









GOLDEN TICKET

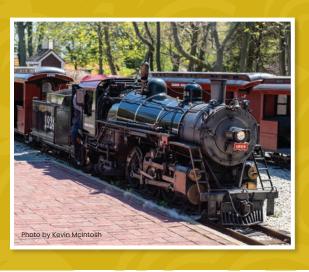


We know riding the North Shore Bank Safari Train is a must-do for many Zoo Pass members. It's a popular attraction that provides 400,000 rides in a typical year. This summer, Zoo Pass members have a chance to win a Golden Ticket, good for free train rides until May 2023!

Thanks to North Shore Bank, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society, one lucky winner will be riding the rails with three members of their family. This golden ticket will be good for a train ride during regular Zoo hours but also during special events including members-only events in June and July, Wild Lights and more.

If you're a Zoo Pass member and would like to enter this contest, go to zoosociety.org/GoldenTicket.

Tickets are non-transferable, cannot be exchanged for cash or used on other attractions. Tickets do not include Zoo admission or parking. The train runs daily from May through September (weather permitting) and periodically throughout the year.







Cover Photos: Band photo by Bob Wickland; train photo by Kevin McIntosh; dragon photo courtesy Dino Don Inc.

MEMBERANDA

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

Zoological Society office hours:

Now through May 27, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 28-Sept. 5, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours

Now through May 27, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 28-Sept. 5, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Note: The Zoo's admission gates and walk-in gate close I hour prior to the posted Zoo closing time. The animal buildings close 15 minutes before posted Zoo closing hours.

Company picnics: For members visiting the Zoo with a company picnic, Zoo Pass members' free admission or free parking benefits do not apply.

Problems renewing or transacting online: Contact us at 414–258–2333 so we can assist with your transaction. Our staff is available seven days a week.

Reciprocal zoos and aquariums: We only reciprocate with AZA-accredited facilities and reserve the right to not reciprocate with zoos and aquariums located within close proximity of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Please be sure to contact our offices prior to your travels at 414-258-2333, or visit zoosociety.org/reciprocal.

Moving? Please call us when you change your address or name. The call saves us money because when the post office returns your mail with a forwarding address, we pay twice for mailing: to the old address and the new. If you've changed your address on your identification, replacement cards may be purchased with the new information for \$5.

Zoo admission: Please remember to have your Society Zoo Pass and identification ready when you arrive at the Zoo's admission gates. If you've lost your card, replacement cards may be purchased for \$5. Zoo Pass admission is valid for regular daytime Zoo hours and many events.

Who can use member cards? The person(s) named on the Zoo Pass is the owner of the card and benefits are not transferable to anyone else. We need to have the number of members' minor children/grandchildren in your household reflected in your membership records for the Zoo's admission gates. Foster children are covered on your membership. Day-care providers for children: Your Zoo Pass membership does not cover children for whom you provide baby-sitting or day-care services. The Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any membership being used inappropriately.



WILD THINGS

Issue No. 157, May-June 2022

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

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Photos taken by Garrett Hopkins unless otherwise noted.

Contact the Zoological Society at: 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226 Phone: 414-258-2333 Web: zoosociety.org

Contact the Milwaukee County Zoo at: 10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226 Phone: 414-256-5412 Web: milwaukeezoo.org

SPECIAL MOM-ENTS

Mother's Day

Sponsored by
The Corners of Brookfield

Show Mom something special this Mother's Day with a trip to the Zoo. Point out something wild, stroll along the wooded paths, listen to the sounds of the animals and don't forget to soak in those precious moments. All moms get free admission to the Zoo on Mother's Day. (Parking fees still apply with the exception of Zoo Pass Plus and Platypus Circle members who get free parking.)

From new moms to grandmas, the Zoo wants to celebrate with you.

Photo by Kevin McIntosh



A SPOT-ON GIFT

Don't cheetah your mom out of a great gift this Mother's Day. A sponsorship of Minnie the cheetah would be purr-fect. Minnie arrived in Milwaukee along with her sister, Mila, in October 2021.

The two are four years old and are often seen together in their outside habitat.

Cheetahs are great mothers. They give birth to a litter of three to six cubs, each

weighing about 9 to 12 ounces. The newborns don't open their eyes for the first 10 days. Moms protect their babies by hiding them in dens inside dense vegetation. After about 6 weeks, the cubs will follow mom around and learn the ins and outs of being a cheetah. At about 14 months old, the cubs are old enough to get their own food and leave their mom.



When you sponsor Minnie at \$50, you will receive:

- An adorable plush-toy cheetah
- · A certificate of sponsorship
- A colorful fact sheet about cheetahs
- An invitation to a special event for animal sponsors
- And more!

To order a sponsorship call 414-258-2333 or go to zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal.

NATURE IS FOR EVERYONE

Celebrate Diversity!

Sponsored by Meijer

There is diversity all around us, and the Milwaukee County Zoo wants to recognize and celebrate it. This brand-new event will emphasize that exploration of our natural world is for everyone. You're invited to celebrate animals from around the world and appreciate the great diversity found in nature. You can also participate in nature-focused activities including wild bird tours. Get a sapling handout that highlights the importance of making outdoor recreation accessible and inclusive to nature enthusiasts of every background.

This event is free for Zoo Pass and Platypus Circle members.





SENSORY INCLUSION



The Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society want to ensure the Zoo is a place for everyone. That includes those with sensory sensitivity. The Zoo has partnered with KultureCity, a national nonprofit that provides sensory inclusion training and tools, since 2020.

You may have noticed Headphone Zone signs around the Zoo. That means that area might be louder than other places and those with sensitivity may want to put headphones on to block out the sound. If you need headphones or other tools, visit the Zoological Society's Guests Services kiosk. There, you can check out a sensory bag with headphones, fidget toys, a weighted blanket and a verbal cue card.





TWIGA AND OTHER TALL TALES





A DAY FOR **DADS**

Father's Day

Presented by Prairie Farms Dairy

Dads don't always have it easy, but a visit to the Zoo can be just that – easy. Dads get free admission to the Zoo on Father's Day. It's a perfect chance to make family memories and show Dad he's the best. Spend some time bonding on the North Shore Bank Safari Train or while watching the family of monkeys on Macaque Island. There is so much to zoo! And when you're with Dad, that's the icing on the cake.

Parking fees still apply with the exception of Zoo Pass Plus and Platypus Circle members who get free parking.

Photo by Bob Wickland



JULY 3

WE **SALUTE** YOU



Military & Veterans Family Day

To honor and thank members of the military, the Zoo is offering free admission. Tickets include admission and parking for service members, veterans and their immediate family – limited to 10 tickets per family. Tickets must be picked up ahead of time at your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO). Contact your local CVSO for details.

Photo by Kevin McIntosh



NIGHTS IN JUNE IS BACK!

The popular members-only event, sponsored by Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.®, is coming back this June. Zoo Pass and Platypus Circle members are invited to enjoy one of three evenings at the Zoo. The after-hours event features food trucks, entertainment and, of course, animals. See the postcard inserted in this publication to learn more.

ZOO CAMP

Have your child experience the Zoo in a whole new way during Summer Zoo Camps and Classes, sponsored by Penzeys. Camps and Classes are available for infants up to age 14. There is also a family class available for everyone!

This summer, the Zoological Society has added more weeklong options for kids

starting as young as 4 years old, in addition to several single-day camps to wow your child. Kids can learn about their favorite animals and what makes them so unique, how the Zoo cares for the animals or even what it takes to be a Kohl's Wild Theater actor! No matter what camp or class you choose, your child will have a blast.

HURRAY HIPPOS!

Learn about their underwater stamina and massive size. Then, go out in the Zoo to see the hippo habitat. Age 3 with one adult.



ANIMAL ARCHITECTS

Beavers saw with their teeth, and birds build nests with their beaks. **Children ages 8 and 9** will investigate these animal builders and then test their skills by building an animal structure of their own.

Photo taken before indoor mask requirement.



VET CAMP

Photo by Paul Ruffolo

Through hands-on activities, learn the skills of a veterinarian that help prevent, diagnose and treat injuries and illnesses in animals. **Ages 10 and 11.**

Photo taken before indoor mask requirement.



Some classes are sold out, so check our website for up-to-date availability at zoosociety org/summer.

Financial aid is available for those meeting our requirements.

WITHICAL QUEST

Transport yourself to a land of mythical creatures with a history that goes back centuries. Dino Don's Dragon Kingdom, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market, is an outdoor adventure inside the Zoo filled with more than 15 animatronic creatures found in cultures throughout the world.

These dragons range in size from 10 to 40 feet! Walk through the wooded paths and marvel at their features that can be compared to animals right inside the Zoo. Here are a few of the dragons that will be on display.

Bornean dragon

Linked to the Borneo earless monitor lizard, a myth about dragons stealing and consuming Bornean villagers evolved. The display at the Zoo will feature the dragon and a nest with babies that look like a Borneo earless monitor lizard.

Bunyip

The myth of the darkly colored creature with a booming roar that lives in deep pools or streams originated in Australia. The story describes a warrior who captured a baby bunyip. The dragon's mother retaliated by causing a flood to wash over the tribe, transforming them into the world's first black swans.

Basilisk

The Basilisk myth originated in Europe. This dragon is considered the "King of Serpents" and is famous for its ability to turn any living creature into stone with a single glance.

Ice dragon

The Arctic Dragon starts its life as a snake, only turning into a dragon with age. It is a master of weather and water.

Friendly dragon

Kenneth Grahame's classic tale *The Reluctant Dragon*, is believed to be the first well-documented portrayal of a friendly western-style dragon. Before that, dragons were typically viewed as vicious or evil.

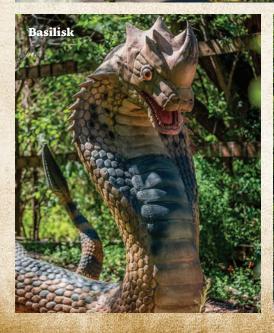
The special exhibit will run from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.

Tickets are \$3 a person. Zoo Pass members can use their electronic coupons for entry.











MAKING COMMUNITY **STRONGER**

"It's important for the community that the Zoo continues to grow and thrive." That's not only the philosophy of GRAEF CEO and President John Kissinger; it's a primary reason for the company's support of the Zoo and the Zoological Society. GRAEF has had a Corporate Platypus Circle membership for more than 30 years. It's a commitment that the firm made many leaders ago and one that Kissinger hopes will continue after him. "We're headquartered in Milwaukee, and we've been in the city since 1961. It's important to keep Milwaukee a vibrant city, and keeping amenities like the Zoo does that."

As a corporate Platy member, GRAEF employees have the opportunity to use the company card and visit the Zoo free of charge. Each card provides FREE admission for up to eight people and includes parking for one vehicle. It's a great employee incentive, but GRAEF's support goes even

further. "We do it to support the Zoo, the benefits are secondary. Being associated with such a revered institution reflects well on us. And I think the employees are proud that we support that," says Kissinger.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP MILWAUKEE A VIBRANT CITY...

Thanks to members of the Platypus Circle like GRAEF, we can offer summer camps for disadvantaged youth, provide zookeeper conservation trips, support Zoo exhibit upgrades and so much more. No matter what your motivation is, a corporate Platypus Circle membership could be great for your company and employees.

Other benefits include:

- Discounts on Zoo facility rentals (perfect for a company picnic)
 - Free Zoo attraction tickets
 - · Corporate visibility and sign recognition
 - Invitations to VIP events



John Kissinger and his wife Debbie and mother-in-law Gladys accept GRAEF's 25-year Platypus Circle plaque. Gladys is also a former docent for the Milwaukee County Zoo. A proud moment for everyone involved.

Photo by Stacy Kaat



GRAEF is also a proud sponsor of the Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament. The event has raised \$600,000 since GRAEF started sponsoring the event in 2016.

Photo by Peter Zuzga

A Corporate Platypus Circle membership starts at \$1,000.

If you would like to join, contact Dani Seavert at 414-918-6153 or danis@zoosociety.org.



AN ENRICHING WINTER

Until the heat of the summer hits, it can be difficult to find things to do and stay busy. But, inside the Giraffe Building at the Zoo, that's not a problem thanks to the zookeepers. During the colder months, the five giraffes can only use an outdoor patio and not their full yard. Pachyderm supervisor Joan Stasica keeps the giraffes busy by giving them extra enrichment items so they utilize their natural behaviors including their tongue muscles and brains. Here are three of the animals' favorite items over winter.



BALL BASKET

It's a wire basket with food and colorful balls a little bigger than a baseball. "This winter I started using it a lot and they've been going bonkers for it," says Stasica. The ball basket was set up twice a day, every day. The food items are usually alfalfa with some kind of produce like lettuce, celery or carrot. Stasica says people often ask if the giraffes play with the balls. "They don't really play with them. It's really for them to exercise their tongues, and the balls are there as obstacles for them to work around." She goes on to say that while all the giraffes love this enrichment item, Maya seems to love it the most. She's usually the first one to start and the last one to stop.



Stasica fills the barrel with alfalfa and uses a pulley to raise it. The giraffes stretch and use their tongues to get the food out of the holes in the barrel. For the most part, the giraffe family doesn't fight over food, but Ziggy has been known to be a little pushy.





STRAP FOR BROWSE

The strap holds the branches closer to giraffes' eye level by clipping onto a wire. The giraffes can pull at the branches, break them apart and eat them. "Bare branches are good for their teeth, good for their digestion. It's a great natural food source for them. It's what they would be eating in the wild," says Stasica. Giraffes can eat browse up to an inch in diameter. Anything bigger, they will strip all the bark off and eat that.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

hen you hear the names Blanche and Rose, you may think of the famous Golden Girls characters. At the Zoo, Blanche and Rose are celebrities in their own right. The two greater rheas and their zookeepers are getting a lot of attention for successfully getting radiograph images of the birds without having to restrain or anesthetize them.

Rheas will sometimes ingest metallic objects they find in their habitat. It could be a coin or something that flew in by the wind. That was a big motivation to find a way for the rheas to voluntarily get a radiograph image while awake. "Our zoo already provides a long pole that can hold on to the X-ray but we know the rheas wouldn't be comfortable with a third person pointing a stick at them. So we wanted to make it easy for them and us too," says Winter Quarters zookeeper Brooke Ferrell. Along with zookeeper Katie Prinsen, the two got to brainstorming. The result was a pegboard wall that can hold the plate, and a bucket of food placed close enough that the birds stop to eat in the perfect spot as the radiograph machine sits on the other side. (see image)

While that may seem like an easy solution, it took nine months of preparing and training for that moment. Ferrell and Prinsen couldn't just put all the equipment in their



habitat one day. They had to ease the rheas into it. "Normally in the wild, they're very vigilant animals, they're always on the lookout for predators. So they're just really wary of everything," says Prinsen. First, Ferrell and Prinsen put the pegboard wall near their food. Then, they had to get Blanche and Rose used to other equipment so they introduced a cardboard box made to look like the radiograph generator. Once the rheas were ok with that being around, they brought in a big bucket that the generator would rest on, then slowly kept bringing it closer to where their food was. Keepers also used a flashlight to simulate the generator, extension cords and extra people that may be in the room during the radiograph. When the actual equipment was officially in the room, Blanche and Rose were a little hesitant but by the third attempt, they both did it!

To keep this training fresh in their minds and ready for when it really needs to happen, the zookeepers have the rheas train about twice a month. The rheas are also trained to get their vaccinations once a year. Similar to other animals, they are food motivated and will stand by a keeper for the vaccine while getting food. Ferrell and Prinsen are still working on training the rheas for blood draws, which is a little more difficult than vaccination training. "You have to apply pressure to the vein for one minute after the blood is drawn. So they're standing still for a lot longer," Prinsen explains. But, if their successful training for the radiographs is any indication, Blanche and Rose will be doing blood draws in no time. Never underestimate the power of time, patience, food and positive reinforcement.

The pegboard allows zookeepers to move the X-ray plate to different positions, allowing for images of different body parts.





Zookeepers use the holes in a gate to train for vaccines and blood draws.

A rhea is often mistaken for an ostrich. You can find the rheas in the South America habitat along with the tapir and alpaca. The ostriches are in Adventure Africa, across from the elephant habitat. They share a home with zebras, impala and greycrowned cranes.

Rhea

- Weigh between
 33 and 66 lbs.
- Live in South America
- Three toes
- Males incubate eggs

 Weigh between 250 and 300 lbs.

- Live in Africa
- Two toes

Ostrich

• Both males and females incubate eggs

MORE THAN MEETS THE HIVE



The Zoo is filled with fascinating, hard-to-miss animal habitats: the bear exhibits with their rocky walkways; Lake Evinrude with its lush banks; and Otter Passage with its slippery slopes. But one animal home is easily overlooked. On the south side of Lake Evinrude, inside a white, wooden box, is a beehive and a colony of honey bees. The hive is maintained by the beekeeping committee, a group comprised of Milwaukee County Zoo and Zoological Society staff.

This white box, known as a Langstroth hive, is unassuming at first glance, but there's much more than meets the eye. A peek inside the hive would reveal a row of vertical frames covered in hexagonal honeycomb, golden honey and more than 20,000 bees! Bees create honey by collecting nectar from flowers, chewing it up to change its chemical composition, spreading it over honeycomb, batting their wings to dry it out and finally capping the honeycomb with

beeswax to keep it fresh. Bees eat honey, and the honey they produce sustains the colony throughout winter.

"Honey bees are incredibly sophisticated," says Auriana Donaldson, conservation programs coordinator and member of the beekeeping committee. "They do most of the work; our job is just to support them." The beekeeping committee maintains the health of the hive throughout the year by checking it for mites and other disturbances, monitoring the queen and her eggs, and making sure its inhabitants have enough honey to last the winter. If the hive has a sufficient amount of honey, the committee will harvest some of it. Last year, they harvested 20 pounds of honey, which was fed to the Zoo's bears!

Since the mid-90s, honey bee populations throughout the United States have suffered dire declines due to loss of habitat, climate change, the use of pesticides and reduced genetic diversity. Pollinators like honey bees are responsible for one of every three bites of food we take, and beekeeping is one of the many ways the Milwaukee County Zoo and Zoological Society take an active role in pollinator conservation. Beekeeping might not be a possibility for everybody, but everybody can help honey bees in their own way by purchasing local honey, planting pollinator-friendly plants or simply letting bees be if they see them in nature.









Other bee species and pollinators need your help. Join us for **No Mow May.** Bees and other pollinators are still hibernating in the leaf piles, overgrown patches of grass and other lawn debris. If you have to mow your lawn this month, consider keeping a patch untouched to help the cause.

Visit zoosociety.org/NoMowMay for more details.



READ, REHEARSE, REPEAT

esearchers around the world say elephants have impeccable memories. Guests around the Zoo will be saying the same thing about Kohl's Wild Theater performers when they watch "An Elephant Never Forgets," one of two shows the award-winning theater program will be bringing to the the stage in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm this summer. Kohl's Wild Theater uses songs, costumes and puppetry to tell immersive tales that help young people develop empathy for wildlife. The success of these performances is, in large part, attributed to the cast's extensive rehearsal and memorization process.

For every show, actors log about 25 hours of work over the course of 10-12 rehearsals. Rehearsals begin with a table read, where the cast has a chance to explore the themes of the show and the motivations of the characters. Table work is followed by blocking sessions, where the director helps the actors determine their movements throughout the show. Finally, the cast moves to increasingly-complex walkthroughs, where puppets, music and other cues are gradually introduced.

While rehearsal is a collaborative effort, each cast member is responsible for learning lines on their own. "Everybody has their own process for this," says Zach Woods, manager of artistic direction. "Some record their lines and repeatedly listen back, others write them out. Some even run lines with their friends and family members." Regardless of their preferred memorization method, one thing is clear during every show: Kohl's Wild Theater actors are skilled professionals who are devoted to bringing the best possible product to the stage every performance.

"An Elephant Never Forgets," features elephants and rhinos, and explores issues caused by the global ivory trade. Zoo guests can also watch fan-favorite "Captain Superfantastic and the Coltan Conundrum."

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, performances will take place at the Zoo every day of the week, except Tuesdays. Showtimes start at 10:15 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Remember to stop by!





Use the QR code for an inside look at KWT.





QUICK ! FACT:

Cheetahs reach 70 MPH in 3 seconds.

Sponsor the cheetah, page 3.





20010gical Society of Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383 10005 W. Bluemound Rd.

DATED MATERIAL

WHAT'S HAPPENING





May 6

Zootastic, sponsored by Wellpoint Care Network (pre-register)

May 8

Mother's Day at the Zoo, sponsored by The Corners of Brookfield*

May 20

Elephant Appreciation Day*

May 23

Member registration for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Post Consumer Brands and Sentry Foods

May 28-Sept. 5

Special summer exhibit, Dino Don's Dragon Kingdom, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market

Kohl's Wild Theater's summer season at the Zoo with free shows Wednesday-Monday (closed Tuesday)*

June 1

Zoo Summer Camps and Classes, sponsored by Penzeys, begin

Tune 7-9

Nights in June, a members-only evening event, sponsored by Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.**

Celebrate Diversity! sponsored by Meijer*

June 19

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

June 25

Zoo Ball, presented by Molson Coors (pre-register)

Military & Veterans Family Day*

\$4 admission on the Fourth*

July 6, 13, 20, 27

Sunset Zoofari*

July 12, 14 & 15

Kids Nights, a members-only evening event, sponsored by WaterStone Bank*

* Zoo Pass members get free regular 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.

CONNECT WITH US!







twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE



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



The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is recognized for our transparency with GuideStar's Gold Seal.