

Wild Things

BUGGY NIGHTS

Nights in June FOR ZOO PASS MEMBERS
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, June 7, 8 & 9, 5-8:45 p.m.

The nights may or may not be muggy, but they will certainly be buggy! That's because on one of three nights in June, you can enjoy a preview of this summer's special exhibit, BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. This members-only event allows you free access to see 13 giant animatronic bugs at up to 200 times their normal size! Gaze in awe as the bugs move, light up and even spray you with water. You'll be amazed at the bugs' amazing detail — details you can't see with the naked eye. Most animal buildings and exhibits will also be open (the bird building closes at dusk).

As you stroll around the Zoo, you'll see food trucks such as BeBe's Bistro, Eats & Treats, Falafel Guys, The Gouda Girls, Jen's Sweet Treats, Kona Ice, Meat on the Street, Roll MKE, Streetza Pizza, Truck Meister, Wilhemena's Pies, LLC and Yellowbellies. Food can also be purchased at the Zoo's Flamingo Café or the Woodland Retreat concession. All other Zoo concession areas will be closed. Fifteen percent of food sales (except for Zoo concessions) will benefit the Society's Sponsor an Animal program.

Meadow grasshopper
Photo courtesy of Billings Productions



The Gouda Girls' Katherine Tonn serves food to Lindsay Bruns (center right), of Milwaukee, and Samantha Morris, of Glendale, at a previous event. Tina Tonn, inside the truck, readies more food.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

And there's more!

- Kohl's Wild Theater will perform short skits and interact with guests at the stage area inside the bug exhibit.
- Take a ride on the North Shore Bank Safari Train or the Penzeys Spices Carousel (weather permitting) at regular prices. Attractions close at dusk around 8:15 p.m.
- Enjoy music by Our House and the Milwaukee High School of the Arts.
- Want to see some real bugs? The Bug Whisperer will talk about insects and show you the Creepy Crawly Zoo.
- Kids can challenge themselves as they crawl through five winding levels of maze in the Midwest Speleo Cave.
- Check out cool bug merchandise from the Zoo's Gift Shop (remember to show your Zoo Pass card and photo ID for a 10% discount).

Continued on the bottom of page 3

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- Milwaukee Zoo Pass App

In This Issue ...

- Passport to Fun ... page 2
- A Night at the Zoo ... page 5
- Big Tiger, Big Roar ... page 12
- Zoo Finds Success Breeding Birds ... page 13

A Passport to Fun



Actors Bobby Johnson and Alexis Lasky play migrating orioles during the Kohl's Wild Theater play "Journey to the Rich Coast." Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Kohl's Wild Theater Returns to the Zoo

Passports, fun skits, favorite shows return May 28; four free performances a day, seven days a week through Labor Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

If you want to travel abroad you need a passport, but you don't need one to visit the Milwaukee County Zoo. This summer, however, you can get a special Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) passport that will make your journey through the Zoo extra fun. Kohl's Wild Theater, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's live theater program, is made possible by a partnership with Kohl's Cares. Now in its sixth year, KWT is the largest zoo-theater company in the country. Each of this summer's four shows is 15 minutes long and performed at the Kohl's Wild Theater stage in the farm area.

Passport Check Points

"For the third year in a row, Kohl's Wild Theater is offering passports," says Dave McLellan, program coordinator. "Here's how it works: First, you pick up a passport at the Kohl's Wild Theater stage. Then, every time you see one of the mainstage performances, you get your passport stamped." As you "travel" through the Zoo, adds McLellan, you can get more stamps by checking out at-exhibit performances and getting your passport stamped there, too. "Actors will interact with Zoo guests, switching from funny skits to magic tricks to puppet conversations. Some kids might even become part of the show." At-exhibit performances take place at the Humboldt penguin exhibit daily from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building daily



Memberanda

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

Zoological Society office hours: Through May 27: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 28-Sept. 5:** Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Milwaukee County Zoo hours: Through May 27: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. **May 28-Sept. 5:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Please note that the Zoo's Small Mammals Building opens at 10 a.m. Admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing time. Zoo animal buildings close 15 minutes prior to posted Zoo closing time.

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. Please stop at Guest Services or the Membership windows in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place to purchase or renew a Zoo Pass.

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.

Who can use membership 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 Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any Zoo Pass being used inappropriately.

myAccount Feature: Check out our website, zoopass.com, for information on setting up your personal Society myAccount. (The myAccount button is on the top of the page.) This is a feature that will give you online access to your donation information, electronic attraction coupon balance and much more. You need to create your myAccount and enter a personal password for the feature.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 124, May-June 2016

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

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Web: zoosociety.org

from 2:30 to 3 p.m. Children who get their passports stamped six times get a Zoo attraction coupon. You can get a seventh bonus stamp at the special summer exhibit on bugs, where KWT actors also perform skits. The prize for seven stamps is a CD of songs from KWT shows.

Favorite Shows Return

Make sure to check out these 15-minute favorites on the KWT stage in the farm area.

“The Wonderful Lizard of ooZ”

Dory, a pet tomato frog, is tired of living in a terrarium. When she suddenly finds herself outside, she discovers her terrarium wasn't such a bad place after all. The play explains why it's best to keep pet frogs in terrariums and not release them into the wild.

“The Mysterious Case of the Disappearing Bees”

Detective Appletree is on the case to find Buddy, a yellow-banded bumblebee — but he needs your help! Join the detective to find clues about Milwaukee's insect pollinators and solve the mystery.

“The Treasure of the Sea”

Join a pirate crew and Humboldt penguin in a search for the treasure of the sea! Help the pirate learn how to harvest and eat seafood sustainably.

“Journey to the Rich Coast”

Join migrating birds as they fly from Wisconsin to the “Rich Coast” and learn about the amazing feat of migration!



Pet frog Dory (left), played by Libby Amato, longs to see the world while terrarium-mate Charley (Samantha Sostarich) is content where she is in the Kohl's Wild Theater play “The Wonderful Lizard of ooZ.” Photo by Richard Taylor

Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to You

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

BUGGY NIGHTS

Continued from page 1



The event is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 7, 8 and 9. Please have your Zoo Pass card and photo ID ready for the gate attendants and again at the bug exhibit. To help us better manage the event, we invite members on a specific date. If you are invited on a night that is inconvenient, please feel free to come on one of the other evenings. Just be sure to bring your Zoo Pass card and photo ID.

For more details on Nights in June, check out the invitation packaged with your Wild Things!

Orb web spider

Photo courtesy of Billings Productions

A Little Night Music

Sunset Zoofaris

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank
Wednesdays, June 29, July 6, 13, 20,
27 and Aug. 3; 6-9 p.m.

Free admission for Zoo Pass members
with photo ID.

Non-members: Adults, \$7; ages 3-12,
\$5.50; FREE for children 2 and under;
or \$20 per carload (with a
maximum of 10 people).

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

What better way to spend a summer evening than at the Milwaukee County Zoo? The Zoo is open late on six Wednesday evenings. A different live band will play each week from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. Many animals will be outside, and the animal buildings will be open until 8:45 p.m. (the bird building closes at dusk). The special summer exhibit, BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, will be open (exhibit is \$2.50 per person). Purchase dinner from the Zoo's Flamingo Café or Lakeview Restaurant, or bring a picnic and dine alfresco. The Zoo closes at its regular weekday time of 5 p.m. and then reopens at 6 p.m. for these evenings.

Here's the music lineup:

- June 29: Michael and the Bystanders
- July 6: Dirty Boogie
- July 13: Party Anthem
- July 20: Downtown Harrison
- July 27: 3D
- Aug. 3: Generation Z



Hannah H., 3 (left), of New Berlin, spins to music with her sister Gabrielle, 8, at a previous event. Photo by Katie Derksen

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 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3, 2016, 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.

ALL DADS WELCOME

Father's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy
Sunday, June 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

Free admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

For more information, call 414-256-5466.

Some male *Homo sapiens* and male animals become fathers late in life. Take, for instance, Ringo, a 38-year-old blind harbor seal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Ringo sired his first pup, King Julian, in June 2014 at the ripe old age (for a harbor seal) of 35.

A year later he sired Siku. According to zookeepers, Ringo's mate, Sydney, is expecting a third pup between June 8 and 14. Whatever age your father may be, bring him to the Zoo on June 19 to visit Ringo and other animal dads. All dads get free admission! While you're at the Zoo, check out a free Kohl's Wild Theater show in the farm area. You can also visit this summer's special exhibit, BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. Exhibit cost is \$2.50 per person.



Harbor seal dad Ringo trains with zookeeper Kim Pankonien. Photo by Bob Wickland

I Dream of Jaguars

Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Kellogg's & Sentry Foods

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday,

August 10, 11, 12 or 13, starting at 5 p.m.

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

For individual rates and discount details, go online: zoosociety.org/Snooze.

Registration is online only and begins May 16 at 8 a.m. for Zoo Pass members; registration for non-members begins May 17 at 8 a.m.

For details, call Special Events, 414-258-2333.

In Central and South America, the jaguar is the animal of dreams. It's a cave animal that takes you into the nocturnal world. Pitch a cave-like tent at the Milwaukee County Zoo and listen to animals that stir in the night at the Zoological Society's popular camping event. Each night features a movie, kid-friendly activities, s'mores around a group campfire (sponsored by The Sleep Wellness Institute) and a buffet dinner. The next morning, enjoy breakfast and a day at the Zoo and visit the jaguars and the other animals! This fundraiser is a fun, safe camping experience (especially for first-time campers) for families and youth groups such as Girl and Boy Scouts. It's the only time when the general public can camp at the Zoo.

This popular event fills quickly, and we encourage you to register early. 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, please let us know in the comments area online.

Special Offer: Send in a Sentry Foods receipt showing the purchase of any two Kellogg's cereals and/or Kellogg's Pop-Tarts and take \$10 off one family rate or \$3 off one individual rate.



J.B., 7, and dad Brian H., of DeForest, enjoy a game of chess in front of their tent. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

ENRICHMENT FOR ANIMALS

Animal Enrichment Day

Sponsored by Whole Foods Market

Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

For more information, call 414-256-5466.

Have you ever wondered how zookeepers at the Milwaukee County Zoo keep the animals' minds active and bodies healthy? You can find out on June 11 when zookeepers give examples of animal enrichment.

The Zoo uses five types of enrichment:

- **Environmental:** Includes enhancement of, or alteration to, an animal's habitat to add complexity to its environment.
- **Foods/Feeding:** Includes extending feeding and promoting natural feeding strategies to encourage foraging, for example.
- **Manipulative:** Includes giving animals items that can be manipulated in some way using paws, hands, feet, heads, horns or mouths for exploratory play.
- **Sensory:** Encourages the use of an animal's senses (sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch) to stimulate natural behaviors.
- **Social/Behavioral:** Includes using animals' natural history to create social groupings observed in the wild, which encourages feeding, grooming and courtship behaviors.

Zookeepers will give talks at various locations throughout the day and display items used for enrichment. Some of the animals featured include grizzly bears, rhinos, tree kangaroos, red river hogs, gentoo penguins and harbor seals. Visitors will also get to forage like an orangutan (search for a treat in a tub of shredded material), stimulate senses in a scent game (guess the scent in containers that are used to stimulate big cats) and more.



Giraffes are challenged to get food from a ball filled with snacks.

Photo by Olga Kornienko

It's Great to Go Green

Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Co.

Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free activities. Free admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

Milwaukee County parking fee: \$12.

For details, call the Zoo at 414-256-5466.

Watching the Milwaukee County Zoo's polar bear, Snow Lilly, padding around in the spring sunshine or taking dips in her pool helps you appreciate the majesty of her species. What you may not appreciate, however, is what's happening to her species' Arctic habitat. As temperatures rise in the Arctic, winter sea ice forms later and melts earlier. Polar bears need that ice to hunt seals, their primary food source. As their window for hunting shortens, some of them starve.

What can you do to help? One way is to plant trees, which suck up carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas largely responsible for climate change. You can get tree saplings May 14 and 15 at the Zoo's annual "green" event that celebrates our planet and commemorates Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day. Guests can also get "collared" and migrate like a polar bear on the Hudson Bay, moving from stop to stop throughout the Zoo searching for "food" and stable hunting grounds. Visitors can observe and possibly participate in bird banding at 7, 7:30 and 8 a.m. before the Zoo opens (please pre-register at 414-256-5466). There will also be fun Nature Zoomobile Tours that highlight conservation efforts on Zoo grounds.



Jocelyn A., 4, of Wonder Lake, Ill., tamps down an evergreen sapling to take home with dad Justin at a previous Party for the Planet. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

AN INSIDER SAFARI



Animal Safari

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

Call 414-258-2333 to become an animal sponsor or go to zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal.

Which fishes in the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) enjoy eating pieces of bananas, apples and other fruits — and why? Where do the warm-weather animals stay during the cold months? 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 activities such as animal crafts, 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. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., animal sponsors also get half off the regular admission price for the Zoo's special summer bug exhibit.



Michael K., 9, of Belgium, Wis., learns about the variety of bird diets at last year's event.

Photo by Stacy Kaat

Annual Appeal

Ahh – Fresh Air

Everybody enjoys fresh air. It stands to reason that many animals do, too. We want to give the Milwaukee County Zoo's Colobus monkeys the opportunity to enjoy fresh air for the first time — ever! The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's 2015-16 Annual Appeal is raising money to create an access corridor to an outdoor yard so the Colobus monkeys can experience fresh air and sunshine.

Renovations will include:

- Building a secure access corridor to the outdoor yard
- Installing an inline scale to weigh the monkeys within the corridor
- Installing a device that allows medical staff to have protected contact in giving health exams and administering medications without having to use anesthesia
- Adding behavioral enrichment areas to place leaves and browse that interest the Colobus monkeys and stimulate their natural foraging behaviors

Benefits for You!

Imagine being able to observe the amazing acrobatic skills of the Colobus monkeys as they propel themselves through the canopy of this large, outdoor exhibit. And for the first time, you will be able to hear their fascinating vocalizations — a low rumbling, almost growl-like sound.



Colobus monkey
Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Donate here!

To give to the Zoological Society's 2015-16 Annual Appeal, please go online to zoosociety.org/Appeal or call 414-258-2333. All donations are tax-deductible.

KIDS' GREEN ART CONTEST

There's even more action taking place on Aug. 27 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Kids can channel their inner artists (and conservationists) by participating in the Kids' Green Art Contest, which is open to all children 17 and under. This year's theme is Creating Camouflage. Camouflage is the art of not being seen. It's used by predators and prey. Color, body shape and patterns help animals blend in with their surroundings to avoid detection. Pick an animal that you think has cool camouflage and illustrate it in your artwork.

Projects must be no bigger than 2 feet high by 2 feet wide by 2 feet deep and light enough to be carried by one person. Artwork must be made up of at least 90% recycled material. This may include metal, plastic bottles and containers, paper, cardboard, etc. Drop off artwork at the Zoological Society office at the Milwaukee County Zoo between Aug. 20 and Aug. 26. For more details about the contest, go to zoosociety.org/GreenArt and fill out an entry form by Aug. 12. Art will be displayed and judged at the Zoo on Aug. 27.



Romal T., 8, won the 2015 Kids' Green Art Contest with his sculpture of a tortoise made with bottle caps. Photo by Becky Luft

A NIGHT FOR KIDS

Kids' Nights **FOR ZOO PASS MEMBERS**

Sponsored by WaterStone Bank

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, July 12, 14 & 15, 5-9 p.m.

Free admission with Zoo Pass card & photo ID.

Your invitation will be mailed in June.

Don't let the name of this annual event for Zoo Pass members fool you — this festival is fun for the entire family. Zoo Pass members are invited to one of three dates to enjoy the Milwaukee County Zoo in the evening. Expect all sorts of fun activities, musical entertainment and, of course, food! You can purchase food from a variety of vendors, including food trucks. Plus, the entire Zoo and all animal buildings will be open after hours (the bird building closes at dusk). You will get half-price admission to the Zoo's special summer exhibit, BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. This \$1.25 admission price starts at 5 p.m. every day of the event (Zoo Pass members must present their Zoo Pass and photo ID for reduced admission).

As you make your way through the Zoo, there will be lots to see and do!

- Enjoy music from the Main Street Song & Dance Troupe, featuring some of the most talented high school performers in the metro-Milwaukee area, in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place.



Calvin W., 2, of Big Bend, jams on the guitar with UB the Band during Kids' Nights. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

- As you explore the Zoo, keep your eyes peeled for Wild Willy, the famous strolling juggler.
- Let your kids unleash their inner rock stars with UB the Band on the Whole Foods Market stage at Briggs & Stratton Zoo Terrace.
- Check out Mad Science and Karate America demonstrations — as well as animal-themed crafts and temporary tattoos — in the Peck Welcome Center, sponsored by KinderCare Learning Centers.
- Enjoy shows by Kohl's Wild Theater in the farm area each night at 5:30, 6:15 and 7 p.m.
- Hear DJ Tim Sledge play kids' favorite hits on the Flamingo Patio stage, sponsored by Great Clips.
- Move your feet to the foot-stomping tunes of Lisa Edgar and RAZZMATAZZ at the Ralph Evinrude Landing stage, sponsored by Lifeway Foods.
- Scale a 25-foot-high Adventure Rock climbing wall near the giraffes. If you reach the top you'll be taller than Bahatika, who at 14 feet is the Zoo's tallest giraffe!

All of these activities will make you hungry. Don't worry — we've got you covered. You can enjoy culinary delights from the following booths and food trucks: Eats & Treats, The Gouda Girls, Kona Ice, Meat on the Street, Noodles & Company, The Nutman, Palermo's® Pizza, Saz's Catering and Zoo concessions. Part of the proceeds from The Nutman sales will benefit the Sponsor an Animal program.



Elise S., 8, of Pewaukee, climbs a rock wall during last year's event. Photo by Bob Wickland

Special Offer:

Visit any WaterStone Bank between June 1 and July 2, 2016, show your Zoo Pass card, and get one ticket good for a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel during Kids' Nights. Visit WSBonline.com for branch locations.

Fun, Hands-on Zoo Classes

All Zoo Classes and Camps are presented by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

zoosociety.org/Education



Keagan T. tentatively touches a shark jaw in a 2012 Zoo Class.

Photo by Richard Taylor

Kathleen says, "My children have their 'favorite' teachers, and those teachers do a great job of remembering who they are and interacting with them even after they have moved to another age level. As a parent, I love how the instructors interact with the kids' different personalities and get them engaged in the learning process."

Summer Camps

Sponsored by Penzeys Spices

You can still sign up for Summer Camps! From "Pigs" for 2-year-olds to "Cryptozoology" for 12- to 14-year-olds, there is a Zoo Camp for every child. Registration for June-August 2016 is open. Visit zoosociety.org/Summer.

"Zoo to You" School Programs

Teachers, bring the Zoo to you! Education programs are available at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. Register now for October 2016-May 2017 programs by calling **414-258-5058** or visiting zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu.

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

"Study of the World's Endangered Species" takes place Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn techniques to develop study units and how to use the Zoo as a teaching resource. Call UWM Outreach at **414-229-5255** for information and registration.

Workshops for Early-Childhood Educators

"Bugs" is a three-hour workshop on Saturday, July 23, for early-childhood educators. Learn how to incorporate a unit about bugs in your own classroom. Workshop includes animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a guided tour at the Zoo. Workshop content is mainly for educators of ages 2-5. To register, call **414-258-5058** or visit zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu.

A Family's Perspective

Kathleen K. and her family have been coming to Zoo Classes and Camps since 2007. All three children, Taryn, R.J. and Keagan, have attended regularly. "They love going — it is a great learning opportunity, and in the summer it offers a better option than day care," says Kathleen. "I think it is a great value for what my children get to learn and do. The instructors and assistants are superb at connecting with the kids and understanding that kids learn differently."

For many Zoo Classes and Camps, classrooms are decorated to mimic the habitat of the animal the children are learning about. Immersing children in the habitat fosters a greater understanding of the animal. "The way the rooms are themed is magical," says Kathleen. "Our favorite as parents was the 'Penguins' class. The room was covered with white paper representing snow and ice, and the lights were dimmed. It really felt like we were in an Antarctic climate!"

By attending classes often, children get to know the instructors and the instructors get to know them,

"Our kids love seeing a new side of the Zoo. They keep asking to go back to Zoo Camp each summer."

**Craig & Sarah B.,
Milwaukee**

Sponsor Chilean Flamingos



Chilean flamingos Photo by Richard Brodzeller

For many years the Milwaukee County Zoo was home to one species of flamingo: Caribbean. But last winter the Zoo received eight Chilean flamingos, boosting the flamingo flock to 19. The Chilean flamingos are easy to identify. They're a little shorter than the Caribbean flamingos and are light pink with some scarlet feathers running along their flanks. Like all flamingos, Chilean flamingos get their characteristic pink coloring from their diet, which in the wild consists of algae and crustaceans that contain beta carotene, the same compound that makes carrots orange. At the Zoo, beta carotene is incorporated into the pellets they eat, thus ensuring a vibrantly colored flock. Give the Chilean flamingos a hearty welcome and sponsor them for only \$30!

Sponsorship includes:

- A plush-toy flamingo
- A fact sheet about Chilean flamingos
- A Sponsor an Animal decal
- An invitation to Animal Safari (a behind-the-scenes event on Aug. 27)
- And more!

SPONSOR CHILEAN FLAMINGOS

- I would like to sponsor the Chilean flamingos
 I would like to sponsor the Chilean flamingos 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\$ _____
 I would like _____ additional plush-toy flamingo(s) at \$5 each\$ _____
 I would like _____ additional decal(s) at \$1 each\$ _____

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

Total amount \$ _____

You can also go to **zoosociety.org** 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:
Flamingo, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

Flamingo offer ends Aug. 31, 2016. The tax-deductible portion of this sponsorship is \$24. Merchandise included in the package is not tax-deductible and includes 5.6% WI sales tax. **Plush-toy offer good while supplies last.**

Your contribution may qualify for matching gifts. Please check with your employer.

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.

Hollywood & Vine

Zoo Ball 2016

Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation

Saturday, June 25

Prices start at \$300 per person.

At this year's annual Zoo Ball, we're taking you to the famous intersection of Hollywood & Vine in Hollywood, Calif. There you can find the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame, which boasts more than 2,500 five-pointed terrazzo and brass stars embedded in the sidewalk. At this year's Zoo Ball, instead of being dazzled by Hollywood stars, we hope you'll be awed by the Zoo's 3,000 mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. Chairing this year's event are Tammy and Harold Redman and Kim and Todd Teske. Harold is the president of the products group at Briggs & Stratton, and Todd is the president and CEO of Briggs & Stratton. Celebrating its 33rd anniversary, this black-tie event has raised almost \$10 million for the nonprofit Zoological Society. The evening includes cocktails, gourmet dining and dancing. The dining venues are made possible thanks to support from U.S. Bank; the welcome reception is sponsored by the Brewers Community Foundation. The event's extensive auction will feature items such as dining experiences, travel packages, sporting event tickets, spa specials and much more. For an invitation or details on sponsorship opportunities and corporate tables, call Special Events, 414-258-2333.



Harold and Tammy Redman (left) and Kim and Todd Teske at a previous Zoo Ball. Photo by Richard Taylor

Lowin' the Links



Tom Doerr, of Manitowoc, tees off at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

Sponsored by GRAEF

Monday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
at the Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon; registration begins at 10:30 a.m.; shotgun start at noon.

\$350 per person.

Register at zoosociety.org/Golf or call 414-258-2333 by July 1.

If you love golf and animals, then the Zoological Society's 27th annual golf tournament is the event for you! There will be a variety of fun course events and hole-in-one opportunities. It's also a great chance to network with metro-Milwaukee business leaders. The outing includes multiple "Hole-in-One" prize opportunities, golf carts, refreshments on the course (beer, soda and snacks), a buffet lunch, a gourmet-style dinner, a gift bag, a raffle and a silent auction. Proceeds help support the nonprofit Zoological Society of Milwaukee. Last year's event raised more than \$108,000.

Insider Tips

New Tiger Makes a Big Impression

If you've seen the Milwaukee County Zoo's three female Amur tigers, you've probably marveled at their size because Amur tigers are the largest of the big cats. But you haven't seen anything until you see the Zoo's new male tiger, Strannik. At 422 pounds, Strannik is 75% larger than the Zoo's females, Tula, Nuri and Amba. But that doesn't necessarily mean he's bolder, says Katie Kuhn, big cat supervisor at the Zoo. "He's kind of shy with new situations, but he's good with the keepers," she says. "He greets us in the morning and participates in training. We just have to give him some time to go at his own pace."

Strannik — whose name means pilgrim in Russian — arrived at the Zoo in winter, and he has slowly been getting used to the indoor and outdoor tiger exhibits and his fellow tigers. He was recommended to breed with Amba, the mother of Tula and Nuri. Strannik just turned 13 and has fathered three litters before. Amba will turn 13 in July. The female tigers have shown plenty of interest in Strannik already, but keepers don't know yet when they can start breeding Amba and Strannik, Kuhn says. "It really depends on Amba, if she likes him or not. They're starting to greet each other across the way."

As the tigers get to know each other, keepers will record the sounds they make for a research initiative called The Prusten Project. The project records tigers in zoos across the country to learn what kind of noises they make. Researchers hope that by learning more about tiger calls, they will be able to more accurately count and monitor wild tigers, which are critically endangered. The project also will teach keepers more about tigers in captivity, Kuhn says. "I can make my own assumptions about what their vocalizations mean, but I don't know for sure," she says. The Zoo recorded all three of the females before Strannik arrived and then recorded them again afterward to see if their vocalizations changed in the presence of a male. Strannik has also been recorded. The recordings will be entered into sensitive software that can distinguish minor differences in the vocalizations. "We're still learning about tigers in general," Kuhn says. "Anything we can learn about them helps in our care of them."



Strannik Photo by Joel Miller

Reunited and it Feels so Good

You could say the first time the Milwaukee County Zoo's dwarf mongooses, Annie and Oakley, met at the Zoo was a reunion. That's because paperwork indicated they were long-lost sisters who were born in the same litter. Rhonda Crenshaw, Zoo area supervisor of the Small Mammals Building, says when the two first met in October 2013, they didn't know what to make of each other, but since then, the sisters have bonded.



Annie Photo by Richard Brodzeller

In September 2015, Annie broke her right-front leg. She was taken to the Animal Health Center to have it fixed. After wiring and pinning the bone together, Annie was soon returned to her sister. Despite physical therapy, the leg didn't heal. "She wasn't putting any weight on her leg," says Crenshaw. "By mid-November, X-rays showed Annie's bone was infected, so it was amputated Nov. 12." Annie and Oakley were reunited Jan. 6. "Once they were placed in the exhibit together, they were so happy," Crenshaw says. "They immediately started grooming each other — giving care to all of the neglected spots that needed attention."

For many animals, an amputation can be a traumatic experience. Apparently not for Annie. Crenshaw says she's able to navigate the exhibit, found in the day side of the Small Mammals Building, as seamlessly as Oakley — running, climbing, jumping, stopping to sniff things and then darting off again in the blink of an eye. "Their legs are so short, it's hard to tell which one is missing a limb."

By Zak Mazur

The Subtleties of Breeding Birds

You might think that breeding birds in captivity is a simple thing — just place them together in an exhibit and let nature take over. But in many cases, it's not so simple. Birds in zoological institutions can be fickle about breeding for a variety of reasons. "The Zoo has been very successful with its bird breeding programs," says Alex Waier, bird curator. That success often requires overcoming particular challenges. Take, for example, the Zoo's first successful hatching of a cinereous vulture chick last year. "In my tenure here, it's taken eight years to produce a surviving chick," Waier says. "We tried breeding them in several areas of Winter Quarters, then down at the birds' winter holding area, before we had success with them in an old barn behind the Small Mammals Building."



A blacksmith plover parent and its chick. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

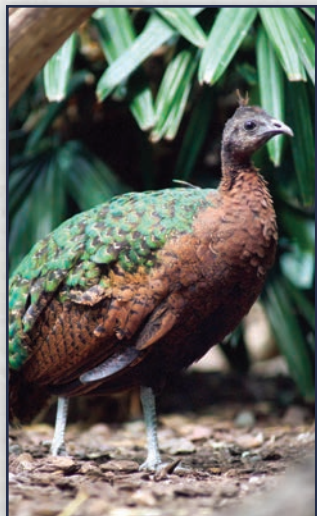


An African ground hornbill chick born on Feb. 12, 2015, at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

birds, like most of the species at the Zoo, depends on maintaining the best genetic pedigree possible. This is done by referring to Species Survival Plans® — basically studbooks for threatened and endangered species.

In addition to the green-naped pheasant pigeons, the Zoo has had success breeding Congo peafowl, blacksmith plovers, Abdim's storks, Waldrapp ibises, boat-billed herons, red-billed hornbills, Madagascar teals, blue-crowned mot mot and about 15 other species. But it's most exciting when the Milwaukee County Zoo breeds a species for the first time, Waier says. In recent years, those firsts have included



African ground hornbills, black-naped fruit doves, buffalo weavers and, of course, the cinereous vulture.

The Zoo has also had considerable success breeding Micronesian Guam kingfishers. Although these birds are extinct in the wild, there is a program to reintroduce them to Guam and a neighboring island. "This shows why bird breeding is so important," says Waier.

When you visit the newly remodeled Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary, take a moment to appreciate what it takes to breed the brilliant, beautiful birds that surround you.

By Zak Mazur

One of five healthy Congo peafowl chicks hatched at the Zoo.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

A well-designed exhibit often encourages birds to breed. The Zoo has had great success breeding green-naped pheasant pigeons. Since 1993, 21 have been hatched and sent to zoos across North America. "There's something about the exhibit's design and area where the birds nest," says Waier. "The nesting area is in an indentation in the rock wall about 4 feet above the exhibit's floor and partially obscured by a shrub." Waier thinks the topography of the exhibit is appealing because it's similar to the pheasant pigeon's natural habitat in the rainforests of New Guinea.

Waier says one of the most subtle aspects of proper bird breeding is ensuring genetic compatibility. Breeding



Just a few weeks old, these three Abdim's (white-bellied) storks sit on the high rocks of the free-flight area of the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

By the Numbers

1. Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

Nan Jian, of Milwaukee, busts Zumba® moves at this year's Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo, held on Feb. 27. The event raised \$7,321 for the Sponsor an Animal program, up \$1,400 from last year. Photo by Bob Wickland



2. Wines and Beers of the World

Left to right: Bob Kohlmetz, of Germantown; Dana Graceffa, of Milwaukee; and Rosemary Smith, of Milwaukee, make a toast at Wines and Beers of the World on March 3. The event attracted 541 guests and raised \$32,000 for the Zoological Society. Photo by Stacy Kaat

3. Behind the Scenes Weekend

Becky B., of Brookfield, holds her son, Weston, 2, as they look at one of the train engines during Behind the Scenes Weekend. The event, held March 12 and 13, was sponsored by **Prairie Farms Dairy** and drew 10,421 guests. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



4. Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny

Carys K., 2, of Waukesha, enjoys kringle at Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny. The event was held March 19 and 20 and drew 651 guests. It was sponsored by **Racine Danish Kringles**. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



5. Egg Day

Venessa M., 2, of Milwaukee, visits with Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny at Egg Day, sponsored by **Welch's** and **Pick 'n Save**. The March 26 event drew 8,456 guests.

Photo by Olga Kornienko

STARTING YOUNG

Don and Shelley Mechenich of New Berlin decided when their family was young to join the Platypus Circle, the Zoological Society's special donor group, and the Simba Circle, the Society's planned giving group. They joined both groups in 2004 after they became parents. "Don and I have always visited the Milwaukee County Zoo," says Shelley. "But once our baby, Nicholas, arrived, we started visiting the Zoo monthly. The Zoo is a kid-friendly environment with endless learning opportunities, and we want to support it as much as we can."

The Zoo has always loomed large in Shelley and Don's lives. Both grew up in Milwaukee and visited the Zoo often, something they continued to do after they married. Don's uncle was an architect who helped design the Zoo at its current Bluemound Road location. Both are passionate about wildlife. Don loves flamingos because they remind him of warm, relaxing weather. Shelley loves bears because she sees them as "cute and playful." And since the birth of their son — who is now 12 — even Zoo Classes have become a part of their lives. "Nicholas has been attending Zoo Classes since he was 2," says Shelley. "He loves them."



Don and Shelley Mechenich at last year's VIP premiere of the special summer exhibit. Photo by Olga Kornienko

The Mechenichs strongly believe that other people should become Platypus Circle and Simba Circle members. "The Milwaukee County Zoo is a treasure that needs to be maintained for generations," says Don. "It will take funding from individuals, the county and corporations to maintain its top status and to continue to update exhibits to keep people coming back."

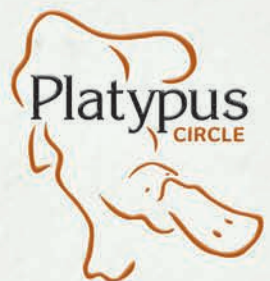


Make a Planned Gift – Simba Circle

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have named the Zoological Society of Milwaukee in their wills or other estate plans via a planned gift. By making this thoughtful commitment, you create a legacy ensuring that the Zoological Society continues to carry out its mission for future generations. Members enjoy a wide array of benefits. For more information about the Simba Circle, visit our website at zoosociety.org/Simba or contact Candy Walton in the Development office at 414-918-6151 or candyw@zoosociety.org.

Become a Platypus Circle Member

The Platypus Circle includes individuals, corporations and foundations who share the Zoological Society's passion for conserving wildlife and endangered species, educating people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo. Members receive benefits such as behind-the-scenes tours and invitations to exhibit premieres and VIP events. For more information about the Platypus Circle, visit our website at zoosociety.org/Platy or contact Candy Walton in the Development office at 414-918-6151 or candyw@zoosociety.org.



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Photo by Richard Brodzeller

What's Happening

Details Inside

May 8

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Lifeway Foods.*

May 14 & 15

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

May 16

Zoo Pass members-only online registration begins at 8 a.m. for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Kellogg's & Sentry Foods (non-member registration begins at 8 a.m. May 17).

May 20

Endangered Species Day at the Zoo.*

May 28

Zoo's summer season begins; special summer exhibit, BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, opens. Kohl's Wild Theater performances return to the Zoo. Zoo hours change to 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

June 1

Zoological Society Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices, begin.

June 7-9

Nights in June, a Zoo Pass members-only evening event featuring free viewing of the special summer bug exhibit and a variety of food trucks and vendors.*

June 11

Animal Enrichment Day, sponsored by Whole Foods Market.*

June 19

Father's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy.*

June 25

Zoo Ball, sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation (pre-register).

June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 & Aug. 3

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

July 3

Military/Veterans Family Day.

July 12, 14 & 15

Kids' Nights, an event for Zoo Pass members, sponsored by WaterStone Bank.*

July 25

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by GRAEF (pre-register).

Aug. 4

Online registration for Fall Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, begins for Zoo Pass members.

Aug. 10-14

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Kellogg's & Sentry Foods (pre-register).

Aug. 18-21

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte, presented by Meijer.**

Aug. 27

Animal Safari.*



Photo by Bob Wickland

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Hey pinner!
Check out the
Zoological Society
Pinterest page at
[pinterest.com/
zoosocietymke](https://www.pinterest.com/zoosocietymke).

*Zoo Pass members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The bug exhibit admission is extra, except for Zoo Pass members during Nights in June on June 7, 8 and 9 from 5-8:30 p.m. Members must show their Zoo Pass and photo ID at the exhibit ticket booth for free exhibit admission on these dates. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one vehicle per membership per day.

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