukeeCountyZoo to watch. Other mini-movies on this movie-sharing site include a feature on Pat, the Zoo's new jaguar; interviews with parents who love the Zoological Society's conservation education classes and camps (see page 3 for details on camps); and a tribute to the 25th anniversary Zoo Ball, the ZSM's biggest annual fund-raiser. You can also subscribe to the channel and even catch videos made by Zoo fans.