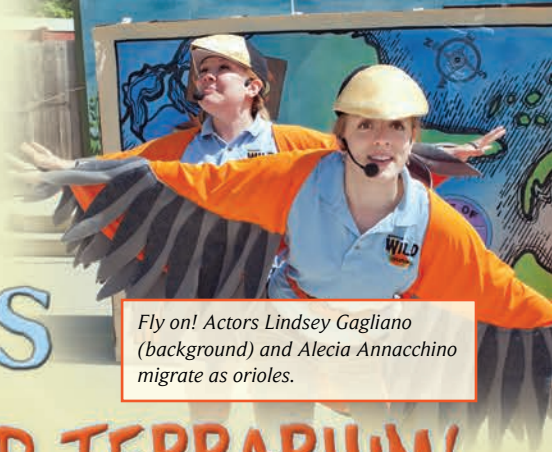
Zoological Society of Milwaukee Members' Newsletter
June 2013

# Wild Things



*Fly on! Actors Lindsey Gagliano (background) and Alecia Annacchino migrate as orioles.*

## AIR. WATER. LAND...TERRARIUM!

*Sherrick Robinson enthusiastically narrates the migration of two orioles in "Journey to the Rich Coast."*

### Kohl's Wild Theater returns to the Zoo

**New shows premier:** May 25-Sept. 2; four free performances a day, seven days a week, at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

**Plays in the community:** Kohl's Wild Theater outreach program will continue to visit community events, festivals and schools. To book a performance, go to wildtheater.org or contact Julie B. at (414) 258-2333.

Take to the air. Go beneath the sea. Prowl on solid ground. Stay in a safe, comfy terrarium. You can learn about the ecological importance of these varied habitats when Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) premiers its third season at the Milwaukee County Zoo this summer. "This new line-up of shows includes brand new works and returning favorites that address some of the most important conservation topics of our time," says Dave McLellan, KWT theater coordinator for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). "With the help of music, puppets, humor and great stories, Kohl's Wild Theater continues to empower children and their families to make a positive impact on the environment through actions taken at home." Kohl's Wild Theater, the ZSM's live theater program, is made possible by a partnership with Kohl's Cares. Each 15-minute show is performed four times daily, seven days a week at the KWT stage in the farm area. Here's a glimpse at what you'll see:

**Dr. McGhee Learns about the Sea:** This new musical highlights what can happen to sea creatures when their marine ecosystem is disturbed. As Dr. McGhee's office is overrun by sick sea creatures, he must figure out the cause of their illnesses. Why is a decorator crab's new shell flimsy? What's irritating the gills of a leopard shark? Is there anything ***you*** can do in Wisconsin to help animals that live hundreds of miles away in the oceans?

**The Wonderful Lizard of ooZ:** Dory is a pet tomato frog that is tired of living in a terrarium. She wants to get out and see the world. When her wish is unexpectedly granted, Dory discovers that her terrarium—safe and cozy, perfectly suited to her needs—wasn't such a bad place to live after all. This new musical, inspired by "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," explains why it's best to keep pet frogs in their terrariums and not release them into the wild.

**The Spot of the Jaguar:** There is a chase under way in the rain forest as Capybara and Tapir run from a "giant jaguar." But despite hearing the jaguar's nearby "growl," they haven't actually spotted one. Capybara and Tapir are joined by Tayra, who reveals the true danger in the rain forest. Could it be that having a jaguar nearby is actually better for these rain-forest animals? Find out the answer to this seemingly paradoxical question and learn why the rain forest should always be the jaguar's spot to live.

*continued on page 3*

**Connect With Us:**
facebook.com/ZooPass
twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE
youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo

***In This Issue...***
Take a Snooze at the Zoo...page 5
Tech-Savvy Orangutans...page 13
New Penguins Join the Colony...page 14
Meet the New Snow Leopard...page 14

# The Kids Are A

*Friends Gabrielle Kraklow (left), 3, and Grace Solie, 3, both of Franklin, dance at a previous Kids' Nights.*

## Kids' Nights *Members Only*

*Sponsored by WaterStone Bank*
July 9, 11, or 12, 5:15-9 p.m.
Free admission with Zoological Society Zoo Pass card & ID. Reduced Milwaukee County parking fee: $11 from 5:15 to 8:30 p.m. Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking.
**Your invitation will be mailed in June.**

Don't let the name of this Zoological Society, members-only annual event fool you—this festival is fun for the entire family. Members are invited to one of three nights to enjoy the Milwaukee County Zoo at night when it's still light outside. Expect all sorts of fun activities, musical entertainment and, naturally, food. You can purchase dinner from a variety of vendors. Plus, the entire Zoo and all animal buildings will be open after hours (the Herb and Nada Mahler Family Aviary will close at dusk). You will also get half-price admission to the Zoo's special summer exhibit: Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. This $1.00 admission price starts at 5:15 p.m. every day of the event (Zoological Society of Milwaukee members must present their Zoo Pass card and photo ID for reduced admission).

Live entertainment includes Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) at the KWT stage in the farm area. You can also watch the Trinity Irish Dancers step dance in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Your little budding rock star will love performing with UB the Band, sponsored by American Family Insurance and located on the Briggs & Stratton Zoo Terrace stage. Kids can dance off excess energy to tunes played by DJ Tim Sledge at the Flamingo Stage. Check out the eco-themed music of the

## Memberanda

**Zoological Society office hours: Through May 24** Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m-4:30 p.m. **May 25-Sept. 2:** Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Zoo hours: Through May 24:** Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 25-Sept. 2:** Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Please note that the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. Zoo animal buildings close at posted Zoo closing times.**

**School field trips & Company Picnics:** Zoo Pass free-admission benefits do not apply when a child visits the Zoo as part of an organized class field trip or when members attend an employer's company picnic held at the Zoo. Due to the many busloads of school groups visiting the Zoo, gate staff is not able to board each bus to verify Zoo Pass memberships without causing potentially dangerous traffic backups onto Blue Mound Road. The discounted fees paid for educational outings and company picnics include additional Zoo-visit benefits.

**Help us get new members!** In April we mailed out 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. Thanks!

**Who can use member cards?** The person(s) named on the Zoo Pass is the owner of the card. Your Zoo Pass cannot be given to someone else to use. Please have your identification ready to present along with your Zoo Pass as you enter the Zoo. The ZSM and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any Zoo Pass being used inappropriately.


***WILD THINGS***
Issue No. 106, June 2013
***Wild Things* is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee six times a year: in January-March, April-May, June, July-August, September-October, November-December.**
**Editor:** Zak Mazur
**Contributing editor:** Paula Brookmire
**Contributing writer:** Dana Christen
**Designer:** Kevin de Wane
**Photographer:** Richard Brodzeller (unless otherwise noted)
Write to any of us at the Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226 or e-mail publications@zoosociety.org.
**Web:** zoosociety.org

# LL Right

## Special Offer

Visit any WaterStone Bank between June 10 and July 5, 2013, show your Zoo Pass card, and get one ticket good for a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel during Kids' Nights. Visit www.WSBonline.com for branch locations.

Chickadees at the Ralph Evinrude Landing stage; and watch Wild Willy show off his amazing juggling skills.

You'll need energy to keep up with your kids. So fill your tummy with yummy food. Enjoy mouthwatering barbecue from Saz's Catering. Relish Asian delights from Wong's Wok. Find out what makes Palermo's® Pizza so popular (hint: it tastes great!). And slurp noodles to your heart's content at the Noodles & Company stand. Back by popular demand this year are food trucks. Try truly original tacos—known as "globacos"—at the Fast Foodie, LLC. Or, get your cheese fix at the Gouda Girls Truck, because cheese is an integral part of a Wisconsin diet!

You can also buy our new sting ray/shark T-shirts (page 11) and plush-toy animals or sponsor an animal at the Zoological Society's Extravaganzoo Sale in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. In the Peck Welcome Center kids can get "inked" with temporary tattoos and enjoy craft activities. Additional entertainment includes martial arts demonstrations by Karate America and a Mad Science show.

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 Zoomobile will not operate. You are invited to the event on the night specified on your invitation, which will arrive in mid-June; however, if that date is inconvenient, you may attend on one of the other evenings. The event will be held rain or shine. All activities (including reduced sting ray/shark exhibit admission) start after 5:15 p.m., when parking is $11 (Zoo Pass Plus members get free parking). Parking during the day is the regular price of $12. 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. The aviary will close at dusk.

*Lynn Bennet of Brookfield encouraged her son William, 3 (right), to pet a Cochin chicken at a previous Kids' Nights.*

# AIR, WATER, LAND...TERRARIUM!

*Capybara David Franz (left) and tapir Alexis Lasky take the capybara warning-bark pledge in "The Spot of the Jaguar."*

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Journey to the Rich Coast:** Brought back by popular demand, this songbird musical follows two intrepid birds as they *emigrar*, or migrate, from Wisconsin to Central America. Why do they have to leave Wisconsin? Why can't they stay in the tropics? What challenges will the birds face during their arduous journey? You'll find out when you view the world through the eyes of birds—and learn some Spanish words!

## Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to You

Kohl's Wild Theater will travel to festivals, schools, and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo, free of charge. Performances are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Julie B. at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, (414) 258-2333, or KWT@zoosociety.org for available dates. For more information, go to wildtheater.org.

# Music Before Nightfall

## Sunset Zoofaris

*Sponsored by Tri City National Bank*

**June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 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.

*Hailey Schock (left), 4, and Angelina Maly, 5, both of Milwaukee, sway to live music at a previous event.*

The cry of a peacock is carried by a soft breeze. Elephants and giraffes saunter languidly. Bonobos watch the sky darken from their outdoor exhibit. You can top off a long day by enjoying an evening concert at the Milwaukee County Zoo when it's open late on six Wednesday evenings. Invite a friend or two since admission can be cheaper for a carload. A different live band will play each week 6:15-8:45 p.m. Many animals will be outside, and the animal buildings will be open until 8:45 p.m. (the aviary closes at dusk). The special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, will be open (exhibit admission is $2 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 musical entertainment. Bands scheduled for the summer are: The Orphans (June 26); Dirty Boogie (July 3); the 52nd Street Band, with opening act The 'A' Sides (July 10); the Rhythm Kings (July 17); Downtown Harrison (July 24); and 3D (July 31). If it rains, bands will play in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place.

Tri City National Bank customers: Get a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel. Stop in at any branch after June 1 and get a free-ride ticket while supplies last. (Valid June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2013, 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.

# Celebrate Dad, Zoo Style

*Dan Richards, of Brookfield, holds daughter Annabelle, 23 months, as she reaches out to pet a rabbit at last year's event.*

## Father's Day at the Zoo

*Sponsored by Chinet® and Pick 'n Save*

**June 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Dads get free Zoo admission (parking not included) no coupon necessary.

Zoo gates close 45 minutes before Zoo closes.

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with photo ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: $12. For information, call (414) 771-3040.

Pat the Cat, the Zoo's new jaguar dad, is spending Father's Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and you should, too! Whether you visit Pat's two frisky cubs in the feline building or catch a free theater show in the farm, there is plenty for dads and kids to enjoy. Pet animals at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm; feed goats in the Goat Yard or pet bunnies at the Stackner Animal Encounter enclosure. At the farm, kids can craft "No. 1 Dad" buttons out of Chinet® paper plates. Then, go to the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building to touch live sting rays and sharks at the Zoo's summer exhibit (fee $2 per person).

Get a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel: submit a Pick 'n Save receipt with the purchase of any Chinet® product at the carousel ticket booth. Offer valid June 11, 2013, only. Limit one free admission per receipt.

# Set up Your Tent

## Snooze at the Zoo

*Sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods*

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, Aug. 7, 8, 9, 10, starting at 5 p.m.**

Members: $135 for family of four; non-members, $160.
Go online for individual rates & discount details.
Register online only: zoosociety.org/Snooze.
Member registration begins May 20 at 8 a.m.; for non-members, May 21 at 8 a.m.
For details, call Special Events at (414) 258-2333.

*Bryan Tello, of Kansasville, Wis., helps his son Owen, 5, hammer a stake into the ground as the two set up their tent.*

You don't need to drive for hours to find a campsite in a forest near a lake among wild animals. Have a similar experience—and save time and gas—at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) popular campout at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo has practically everything you'd want in a campsite. Forest—check. Lake—check. Animals—check, check, check, check, check! You can choose one of four nights to camp: Aug. 7 through Aug. 10. The next morning you can visit all of the Zoo's animals. Sign up fast for the ZSM's annual family campout because space is limited. Each night features the same activities, including s'mores, sponsored by The Sleep Wellness Institute, around a group campfire; an outdoor buffet dinner; and kid-friendly entertainment. The next morning, enjoy breakfast and a day at the Zoo plus discounted admission to the special summer sting-ray-and-shark exhibit (page 11). This ZSM fundraiser is a fun, safe camping experience, especially for first-time campers. It's the only time each year when the general public can camp at the Zoo. Registration is held online on a first-come-first-served basis. (See start times above.) You will be registered as soon as you submit your payment information. If you or a member of your party has special needs or a disability, please let us know in the comments area online.

Get $10 off a family registration or $3 off an individual rate: Mail in a Sentry Foods cash-register receipt showing the purchase of two 64-ounce Old Orchard juices or blends (see details online when you register).

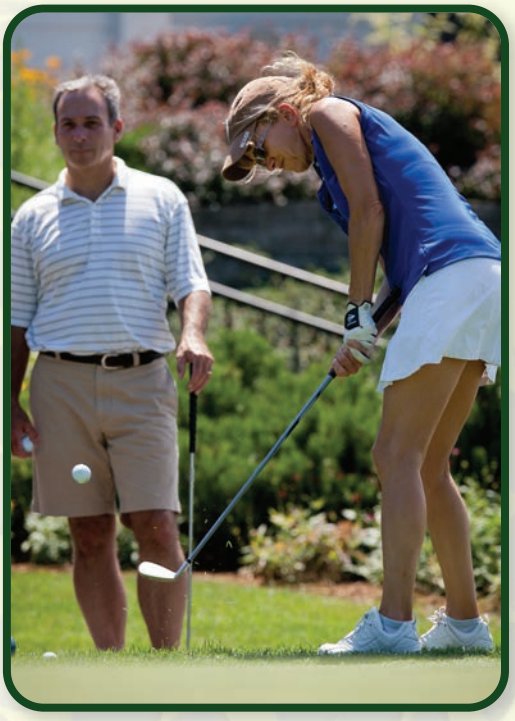
# Fore!

## Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

*Sponsored by Fiduciary Management, Inc.*

**July 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** at the Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon; $300 per person; registration begins at 10:30 a.m.; shot-gun start at noon.
Register at zoosociety.org/golf or call (414) 258-2333 by June 24.

It's time to hit the greens for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) 24th annual golf outing. There will be a variety of fun course events and hole-in-one opportunities. Network with metro-Milwaukee business leaders and participate in a raffle and silent auction. Satiate your appetite at a buffet lunch, and later enjoy a gourmet dinner. Proceeds help support the ZSM. Last year's event raised $116,495. **On the Web:** See photos from a previous golf event at zoosociety.org/golfpix.



*Steve Gorzek, of Wauwatosa, watches Kathy Nieman, of Mequon, make a chip shot in the chipping contest at last year's event.*

# fun, hands-on education programs

## Summer Camps Still Open

The following Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, are among those that still had openings when we went to press. For availability of all summer camps at the Zoo and to register online, go to zoosociety.org/Summer.

- **Age 2 (accompanied by an adult):** In **Carousel**, count your way around our carousel classroom. Make your own Zoo counting book and take a ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel.
- **Ages 4 & 5 (child-only classes OR for a child with an adult):** During **Tigers**, discover why tigers have stripes and how they say "hello." Make your own tiger costume. After that, we'll pounce over to see these striped felines.
- **Ages 4 & 5 (child only):** Do you know which kangaroos live in trees? In **Kangaroos: Life in a Pouch**, visit our classroom and learn all about kangaroos and find out how the pouch is used.
- **Ages 6 & 7 (child only):** One-thousand bananas, 200 pounds of fish and 600 frozen mice is a pretty big grocery list. Find out what animals at the Zoo eat. Then make a flip book and help prepare a snack for a Zoo animal during **What's for Lunch?**
- **Ages 10 & 11 (child only):** A Zoo veterinarian career is challenging and rewarding. Using microscopes, blowguns and dissection equipment, you'll learn about treating animals and adapting medical tools for the biggest and smallest patients during **Vet Camp**.

*Joey Frasheski, 5, of Slinger, follows along while mom Bridget reads aloud during a class.*

# Special Day for Animal Sponsors

## Animal Safari

*Sponsored by Welch's & Pick 'n Save*

**Aug. 24, 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 zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal.

### On the Web

Sponsor an animal at zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal

What does "pachyderm" mean and how are pachyderms cared for at the Zoo? You can find out at this behind-the-scenes event if you participate in the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Not an animal sponsor? No problem—you can sponsor an animal at the event and join the tours! Even if you are not an animal sponsor, you can still enjoy special talks in front of selected animal exhibits plus activities such as temporary tattoos and a scavenger hunt (with a chance to win an animal sponsorship!). Animal sponsors get to visit several areas of the Milwaukee County Zoo that are usually off-limits to the public, including the Aquatic & Reptile Center, Pachyderm area, Winter Quarters, the Commissary and more. Also, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., animal sponsors get half off the regular admission price for the Zoo's special summer sting-ray-and-shark exhibit (page 11).

## Fall-Winter Class Signup

Watch for the September-December 2013 Zoo Classes brochure featuring classes for ages 2-14. The fall brochure will be mailed with your July-August *Wild Things*. Registration is online and members are given priority when registration begins.

## Programs for School Groups

Each year, the Zoological Society publishes a school brochure listing numerous educational programs offered either at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. The School Programs brochure also can be found at www.zoosociety.org/School. Registration for September 2013-May 2014 programs began on April 23.

## Two Workshops for Early Childhood Teachers

Teachers will learn about kangaroos, koalas and other amazing animals in the **Australian Animals** class on July 13. During the **Animal Locomotion** workshop on Sept. 21, teachers will learn about animal movement. Early-childhood teachers can discover fun ways to present an animal unit to their students during these 2½-hour Saturday classes. Workshops include animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a Zoo tour. To register, call (414) 258-5058 or download the registration form from zoosociety.org/teacheredu. The $20 fee includes parking and Zoo admission.

## UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

**Endangered Species**, a two-day University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee course for teachers of grades 3 through high school, will run 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 15 and 16. The course explores both animal survival in the wild and how modern zoos help animals. Included are Zoo tours, discussions and activities to help teachers develop study units. This one-credit course can be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit. Call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255, for fees and to register.

Photo by Margo Pactanac

*Alexander Sweet, 9, of Milwaukee, puts dots on a fish drawing during a class.*

For the fourth year in a row the Zoological Society will host a Kids' Green Art Contest open to members of the Kids Conservation Club and youth who are animal sponsors. Create art projects using only discarded material (tape, glue and other fasteners are okay). Artwork must fit in a 2-foot-square section of a table and be light enough to be carried by one person. Drop off your project at the Zoological Society office between Aug. 19 and Aug. 23; it will be displayed at the event. For more details about the contest and to participate, go to zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal and fill out an entry form by Aug. 9, 2013.

*Margaret Bennett, 5, of Merrill, Wis., feels an animal bone at last year's event.*

# A Migration Celebration

## Party for the Planet

*Sponsored by American Transmission Company*
**May 18 & 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Milwaukee County Zoo**
Free activities. Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID.
Milwaukee County parking fee: $12. For more information, call (414) 771-3040.

*Kristine Girten, of Waukesha, and son Connor, 5, look at butterfly eggs on a plant with the help of master gardener Ruta Goba.*

Each spring migratory birds seem to magically reappear in Wisconsin; but there's no magic involved in their return—only the birds' grit. At the Milwaukee County Zoo's conservation-themed weekend party, you can participate in a bird migration game and learn firsthand about the hardships birds face during migration. Other activities include Acres for the Atmosphere, where visitors can plant seedlings near Wolf Woods to create the Zoo's own Polar Bear Forest™. Do you still have birds on the brain? On Saturday some attendees may get the chance to release a banded bird near the Small Mammals Building. You can also make a bird decal to put on windows to help prevent bird collisions. As always, you can get tips on attracting butterflies to your garden from University of Wisconsin-Extension master gardeners. And there will be kid-friendly entertainment.

# Annual Appeal

## Agile Jags

*The jaguar cubs play with enrichment toys.*

The jaguar cubs were a bit clumsy when they first stepped paw into their exhibit on Feb. 13. It wasn't unusual to see them trip over their own oversize paws or each other's paws, or to fall short when leaping to a ledge. But that was then. In only a few months the cubs have gone from clumsy and roly-poly to fast and agile. You can watch them zip around their exhibit on the Web by tuning into the "cub cam." If you like what you see, we urge you to support the Zoological Society's annual appeal so we can pay for and install more of these cameras in 2013.

The Web cams we plan to install this year, with your support, will show:

- Jaguars' outdoor exhibit
- Polar bears Snow Lilly and Willhelm
- Elephants Ruth and Brittany
- North American black bears Cinnamon and Dakota

Donors giving $100 or more can access this year's Web cams as they become available, before they are released for public viewing. **To get information about Web cams already available or to donate:** Please go online to zoosociety.org/appeal or call (414) 258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.

# Celebrate Summer with Animals

School may still be in session, but you can start summer early at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Memorial Day weekend is the official opening of the Zoo's warm-weather attractions and events, and there's plenty to enjoy. If you can't make it to the ocean this summer, be sure to explore the shallow waters of Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. The Zoo's special summer exhibit, located in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building, features safe-to-touch sting rays and sharks. Afterward, go next door to the Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show, sponsored by Supercuts.

Next, get an overhead view of the Zoo from the Sky Safari, sponsored by PNC, and wave to the camels as you glide by. Once you're back on land, make your way over to the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm and see how many goats you can feed in the Goat Yard. A ride on the North Shore Bank Safari Train will keep things chugging along as you make your way through the Zoo. Be sure to listen for the call of free-range peacocks. Take mid-week breaks on the Zoo's Flamingo Patio, where you can catch evening concerts on six summer Wednesdays during Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by Tri City National Bank.

Get a taste of Milwaukee's best cuisine during the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte at the Zoo, where you'll also enjoy live music by popular bands. Celebrate harvest time and enjoy live music during Family Farm Weekend Sept. 7 and 8, sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. Pedal past the primates and cruise by the big cats during the Ride on the Wild Side, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan–St. Joseph and Wisconsin Heart Hospital Campuses. This Sept. 15 event lets you bike your way through the Zoo and beyond as summer comes to an end. Meanwhile, all summer long children can learn more about animals during Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices. As a ZSM member, you'll get special perks, including early registration for events and classes, members-only Kids' Nights, and an exclusive viewing of the Zoo's special summer exhibit. Check out these ZSM summer events:

**June 3, 4 & 5** – Members-only viewing of Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, 5-9 p.m. (See page 11.)

**July 9, 11 & 12** – Members only: Enjoy the Zoo after hours during Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank. Come for live music and family-friendly activities. (See page 2.)

**Aug. 7-10** – Members get priority: Camp on one of four nights during Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands and Sentry Foods. You'll get a full camping experience, complete with s'mores, a campfire, and snoring animals! (See page 5.)

**Aug. 24** – Animal sponsors can get behind-the-scenes tours during Animal Safari at the Zoo, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save. (See page 6.)

*By Dana Christen*

# SPONSOR NYOTA THE SPOTTED HYENA

♪ *I'm just a beast whose intentions are food/Oh lord, please don't let me be misunderstood.* ♪

Hello there! I'm Nyota, the Zoo's new female hyena. Being a hyena can be frustrating. People think we're scavengers—not entirely true! We often take down our own prey, like lions. Others think our "laughs" sound creepy. But we communicate using 14 unique vocalizations. That requires intelligence. We're fascinating animals, which is why you should sponsor me. Sponsorship includes a plush-toy hyena; a colorful fact sheet about hyenas; an invitation to the Aug. 24 behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo; sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year; and a Sponsor an Animal decal. Sponsorship is only $25 plus $5 for shipping and handling. Order online: zoosociety.org/LTO. Offer ends Aug. 31, 2013.

*Nyota the spotted hyena*

## Sponsor Nyota the Spotted Hyena

❑ **I would like to sponsor Nyota the spotted hyena.**

❑ **I would like to give Nyota the spotted hyena sponsorship as a gift.**

**Gift Recipient:** Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: Day (____) _____ Eve. (____) _____

E-mail address _____

Gift card message: _____

**Gift Giver:** Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: Day (____) _____ Eve. (____) _____

E-mail address _____

**Send packet to:** ❑ Recipient ❑ Gift Giver **Send renewal notice to:** ❑ Recipient ❑ Gift Giver

**Package must arrive by:** _____

I would like _____ package(s) at $25 each. **Add $5 per package for shipping & handling** ..$_____

I would like _____ additional plush-toy hyena(s) at $5 each .....$_____

I would like _____ additional decal(s) at $1 each .....$_____

I would like to make an additional donation to help support the animals. .....$_____

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

**Total amount $** _____

**Online:** Go to **zoosociety.org** and click on the plush-toy hyena picture to order or call (414) 258-2333.

**Credit Card:** *Please charge my:* ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard

Acct. No. _____

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

Signature _____ Print Name _____
as it appears on credit card

**Check:** Make payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** and mail this order form with payment to:
**Hyena**, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

**Hyena** offer good through Aug. 31, 2013. Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Merchandise included in the package is not tax-deductible and includes 5.6% WI sales tax. **Plush-toy offer good while supplies last.**

This sponsorship is offered through the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Sponsor an Animal program, which helps support all the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. In accordance with WI Statute 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

# Baby Rays

## Sting Ray & Shark Bay

*Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets*
**May 25-Sept. 2**
Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building.
$2 per person admission. Free admission for Zoological Society members June 3, 4 and 5, 5-9 p.m., with Zoo Pass card and photo ID (look for an invitation in this *Wild Things*).

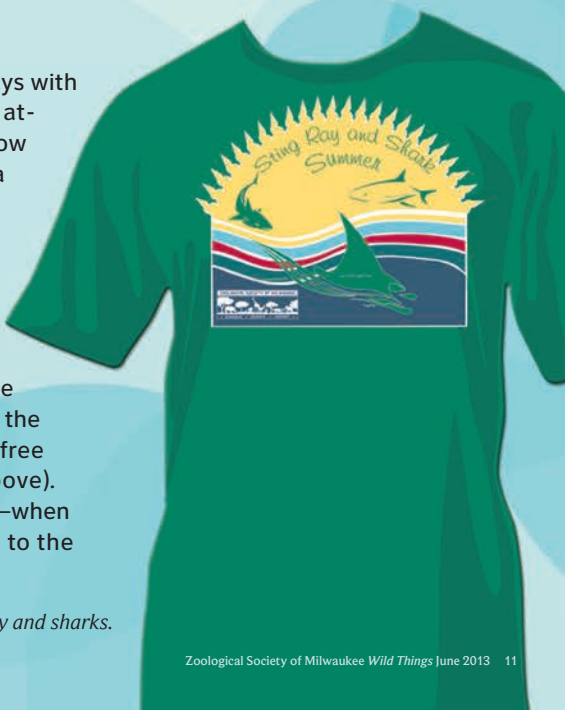
Photo courtesy of Living Exhibits, Inc.

*A sting ray glides by and is touched by a guest at a sting-ray exhibit.*

If you see a small pool in the center of the main sting-ray-and-shark pool at the special summer exhibit this year, it's good news. It means the sting rays had babies. In the wild, sting rays typically give birth once a year, says Erin Mayall, manager of client and visitor service for Living Exhibits, Inc., which operates the sting-ray exhibit. For exhibit animals, however, the 78-degree temperature of the pools often leads to three breeding cycles per year because rays mate and give birth in warm waters. The young are separated from the rest of the population and placed in a nursery aquarium in the middle of the exhibit pool. Two types of rays will be on exhibit—cownose and southern sting rays—and both are ovoviviparous. This means the embryo develops inside of an egg, and then hatches inside the womb. The tiny ray continues to develop in the womb until birth. Both species of sting rays are born fully developed and can begin to hunt for food with their mothers; but a sting ray pup does not spend much time being raised by mom or dad. Pups are perfectly capable of hunting for themselves, but stay in shallow waters for the first three years of their lives to avoid predators. Here, they feed on mackerel, capelin, squid and shrimp and are sometimes given enrichment treats such as salmon, fresh clams and octopus. The exhibit opens Memorial Day weekend; check back during the summer to see if there are any new additions.

## Sting ray/shark T-shirts

Commemorate the day you touched sharks and rays with a T-shirt designed for males and females. These attractive shirts are green and embossed with a yellow sunburst and stylized images of two sharks and a sting ray. The shirt reads: "Sting Ray and Shark Summer" and includes the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) logo. Shirts come in youth sizes (2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 14-16) for $5. Adult small, medium, large and XL are $5; and adult sizes 2X and 3X are $6. To purchase T-shirts, go to the ZSM's Guest Services desk at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Stop by Guest Services if you come to the Zoo on June 3-5—days when ZSM members get free admission to the sting-ray-and-shark exhibit (above). Or stop by during Kids' Nights—July 9, 11 and 12—when ZSM members get half off the regular admission to the exhibit. Shirts available while supplies last.




*T-shirt features a sting ray and sharks.*

# helping hands

*Nazaria Hooks, 3, of Milwaukee, inspects a mounted otter up close at the event.*

## Insider Access at the Zoo

It's not often zoogoers get the chance to check out what happens behind the scenes at the Milwaukee County Zoo. But over 3,800 visitors did just that during the Zoo's Behind the Scenes Weekend March 9 and 10, 2013. Guests were given VIP access to a dozen areas typically closed to the public, including the Zoo's indoor hippo stalls, underground Winter Quarters, and bear-holding areas. Zoogoers got a look at what animals eat in the Zoo's Commissary, as well as in the gorilla kitchen. An above-the-water view of Lake Wisconsin in the Aquatic & Reptile Center gave visitors a new perspective. Children got to play conductor as they explored the train shop. Visitors were led through the behind-the-scenes locations by members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's volunteer auxiliary.

## Eggs-cellent Celebrations

Families and friends bunny-hopped their way down to the Milwaukee County Zoo for Breakfast or Lunch with the Bunny on March 23 and March 24. The event, sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringles**, drew over 730 visitors who enjoyed tasty kringle and a full breakfast on Saturday or lunch on Saturday or Sunday. Everyone was encouraged to get out of their seats to dance and sing along with musician Fred Turk. Kids had the chance to meet Mrs. Easter Bunny and went home with a plush-toy prairie dog. The following weekend, 11,459 visitors joined the fun during the Zoo's March 30 Egg Day celebration, sponsored by **Welch's and Pick 'n Save**. Children could color paper Easter eggs and make baskets to carry their Easter goodies. Children 8 and under searched for tokens to turn in for sweet treats during the Hop-to-it Bunny Scavenger Hunt in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. "Bubblologist" Geoff Akins treated visitors to a spectacular bubble art show. The day-before-Easter event also gave visitors the chance to design their own bunny ears before walking in the Easter parade. After the parade, zoogoers could participate in a prize giveaway raffle, hosted by WMYX's Van McNeil.

*Above right: Hannah Frahm, 4, of New Berlin, is thrilled to meet Mrs. Easter Bunny.*

*Bottom: Lauren Strifling, 6, of Mequon, nibbles on a tasty piece of kringle.*

# Zoo Ball 2013: Zoo World

*Zoo Ball Co-Chairs (from left): Caroline Krider, Thelma Sias and Gina Peter.*

*Sponsored by U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo and Wisconsin Energy Foundation*
**Saturday, June 22**
Milwaukee County Zoo.
Prices start at $300 per person.

The Milwaukee County Zoo is a microcosm of the world. It boasts exhibits representing every continent's animals. That's why the theme of this year's event is Zoo World. Participants can take a "world tour" throughout the Zoo on the ever-popular train or in the Zoomobile. Let out your inner child and hop on the Penzeys Spices Carousel. Co-chairing this year's largest fundraiser are Caroline Krider, Gina Peter and Thelma Sias—members of the ZSM's Board of Directors. Krider is senior vice president at U.S. Bank in Milwaukee. Gina Peter is the Wisconsin commercial banking director for Wells Fargo and Thelma Sias is the vice president of local affairs for We Energies. Celebrating its 30th anniversary, this black-tie event has raised more than $7.5 million for the non-profit ZSM, including more than $478,000 in 2012. The evening includes cocktails, gourmet dining and dancing. The dining venues are made possible thanks to support from U.S. Bank; entertainment is sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc.; and a late-night venue is sponsored by We Energies. The event's multi-pronged auction will feature prizes such as spa specials, sports tickets and much more. For an invitation or details on sponsorship opportunities and corporate tables, call Special Events, (414) 258-2333.

# Orangs and iPads

*M.J. and Scott Engel interact during an iPad enrichment session.*

People often watch television programs that reflect their interests. Apparently, so do orangutans. Since April 2011, Scott Engel—a Pewaukee-based freelance photographer—and Zoo Pride volunteer Kim Houk, who teams with Engel—have used iPads as an enrichment tool for the Milwaukee County Zoo's orangutans, M.J. and Tommy. The Zoo is the first to use iPad enrichment with primates; it's also a pilot facility for the Apps for Apes program. "I've seen M.J. building with Lego-type blocks that keepers gave her," says Engel, adding that over time "M.J. has gravitated to watching home-improvement programs such as 'This Old House' and 'The New Yankee Workshop'—anything with Norm Abram." Cautious Tommy—who with M.J. has enjoyed finger painting—has developed an appreciation for art, specifically that of the late Bob Ross of public TV. "Tom has latched onto 'The Joy of Painting,'" says Engel. The iPad enrichment has also helped the huge orang to break out of his shell a bit. "Since the iPad has been introduced," says Rich Zimmerman, executive director of Orangutan Outreach, which runs Apps for Apes, "Tommy's behavior has mellowed, and he has gotten more accustomed to being near people." Trish Khan, area supervisor for primates, says, "It's definitely brought Tommy to the front of the window." That's where Engel stands with the iPad. "Tommy is inquisitive by nature; however, it's suppressed when he's in an uncertain situation," says Khan. "But he trusts Scott and feels safe."

*By Zak Mazur*

# insider tips

## Personable Penguins

*Piper (foreground) and Pasado trumpet and squeal in unison for fish at feeding time.*

Like most species of penguins, Humboldt penguins look pretty much alike; but under the feathers and skin, each Humboldt has its own personality. Take the Milwaukee County Zoo's latest Humboldt penguin pair, Pasado, 20, and Piper, 9. They went on exhibit on Feb. 10 and since then zookeeper Heather Neldner has had a close-up view of their behavior. "I think Piper is going to be a lot of fun when she settles in fully," says Neldner. "She seems to be curious and kind of outgoing." Pasado is more reserved. "He's shy until he gets to know you. He likes to wait to see what Piper thinks of a situation before he checks it out himself." Still, they have a few things in common: "Both birds are calm, don't bother anyone and they're good eaters." Penguins are monogamous, which is why Pasado and Piper came together from the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, R.I. Their exhibit was closing and our Zoo wanted another pair to increase our colony to 12. Breeding season for the Zoo's Humboldts is from March to August. That means less socializing because they're preoccupied with claiming territory and building nests. Nevertheless, Neldner says that Pasado (who has a purple band on his right wing) and Piper (who wears purple on the left) have socialized with Farley and Penelope, both banded orange, and Houdini, banded gray. "They are still making friends and learning the dynamics of our group," says Neldner. *By Zak Mazur*

## Golden Years Companions

Genghis and Tomiris, the Milwaukee County Zoo's snow leopards, are a genetic match made in heaven. But as with matters of the heart—or in their case, hormones and estrus cycles—timing is everything. Despite the valuable genes these endangered big cats carry, they've probably met too late in life. "Genghis came to the Zoo last November and he's almost 14 years old," says feline zookeeper Amanda Ista. And female Tomiris, who has lived at the Zoo since 2005, is 13. "If a big cat doesn't have her first litter by 10 to 12 years old, it is highly unlikely she'll be able to get pregnant." That's too bad, because sparks have flown between the two, although it didn't happen right away. "It took a little over a month of interactions through mesh before Tomiris was able to get comfortable being around Genghis." But then, perhaps auspiciously, Tomiris went into estrus on Valentine's Day. "We were able to do physical introductions that day," says Ista. By Feb. 18 the pair mated. Even if Tomiris doesn't get pregnant, they still have each other's companionship in the outdoor exhibit, which is designed to mimic the mountains of Central Asia, their natural habitat. Ista described Genghis as being a "typical 'grumpy' snow leopard," but added that he's not aggressive "and is pretty laid-back and patient around females." Tomiris, who is smaller, has tried to entice Genghis to play. "He's patient with her antics," says Ista. "But he prefers to just relax and eat."

*By Zak Mazur*

*Genghis, the Milwaukee County Zoo's newest male snow leopard.*

# Expanding their Circle of Support

*Richard and Mary Johnson had their portrait taken at the Simba Circle Recognition Dinner in 2012.*

When your lives revolve around the Milwaukee County Zoo, making a legacy gift to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) seems the natural thing to do. Mary and Richard Johnson established a planned gift for the ZSM about 10 years ago, but kept it private. Two years ago they attended a Zoo Pride meeting where someone called attention to the important roles of planned giving and the Simba Circle. "We came away thinking, 'Why not let other people know about our passion and vision in hopes of inspiring others," recalls Richard. Mary and Richard agree the Zoo is a treasure for the community—another reason they think people should consider making a planned gift to the ZSM. Their dream is for the Zoo to transform so much that it becomes an entirely new experience for future generations. They feel an added benefit of joining the Simba Circle is that it's so simple to do. "We weren't asked to give a specific amount," says Mary. "We just said we want to make a bequest; didn't even need to use an accountant."

Mary affectionately recalls bringing their six children to the Zoo "almost every day when they didn't have school." Bruce, the Johnsons' eldest son, knew the Zoo so well that he held the coveted position of Zoomobile driver during his college years. When Richard retired 18 years ago, he and Mary became Zoo Pride volunteers—and they remain so to this day. Together they have logged over 7,000 volunteer hours at the Zoo. Much of that time has been spent in the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center where Mary is well-known for using her visual-art talents to assist children in art classes. To prove just how connected the Johnsons are to the Zoo, they even had a Zoo-catered party in the Flamingo Café to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

*By Zak Mazur*

## Planned Giving—Simba Circle

The Simba Circle was formed by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) to recognize people who have included the ZSM as a beneficiary of a planned gift through a will, charitable trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. Gifts become a permanent asset of the ZSM's endowment fund that helps to financially secure the ZSM's future. As a member, you will receive recognition on Zoo signage and in Society publications. You will also receive annual invitations to a VIP exhibit premiere and Simba Circle Dinner. If you'd like more information about planned giving, please call Kim Peterson in the Development office at (414) 258-2333, ext. 310, or visit our website at zoosociety.org/Simba.

Simba Circle

If you've already included the Zoological Society in your giving plans, please let us know. We would welcome an opportunity to personally thank you.

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 73
Columbus, WI

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE
• CONSERVE • EDUCATE • SUPPORT •

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL**
**Please Deliver Promptly**

**Sting rays and sharks at the Zoo**

See Page 11.

# What's happening

Details Inside

**May 12**
Mother's Day at the Zoo. All moms get in free.*++

**May 18 & 19**
Party for the Planet, sponsored by American Transmission Company.*

**May 20**
Members online registration begins at 8 a.m. for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods; go to zoosociety.org.

**May 25-Sept. 2**
Kohl's Wild Theater, offering four free shows daily in the Zoo.+

**May 25-Sept. 2**
The Zoo's special summer exhibit: Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, $2 per person entry fee.

**May 29 and June 1**
Two sessions of Zoo Pride volunteer training, level I. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.

**June 1-Aug. 14**
Zoological Society of Milwaukee Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, for children ages 2-14 and families. Registration now open.

**June 3, 4 and 5**
Members-only preview of Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, 5-9 p.m.

**June 5, 8, 12 and 15**
Four sessions of Zoo Pride volunteer training, level II. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.

**June 16**
Father's Day, sponsored by Chinet® & Pick 'n Save; all dads get in free (parking not included).*

**June 22**
Zoo Ball 2013, presented by U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo & Wisconsin Energy Foundation.

**June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**
Sunset Zoofari (evening concerts), sponsored by Tri City National Bank.*+

**July 9, 11 and 12**
Members-only Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank.*

**July 29**
Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by Fiduciary Management, Inc.+

**Aug. 7-10**
Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods.+

**Aug. 15-18**
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte with major support from Beer Capitol.*+

**Aug. 24**
Animal Safari, sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save.

**Aug. 30**
Senior Celebration, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health.+

**Sept. 7 & 8**
Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.*+

**Sept. 15**
Ride on the Wild Side, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan–St. Joseph and Wisconsin Heart Hospital campuses.+

*ZSM members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The special sting-ray-and-shark exhibit admission is extra, except for ZSM members on June 3, 4 and 5, 5-9 p.m. (free), and during Kids' Nights, July 9, 11 and 12 (50% off), starting at 5:15 p.m. each day. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for free or reduced admission. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

+More information on these events will appear in future issues of *Wild Things*. ++Parking not included May 12.