

WILD

THINGS

**MAY-JUNE
2024**



15 Register Early For Snooze at the Zoo



06-07 New Habitats



02 Win Free Train Rides



**Members-only Event!
Invitation Inside**





GOLDEN TICKET

Safari Train

FREE TRAIN RIDES FOR A YEAR

Golden Ticket

Sponsored by North Shore Bank

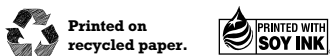
Back by popular demand, we are hosting a Golden Ticket contest for the North Shore Bank Safari Train. Thanks to North Shore Bank, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society, one lucky winner will get a ticket good for free rides every time the train is running through May 2025. Because we don't 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 evening events throughout the year.

If you are 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.



Cover Photos:
Snooze - Garrett Hopkins
Train - Bob Wickland
Member event - Paul Ruffolo



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 24, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
May 25-Sept. 2, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoo hours:

Now through May 24, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
May 25-Sept. 2, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Note: The Zoo's admission gates 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: If you experience any difficulties transacting a Zoo Pass renewal or animal sponsorship online, please 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.

Zoo admission: Please remember to have your 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 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

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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:** milwaukeezeo.org

JUNE

4-6

EVENING ROAR & MORE

Nights in June

Sponsored by Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.®

Start your summer off 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, you're invited and admission is free! This is just one of many great benefits to your membership.

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. If you can't come to the date on the invitation, no problem. Zoo Pass members can come on any of the three nights.

Entertainment sponsored by North Shore Bank



Photos by Garrett Hopkins & Paul Ruffolo

MAY

18

ALL WALKS OF LIFE

Celebrate Diversity!

9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sponsored by Meijer

When you hear the word diversity you may think of the human race. But diversity is also key to our natural world. Celebrate Diversity! highlights nature's diversity and focuses on increasing our connection to both nature and community. From algae to insects to reptiles to birds and mammals, everything in nature works together to thrive.

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.



Photos by Garrett Hopkins

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

MAY
12

MOM-ENTOUS OCCASION

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sponsored by Peoples State Bank

Honor your mother with a day at the Zoo. Mother's Day is not just about celebrating human moms; it's a day to pay tribute to the nurturing nature that connects all mothers. While there may be differences in their upbringing, all mothers have a unique bond with their little ones. For example, orangutans raise their young longer than any mammal besides humans. Much like humans, the first two years of an orangutan's life are spent as a defenseless baby that requires its mother's help to eat and move around. The offspring will breastfeed until eight years of age and will be fully independent by the age of 10.



Photos by Kevin McIntosh

You can learn more about the incredible orangutan during the Mother's Day event inside the Zoo.

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 the love for mothers everywhere.

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

SHOW MAMA BEAR SOME LOVE

In addition to a free day at the Zoo on Mother's Day, consider showing Mom you love her by sponsoring resident mama bear Ronnie. This limited-time offer for \$50 includes a plush-toy bear along with a certificate of sponsorship, name recognition inside the Zoo and an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event in August.*

Ronnie came to the Zoo from Yellowstone National Park in 2001. Zookeepers weren't aware of her pregnancy until she gave birth to three boys. All three male bears, Brian, Bozeman and Chinook, still live at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

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

*Animal Safari is a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors. The tours are predetermined and may not be related to the animal you sponsor.



RONNIE

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

JUNE
16

NO LION, DAD'S THE BEST

Father's Day at the Zoo

Presented by Prairie Farms Dairy

To honor all the incredible dads out there, the Milwaukee County Zoo is offering free admission for fathers on Father's Day. It's a chance for families to spend quality time together, exploring the wonders of nature and learning about the fascinating world of animals. So, bring your dad to the Zoo on Father's Day and celebrate his love, strength and the special bond you share.



At the Zoo, we can learn a lot about fatherhood from observing different animal families. Fathers come in feathers, scales and fur. Take Dad to meet them all!

Dads and grandpas get free admission on Father's Day. Parking fees still apply except for Zoo Pass Plus and Platypus Circle members who receive free parking.

Photos by Art Montes



JUNE
11, 18, 25

GOLDEN MOMENTS

Senior Safari

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sponsored by St. Camillus Life Plan Community

It's a special occasion where seniors can relive cherished memories, create new ones and reconnect with the wonders of nature. Senior Safari offers free admission to the Zoo for anyone age 60 and older.* Plus, on each of the three days, there will be special activities and experiences for the guests. You can enjoy the musical entertainment sponsored by Network Health or get active with chair yoga and pickleball sponsored by UnitedHealthcare. Or, enjoy the animal talks and fresh air as you soak in the day.

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



Photo by Garrett Hopkins

VOLUNTEERS & VULTURES



Do you have a favorite blanket? Or, perhaps a favorite pillow? We can all be picky about our own “nests” at times, not unlike the cinereous vulture. This past spring marked nesting season for the Zoo’s vultures, and something Zoo members and guests may not know is that there are two nesting habitats behind the scenes. These secluded habitats are where these large raptors construct their even larger nests, building a new one each year.

In the past, zookeepers would gather and trim sticks for the vultures to use for nest building. However, as mentioned earlier, these birds are selective! The stick collecting became time consuming for zookeepers, so nest stick collection was made into an opportunity for Zoo Pride volunteers.

Sticks found on Zoo grounds are used because they are untreated with chemicals, ensuring safety for

both birds and eggs. When it comes to selecting the right sticks for the vultures, our Zoo Pride volunteers are as picky as these birds of prey. Some even bring trimmers along to prune tiny branches.

The ideal nest stick is a few feet long, not too thin and without smaller branches jutting out. Volunteers venture into the forested areas on Zoo grounds to collect, finding peace and solace in the process. The idea of large vulture eggs and, perhaps, the prospect of a bouncing fledgling on their selected sticks is an exciting thought for volunteers. That is, of course, if the vulture parent deems the sticks suitable!

Did you know:
These enormous vultures’ nests can be wider than 8 feet and deeper than 7 feet!



TAKING IT EASY WITH AZIZI

A word you may not always associate with a silverback gorilla is chill. But that’s exactly how the animal care team at the Milwaukee County Zoo are referring to Azizi the new silverback. After first arriving in January, Azizi made his debut in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building in early March alongside the Zoo’s two female gorillas, Dotty and Nadami. And so far, things have been going great for this new group.

“We just had the typical concerns for any ape introduction,” said Patricia Khan, curator of primates and small mammals. “A lot of consideration from the Western Lowland Gorilla Species Survival Plan® (SSP), Lincoln Park Zoo and Milwaukee County Zoo went into choosing the correct male to fit with our girls and our facilities.”



Western lowland gorillas are native to the Congo Basin of Africa, and the International Union for Conservation of

Nature has them listed as Critically Endangered. While being the most widespread subspecies of gorilla, fewer than 150,000 western lowland gorillas remain in the wild. Thanks to the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ SSP, the Zoo found its perfect match with Azizi.

“Azizi was a great candidate from the start,” Khan said. “His personality is very chill, he was showing a lot of interest in females at Lincoln Park Zoo (LPZ), he is a good genetic match for our girls, he was the right age, and we have a strong relationship with LPZ. This all helped to make the introduction a success.”

Dotty and Nadami have been very welcoming to the 20-year-old silverback since he arrived. Silverbacks provide security, direction and stability for females and, even though it’s his first time with females and leading a family troop, Azizi is quickly settling into his new role. “Azizi is showing very normal behaviors for a good leader,” Khan said. “The girls are relaxed and responding to him appropriately. One of the zookeepers told me, ‘It’s like they have been together for years.’”

JULY
22

PAR-TEE FOR THE ANIMALS

Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

Presented by GRAEF Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon

We love birdies and eagles, and we know that golfers love them too. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee invites you to our golf tournament fundraiser. It is a scramble-format event that includes 18 holes of golf. Guests will get a picnic lunch, refreshments along the course and dinner.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome. To register, go to zoosociety.org/golf.



Photo by Garrett Hopkins

JUNE
30

A ZOO SALUTE

Military & Veterans Family Day

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 June 30. Tickets are required and must be acquired through local County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) and limited to 10 per family.*

During the event, service members can browse the vendors and expo tables inside the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Then, explore the beauty and majesty of the animals at the Zoo.

***Free admission is not available at the Zoo gates. Guests must get their tickets in advance through a CVSO.**



Photos by Kevin McIntosh



Zoo Ball

Presented by Rockwell Automation and the Brewers Community Foundation

AN ELEGANT EXPEDITION

Zoo Ball 2024

JUNE 22

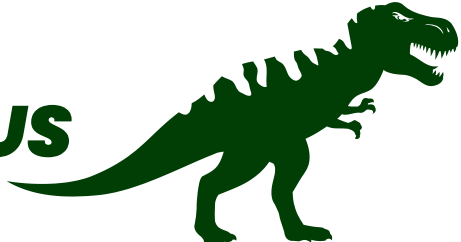
With your finest dress or tuxedo, prepare for an elegant expedition at the Zoo. Zoo Ball is the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's biggest fundraiser of the year. Guests are treated to a cocktail and appetizer experience inside the Zoo followed by a gourmet dinner, dancing and an after-party. Proceeds help the Society to fulfill its mission to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Visit: zoosociety.org/ZooBall for more information and registration details.

The online auction is open to everyone, so if you're unable to attend Zoo Ball, you can still show your support by viewing and bidding on auction items.



DON'T BE A MISS-A-SAURUS



Dinosaur Discovery

Presented by Sendik's Food Market

This summer, unearth a part of history with the Zoo's new dinosaur exhibit. Walk through this exhibit to see more than a dozen life-sized dinosaurs. Learn where they once roamed the earth including in the United States. Each dinosaur is unique and you can dig up some interesting information.

Go eye to eye with the Carnotaurus, a dinosaur more than seven feet tall. Its name means "Meat (-eating)-bull" because of the distinct pair of thick horns over its eyes. Speaking of eyes, this dinosaur had forward-facing eyes, which was not common. See what else you can uncover at this summer's special exhibit.

The exhibit opens May 18 and goes extinct Oct. 5.



Photo provided by Billings Productions

BEYOND NO MOW MAY

No Mow May has become a common phrase around southeastern Wisconsin. By not cutting your grass until later in the summer, you're helping native bees and creating pollinator-friendly habitats in your yard. Bees hibernate in our yards during the winter, making themselves at home under leaf piles, sticks and branches or in holes in the ground. Cutting your grass too early could eliminate these important pollinators.

This year, we hope that you think beyond just not mowing in May. One of the best ways to support pollinators in your backyard is to convert your grass into flowering spaces. Take a big step this year and convert more of your grass (even if it's just in the backyard) into wildflower garden.

If you need help getting started, we have a list of native plants you can bring into your yard. Visit zoosociety.org/NoMowMay.

Make sure to check local ordinances on lawn height and obey your city, village or town laws.



KOHL'S WILD THEATER

Young voices elevate the song! Joining B-Free on the final track are four talented Milwaukee kids, aged 6 to 15.



Making of a Theme Song

It's Wildlife Theater Time!

We are excited to announce there will be a new theme song kicking off Kohl's Wild Theater performances this summer! Get ready to jam at the Zoo with this brand-new tune. Family-friendly shows will happen every Tuesday through Sunday from May 25 to Sept. 2 at the stage in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm.

Using drama, humor, puppetry and song, you will learn about our natural world and what you can do to make a difference for wildlife.

What could be a more fitting song title for conservation-based theater than "We Can Make a Difference"? Beth Heller, the Zoological Society's Vice President of Programs, enthusiastically embraces this new theme song. She highlights that its impact is twofold stating, "A theme song is not just a tune; it strengthens our brand and infuses joy and fun into each performance."

As for the process of finding an artist to make the new theme song, the request for proposals in fall 2023 was competitive. The team sought for the song to be catchy, engage children and preferably be produced by a Milwaukee musician. In the final stages of selection, the spotlight fell on Britney Freeman-Farr (B-Free), a contemporary artist and Milwaukee native. B-Free's vision was clear: the lyrics should

resonate with the show's content and carry a meaningful message that children can easily grasp. In crafting the song, B-Free aimed for a delightful, sing-along vibe for the kids, while adding beats and rap for the teens. The outcome? A delightful blend of afrobeats, melodic piano strings, playful claps and infectious percussion that's sure to charm audiences of all ages. We promise you'll be humming its catchy melody and feeling empathy for the animals portrayed in the show, at the Zoo and beyond!

LISTEN NOW:

Check out "**We Can Make a Difference**" on ZSM's YouTube channel (@ZooSocietyMKE) for the full song credits.





CARVING ART AT THE ARC

The art and beauty of animals are now on full display at the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC). If you appreciate the reptiles and amphibians inside, you'll really enjoy their likenesses outside. Earlier this year an old oak tree outside the building needed to be cut down because of its wellness and because some very large branches were in danger of falling on the building. Matthew Haseman, director of facilities at the Milwaukee County Zoo, reached out to ARC curator, Shawn Miller, and asked if there was something creative that could be done with the trunk left behind. Miller is passionate about both animals and art, so it was a perfect time to get creative. Miller took a few minutes to sketch what he thought could be done and gave it to Haseman to see if it could become a reality. Haseman found a wood carver who was up for the task and he more than delivered.

It took the artist three days with a chainsaw and other tools to create the masterpiece. You'll see a turtle, a snake, fish, a monitor lizard and coral. There are more carvings on the back as well that guests will see at a later date when a stone trail is put in place. While each animal is impressive, Miller is excited about the artist's accuracy on the turtle shell. "Keeping the geometry correct on the turtle is what blows me away," says Miller. Almost every turtle species has 13 scutes on its shell. Scutes are the defined hard plates you see on their shell. "It's five down the center and four on each side. That's the standard across turtles." Guests are already stopping to take photos of the masterpiece that brings art and wildlife together. It's a great chance to appreciate art, animals and the repurposing of items like a tree trunk.



ROAR AND SNOORE

Snooze at the Zoo

*Sponsored by Educators Credit Union
Registration for members: May 13*

The magic of camping meets the wonders of wildlife. Picture this: spending a night surrounded by the sounds of nature, nestled within the heart of the Milwaukee County Zoo grounds. This camping event invites families and friends to pitch their tents for an immersive overnight experience like no other.

All you need is your tent, sleeping bag and pillow; we supply the rest. As the sun sets, the excitement begins. We provide dinner, a movie, s'mores and entertainment. When morning breaks, wake up to the gentle – or not-so-gentle – sounds of the Zoo coming to life. (The peacocks may decide when it's time for you to wake up.) Grab some breakfast, and after you pack up your tent enjoy a day at the Zoo. With memories made and bonds strengthened,



Snooze at the Zoo offers a unique opportunity to connect with nature and create cherished moments with loved ones that will last a lifetime.

Zoo Pass and Platypus Circle members receive priority registration and discounts beginning at 9 a.m. on May 13. You can choose to sleep over on Aug. 8, 9 or 10. This event does sell out, so members make sure to take advantage of your priority registration. Go to zoosociety.org/Snooze for details on prices and registration.



Photos by Garrett Hopkins



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10005 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

QUICK FACT:

Gorillas have unique finger and nose prints.

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Photo by Garrett Hopkins

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Save the date for our second members-only event of the summer on July 9, 10 and 11. Invitations for Kids Nights will come in the mail.

May 12

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

May 13

Member registration for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Educators Credit Union

May 18

Celebrate Diversity! sponsored by Meijer*

May 18-Oct.5

Special summer exhibit, Dinosaur Discovery, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market

May 25-Sept. 2

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 4-6

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

June 11, 18 & 25

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

June 16

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

June 22

Zoo Ball, presented by Rockwell Automation & Brewers Community Foundation (pre-register)

June 30

Military & Veterans Family Day*

July 4

\$4 admission on the Fourth*

July 9, 10 & 11

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

July 22

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

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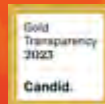
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The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is proud to bear Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.



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