

WILD THINGS

MAY-JUNE
2023



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*Visit Animals From
The Ice Age*



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An Antler Anomaly



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Win Free Train Rides



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*Sponsor Our
Pollinators*



JUNE
6-8

EVENING ADVENTURE



Photo by Bob Wickland

Nights in June

Sponsored by Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.®

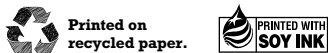
Start your summer with an event just for Zoo Pass members. Nights in June is filled with entertainment, food trucks and, of course, animals! If you have a Zoo Pass or Platypus Circle membership, admission is free!

See your invitation inside this publication for details on what day to come and all the adventures you can go on during Nights in June!

Thanks to stage sponsors AAA and North Shore Bank.



Photo by Bob Wickland



Cover Photos: Woolly Mammoth, courtesy of Dino Don's, Train by Kevin McIntosh, Caribou and Bees by Garrett Hopkins

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:
Now through May 26, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
May 27-Sept. 4, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours:
Now through May 26, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
May 27-Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Note: The Zoo's admission gates and walk-in gate close 1 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. 162, May-June 2023

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

Editor & Writer: Katie Krecklow
Designer: Kevin McIntosh

Photos taken by Garrett Hopkins unless otherwise noted.

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

MAY
14

MOM-UMENTAL APPRECIATION

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by
Peoples State Bank

We should appreciate Mom all year, but on Mother's Day let's crank it up to mom-umental appreciation! All moms and grandmas will get free admission to the Zoo on Mother's Day. It's a perfect place to enjoy family and the outdoors while soaking in love.

Human moms and animal moms play important roles. Some species carry their babies on their backs for months, some bring them food and most are very protective of their young. So let's meet at the Milwaukee County Zoo to celebrate all moms.

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

Photos by Kevin McIntosh



FLIPPIN' AMAZING

If your mom or someone you love is flippin' amazing, show them with this limited-time sponsorship of Cossette the harbor seal. Cossette is 7 years old and became a first-time mom last summer when she gave birth to Leia.

To seal-abrate the occasion, sponsor Cossette for \$50 and receive:

- an adorable plush-toy seal
- a certificate of sponsorship
- name recognition at the Zoo
- an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event in August



Upgrade your sponsorship to the \$100 level to receive a photo of Cossette, two Zoo attraction tickets and be entered for a chance to win a:

HARBOR SEAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES EXPERIENCE*

Animal sponsorships can make great gifts for any occasion. To order one today, visit zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal or call 414-258-2333.

**Behind-the-scenes experience promotion ends May 31, 2023. Some restrictions may apply. Visit zoosociety.org/sponsoranimal for more details.*

GOLDEN TICKET

The train is a must-do attraction for many families visiting the Zoo. With a Golden Ticket, you can ride the train free of charge until May 2024! Thanks to North Shore Bank, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society, one lucky winner will get a ticket good for free rides every time the train is running. Because we don't want you to ride alone, the winner will get three more tickets for their family members. This Golden Ticket will be good for a train ride during regular Zoo hours but also during special events.

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

Tickets are non-transferable and 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.

Photos by Kevin McIntosh



JUNE
18

HIGHEST LEVEL OF LOVE

Father's Day at the Zoo

Presented by Prairie Farms Dairy

Gifts are nice on Father's Day, but nothing beats quality time. Spend the day at the Zoo with your dad and make some amazing memories. Unleash the kid inside and explore all the areas of the Zoo. Meet some animal fathers like



Photo by Bob Wickland



Ringo the harbor seal, Larkey the otter or Stan the camel. There is no shortage of love for dads at the Zoo!

Dads and granddads get free admission on Father's Day. Parking fees still apply with the exception of Zoo Pass Plus and Platypus Circle members who receive free parking.

MYSTERIOUS DROPPED ANTLERS

A mysterious case has zookeepers following clues and looking for answers. Male caribou Bean lost his antlers just a couple months after they started to grow. Typically, male caribou will drop their antlers in late fall. Bean dropped his rack in October of 2022, which was a little early. Within a few weeks, there was evidence his next pair were coming in. Everything seemed as it should, but the small, growing antlers that were about 2 inches tall at the end of January, dropped nearly 10 months too early!



North America area supervisor, Dawn Fleuchaus, says this is very unusual but may happen in certain situations. One possible factor is Bean's hormones.

"He is a young animal, and hormones may fluctuate more at his age," says Fleuchaus. When Bean dropped his full rack in October, he was still showing rut behavior, which caused him to rub the velvet off the new growth and eventually damaged them until they fell off. For comparison, Bean didn't start to rub the velvet off his larger antlers until August of last year.

Fleuchaus is reaching out to Bean's former home to ask more questions and is monitoring and keeping records of her own.

Social dynamics, nutrition, age and genetics all play a part in antler development. That's a lot of different factors to consider while the investigation into this mystery continues. Until then, Bean did start to grow another pair of antlers, and now only time will tell if they stay for the entire season.



THE SCENTS OF SUCCESS

Zookeepers take top-notch care of the animals on a daily basis. They make sure they are eating right and are healthy, active and thriving. Part of the recipe to thrive is giving the animals enrichment. Enrichment comes in different forms, encouraging natural behaviors and keeping their minds active.

The big cat keepers have a calendar each month with different enrichment items. While they work hard to be creative, the animals have their favorites. Zookeepers can generally tell what is their favorite based on the amount of time and level of interaction. Here are some examples:

COLOGNE

Amur tiger Kash loves scent enrichment, specifically the scent of Royal Copenhagen. Zookeepers can tell it's his favorite because when they spray it on a log, Kash will rub his head on it and scratch the log with his claws. Female tiger Tula also loves perfumes.



Patty Sharptooth, the matriarchal lioness, loves ice treats the most. She's not picky over what kind. She will devour a plain ice chunk, a bloodsicle – which is exactly what it sounds like – or food inside the ice.



BAGS & BOXES

Patty's daughter, Eloise, loves tearing into bags and boxes. Her sister, Amira, enjoys stealing those bags and boxes and playing keep-away.



BAG O' FOOD

Cheetah sisters, Mila and Minnie, love food inside a bag the most. However, Mila struggles a little bit and is often found with the bag stuck on her head.



OBSESSION

Among the hyenas, Nyota enjoys whole prey items the most, while her mate, Scruffy, enjoys following and bothering Nyota and coincidentally loves the scent of the cologne Obsession.



FEEDER TOYS

Amos the serval enjoys a little bit of a challenge and loves feeder toys that he can manipulate to get mice out.

JUNE
24

MILESTONE YEAR

40th

Zoo Ball 2023

Sponsored by Husch Blackwell & CG Schmidt

Come and celebrate the future of the Milwaukee County Zoo and what lies beyond the horizon. This summer marks the 40th anniversary of Zoo Ball. The Zoological Society's black-tie gala has raised \$14.5 million since its inception. From the first Zoo Ball in 1984 that helped raise money for an outdoor ape facility, to last year's event that helped our capital campaign to finish Adventure Africa, Zoo Ball is a valuable event for everyone involved. While the fashions have changed, the love for the Zoo and the Zoological Society has only grown.

This unique gala happens right inside the Zoo! Guests of Zoo Ball will enjoy the start of the evening with appetizers and cocktails near the elephants and giraffes. A silent auction filled with hundreds of items will have you bidding throughout the night. (You don't need to be a guest to bid on items; the auction will be available online for everyone!) Then comes a gourmet meal followed by live music and an after-party.

Tickets are available now at zoosociety.org/ZooBall.

Special thanks to these additional sponsors:

- Milwaukee Magazine - Media
- Sendik's Food Market - Late Night
- Molson Coors - Beverages
- Walsworth Ripon - Printing
- West Bend Mutual Insurance Company - Entertainment



Photos by: Richard Brodzeller, Kevin McIntosh & Richard Taylor

HORIZONS

Zoo Ball 2023



MAY
20

BEAUTY IN DIFFERENCE

Celebrate Diversity!

Sponsored by Meijer

Every single animal and plant is part of a puzzle that has to fit together to function. Celebrate Diversity! highlights nature's diversity and focuses on increasing our connection to both nature and community.

Guests can explore a section of the Zoo's forest and try to spot wild animals and learn about identifying different plants. Discover differences in animals and how they are all unique. Then, browse what local vendors have to offer in the sustainability market. Activities take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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



JULY
2

A ZOO SALUTE

Military & Veterans Family Day

"Heroes don't wear capes or tights; they wear dog tags and combat boots." — Unknown

To thank those heroes, the Milwaukee County Zoo is happy to host Military & Veterans Family Day. All military service members, veterans and their immediate families can enjoy free admission and parking on July 2. Free admission is not available at the Zoo gates. Guests must get their tickets in advance through local County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO), and tickets are limited to 10 per family.



Photo by Kevin McIntosh

JULY
24

A TEE-RIFIC TIME

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

Presented by GRAEF

Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon

You're invited to attend a golfing fundraiser that is guaranteed to be a good time as "par" as the eye can see. It is a scramble-format event that includes 18 holes of golf. Guests will get a picnic lunch, refreshments along the course and dinner. Don't miss out, because you won't get a mulligan.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome.

To register as an individual or foursome, go to zoosociety.org/golf.



LARGE SCALE AMAZEMENT

When visiting the Zoo, 5-year-old Noah was expecting to see animals he knows are big like elephants and giraffes; he was not expecting a snake to be in the same large category. "Whoa! He's huge!" Noah says to his dad. Noah quickly learned, he is actually a she. Olive, the green anaconda, is 15 feet long and 120 pounds, making her the largest snake that has lived in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Despite her impressive size, Olive is small for her species. Green anacondas can grow to 30 feet and 500 pounds!

On this day, Olive was up against the glass in her habitat, so Noah could truly see her length and girth. Part of her body was wrapped around one of the potted plants inside, while the rest of her was sprawled out close to the glass. With a snake that large, and potentially dangerous, there is a new protocol for how zookeepers go into her habitat.

"We've never had anything bigger than 12 feet here, so we had to expand our constrictor policy," says Curator Shawn Miller. When zookeepers need to go into her habitat, once or twice a week, it is now a three-person job instead of the former protocol that called for two. Now

two zookeepers go inside the habitat, and a third is a spotter and stands on the public side of the glass to watch Olive's moves and relay them to the other keepers. "We have worked in there with three people as well. It's just if we have to get out quickly with three people you're stumbling over each other," explains Miller.

Another layer of training for constrictors revolves around confidence. "The big thing with constrictors like that is you can't hesitate. As soon as you go in to grab and you balk, that's when you're going to get bit," says Miller. Zookeepers have experience with this from working with the red-tailed boas and the former anaconda, Mo. Neck grabs are generally needed during health checks.

So far Olive has proven to be a great animal ambassador. Miller says people love seeing Olive and seem less afraid of her compared to some of the smaller snakes. "If someone doesn't like snakes, you have a better chance of teaching them about a bigger snake because it is behind the glass and can't slither behind something and disappear." Miller is passionate about people learning about reptiles, and Olive seems to be opening a lot of eyes.



SUMMER THEATER

This summer, meet a talking bird flying from Wisconsin to Costa Rica or watch a talking sea otter at a doctor's appointment. Kohl's Wild Theater has its summer shows lined up and ready for audiences of all ages. These shows are free to Zoo guests inside the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. From May 27 to Sept. 4, the cast and crew will perform two different shows.

NOON – Journey to the Rich Coast

Baltimore orioles, Bernie and Ripkin, have noticed the weather is getting colder and food is getting harder to find. They start their migration from Wisconsin to Costa Rica where they meet Tomás, a chestnut-mandibled toucan, who welcomes them to their winter home. But will Bernie and Ripkin wear out their welcome? How will they know it's time to journey back? Take flight with our feathered friends as they travel the Mississippi flyway!

1:30 p.m. – Dr. McGhee Learns About the Sea

Dr. McGhee's waiting room is overflowing with sick sea creatures from the kelp forest. With the help of their nurse and an audience of interns, the medical team heads to the ocean to investigate. Along the way, they meet a singing sea otter who explains that ocean acidity is on the rise and without help the creatures of the kelp forest may be left without a home!

For more than a decade, Kohl's Wild Theater has brought serious topics like conservation and protecting wildlife into short, entertaining and understandable concepts for people of all ages. The musicals make the material fun and retainable. Each summer musical is about 15 minutes in length, so you can keep exploring other parts of the Zoo. Plus, while you're going around the Zoo grounds, you may see some of the actors at animal habitats interacting with guests.

Kohl's Wild Theater will be live inside the Zoo Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, Tuesday through Sunday. Kohl's Wild Theater is a partnership between Kohl's, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Photo by Traveling Lemur Productions

COOL SUMMER

Experience the Ice Age when large mammals like the woolly mammoth roamed the earth. You don't need a jacket for this adventure, but be ready to feel chills of excitement. This summer, visit Dino Don's Journey to the Ice Age, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market. Go face to face with animals that are now extinct but share some interesting similarities to animals found inside the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Giant Armadillo (Glyptodon)

This animal lived 2.5 million years ago up to just 10,000 years ago. Its massive size of 9 to 11 feet long and up to 4,400 pounds is a far cry from today's armadillos that can fit in your hands.



Giant Ground Sloth (Megatherium)

Just like the name suggests, this sloth of massive proportions lived between 5 million and 11,000 years ago. The average sloth was 20 feet long! The Megatherium was one of the largest creatures in South America during its time. It's believed they lived in caves and could pluck fruit off of a tree just by standing.



Woolly Mammoth (Mammuthus primigenius)

Probably the most recognizable creature of the Ice Age is the woolly mammoth. They are believed to have gone extinct just 4,000 years ago. There is evidence they lived alongside humans in Europe, Asia and North America. Their closest modern-day relatives are elephants.



This special exhibit runs from May 20 to Labor Day. Tickets are \$4 a person, but Zoo Pass members can use their electronic coupons for free entry. Or, save the coupons and receive free admission during Nights in June.

COOL BENEFITS

Want a sneak peek at the Zoo's summer exhibit Dino Don's Journey to the Ice Age, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market? Members of the Platypus Circle will have the chance to not only see the exhibit before it opens, but also be treated to a special VIP evening that includes dinner on May 17. Events like this are just one example of the added benefits to having a Platypus Circle membership.

Anyone with a passion for the Zoo can join. Platypus Circle members also receive transferable Zoo Passes. This means you can hand your card off to a friend or family member, and they can use it to get into the Zoo during regular hours, free of charge. The Platy card also allows up to

eight guests in at once and parking for one vehicle! If that's not enough, each year, Platy members receive at least one private, behind-the-scenes tour. Plus, there is an additional evening event for Platy members, priority registration for Zoo Camps and Classes and discounts on fundraising events.

Memberships start at \$750-\$1,000 and are great for individuals, families or companies.

If you would like to join in time to attend this VIP event, act fast! Go to BeAPlaty.org or contact Dani Seavert at 414-918-6153.



Ice Age animal photos courtesy of Dino Don's.

JUNE 12, 19, 26 GROWNUP GETAWAY

Senior Safari

Sponsored by St. Camillus Life Plan Community

New this year! The Zoo is offering free admission to guests 60 and older on three different Mondays in June.* That's three opportunities to save money and experience one of Milwaukee's greatest attractions. Enjoy the fresh air, the sights and the sounds. Special activities and experiences will be offered each date.



***Parking fees still apply, with the exception of Zoo Pass Plus and Platypus Circle members.**

A GATEWAY TO GOOD

Sometimes trying to recycle, conserve energy, protect local animals, protect endangered animals, stop climate change, not use plastics and so on and so on can be so overwhelming you don't even want to start. But when it comes to conservation, we don't need 10 people to do everything perfectly. We need thousands to do a few things imperfectly.

Think of No Mow May as a gateway into conservation – a starting point for people to think about how their yards

and green spaces can benefit everyone. No Mow May is a seasonal movement to encourage people to hold off on mowing their lawns until pollinators have time to emerge from hibernation and can find food. No Mow May also refers to putting a pause on cleaning out your garden beds. Bees, butterflies and moths hibernate in our yards under leaf piles, sticks and branches and in holes in the ground. Plus, in the spring their only source of food may be your dandelions or flowering clovers.

If your city, town or village has a mowing ordinance, consider keeping a section of your backyard unkempt. Or, better yet, convert part of your lawn to native, pollinator-friendly plants, or replace or modify the traditional green lawn by adding flowering species, such as white or purple clover.

If your yard does not produce any clovers or dandelions, you are not providing a food source for bees, but pollinators could still be hibernating underground so give them a little time to get out.

Rethink how we look at our lawns. Green lawns require constant maintenance and often will be treated with pesticides. Pesticides, especially neonicotinoids, are the greatest threat to pollinators including bees, butterflies and birds.

NO MOW ZONE

To learn about some of the best flowers you can plant for each season, go to zoosociety.org/NoMowMay.

BEE HELPFUL

Bees are super helpful to our survival, so let's return the favor and help out the bees. In honor of our No Mow May campaign, we are offering a limited-time opportunity to sponsor the bees at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Zoo and Zoological Society staff and volunteers care for bees in a beehive behind the scenes near the elephants. It takes several team members to check on the bees to make sure they are thriving. The Zoo and Society also work hard to create pollinator gardens around the grounds to encourage wild bees. Last year, an endangered species of bee, the rusty patched bumble bee, was spotted in one of the gardens!

Sponsor the bees today!

Your \$50 sponsorship will include an adorable plush-toy bee, a packet of seeds so you can plant bee-friendly plants at home, a fact sheet about bees and an invitation to a special event just for animal sponsors.

This offer ends May 31. Order online at zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal or call 414-258-2333.



Photo by Kevin McIntosh



Photo by Emily Sneed



SNOOZE AT THE ZOO REGISTRATION SAVE THE DATE - MAY 15TH

Want to sleep near the seals, bears or caribou? Mark your calendars for our annual Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Educators Credit Union. This annual event includes dinner, a movie, s'mores, entertainment and breakfast the next morning.

Zoo Pass and Platypus Circle members receive priority registration and discounts starting at 9 a.m. on May 15. You can choose to sleep over on Aug. 10, 11 or 12.

Go to zoosociety.org/Snooze for details on prices and registration.

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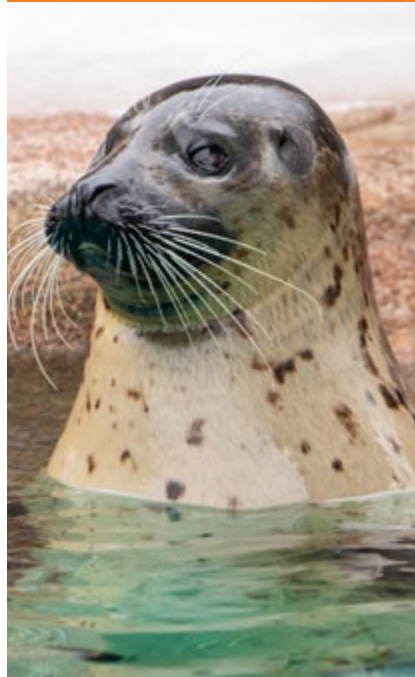
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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

QUICK FACT:

Harbor seals can dive
650 feet underwater.

**Sponsor Cossette,
page 3.**



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Save the date for our second members-only event of the summer on July 11, 13 and 14. Invitations for Kids Nights will come in the mail.

May 14

Mother's Day at the Zoo,
sponsored by
Peoples State Bank*

May 15

Registration opens 9 a.m. for
Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by
Educators Credit Union

May 20

Celebrate Diversity!
Sponsored by Meijer*

May 20-Oct. 7

Special summer exhibit, Dino
Don's Journey to the Ice Age,
sponsored by Sendik's Food
Market

May 27-Sept. 4

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

June 1

Zoo Summer Camps and Classes,
sponsored by Penzeys, begin

June 6-8

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

June 12, 19 & 26

Senior Safari, sponsored by
St. Camillus Life Plan Community*

June 18

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

June 24

Zoo Ball, presented by Husch
Blackwell and CG Schmidt
(pre-register)

July 2

Military & Veterans Family Day*

July 4

\$4 admission on the Fourth*

*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.

CONNECT WITH US!

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

Gold
Transparency
2022

Candid.

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