

# Wild Things

## Summer Soiree

Nights in June FOR ZOO PASS MEMBERS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, June 6, 7 & 8, 5-8:45 p.m.

Kick off summer by spending an evening at the Milwaukee County Zoo. And not just any evening – a special night just for members filled with entertainment, food and wonder. Members receive 50% off admission to the Zoo's special summer exhibit (see below). *Plus, you can:*

*Alaina J., 3, of Pewaukee, works on crafts during Nights in June.*

Photo by Bob Wickland



- Enjoy music on three stages.
- Graze on food available for purchase from 16 food trucks and tents. New vendors this year include The Rolling Cones, Denson's Catering and The Cupcake-A-Rhee. The vendors will donate 15% of their proceeds to the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program.
- Create your own bonobo bookmark to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative, the Society's signature conservation program.
- Watch musical Kohl's Wild Theater shows at its stage in the farm area.
- Crawl through a winding, five-level maze in the Midwest Speleo Cave.
- And, of course, see the animals at night!

*Jody and Jim K. and their grandkids, Noah and Sophia, get pizza from Streetza Pizza at Nights in June.*

Photo by Bob Wickland

## Special Summer Exhibit

Get an insider's view of animals at the Zoo's special summer exhibit, **BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT**, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets. See under the skin of animals large and small, from a bull and Bactrian camel to an octopus and ostrich. The exhibit runs May 6 through Sept. 4. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3 to 12. Zoo Pass members receive half off admission during Nights in June and Kids' Nights.

### In This Issue ...

Superheroes & Summer Fun ... page 6

Animal Artist ... page 8

Cute Camel Calf ... page 11

Wild Throwback ... page 12



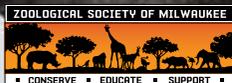
# The Bonobo Bunch

Found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the bonobo is sometimes called the “hippie great ape” because it tends to be more peaceful than chimpanzees and other apes. The Milwaukee County Zoo has 22 bonobos, the largest zoo collection of the animal in the world. This year, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative, our program to research and protect the bonobo and other wildlife in the Congo. In honor of this milestone, we are offering a bonobo sponsorship package. Animal sponsorships make great gifts for Father’s Day, birthdays, graduations or any occasion. **Your \$30 sponsorship includes:**

- An adorable plush-toy bonobo
- A certificate of sponsorship
- A bonobo window decal
- An invitation to Animal Safari, our behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors on Aug. 26
- And more!

Proceeds from the Sponsor an Animal program help the Zoological Society in its mission to support the Milwaukee County Zoo. Price includes shipping, handling and Wisconsin sales tax. The tax-deductible portion of this sponsorship is \$19. Visit [zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php](http://zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php) for more information and to purchase a sponsorship.

Photo by Mark Scheuber



## Memberanda

We value your relationship with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. 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 26:** weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 27-Sept. 4:** weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Zoo hours: Through May 26:** daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **May 27-Sept. 4:** 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 time. Zoo animal buildings close 15 minutes prior to posted Zoo closing time. The Zoo’s walk-in gates close one hour prior to posted Zoo closing time.

**Payment information at Zoo admission gates:** The Milwaukee County Zoo staff cannot 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 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 Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any Zoo Pass being used inappropriately.

**myAccount Feature:** Check out our website, [zoopass.com](http://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 Zoo Pass membership information and much more. You need to create your myAccount and enter a personal password for the feature. Then you will be able to view the number of attraction coupons you have with your Zoo Pass, track your paperless attraction coupon use, determine the tax-deductible portion of your contributions, update your email or home address, and more easily complete transactions like registering for an event.

### WILD THINGS

Issue No. 130, May-June 2017

Wild Things is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee six times a year.

Editor: Stacy Vogel Davis

Contributors: Colton Dunham, Dan Vnuk

Designer: Kevin de Wane

#### Contact the Zoological Society at:

10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383  
Phone: 414-258-2333 Web: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

#### Contact the Milwaukee County Zoo at:

10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383  
Phone: 414-256-5412 Web: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)

# Celebrating Earth's Beauty

## Party for the Planet

Sponsored by American Transmission Co.

Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free Zoo admission for members with ID.

Call 414-256-5466 for details or to pre-register for bird-banding observation.

The Milwaukee County Zoo is a great place to celebrate the beauty of our planet, from majestic animals to sparkling water to stately trees. That's especially the case with Party for the Planet. Visitors can be banded like a wood thrush and "fly" through the Zoo with the Migration Game. Check out our Seafood Watch cart to learn about sustainable seafood options, color the fish in the sea, "fish" for sustainable seafood and celebrate the ocean. Kids can plant an evergreen sapling or get down in the dirt in the pollinator garden with gardening expert Melinda Myers. For those who wake up early, sign up to watch live bird-banding demonstrations with the Zoo's keepers and volunteers.



*Nevada Myers Wesley helps Robert P., 6, and brother August, 4, of Wauwatosa, plant butterfly-friendly plants in the pollinator garden during Party for the Planet.*

Photo by Bob Wickland

## Dad Life

### Father's Day at the Zoo

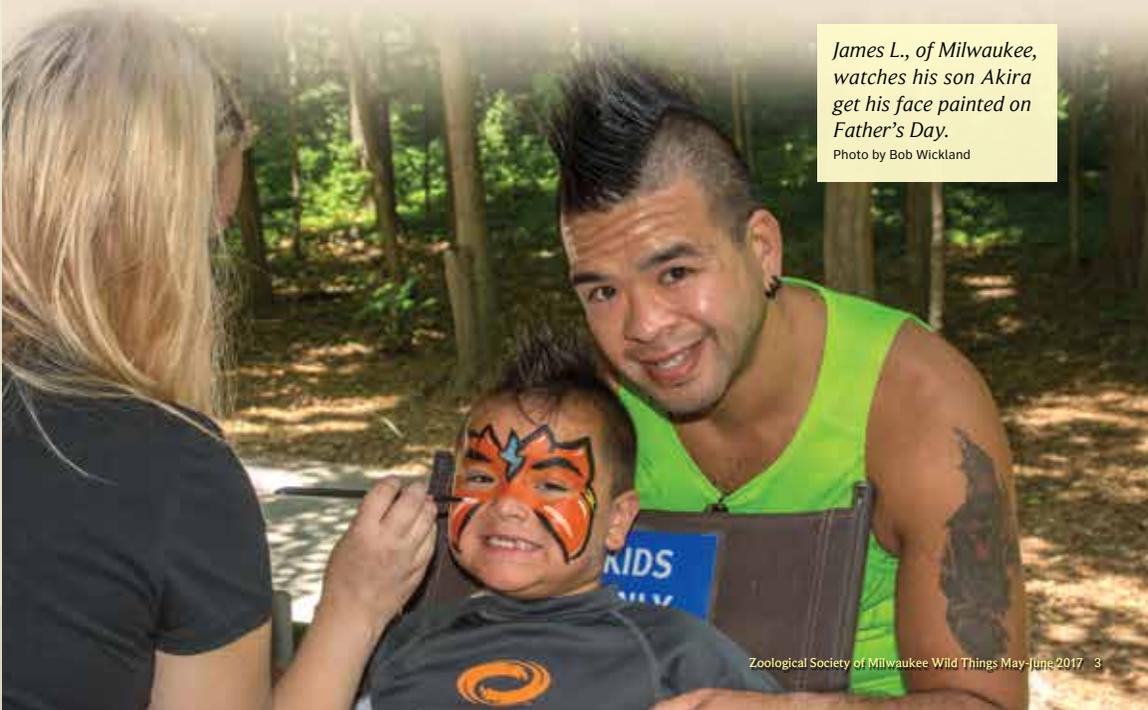
Sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy

Sunday, June 18

Dads get free Zoo admission (no coupon necessary).

Parking fee still applies. Members get free admission every day with ID.

Every new parent feels a little nervous around his or her baby, and apparently camels are no exception. Patrick, a Bactrian camel calf, was born March 5 to mom Sanchi and dad Stan. Sanchi has had many calves and knew exactly what to do, but Patrick is Stan's first offspring. Zookeepers weren't sure how Stan would react, so they kept him away from Patrick for a few weeks. But you can visit Patrick on Father's Day, when human fathers get free admission to the Zoo. You can also say "congrats" to Strannik, the Amur tiger who became a father to three cubs in September, and Ringo, the harbor seal who has sired three pups in the last three years.



*James L., of Milwaukee, watches his son Akira get his face painted on Father's Day.*

Photo by Bob Wickland

# A Family Fiesta

## Kids' Nights

FOR ZOO PASS MEMBERS

Sponsored by WaterStone Bank

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, July 11,  
13 & 14, 5-9 p.m.

Take advantage of the long summer evenings at our annual members-only celebration. On one of three nights, you can visit the Zoo after hours and enjoy entertainment in several areas sponsored by eAchieve Academy, Great Clips, KinderCare Learning Centers and Lifeway Foods. New this year, Celtic rock band Reilly will join favorites such as DJ Tim Sledge and the Main Street Song & Dance Troupe. Challenge the wall with Adventure Rock and watch for juggler Wild Willy strolling the grounds, or head to the Peck Welcome Center to create a forest elephant bookmark and get a temporary tattoo. Come hungry, because a variety of food trucks and vendors will be there to meet your dining needs. You can check out the special summer exhibit, **BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT**, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, for half-price (\$5 per adult, \$4 per child age 3-12). Kids' Nights is one of the many benefits you get for being a Zoo Pass member.



DJ Tim Sledge blows bubbles at Kids' Nights. Photo by Stacy Kaat

**Special Offer:** Visit any WaterStone Bank between June 1 and July 1, 2017, 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](http://WSBonline.com) for branch locations.



Christel B., of Milwaukee, dances with her daughter, Lilly, 6, during a Sunset Zoofari concert.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

## Zoo Tunes

### Sunset Zoofari

Sponsored by Tri City National Bank

Wednesdays, June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 &  
Aug. 2, 6-9 p.m.

Free Zoo admission for members with ID.

Reduced admission for non-members.

It's the time of year again when outdoor music is everywhere you turn in Milwaukee. But nowhere else can you attend live concerts near flamingos, penguins and apes. You can bring a picnic dinner or buy food from one of the Zoo's restaurants. Zoo attractions and the special summer exhibit will be open at normal ticket prices. The Zoo closes at 5 p.m. and reopens at 6 p.m. for these evenings.

**Tri City National Bank customers:** Stop in at any branch starting June 1 to get a **FREE** ticket for a ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel during an evening Sunset Zoofari. One ticket per person per bank visit. Visit [tcnb.com](http://tcnb.com) for bank locations.

# THE CALL OF THE WILD

## Snooze at the Zoo

Sponsored by Post Consumer Brands & Sentry Foods

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday,

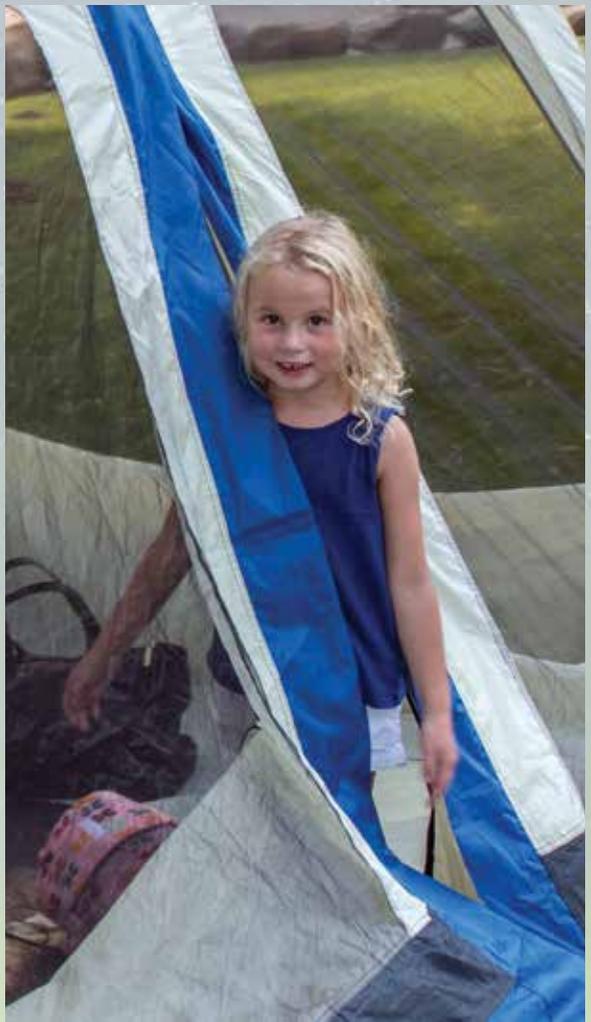
Aug. 9, 10, 11 or 12, starting at 5 p.m.

Zoo Pass members: \$150 for family of four; non-members, \$185.

For individual rates and discount details, visit [zoosociety.org/Snooze](http://zoosociety.org/Snooze).

There's nothing like sleeping outside in the summer. The smell of the grass, the twinkle of the stars, the call of the ... harbor seal? Snooze at the Zoo is much more than your typical camping experience. Campers enjoy a buffet dinner, activities such as bubbles and chalk drawing, a night-time movie and s'mores sponsored by The Sleep Wellness Institute. The next morning, chow down on breakfast to give you energy for a day at the Zoo. Register soon, because camp sites fill quickly. Visit [zoosociety.org/Snooze](http://zoosociety.org/Snooze) for more details.

Registration is online only and begins at 8 a.m. May 15 for Zoo Pass members, before the general public.



Ella S., 4, of Brookfield, stands in the entrance to her family's tent.

Photo by Bob Wickland

## Golfing for a Good Cause



### Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

Sponsored by GRAEF

Monday, July 31, 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](http://zoosociety.org/Golf) or call 414-258-2333.

A day on the links is great anytime, but when it also involves helping animals? Even better. Don't miss the Zoological Society's 28th annual golf tournament. Registration fee includes lunch, 18 holes of golf with cart, gift bag, course events, refreshments on the course and a buffet dinner. A raffle, silent auction and voice auction are all part of the fun. All proceeds benefit the Zoological Society's mission. Sponsorship opportunities are still available; call Amanda at 414-258-2333 for more information.



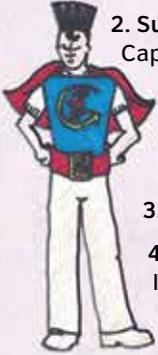
Ryan Johnson, of Milwaukee, prepares to putt at the Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament.

Photo by Richard Taylor

# SUPERHEROES & SUMMER FUN AT KOHL'S WILD THEATER

At the Milwaukee County Zoo, summer means more people, more animals and more puppets! Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) shows are returning to the Zoo and bringing an infectious mix of songs, skits and puppetry. You can catch four free 15-minute shows a day from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day at the stage in the farm area, plus interactive skits throughout the Zoo. *Here are 10 things to look forward to from KWT this season:*

1. The return of "The Great Penguini" – the misguided magician will be at the Humboldt Penguin Exhibit at 9:15 and 11 a.m. daily to teach about penguin adaptations.



2. Superheroes! Meet our newest character, Captain Super Fantastic, as he flies to save colobus monkeys in the brand-new "Captain Super Fantastic and the Coltan Conundrum." Learn what you can do to protect the monkeys' rainforest habitat.

3. New at-exhibit locations, including bears, elephants and birds.

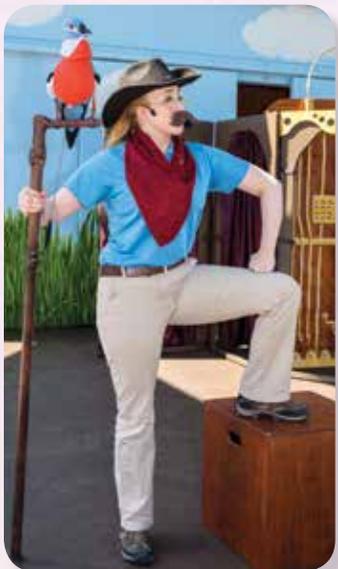
4. Teddy Roosevelt's guest appearance in "The Time Traveler's Chicken." In this show, Clucky the chicken and Dr. Thinker travel back in time to learn about extinction and save Clucky's egg. Just make sure the time machine doesn't break down.

5. The Kohl's Wild Theater "playbill." Pick up your own playbill to get stamps for all of our shows and skits to win a prize.

6. Count Hibernacula's mysterious box in "The Legend of Hibernacula." Jonathan Batfield is a little brown bat from Wisconsin who takes a trip to see Count Hibernacula, a mysterious bat from South America. But can Hibernacula be trusted? What is inside that strange wooden box, anyway?

7. Summer festivals. Don't forget to find Kohl's Wild Theater at your favorite festival, including every day of Summerfest and the Wisconsin State Fair.

8. The return of Detective Jo Appletree. After solving last year's case of the disappearing bees, Jo is headed into the Wisconsin wilderness to find invaders in "The Strange Case of the Alien Invasion."



9. Puppet high-fives. Because where else do you get to chat with a penguin and give it a hug?

10. Big smiles. Nothing beats having a great time with your family and friends. Join KWT at its theater in the farm area for fun jokes, catchy songs and memories that will last a lifetime.

Kohl's Wild Theater is made possible by a partnership between Kohl's Cares, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. KWT also performs year-round at schools, community events and festivals, free of charge, within a one-hour radius of the Zoo. Visit [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org) for more information. To book a show, call 414-258-2333 or email [KWT@zoosociety.org](mailto:KWT@zoosociety.org).



Actor Emmitt Morgans introduces a child to a Humboldt penguin puppet. Photo by Bob Wickland

President Teddy Roosevelt tries to save the passenger pigeon from extinction in "The Time Traveler's Chicken." Photo by Richard Taylor

# Zoo Classes & Camps

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

## Summer Camps

*Sponsored by Penzeys Spices*

It's not too late to sign up for Zoo Summer Camps! Your 2-year-old can hop from lily pad to lily pad in "Leap Frog" camp. You and your 3-year-old can touch real giraffe fur in "Gentle Giants" camp.

In "Deep Sea Dive," 10- and 11-year-olds create their own submersibles. In "Careers" camp, your 12-14-year-old can construct a grapevine ball for the gorillas and watch them eat it.

Zoo Camp is a fun way to keep kids active and learning during the summer months. Most camps include a Zoo tour, rain or shine. Registration is open now for infants through age 14 at [zoosociety.org/Summer](http://zoosociety.org/Summer).

[zoosociety.org/Education](http://zoosociety.org/Education)



Intern Laura Williams helps campers make a grapevine ball for the gorillas during "Careers" summer camp. Photo by Bob Wickland



Ava S., of Brookfield, and mom Jennifer touch giraffe fur during "Gentle Giants" camp for 3-year-olds. Photo by Bob Wickland

## UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

In "Study of the World's Endangered Species," June 24 and 25, learn techniques to develop study units and use the Zoo as a teaching resource. Call UWM Outreach at 414-229-5255 for information and registration.

## Workshop for Early-Childhood Educators

"Animal Athletes" is a three-hour workshop on Saturday, July 22, for early-childhood educators. Learn how to incorporate a unit about animal athletes in your own classroom. The workshop includes animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a guided Zoo tour. Workshop content is mainly for educators of ages 2-5. To register, call 414-258-5058 or visit [zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu](http://zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu).

Kylee C., 2, of Waukesha, claps her webbed frog feet in "Leap Frogs" camp.

Photo by Richard Taylor



# Animal Artwork Takes Center Stage at Zoo Ball



Heather A. French

When Heather A. French found out her friends were sponsoring Zoo Ball 2017 for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, she immediately volunteered to help, even though she lives in Florida. “Who doesn’t love animals?” she says. “Some things don’t really need to be explained.” For French, an internationally known painter, helping out meant creating artwork for the event. She donated 12 animal paintings that follow Zoo Ball’s theme of “Black Tie & Tails.”

Zoo Ball is the Zoological Society of Milwaukee’s biggest fundraiser of the year, raising almost \$10 million for the Society over the last three decades. The Society’s Creative Department worked French’s paintings into the marketing pieces for Zoo Ball, including the invitation. Some of the paintings will be auctioned off at the event. Judy Holz Stathas and Dr. William Stathas are chairing and sponsoring the June 24 gala.



French started out as a portrait painter but now focuses on still-life paintings. Her work is often featured at Walt Disney World, including the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival and the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. She still paints people and animal portraits on commission, but the Zoo Ball paintings are something new for her. She painted them in black and white using charcoal. “It was nice to do a whole series that was very different,” she says.



She worked with the Zoo Ball chairs to select the animals, including an elephant, hippo, penguin and impala. All of the paintings show tails, in keeping with the Zoo Ball theme, except for the bonobo – who of course doesn’t have a tail because it is an ape. “The art adds a new element to Zoo Ball,” says Judy Holz Stathas. “With Heather’s art and our Creative Department’s design skills, it’s like nothing we’ve ever done before.”

Zoo Ball: Black Tie & Tails, presented by Dr. William Stathas and Judy Holz Stathas, is June 24. It will celebrate the Milwaukee County Zoo’s 125th anniversary while raising money for the Zoological Society’s support of the Zoo. For more information, visit [zoosociety.org/ZooBall](http://zoosociety.org/ZooBall). Follow our event page on Facebook ([facebook.com/ZooPass](https://facebook.com/ZooPass)) for updates about the gala and look for #ZooBall2017 across our social media sites. Our thanks to valet sponsor Holz Motors, Inc.; welcome reception sponsor Brewers Community Foundation; and platinum sponsor U.S. Bank. 

# Annual Appeal

## Exciting Times for Elephants

It's an exciting time to be an elephant at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo is working on a new, much larger exhibit and barn for Ruth and Brittany expected to open in June 2018. We want to fill the new space with enrichment items that will allow the elephants to engage in natural behaviors and keep their minds and bodies healthy. *The elephants' wish list includes:*

- A feeding wall with puzzles and compartments so the elephants can forage for treats.
- An artificial baobab tree that will provide shade and activities.
- A shower the elephants can control themselves.
- Pulleys and cables where keepers can hang food and toys such as wind chimes and puzzle feeders. The system could even accommodate a popcorn feeder!

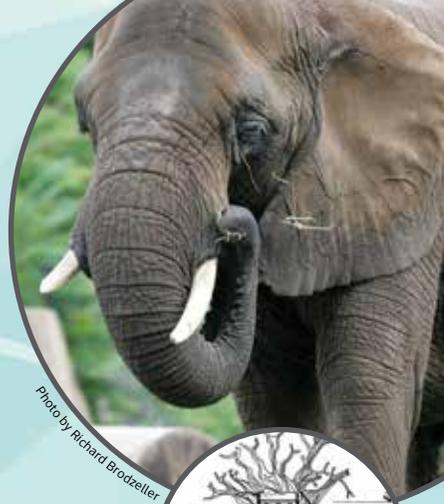
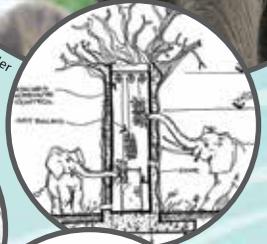


Photo by Richard Brodzeller



This is your chance to help the herd. Donate generously by visiting [zoosociety.org/ElephantAppeal](http://zoosociety.org/ElephantAppeal).

# Calling Young Artists!

## Kids Green Art Contest

We're looking for creative young people (age 17 and under) to show us how you can turn recycled material into art. The theme for this year's contest is South America, so entries should include South American animals such as jaguars, tapirs and macaws. The artwork must be made of 90% recycled material, so dig out those cans, bottles and cardboard. To participate, you must turn in an entry form by Aug. 11 and bring the artwork to the Zoo between Aug. 19 and 25. The entries will be displayed and judged during Animal Safari on Aug. 26. For an entry form and complete list of rules, visit [zoosociety.org/GreenArt](http://zoosociety.org/GreenArt).



*Wesley L., 10, of Sullivan, examines an entry in a previous Kids Green Art Contest.* Photo by Stacy Kaat

# Insider Tips

## Busy Builders

The hamerkop builds the largest nest for its size of any bird in the world – as large as 5 feet across and strong enough to support the weight of an adult human! Besides being well constructed, the nest is also cleverly designed with a separate entrance and tunnel that leads to a nesting chamber. Hamerkops can use as many as 10,000 sticks to build their nests and like to decorate the outside with any bright objects they find.

A pair of these master builders can now be found in the free-flight area of the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. The female hamerkop, MC, hatched in 2015 and arrived from Disney's Animal Kingdom in August. Sledge, the male, hatched in 2002 and arrived from the Rio Grande Zoo in October. "They seem to be always doing something," says Carol Kagy, aviary supervisor. "They're quite visible and often very vocal. They're not afraid of people and are a lot of fun to watch."



*One of the new hamerkops.*  
Photo by Joel Miller

The hamerkop, also known as the hammerhead or hammerhead stork, is a medium-sized bird easily found in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Its wetlands habitat includes estuaries, lakesides, fish ponds, riverbanks and even rocky coasts. It is known in some cultures as the "lightning bird" as people once believed that being hit by lightning was the result of trying to rob a hamerkop's nest. Even today a superstition exists in many parts of Africa that disaster will befall anyone who harms a hamerkop. This has kept the species free from persecution.

Compulsive builders, a pair of hamerkops will construct three to five nests per year whether they are breeding or not. The nest is usually built by a mated pair in the fork of a tree, often over water. When it is finished, the pair shows it off with a display similar to a group ceremony, usually on top of the nest. Come admire their nest for yourself next time you visit the aviary.



*Calypso the chinchilla.* Photo by Joel Miller

## Chillin' with Chinchillas

Cute and cuddly, the chinchilla has a name that makes it hard not to smile when you say it. It has the softest fur of all land mammals. However, its ultra-soft, velvety fur may be placing it well on its way to extinction. The Milwaukee County Zoo has added three female chinchillas to the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm's collection. The trio, named Chloe, Cleo and Calypso, will be part of a future education program for the Zoological Society. "Our latest addition has now doubled the size of our chinchilla 'herd' to six," says Lisa Guglielmi, farm area supervisor at the Zoo. "These animals were purchased from a licensed breeder in Wisconsin. We needed and wanted the extra care and attention that this breeder gives to the chinchillas so that we would hopefully have friendly, calm animals for programs."

In their native habitats, chinchillas live in social groups in burrows and rock crevices. Herd sizes can reach up to 100; this is for social interaction as well as protection from predators including birds of prey, skunks, felines, snakes and dogs. They employ a variety of defense tactics such as spraying urine and releasing fur if bitten.

Chinchillas were named after the Chincha people of the Andes Mountains in South America. They weigh around 1 to 1.5 pounds and can be up to a foot long. Due to a lengthy pregnancy (111 days, longer than most rodents), chinchillas are born fully furred and with eyes open. Herds of wild chinchillas used to be common in four South American countries but now are only found in Chile – where they are on the critically endangered list. They have been hunted almost to extinction in the wild for their fur and for use as pets.

## Two Humps and Healthy

On March 5, the Milwaukee County Zoo welcomed a baby camel – and what a big baby! Patrick the camel calf weighed 100 pounds at birth and added 50 pounds in his first 20 days of life. He will eventually weigh between 1,300 and 2,200 pounds and stand 6 to 8 feet tall. Patrick, who was born on exhibit, is the first offspring for father Stan and the sixth for mother Sanchi. His name was chosen in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

The camels at the Milwaukee County Zoo are domestic Bactrian camels with two humps. "The Zoo has had camels for more than a century, but they did not become a regular fixture until the 1980s," says Tim Wild, the Zoo's large mammal curator. "The arrival of Patrick marks the 18th to be born here. The Zoo now has five Bactrians that we hope will serve as ambassadors for the wild camel."

Domestic Bactrian camels are a distinct species from the wild breed, which is critically endangered with fewer than 1,000 left. Bactrians are native to China and Mongolia.

They have long eyelashes and slit-like nostrils that protect from the blowing sand. Their tolerance of extreme heat and freezing temperatures along with their ability to conserve water makes them ideal for traveling across the remote steppes of central Asia. They have been domesticated for use as pack animals for centuries. Wild camels have some genetic differences from domestic Bactrians, including the ability to process salt water.

Contrary to popular belief, a camel's hump does not hold water but is used to store fat. Newborns are born with flat, floppy humps that begin to firm up soon after the calf is born. Young camels are able to stand and run shortly after birth. Keepers say Patrick already is showing himself to be quite playful, so make sure to get to the Zoo soon to catch his antics.



*Patrick the camel.* Photo by Bob Wickland



*Clyde, one of the new fennec foxes.* Photo by Bob Wickland

## Fuzzy Foxes Steal Hearts

**Wanted:** A couple of foxes with fuzzy faces and big ears.

**Suspected location:** Small Mammals Building at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

**Charge:** Stealing hearts.

Bonnye, 5, is a female from the Phoenix Zoo, while Clyde, 7, comes from Happy Hollow Park in San Jose, Calif. Fennec foxes are a favorite at the Zoo because they look like small puppies with oversized ears. These small, nocturnal foxes are often found in the Sahara of Northern Africa where they live off of plants, insects, eggs, rodents and small birds. Their large ears help dissipate the desert heat and allow them to hear even the tiniest insects under the sand. In the wild, fennec foxes can dig very quickly to disappear under the sand to avoid predators. "This technique has its benefits as their fur blends in perfectly with the desert sand," says Rhonda Crenshaw, Zoo area supervisor of small mammals.

Fennec foxes are social animals, especially at zoos. As they adjust to their new home, Bonnye and Clyde have been spotted snuggling right next to each other. "They are a bit skittish toward keepers, but they are still settling in," Crenshaw says. "We are working with them daily to get them used to us and to begin to trust us." The Zoo hopes the pair will breed, so if you think these foxes are cute now, just wait until they add a miniature partner in crime.

# Wild Throwback

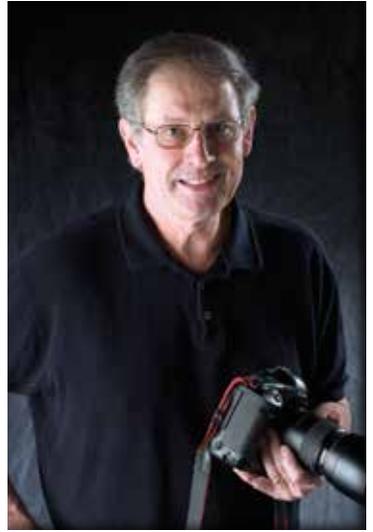
## Capturing the Zoo, One Photo at a Time

If you've picked up *Alive* magazine or looked around the lobby of the U.S. Bank Gathering Place, you've seen the work of Richard "Rick" Brodzeller. He was the Zoological Society's go-to photographer for more than 20 years until his retirement this year. Over the years, he has photographed just about every animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo, along with many Zoo and Society events, and gotten to know just about every Zoo and Society employee. "The Zoo was a great place to work," he says. "I could always rely on help from everybody."

Brodzeller got his start photographing Zoo animals 40 years ago working for Journal Communications, owner at the time of the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel. Back then, each paper had its own Zoo beat reporter. He left Journal Communications in 1995 to become a freelancer. Around the same time, the Zoological Society switched to full color for many of its publications, and the Society became one of his best customers, he says. Zookeepers were eager to work with Brodzeller for the chance to see their animals in print. "Rick could always find that one perfect shot, no matter how bad the lighting or how much time it took," says Trish Khan, curator of primates and small mammals. "His images capture the heart and essence of our animals. I was always thrilled to see Rick's photo of one of my favorite animals on the cover of *Alive* or in a publication."

Brodzeller went to great lengths to get the right photo, whether by climbing ladders to get a better vantage point or setting up backdrops and lighting for smaller animals – always with the permission of the keepers. Usually, the best shots required patience and luck. He would often come back to the Zoo multiple times for the same assignment to capture just the right conditions. "If I've learned anything over the years, it's just waiting for the right moment," he says. "If you really get lucky, you'll get one of those moments that don't happen very often."

Here are some of Brodzeller's favorite photos he's taken at the Zoo.



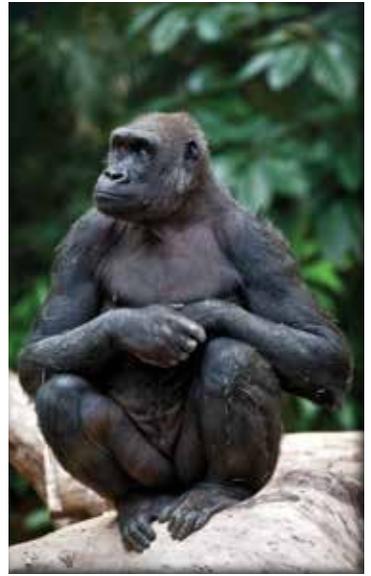
*Richard Brodzeller* Photo by Jay Westhauser



Some of Brodzeller's favorite photos are of reptiles, such as this Cuban iguana he photographed in 2004. "Lizards always make such interesting pictures because they have such detail and they look so different from other animals," he says.



*Unlike most of his photos, Brodzeller took this 1998 shot of snow leopard Sabu and her cub at night, shooting through a chain-link fence using a strobe light. The conditions weren't ideal, he says, but it resulted in a great photo.*



*Brodzeller captured this photo of Naku the gorilla after she arrived at the Zoo in 2011.*



*Brodzeller spent the whole day trying to get this shot of river otters in 1998. "At the time I thought I was coming back empty-handed, but it only takes one good shot, and that's what we got."*



*"That was one of the luckiest things that ever happened," Brodzeller says of this 1997 shot of an octopus. "It was just a matter of waiting it out, but it worked out quite well."*

# In Their Own Words

The Platypus Circle is the premier membership program in the Zoological Society's network of support. It consists of individuals, families, corporations and foundations who share the Zoological Society's passion to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Milwaukee County Zoo. **We asked several Platypus Circle members why they joined:**



Photo by Olga Kornienko

*"We joined the Platypus Circle so we could support the Milwaukee County Zoo financially to ensure that it would remain one of the top zoos in the U.S. It is important to save this treasure for future generations."*

*Don & Shelley Mechenich,  
New Berlin*



Photo provided by Anne Wandler

*"After supporting the Zoo for many years as a Simba Circle member and Zoo Pride volunteer, I wanted to increase my financial commitment to the Zoo."*

*Anne Wandler, Waukesha*



Photo by Olga Kornienko

*"For us it was a conscious decision to be able to give back to the community in which we live. There are so many opportunities available to contribute in our society, but this one allows us to see a tangible benefit for the people we live with in our community each day. To be able to see the enjoyment that people of all ages have while visiting the Zoo is really special, and to know that we've played a small part in enhancing that is fulfilling for us as an organization."*

*David Sarandos (pictured with wife Bonnie),  
Marshfield Clinic Laboratories, Waukesha*

*"We joined Platypus Circle to conveniently support the Zoo on an ongoing basis. We love that the Zoo is available to all kinds of people – young and old, of varying physical abilities, of all income levels and many ethnic groups, families and singles. Plus it does important work preserving animals and habitats across the world. So the Zoo needs and deserves the extra support of the Platypus Circle."*

*Carla & Neal Butenhoff, Elm Grove*

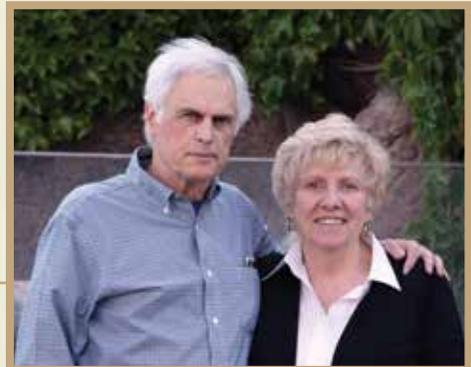


Photo by Olga Kornienko



Platypus Circle members enjoy many benefits, including transferable membership cards, behind-the-scenes tours and invitations to VIP events. Memberships start at \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for companies. For more information, contact Candy Walton at 414-918-6151 or [candyw@zoosociety.org](mailto:candyw@zoosociety.org).

# By the Numbers



## 1. Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

A group of dancers from the Racine area poses during a break at Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo on Feb. 25. The event drew 341 people and raised \$7,200 for the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Photo by Stacy Vogel Davis

## 2. Behind the Scenes Weekend

Zoo guests examine antlers and other animal items at Behind the Scenes Weekend, sponsored by **Prairie Farms Dairy**. The event drew 3,286 people March 11 and 12 to peek into places normally off-limits to visitors, such as the Train Shop, greenhouses and animal building kitchens.

Photo by Olga Kornienko



# JOIN THE PRIDE



Zoo Pride is a group of volunteers that helps the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County Zoo in a variety of ways. From assisting education classes to putting together treats for the animals to interacting with Zoo guests, you'll find plenty to do while making new friends of all ages. An introductory training session is coming up May 31 and June 3. New volunteers can also choose to take level-two training June 7, 10, 14 and 17. A fall introductory session will be held Sept. 20 and 23. Further training is available based on volunteers' interests. For more information, call 414-258-5667 or visit [zoosociety.org/ZooPride](http://zoosociety.org/ZooPride).



(Left) Zoo Pride volunteer Ruth Ann Petroff helps out at Halloween Spooktacular. Photo by Stacy Kaat

Zoo Pride volunteer Jim Brill helps Adan D., of Waukesha, learn about cryptids during Zoo Camp.

Photo by Bob Wickland

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



Zoological Society of Milwaukee County  
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL**  
Please Deliver Promptly



Photo by Stacy Kaat

## What's Happening

Details Inside

### May 6-Sept. 4

Special summer exhibit, **BODY WORLDS: ANIMAL INSIDE OUT**, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

### May 14

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

### May 15

Online registration for Snooze at the Zoo begins at 8 a.m. for members

### May 19

Endangered Species Day\*

### May 20-21

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

### May 27

Kohl's Wild Theater begins its summer season at the Zoo with free shows daily

### June 1-Aug. 15

Zoo Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices

### June 6-8

Nights in June for Zoo Pass members\*

### June 18

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

### June 24

Zoo Ball, presented by Dr. William Stathas & Judy Holz Stathas (pre-register)

### June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 & Aug. 2

Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by Tri City National Bank\*

### July 11, 13 & 14

Kids' Nights at the Zoo for Zoo Pass members, sponsored by WaterStone Bank\*

### July 31

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

### Aug. 3

Online registration begins at 5 p.m. for Fall Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer

### Aug. 9-12

Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Post Consumer Brands & Sentry Foods (pre-register)

### Aug. 17-20

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

### Aug. 26

Animal Safari, with behind-the-scenes tours for animal sponsors\*

\*Zoo Pass members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one vehicle per membership per day. Platypus Circle members receive free admission and parking with their card.

Follow us on  
**Snapchat**  
for your daily dose  
of Zoo fun!

**ZooSocietyMKE**



*Nights in June*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



### Connect With Us:

Facebook.com/ZooPass

Twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

Instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE

Pinterest.com/ZooSocietyMKE

Snapchat: ZooSocietyMKE

Milwaukee Zoo Pass App



The Zoological Society is proud to bear Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.