

Wild Things

BATS, BADGERS, BIRDS & BEARS!

Kohl's Wild Theater returns to the Zoo

Shows run May 24-Sept. 1; four free performances a day, seven days a week, at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

There are small habitats, like caves and terrariums. There are huge ones, like the Arctic. What roles do these diverse environments—and the animals that live in them—play in the planet's ecosystem? You'll find out when Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) kicks off its fourth season at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "This summer's season offers something for everyone, from vampires to frogs, from polar bears to football," says Dave McLellan, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) theater program coordinator. "The plays showcase real-life conservation issues in a way that will inform and entertain the entire family." Kohl's Wild Theater, the ZSM's live theater program, is made possible by a partnership with Kohl's Cares. Each show is 15 minutes long and is performed on the KWT stage in the farm area. Here's a glimpse at what you'll see:

The Legend of Hibernacula: This show follows Batfield, a little brown bat from Wisconsin to see Count Hibernacula, a mysterious bat from South America. Can Count Hibernacula be trusted? Join these bats in this musical that teaches the importance of bats for humans and the crucial role bats play in Wisconsin's ecosystem.

The Wonderful Lizard of ooZ: Dory is a pet tomato frog 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. Back for a second season, this musical is loosely based on "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Viewers learn why it's best to keep pet frogs in their terrariums and not release them into the wild.



Pet frog Dory, played by Libby Amato, longs to see the world outside of her terrarium in the play "The Wonderful Lizard of ooZ."



The Great Wisconsin Zoo-per Bowl:

Hey, football fans, it's time for the match-up between Wisconsin habitats. Audience members become cheerleaders called the Wetland Whooping Cranes. The competitors are the Prairie Badgers and the Forest Wolves. But, beware! Wisconsin's changing habitats mean that no one plays on home turf. Who will best adapt to win the Big Game?

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Batfield (Megan Kaminsky) accuses Count Hibernacula (Emmit Morgans) of being bad.

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Keeping Up with the Kids



Andrea F. (left), of Oconomowoc, and her daughter, Kylie, 8, move to the “Macarena” at a previous Kids’ Nights.

Kids’ Nights *Members Only*

Sponsored by WaterStone Bank

July 8, 10 & 11, 5:15-9 p.m.

Free admission with Zoological Society Zoo Pass card & photo ID.

Reduced Milwaukee County Parking fee: \$11 from 5:15-8:30 p.m.

Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking.

Your invitation will be mailed in June.

No school, longer days, and no homework. Summer is made for kids. But this annual members-only Zoological Society event is made for the whole family. You’re invited to one of three after-hours nights at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Family-friendly activities, live entertainment, and scrumptious food await you—and, of course, the Zoo animals. Many start to get active as the sun begins to set, and the entire Zoo will be open for this prime animal viewing time (the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary will close at dusk). You’ll also get half-price admission to the Zoo’s special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik’s Food Markets. The \$1 member 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).

awaits you. Kohl’s Wild Theater will have shows at 7 p.m. each night in the farm area. Your little ones can join the band with UB the Band, sponsored by American Family Insurance and

As you make your way through the Zoo, check out the live entertainment that



Memberanda

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

Zoological Society office hours: Through May 23: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
May 24-Sept. 1: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours: Through May 23: Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 24-Sept. 1:** Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Please note that the Zoo’s Small Mammals Building opens at 10 a.m. **Admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. Zoo animal buildings close 15 minutes prior to Zoo closing times.**

Payment Information at Zoo Admission Gates: The Milwaukee County Zoo staff does not accept checks for Zoo Pass purchases or renewal payments at the Zoo’s admission gates.

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 Bluemound Road. The discounted fees paid for educational outings and company picnics include additional Zoo-visit benefits.

Help us get new members! Please encourage your friends and relatives 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. 112, June 2014

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. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383 or email publications@zoosociety.org.

Web: zoosociety.org

located on the Briggs & Stratton Zoo Terrace Stage. Hear DJ Tim Sledge play your favorite hits on the Flamingo Patio stage, sponsored by Great Clips. For a rockin' performance, make your way to The Rock Shop at the Ralph Evinrude Landing Stage, sponsored by Lifeway Foods. If the kids haven't worn you out yet, head to the Peck Welcome Center for Mad Science, Karate America demonstrations and animal-themed crafts, sponsored by KinderCare Learning Centers. In the U.S. Bank Gathering Place you can watch the Main Street Song and Dance Troupe perform.

With all that's going on, you're sure to work up an appetite. Luckily, a variety of options will satisfy even the pickiest eaters. Indulge in barbeque from Saz's Catering. Whet your appetite with Asian delights from Wong's Wok. Try some zesty pizza from Palermo's® Pizza or enjoy dinner from

some of Milwaukee's favorite food trucks: Eats & Treats, The Fast Foodie, LLC, Five Star Nachos, and the Gouda Girls.

Find gifts for the zoo lover in your life at the Zoological Society's Extravanzoo Sale in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Here you can find ZSM T-shirts, plush-toy animals, and animal sponsorship packages.

Special Offer: Between June 9 and July 3, 2014, visit any WaterStone Bank, 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.

Addyson B., 5, of Oak Creek, finds her inner rock star as she performs with UB the Band at last year's event.



BATS, BADGERS, BIRDS & BEARS!

(Continued from page 1)

Lights, Camera, Arctic! Mysterious circumstances put distant neighbors Ursus the polar bear and Cygnus the trumpeter swan right next door to each other. Audience members join a documentary filmmaker, become the film crew "on location," and help resolve this neighborly dispute by learning how actions at home can impact animals in the Arctic.

A polar bear, played by Johnathan Koller, tries hunting a trumpeter swan (puppet operated by Lindsey Gagliano) in a scene from "Lights! Camera! Arctic!"

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.



SUMMERTIME SOUNDS

Sunset Zoofaris

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank

June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 6-9 p.m.

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with Zoo Pass card and photo ID.

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

FREE for children under 2; or \$20 per carload (with a maximum of 10 people).

No parking fee. For details, call (414) 256-5466.

An electric guitar wails. A singer's voice carries on the breeze. Drums set the beat. While you might expect the sounds of animals at the Zoo, it's music that will fill six Wednesday nights in June and July at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Catch a different band each week from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. at the Flamingo Patio Gazebo stage during this annual summer concert series. Tour the Zoo and visit your favorite animals after hours. Animal buildings will be open until 8:45 p.m. (the aviary closes at dusk). Check out the Zoo's special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets (exhibit admission is \$2 per person). After you've seen and listened to it all, grab a bite to eat from the Zoo's Flamingo Café or Lakeview Place restaurants. Or, pack a dinner and dine *alfresco* as you enjoy a languid evening at the Zoo with friends and family.

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 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2014, 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.



Liam M., 5, of Oconomowoc, gets a spin from Mom Catherine at last year's event.



Ten-month-old Nicholas A., of Oshkosh, stroked a goat's ear with the help of dad Carl at a previous event.

Dabbling Dads

Father's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy

June 15, 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) 256-5466.

There are many feathered fathers to be found at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo's two male chestnut teals, for example, recently welcomed offspring. Unlike many dads in the animal kingdom, chestnut teal dads play an active role in child rearing. These dabbling ducks help Mom pick and defend a nest site. What's more, daddy ducks stay with Mom while she incubates the eggs. Male chestnut teals stick around to help defend hatchlings, which are born ready to swim. Dad keeps predators at bay with pecks, or feigns injuries so young ones have a chance to escape danger. Is your dad your hero, too? Then bring him to the Zoo free of charge on June 15. You can celebrate fathers of all species. Congratulate lion Themba on becoming a grandpa. Njeri, his female offspring who was born at the Zoo in 2011, recently gave birth to five cubs at the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Tex. You also can catch a free theater show in the farm area. Behind Macaque Island, touch sting rays at the Zoo's special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets.

No Snoring



Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9, starting at 5 p.m.

Members: \$135 for family of four; non-members, \$160.

Go online for individual rates and discount details.

Member registration begins May 19 at 8 a.m.; for non-members, May 20 at 8 a.m.

For details, call Special Events at (414) 258-2333.

The sun sets. A campfire glows as stories are told. As you settle into your tent for the night, you hear the bark of a harbor seal. It's not your typical camping trip—you're sleeping at the Zoo. And the animals aren't snoring. This overnight excursion at the Milwaukee County Zoo comes once a year and is the perfect experience for first-time campers. Pitch your tent on the shores of Lake Evinrude before enjoying a picnic buffet dinner with your new neighbors. Check out the kid-friendly entertainment and enjoy an outdoor movie. Then get cozy around a campfire and indulge in s'mores, sponsored by The Sleep Wellness Institute. The next morning, enjoy a continental breakfast before spending the day at the Zoo.

Choose one of four nights to camp between

Aug. 6 and 9, but sign up fast. Registration

is held online on a first-come-first-served basis and spots fill quickly.

If you or a member of your party needs special accommodations, please let us know in the comments area when you register online.

Sisters Rachel, 6, Claire, 3, and Kirsten, 9, help Dad Jeff Z., of Kenosha, set up a tent at last year's event.



GO TO THE GREENS!



Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

Sponsored by Fiduciary Management, Inc.

July 28, 10:30 a.m.-8 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/events/golf or call (414) 258-2333 by July 1.

It's time to go to the greens for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) 25th annual golf outing. There will be a variety of fun course events and hole-in-one opportunities. This fundraiser is a great opportunity to network with metro-Milwaukee business leaders. You can also participate in a raffle and silent auction. A day on the links will make you hungry. Sate your appetite at a buffet lunch, and later enjoy a gourmet dinner. Proceeds help support the ZSM. Last year's event raised \$102,626. **On the Web:** See photos from a previous golf event at zoosociety.org/golfpix.

Ryan Yttre, of Brookfield, follows through on his swing at last year's event.

Zoo Classes & Camps

All Zoo Classes and camps are run by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM).

Photo by Richard Taylor



Rachel Hahn

Holistic Approach

How do Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) education programs stand out from other conservation-themed programs? Rachel Hahn—the ZSM’s newest Conservation Education instructor—says it’s all about the senses. She’s taught at the Racine Zoo and the Cable Natural History Museum. She also volunteers at the Schlitz Audubon Center. Hahn joined the ZSM full time in September 2013 and teaches kindergarten through eighth grade. She praises other programs for youths in Wisconsin but says ZSM classes and camps offer a more holistic approach. “We teach facts, but we also give children a full sensory experience,” she says. “I taught a class on bats. We turned off the lights so kids would learn bats are nocturnal. Then the kids pretended to be bats. We gave them fun facts about bats and visited the Zoo’s bats.”

Zoo Camps—Sign up Now

ZSM Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, are a great opportunity for hands-on learning among live animals. Camps are offered for ages 2-14 and for families. Register on our website.

Zoo Classes for Fall

The same types of hands-on activities and Zoo tours that kids love in summer camps are waiting for them this fall. ZSM fall topics range from bears to elephants, and from flamingos to trains. Watch for the September-December 2014 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 member registration begins on Aug. 7, 2014, at 5 p.m.

Animal-themed Programs for School Groups

Teachers, bring the Zoo to you or bring your students to the Zoo. Each year, the ZSM publishes a school brochure listing numerous educational programs offered to schools as outreach **OR** at the Zoo. To register for September 2014-May 2015 programs, go to zoosociety.org/school.

New Berlin girls learn about veterinary exams as part of a Vet Camp.



Insider Event

Animal Safari

Sponsored by Welch's and Pick 'n Save

Aug. 23, 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 visit zoosociety.org/sponsoranimal.

What makes Caribbean flamingos pink? And how does the Milwaukee County Zoo maintain the flamingos' vibrant color? You can learn how if you participate in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Sponsor an Animal program. Animal sponsors can go on behind-the-scenes tours on Aug. 23 and check out areas of the Zoo normally off-limits: the flamingo quarters, Camel Barn, Elk Barn and more. 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 on animal diets and ways the Zoo enriches their lives. Plus, get temporary tattoos and go on a scavenger hunt (with a chance to win an animal sponsorship!). 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). (Please note: tours are subject to change.)

Workshop for Early-Childhood Teachers

Oceans is a 2½-hour workshop on Saturday, July 26, for early-childhood teachers. It includes animal background, classroom station ideas, project samples and a Zoo tour. To register, call (414) 258-5058 or download a registration form from zoosociety.org/teacheredu.

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 be held June 21 and 22. For more information, call UWM Outreach, (414) 229-5255 for fees and registration.

“My daughter and I enjoy Zoo classes. They are educational, fun and entertaining. The staff is exceptional. This program is an asset to our community.”

**AnnMarie K.,
Fox Point**



Sarah E., of West Allis, encourages her daughter, Quynn, 2, to paint with a frog toy.

zoosociety.org/education

Photo by Richard Taylor

For the fifth year in a row we will host a Kids' Green Art Contest open to members of the Kids Conservation Club and youth who are animal sponsors. For the first time we're adding a theme: Saving Endangered Species. Create art projects of an endangered animal 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. 16 and Aug. 22; it will be displayed at the Aug. 23 event. For more details about the contest and to participate, go to zoosociety.org/sponsoranimal/greenart and fill out an entry form by Aug. 8, 2014. To sponsor an animal now, go to zoosociety.org/sponsoranimal.



Zytosia N., 8, of Madison, and Ashley C., of DeForest, admire art from the Kids' Green Art Contest at last year's event.

Photo by Mary Marchant

Living the Green Life

Party for the Planet

Sponsored by

American Transmission Company

May 17 & 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with photo ID. Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

For information, call (414) 256-5466.

Get ready to dig in the dirt, take a nature tour, and learn conservation tips. It's time to party... in an earthy sort of way. Visit the Milwaukee County Zoo to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day. On this weekend dedicated to all things "green," learn about small changes you can make to live a more sustainable life. Buy plants native to Wisconsin and help combat invasive species. Another way you can help conservation is to learn about Seafood Watch, which promotes "sustainable seafood." Learn more in the Aquatic & Reptile Center, where you can win prizes and meet with Whole Foods representatives to learn how they label their seafood. Near the Small Mammals Building, you can watch zookeepers net and band birds to be released and discover why birds are banded.



Zoo Pride volunteer Kim Haebig, of West Allis, shows the Schumacher siblings, of Jackson, a bird-migration route at last year's event.

Annual Appeal

Gorilla Yard Makeover

People love to go to the park when the weather gets warm. Greenery abounds. You can lie on the grass and watch the clouds float by. Maybe there's water to play in. Gorillas, closely related to humans, enjoy similar activities. That's why the Zoological Society's 2014 Annual Appeal plans to build special features in the existing outdoor gorilla habitat. We plan to include:

- A water feature for splashing and drinking
- Berms to provide protection from the wind and elements
- Resting platforms to allow basking in the sun and "people-watching"
- New landscape vegetation to provide browse treats in summer
- "Enrichment" items (toys and activities) that stimulate the gorillas' natural curiosity

PLEASE DONATE

To give to the Zoological Society's 2014 Annual Appeal, go online to ForTheApes.com, or call (414) 258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.



Naku sits in a hammock in the outdoor gorilla yard.

A Wild Gathering

National Conference of the Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers

Oct. 6-12, 2014

Hosts: Zoo Pride, Zoological Society of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County Zoo.

Registration and information:

Zoo Pride office (414) 258-5667 or zoosociety.org/AZADV2014.

Costs, full conference: AZADV member \$220; non-AZADV member \$250.

Costs, individual events and tours: see zoosociety.org/AZADV2014.

Here's an event that takes you from Belize to Botswana and brings you up to date on animal health and conservation. This October, you'll have a rare opportunity to attend a national zoo-themed conference right here in Milwaukee. Moreover, if you've ever

thought about putting your interest in wildlife to productive use, here's your chance. This conference brings together enthusiastic zoo volunteers from around the world. You can discover the many ways to help at the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society through the ZSM's volunteer auxiliary, Zoo Pride. Besides presentations describing volunteer projects across the country, you can hear these major speakers who've all had an international impact:

- **Dr. Gay Reinartz, opening ceremony speaker, Oct. 8.** As director of the ZSM's award-winning Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative, Dr. Reinartz is helping save endangered bonobos in Africa. She spends six months a year at the ZSM's remote research station in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She also coordinates the Bonobo Species Survival Plan® (SSP) in North American zoos.
- **Dr. Vickie Clyde, luncheon speaker, Oct. 9.** This Milwaukee County Zoo veterinarian helped found the national Great Ape Heart Project to study heart disease in great apes. As veterinary advisor to the Bonobo SSP, she has studied ape heart and respiratory diseases, the two main causes of death in adult captive bonobos. She will give a history of the Milwaukee Ape Heart Project, development of a bonobo cardiac database, animal training (to help in their health care) and research that's improving the lives of apes in zoos.
- **Dr. John Scheels, dessert speaker, Oct. 9.** A pioneer in zoo-animal dentistry, Dr. Scheels has an international reputation for his study of the teeth of the Zoo's famous gorilla, Samson. As consulting dentist at the Zoo since 1981, he has worked on 93 species, from marmosets to elephants. With numerous photos, he highlights cases from rhino root canals to Dall sheep lumpy jaws. See zoosociety.org/dentist.
- **Mrs. Nancy Kennedy, dessert speaker, Oct. 9.** A Zoo supporter who travels frequently to Belize, Mrs. Kennedy is the author of the children's book "Pat the Great Cat." She tells the story of how a "renegade" jaguar tied together two nations and became the father of two cubs at the Milwaukee County Zoo.
- **Dr. Bruce Beehler, banquet keynote speaker, Oct. 11.** The recently retired Deputy Zoo Director for Animal Management and Health helped develop an outstanding veterinary program at the Milwaukee County Zoo. He also managed the Zoo's Animal Division for almost 30 years. Dr. Beehler travels extensively and leads African safaris. He will share a photo safari of wildlife and conservation in Botswana.

If you don't want to attend the full conference, you can register for "a la carte" events such as a Milwaukee Public Museum Ice Breaker (Oct. 8), a Zoo Day with lunch and tours, and 20 excursions, from a Horicon Marsh tour to a Milwaukee Beer Barons City Tour. Online registrants are entered into a drawing for a mystery prize. Registration is open to ages 15 and up, and closes Aug. 15, but may fill long before that. So register soon.

African elephant Brittany puts her trunk on Ruth at the Milwaukee County Zoo.



Photo by Richard Taylor

Sponsor Gypsy, the Arabian Horse



After dogs, you could say horses are humankind's best friend. Researchers estimate that horses were domesticated about 5,500 years ago, advancing transportation, farming and communication. Also important are the bonds between horses and those who love and care for them. Odds are there's a horse lover in your life, be it a relative, a friend or perhaps yourself! You can sponsor the Milwaukee County Zoo's Arabian horse, Gypsy, for only \$30 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Sponsorship includes a plush-toy horse, a certificate of sponsorship, a fact sheet on Arabian horses, a 4-by-6-inch photo of Gypsy, an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event in August, sponsorship recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year, and more. Offer good until Aug. 31, 2014.

SPONSOR THE ARABIAN HORSE

- I would like to sponsor Gypsy the Arabian horse.
 I would like to give Gypsy the Arabian horse sponsorship as a gift.

Gift Recipient: Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone: Day (_____) _____ Eve. (_____) _____
 Email address _____
 Gift card message: _____

Gift Giver: Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone: Day (_____) _____ Eve. (_____) _____
 Email address _____

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

Package must arrive by: _____

I would like _____ package(s) at \$30 each. **Add \$5 per package for shipping & handling** ..\$ _____
 I would like _____ additional plush-toy horse(s) at \$5 each\$ _____
 I would like _____ additional 4-by-6-inch photo(s) of Gypsy at \$5 each\$ _____
 I would like _____ additional decal(s) at \$1 each\$ _____
 I would like to make an additional donation to support all the Zoo's 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 horse 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:
Arabian horse, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

Arabian horse offer ends Aug. 31, 2014. Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Merchandise included in the package is not tax-deductible and includes 5.6% WI sales tax. **Plush-toy and photo offer good while supplies last.**

The proceeds from the Sponsor an Animal program enhance animal exhibits and help all animals at the Zoo. In accordance with WI Statute 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

Summertime in the Serengeti



Stock photo

A small herd of zebras in the Serengeti.

Zoo Ball 2014

Sponsored by ManpowerGroup & Everett Smith Group

Saturday, June 28

Milwaukee County Zoo

Prices start at \$300 per person.



The Serengeti Plain in East Africa is home to numerous species, including giraffes, zebras, elephants and wildebeest. These animals take part in the largest migration on the planet. This June, migrate to the Milwaukee County Zoo with hundreds of guests for Summertime in the Serengeti. This is the theme of this year's Zoo Ball, sponsored by ManpowerGroup & Everett Smith Group. Zoo Ball is the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) largest fundraiser. Co-chairing this year's event are Jeff and Sarah Joerres, of Milwaukee, and Tom and Kathy Hauske, of Mequon. Celebrating its 31st anniversary, this black-tie event has raised more than \$8,150,000 for the non-profit ZSM. 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. 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.

SUMMER RAYS

Sting Ray & Shark Bay

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

May 24-Sept. 1

Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building

\$2 per person admission. Free admission for Zoological Society members June 2, 3 and 4, 5-9 p.m. with Zoo Pass card and photo ID (look for an invitation in this *Wild Things*).

\$1 for food to feed the sting rays.

You enter the building. The smell of the ocean permeates the air. You approach the pool and you see them—sting rays gently flying through the water. Look, a ray is swimming toward you along the wall of the pool. You reach out and feel its smooth, slippery skin. Excited, you purchase a piece of fish. Again, you extend your hand into the pool and another ray sucks the fish from your hand like a vacuum.

Cool! You can have a sensory experience like this at the Milwaukee County Zoo's special summer exhibit. Here, you can touch two types of sting rays (their dangerous barbs are clipped like a fingernail so as to make them safe) and admire two species of small sharks. This exhibit features more than 30 sharks and rays. Before you visit the exhibit, learn about the four species you'll encounter:

Cownose sting rays are found in the Atlantic Ocean from New England to South America. They also live along the west coast of Africa. These rays stay close to the coastline and travel in groups sometimes as large as 10,000! Like the cownose, **southern sting rays** are found off the coasts of New England down to South America. Large populations are found in Florida and the Bahamas. Southern rays are bottom-dwellers that thrive in seagrass meadows, lagoons, and small reef structures. Slender-bodied **white-spotted bamboo sharks** are found off the coasts of Madagascar, India, Japan and the Philippines. Also called "cat sharks," they have nasal barbels (like catfish) that look like a cat's whiskers. They use their "whiskers" to locate food such as crabs, shrimp, and small fishes hidden in the sand. **Bonnethead sharks** have wide-shaped heads that give them added lift and great agility. They're found in the Atlantic Ocean from the coast of North Carolina south to Brazil. In the Pacific they live along the California coast and as far south as Ecuador.

By Dana Christen

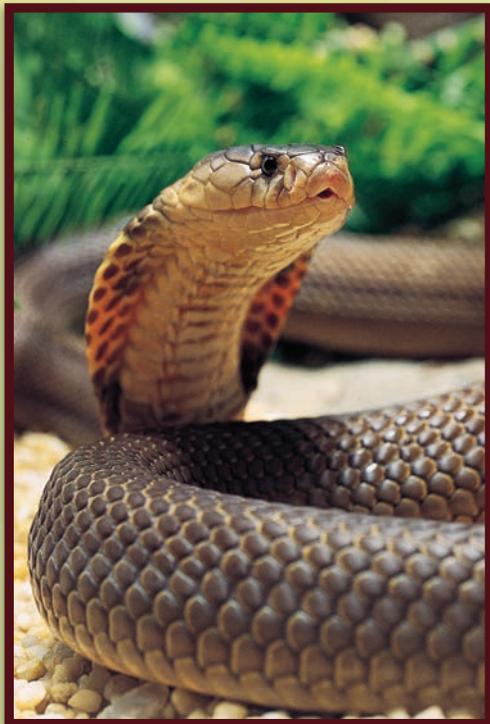


Cownose sting rays

Insider Tips

A Queen Cobra

Connie the king cobra was almost named Miss Piggy. When this female cobra arrived at the Milwaukee County Zoo May 16, 2013, she ate like a pig, says Craig Berg, aquarium and reptiles curator. But Connie the Cobra had a nice ring to it and it stuck. Still, this adolescent cobra is getting the kind of regal attention that the Muppets character Miss Piggy would demand. Zookeepers are training Connie to be comfortable going in and out of her exhibit. “We pull her out with a long snake hook,” says Berg. When she is put back in the exhibit, there’s food waiting for her. “This way she won’t feel intimidated.” Also, the staff uses a gentle snake hook rather than snake tongs, says Berg, because tongs may mimic being grabbed by a predator and put the snake in defense mode. You don’t want to rattle a king cobra, one of the world’s most venomous snakes. They’re generally shy and prefer to avoid humans, but they become fiercely defensive when threatened. They’re also smart. “You always want to stay on their good side,” says Berg. Connie will go on exhibit in the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) in late spring.



A king cobra at the Zoo.

Connie has also been trained to eat more healthfully. In the wild, king cobras eat other snakes and reptiles. The king cobra’s Latin name, *Ophiophagus hannah*, translates to “snake-eater.” Cobras can catch diseases from eating other reptiles, says Berg. At the Bronx Zoo, where Connie hatched, she was trained to eat disease-free rodents raised in captivity. This process took about a year because cobras “come out of the egg expecting to eat other snakes.” ARC staff continued her diet training by feeding her pinkie mice (newborn mice without fur) wrapped in snake skin and covered with liquid from reptile eggs. Connie has since graduated to adult mice and, when she gets bigger, will be fed rats. Unlike a python that might get one large rat or rabbit, Connie will get three small rats. “King cobras eat food items that are much smaller than other snakes their size,” says Berg. A small meal doesn’t mean a small snake. King cobras can grow up to 18 feet long. Their average length, however, is 10 to 12 feet. Berg says the Zoo could handle a snake as long as 18 feet. “The exhibit is large enough so that if a snake that big wrapped around the perimeter, its nose and tail wouldn’t touch.” In fact, Connie has increased her weight tenfold in less than a year, from 70 grams (just 2.5 ounces) to 700 grams (1.54 pounds), says Berg. With such a healthy start, Connie may stay at the Zoo for a long time. Her predecessor lived to be 19½ years old—one of the oldest king cobras on record.

By Dana Christen



Long Lost Sisters

It seemed like an impossible coincidence. In October 2013, the Milwaukee County Zoo received a new dwarf mongoose named Annie to join resident dwarf mongoose Oakley. In case you didn’t know, Annie Oakley was the name of an American sharpshooter (Aug. 13, 1860-Nov. 3, 1926). “We couldn’t

A dwarf mongoose at the Zoo.

Skipping Along the Mud

About 360 to 410 million years ago, a fish-like creature crawled out of the water and dragged itself onto land. What did this creature look like? How did it move? To get an idea, look no further than the Mangrove Swamp exhibit in the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) at the Milwaukee County Zoo. There, you'll find two fascinating fishes called mudskippers.

"Mudskippers are probably a good example of what those first ancient fish that crawled onto land might have looked like," says Christopher Fendos, a zookeeper at the ARC. Mudskippers use their front fins to haul their bodies forward. The Mangrove Swamp exhibit has two mudskippers. One came to the Zoo in 2010. The larger newcomer arrived in September 2013. Mudskippers live in mangrove swamps, which are found along the coasts of Indonesia, Africa and the Indian Ocean. "Mangrove swamps are tough environments," says Fendos. "The water is brackish, meaning it's salty, but not as salty as the ocean." Mangrove terrain alternates daily with the tides. At low tide the terrain bakes under the hot sun. At high tide it's submerged. Mudskippers don't have lungs, yet they spend about 90 percent of their lives on land. They can do this by regularly swashing water over their gills.



A mudskipper at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The Mangrove Swamp exhibit, located to the left of the Chinese Alligator exhibit, recently underwent major renovations that were completed on Feb. 18, 2014. One change is how water flows through the half-land, half-water exhibit. "We redirected the water to flow over solid surfaces to keep things moist for the mudskippers," says Fendos. Mudskippers are also easily identifiable by their eyes protruding from the top of their heads. You'll also notice three other species of fishes in the exhibit: green scats, a subspecies of gulf killifishes, and a mono sebae. By summer Fendos hopes to grow real mangrove plants in the exhibit and to introduce archer fish. "Archer fish can squirt water and hit terrestrial insects," says Fendos. "The insect falls into the water and the archer fish eats it."

By Zak Mazur

believe the odds of something like this happening," says Rhonda Crenshaw, Zoo area supervisor for the Small Mammals Building. Crenshaw was reviewing Annie's records when she realized another coincidence—Annie and Oakley were born on the same day and place, June 13, 2006, at the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois. "Then it hit us—they're sisters!" Crenshaw says their introduction went smoothly, although she doesn't know if being sisters had anything to do with it, or if they know they're siblings. Dwarf mongooses hail from southern Africa and are the smallest carnivores on the continent, weighing about 1 pound (454 grams). Annie was a bit heavier, at 600 grams. She is visibly larger than her sister. "Annie's on a diet," says Crenshaw. That means fewer fatty foods, like bugs, and more fruits and veggies. Crenshaw says Annie and Oakley are "very active, social, and curious. They're easily trained." The sisters enjoy scurrying about their exhibit, which is located between the meerkats and golden lion tamarins. Watching them is like playing peekaboo. They pop their heads up from behind their fake termite mound, stare, and then scurry to another location where they take another furtive look. "They're also very talkative," says Crenshaw. "They make high-pitched chirps, especially when it's feeding time—or when they think it should be feeding time. They're tiny animals with big personalities."

By Zak Mazur

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.

Toys, Treats & Tours

What "toys" do Brittany and Ruth, the Zoo's two African elephants, play with? What animal eats fruit kebabs in the Small Mammals Building kitchen? Zoogoers had the chance to find out during the Zoo's Behind the Scenes Weekend, held March 8 and 9, when more than 5,800 people came to the Zoo. This once-a-year event featured 14 behind-the-scenes tours, including the polar bear kitchen and scuba-diving zookeepers cleaning marine tanks in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. One of the most popular tours was a behind-the-scenes view of the lions' den. Giving the tours were Zoo Pride volunteers, members of the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary. Zoo Priders also were selling candy to raise money for the American Association of Zoo Docents and Volunteers conference this October in Milwaukee (see page 9). And to answer the questions above, Brittany and Ruth like logs and big plastic balls, and fruit bats that are "education animals" get fruit kebabs as treats. Did you miss Behind the Scenes Weekend? You can get another chance to go behind the scenes in August if you become an animal sponsor (see page 6).



Photo by Mary Madhane

Zoo Pride volunteer Lilyan Zarem, holding a toy lion, leads a tour behind the lions' den at last year's event.

Fun Food at the Zoo



Photo by Richard Taylor

A guest receives food from a food truck at a previous event.

Food Truck Safari *Members only*

June 2, 3 & 4, 5-9 p.m.

Free to ZSM members with Zoo Pass and ID; Zoo Pass Plus members receive free parking.

For more information:
(414) 258-2333.

Food Truck Safari is the new theme for our annual June event for Zoological Society members. Explore many areas of the Zoo while it's still light, and dine from any of seven food trucks: Bubble Tea Fusion, Eats & Treats Food Truck, The Fast Foodie, Five Star Nacho, The Gouda Girls, Hard Wood Café, and Kona Ice. A percentage of the proceeds from the food trucks benefits the Sponsor an Animal Program. The Flamingo Café also will be open. You'll get free viewing of the Zoo's special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, from 3 to 8:30 p.m. Your Zoo Pass and ID are required to enter the exhibit (see story on page 11). Kids can enjoy crafts and get "inked" with temporary tattoos. Watch a Kohl's Wild Theater performance in the farm area, and enjoy music on the Flamingo Café patio by Our House. Zoo buildings that are open until 8:45 p.m. are the Aquatic & Reptile Center, Stearns Family Apes of Africa and Primates of the World buildings, Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country, and the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. The Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary closes at dusk. Other animal exhibits and buildings will be closed.



Trends in Giving



To keep you up-to-date on current trends in estate planning and planned giving, the Zoological Society has extensively broadened the planned-giving area of our website. You'll find it at: zoosociety.org/simba.

This enhanced information is a comprehensive resource for all of your planned-giving questions. Discover the tax and income benefits of various kinds of planned gifts. Learn about trusts and annuities that pay you an income for life; how you can make gifts from life insurance policies, retirement plan assets or appreciated property; and how to set up your will so that your heirs benefit more than the government.

You will also find a glossary of planned-giving terms to help you better understand information that may be new to you. If you are wondering how a gift will work for you, see your possible benefits with our Gift Illustrator (select "Explore Your Options" on the website). Discover a virtual encyclopedia of information on how and what to give. Use the information to make the best possible decision for you and your family, and to help you achieve your wish to support the organizations that you value most.

Why people give to the Zoological Society: Read donors' touching stories about why they have chosen to make a planned gift to benefit the Zoological Society and become part of the Simba Circle. Simply go to zoosociety.org/simba and click on the "Why We Give" button in the top left column.

Our Planned Giving Group—The Simba Circle

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have already established a planned gift to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. By making this thoughtful commitment, you create a legacy ensuring that the Society can continue to carry out its mission of supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo, educating the public and conserving wildlife for future generations. If you've already included the ZSM in your giving plans, please let us know. We welcome an opportunity to thank you for your special commitment.

Simba Circle members enjoy:

- Invitations to the Annual Simba Circle Recognition Dinner and VIP Premiere of the Zoo's summer exhibit
- Recognition on Zoo signage and in Society publications
- Peace of mind, knowing that the ZSM and Zoo will continue to enrich future generations

Yes, you can designate your gift to a specific area or program at the Zoo. For more information, please visit zoosociety.org/simba or contact Kim Peterson at (414) 258-2333, ext. 310, or email simba@zoosociety.org.



Annual Report

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Annual Report for fiscal year 2012-2013 will be available May 31 on our website, zoosociety.org/annualreport. The downloadable report includes lists of Simba Circle members and other contributors to the ZSM and Milwaukee County Zoo. You'll also find summaries of progress in our mission to conserve wildlife, educate people about animals and the environment, and support the Zoo. The ZSM's fiscal year runs Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

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What's Happening

Details Inside

May 11

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Lifeway Foods; all moms get free Zoo admission (parking not included). Go to zoosociety.org.*

May 17 & 18

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

May 19

ZSM members' online registration for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands and Sentry Foods.**

May 24-Sept. 1

Kohl's Wild Theater, offering four free shows daily at the Zoo.*

May 24-Sept. 1

The Zoo's special summer exhibit: Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, \$2 per person entry fee.†

May 28 & 31

Level I Zoo Pride training. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.**

June 2-Aug. 13

Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, for children ages 2-14 and families. Registration now open.

June 2, 3 & 4

Members-only Food Truck Safari at the Zoo, featuring seven food trucks and free viewing of Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, 5-9 p.m.

June 4, 7, 11 & 14

Four sessions of Zoo Pride volunteer training, level II. Call (414) 258-5667 for details.**

June 15

Father's Day, sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy; all dads get in free (parking not included).*

June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Sunset Zoofari (evening concerts), sponsored by Tri City National Bank.**

June 28

Zoo Ball 2014, presented by ManpowerGroup and Everett Smith Group.**

July 8, 10 & 11

Kids' Nights, sponsored by WaterStone Bank. ZSM members only.*

July 28

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by Fiduciary Management, Inc. Call Special Events at (414) 258-2333.**

Aug. 6-9

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods. ZSM member online registration begins May 19.**

Aug. 14-17

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte with major support from Beer Capitol and Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.®**

Aug. 23

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

Aug. 29

Senior Celebration, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health.**

Sept. 6 & 7

Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.**

Sept. 14

Ride on the Wild Side, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan—Midwest Spine & Orthopedic Hospital/ Wisconsin Heart Hospital and St. Joseph 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 2, 3, and 4, 3-8:30 p.m. (free), and during Kids' Nights, July 8, 10 and 11 (50 percent 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.

**Pre-register for this event.

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