


# Wild Things

## Holiday Gifts!

Get a jump on holiday gift shopping at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) online gift store ([zoosociety.org/shop](http://zoosociety.org/shop)). Zoological Society gifts help animals and are fun to receive.



Madalyn S., 2, of New Berlin, enjoys a bite of kringle at Breakfast and Lunch with Santa.

**1** For anybody who visits the Milwaukee County Zoo multiple times throughout the year, a Zoo Pass is the perfect gift. A Zoo Pass gives a year of FREE admission to the Zoo. Your gift can include parking with the Zoo Pass Plus, and it's tax-deductible. Members get free or discounted admission to more than 150 zoos and aquariums nationwide. Other benefits include discounts on ZSM education classes and camps, gift-shop discounts, priority registration for ZSM events, invitations to members-only events, admission to Zoo events and more. The Zoo Pass holiday package includes: an acknowledgment card, information on membership benefits, four coupons (two for Zoo attractions and two for the Zoo's summer 2015 dinosaur exhibit, which are electronically loaded to the Zoo Pass) and a plush-toy animal. (New gifts only and while supplies last.) To purchase, go to [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org), stop in the ZSM office at the Zoo or call 414-258-2333.



Harbor seal ornament





one year from the date of purchase, such as our March wines and beers event, April Zootastic! family evening, summer Zoo campout, fall family bike ride, or a ZSM education class or summer camp for children ages birth to 14. To order, go to [zoosociety.org/shop](http://zoosociety.org/shop).

**2** Nobody expected the Zoo's adult harbor seals, Sydney and Ringo, to successfully mate. So zookeepers were elated when a pup—later named King Julian—was born last June. This year's holiday ornament features the new harbor seal family. Buy this ornament for your family or as a gift for a friend or loved one. The \$14 handcrafted pewter ornament was designed by Wisconsin artist Andy Schumann, who has made our ornaments for the last 21 years (some years he designed two ornaments). You can also buy individual past ornaments at \$14 each or the entire series of 23 ornaments for \$276 and save \$46.

**3** Purchase a ZSM gift certificate in any amount and the recipient can apply it toward ZSM events for

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### Connect With Us:

-  [facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)
-  [twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE)
-  [youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo](https://www.youtube.com/MilwaukeeCountyZoo)
-  Milwaukee Zoo Pass App

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# Holiday Gifts!

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**4** He's clumsy on land but shoots through water like a torpedo. He's King Julian, the Zoo's newest harbor seal, born June 8, 2014, to first-time parents Sydney and Ringo. Sponsor King Julian as a holiday gift for only \$30 (plus \$5 shipping and handling). The holiday package includes a plush-toy harbor seal, certificate of sponsorship, fact sheet, a one-year subscription to Alive magazine and Wild Things newsletter, invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors in August and more.

**5** If you know a child who loves animals, buy him or her a membership in the Zoological Society's Kids Conservation Club. Kids learn about endangered animals and how to help save them in the wild. Membership is \$20 per child. It includes a certificate of animal sponsorship, a fun fact sheet about the current featured animal, collector's cards with pictures of endangered animals and cool animal facts, hands-on workshops, an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo in August and more.

Remember, all ZSM holiday gifts can be ordered online at [zoosociety.org/shop](http://zoosociety.org/shop) or call 414-258-2333. Happy holidays!

*King Julian*



## Memberanda

**Zoological Society office hours:** Through April 2015: weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
**Holiday Hours:** The Zoological Society offices will be closed on November 27 (Thanksgiving Day), Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The office will remain open until noon on Dec. 24 and 31. Visit us online at [zoopass.com](http://zoopass.com) anytime.

**Zoo hours:** Through Feb. 28, 2015: weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; weekends, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Payment information at Zoo admission gates:** The Milwaukee County Zoo staff does not accept checks for Zoo Pass purchases or renewal payments at the Zoo's admission gates. Please contact our office at 414-258-2333 if you would like to visit the Zoo to pick up or purchase a Zoo Pass or Sponsor an Animal gift package.

For tax-time tips, Zoo Pass benefits and other details, please go to [zoosociety.org/things2know](http://zoosociety.org/things2know).

**Tax-deductible portions for the Zoo Pass categories are:** Individual (Basic: \$60, Plus: \$71); Individual +1 or Couple (Basic: \$70, Plus: \$80); Individual +2, Family or Single Adult Family (Basic: \$75, Plus: \$95); Family +1 (Basic \$94, Plus: \$104); Family +2 (Basic: \$101, Plus: \$113); Family +3 (Basic: \$117, Plus: \$126); Affiliate (Basic: \$154, Plus: \$157); Benefactor (Basic: \$218, Plus: \$220). Or set up a MyAccount and view the tax-deductible portion of all your contributions for the tax year at [zoosociety.org/myaccount](http://zoosociety.org/myaccount).

**Reciprocal zoos and aquariums:** We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our

members with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in January each year. 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](http://zoosociety.org/reciprocal), if you have any questions.

**Moving?** Please call us when you change your address or name. Your call will save us money. If you've changed your address on your identification, replacement cards may be purchased with the new information for \$5.

### WILD THINGS

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



# PRIME WINES & PRIMATES

## Wines and Beers of the World

March 5, 2015, 7-10 p.m.

**Regular tickets\***: \$40 Zoological Society members & guests; \$55 non-members.

**VIP tickets\*\***: \$50 Zoological Society members & guests; \$65 non-members.

Pre-register at [zoosociety.org/wine](http://zoosociety.org/wine) or at 414-258-2333.

Primates. Fermented grapes. Great wines. Great apes. Add good food and tasty beer, then imbibe and say "Cheers!" at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Wines and Beers of the World fundraiser. Held at the Milwaukee County Zoo, this is the only spirits-and-primates event in the area. Sample wines, beers and savory foods while you admire great apes and monkeys in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa and Primates of the World buildings. Afterward, satisfy your sweet tooth with desserts! Register now for this evening event — it sells out quickly! You must be 21 years old to attend.

\*ZSM members' guests must register at same time as members.

\*\*VIP ticket holders get early entry at 6 p.m. and are entered into a drawing to win a behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo. Your fee, less \$25, is tax-deductible and includes a complimentary, etched wine glass (5.6% WI sales tax included). You must pre-register and you should do so early — event usually sells out. Ticket sales are not refundable.



Photo by Richard Taylor



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

*(Top) Tanya Komor, Daniel Cybela and Cybela's mom, Annalisa Rapee enjoy wine and food at last year's event.*

*(Bottom) Jon Gabe displays a platter of Usinger's Famous Sausage slices at a previous event.*

## ANIMAL ORNAMENTS FOR FESTIVE TREES



*Ella M., 2, of Hartford, gets a lift from mom Cori as they admire handmade holiday ornaments.*

Bonobos, monkeys and birds hang out in trees with elephants, horses and armadillos. What?! That's impossible in the wild. But not when the animals are ornaments made by Milwaukee-area youth participating in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Trim-a-Tree project. From Dec. 5, 2014, through Jan. 1, 2015, you can check out the Fantastic Forest, sponsored by Hawks Landscape, in the Milwaukee County Zoo's entrance atrium. See what the kids have come up with. Visit the zookeeper-hosted Giving Tree, adorned with ornaments of "toys" Zoo animals need. To donate to the Giving Tree, call 414-256-5466. All trees are donated by Hawks Landscape.

# Developing a Play From Start to Finish



Actor Susie Duecker poses with Bobo the bonobo, a hand puppet used in the play "Bullies and Bonobos." Puppet designers have made at least 16 puppets for KWT shows.

Actors Sherrick Robinson and Megan Kaminsky stand on a makeshift stage. Each holds a script, glancing at it as they read their lines. "Hold please!" calls Dave McLellan, the Kohl's Wild Theater (KWT) program coordinator. There was a technical glitch. McLellan confers with stage designer and engineer Chris Guse, developer of the technology for the play in question — "The Congo Code," KWT's most ambitious and technically complex play to date. "Glitches are to be expected during a theater workshop," says McLellan. "That's what work-shopping is for — smoothing out rough edges."

It takes a lot of creative energy to develop KWT plays, which are made possible thanks to a partnership between Kohl's Cares and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The largest zoo-theater program in the country, KWT promotes critical conservation messages through performances at the Zoo and in the community. "Depending on its length and complexity, a play can take a year to develop," says McLellan. There are three main parts that go into making a play.

## Concepting

The first step is identifying topics that promote the Zoo and Zoological Society's wildlife conservation message. One way is by talking to curators and keepers at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "They identify animals at the Zoo that face conservation challenges in the wild," says McLellan. "'Lights, Camera, Arctic,' for example, highlights conservation issues facing polar bears, an animal you can find at the Zoo." Teachers also suggest topics. "We seek ideas that are of value to the educators we serve," says James Mills, director of conservation education. "For example, we received requests to address bullying, so we developed the play 'Bullies and Bonobos' to address human social dynamics and also highlight this little-known great ape."

## Playwriting

Once a topic is chosen, McLellan and Mills conduct research to determine if it can be conveyed theatrically. Then McLellan contracts with a playwright. "I seek them locally and nationally," he says. A playwright first submits storyline concepts for review by McLellan and Mills. As playwrights develop draft scripts, McLellan reviews them from a performance standpoint and Mills focuses on educational content and scientific accuracy. As the scripting process proceeds, McLellan begins



Actor Samantha Sostarich and Dave McLellan go over last-minute details before the premiere of a KWT play at the Zoo.





*Orrie the orangutan takes the driver's seat in the Kohl's Wild Theater van used to transport actors and sets.*

to work with set, costume, puppet and sound designers. "Once we know where the story is going, we can determine how different technical elements can enhance the story and conservation message," he says. Because KWT shows are performed at various venues, each with different space constraints, "everybody has to think creatively so the plays can be performed at the Zoo and on the road," adds McLellan.

### **Production**

Finally, it's time to start rehearsals. "At this point in the game, we're putting all the final pieces together," says McLellan. New actors are brought up to speed. Kohl's Wild Theater actors also help repaint old sets, sew costumes, fix hinges on set pieces, etc. "KWT isn't a large theater group, so everybody pitches in," says McLellan. After just a few weeks of rehearsals, more script tweaks, dance choreography and more, a KWT show is ready to debut.

Actor Megan Kaminsky has been acting with KWT since its inception in May 2011. She wears many hats: show captain, choreographer and director. For her, connecting with children makes the hard work worthwhile. "When I'm on stage looking at so many smiling faces enjoying our performances, I know we've done a great job," she says. "It feels wonderful knowing we've entertained and educated children."



*Actor Megan Kaminsky stars as Kiddo the researcher in "A Climb Through Time with Clues and Rhyme," a previous KWT Outreach show.*

## ***Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to You***

Kohl's Wild Theater will travel to festivals, schools and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo, free of charge. Performances are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Julie B. at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, 414-258-2333, or [KWT@zoosociety.org](mailto:KWT@zoosociety.org) for available dates. For more information, go to [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org).



# Gettin' Ritzy and Glitzy

## Puttin' on the Ritz

Sponsored by Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek  
Boxing sponsored by Legends of the Field;  
boxing ring sponsored by Bridgewood Advisors

**Feb. 5, 2015, 6 p.m. cocktails; 7 p.m. dinner.**

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, 1721 W. Canal St.

Cost: \$200\* per person or \$2,000 for a corporate table sponsorship or \$3,000 for a corporate ringside table sponsorship (includes 5.6% WI sales tax).

To register: [zoosociety.org/ritz](http://zoosociety.org/ritz).

It's time to put on your finest and head out to Potawatomi Hotel & Casino for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's 20<sup>th</sup> annual Puttin' on the Ritz fundraiser. Get ready for a night of gourmet food, premium cigars, drinks, a live voice auction and amateur boxing arranged by the Future Olympian Boxing Association. Last year's event raised \$152,156 for the Zoological Society and its support of the Milwaukee County Zoo.

For an invitation, call Special Events at 414-258-2333 or email [specialevents@zoosociety.org](mailto:specialevents@zoosociety.org).

\*Of the \$200 per-person cost, \$80 is tax-deductible.



Robert Jansen (left), of Bridgewood Advisors, poses with boxer Carlos P. at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Taylor

# Kringle with Kris Kringle

## Breakfast or Lunch With Santa

Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles

**Dec. 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21.**

Cost: \$15 age 3 to adult; \$6 for children 2 and under; parking is \$12.

Online registration begins Nov. 3; guests must pre-register. See [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) or call 414-256-5466 for registration form. Must register by Nov. 19.

Remember sitting on Santa's lap when you were a child? Give your precious little ones the same experience at the Milwaukee County Zoo in December. They can meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves, and enjoy a hearty meal with delicious kringle in the Peck Welcome Center. There will be live entertainment, and each child receives a gift. After the meal, visit the Zoo's winter-loving animals, like polar bear Snow Lilly, reindeer and elk. Breakfast is served at 9 a.m. on Saturdays only; lunch is at noon on Saturdays and Sundays. The \$12 Milwaukee County parking fee is extra. Zoo Pass memberships are not valid for the cost of the event, but Zoo Pass Plus holders get free parking. This event sells out quickly!



Elizabeth G., 2, of Wauwatosa, shares her holiday wish list with Santa Claus at last year's event.

# Sweat for the Animals

## Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m.; event check in at 5 p.m.

Cost: \$15; open to ages 14 and up. No experience and no dance training necessary. All fitness levels welcome. Event takes place in the Peck Welcome Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Your program fee, less \$3, is tax-deductible.

Pre-register at [zoosociety.org/zumba](http://zoosociety.org/zumba), or call 414-258-2333.

Combine two healthy activities — dance and exercise — and raise money for the Milwaukee County Zoo's animals at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Zumba®-themed fundraiser. Led by Zumba Jammer™ Rachel Beimel and other licensed Zumba® instructors, this fun-and-fitness event takes place at the Peck Welcome Center. It focuses on cardiovascular strength through easy-to-follow choreography set to upbeat world rhythms. Money raised benefits the ZSM's Sponsor an Animal program. This event sold out last year, so register now.



Photo by Richard Taylor

Zumba Jammer™ Rachel Beimel (left) and licensed Zumba® instructor Aida Grulkowski get the crowd sweating.

# SPRINT, RUN, SCAMPER

## Samson Stomp & Romp

Sponsored by Amica Insurance

Jan. 18; first race starts at 9:30 a.m.

For more information: 414-256-5466. To register: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org).

Sprint like a cheetah, run for miles like a horse or scamper like a dwarf mongoose. Whatever pace or distance you prefer, be sure to do it at the 35<sup>th</sup> annual race honoring Samson, the Milwaukee County Zoo's most famous great ape. The race, which takes place throughout the Zoo grounds, offers four routes for runners of all speeds: a 5K competitive run, 2-mile fun run and quarter-of-a-mile or 1-mile romp for children. Individuals can pre-register for \$20. The children's romp is \$10 per child. Team registration is \$15 per person. Day-of registration is \$25 per runner. Registration fee includes a long-sleeve T-shirt, Zoo admission and parking. Zoological Society memberships and gift certificates cannot be used for this Zoo fundraising event.

**NEW THIS YEAR!** To celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this popular event, we're offering special prizes for each race. To learn more and to register, go to [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. Funds raised help support all animals at the Zoo.

*Rebecca O'Grosky, of Milwaukee, leans into a stretch as she gets ready to run in the 2014 race.*

Photo by Richard Taylor





# Fun, Hands-on Zoo Classes

All classes are run by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM).

## The Gift of Fun Learning

Video games and toys are popular gifts for children on special occasions. This year, give kids a different type of fun gift: Zoo classes. MaryLynn Conter Strack, education enrichment coordinator for the ZSM, gives her nephews and nieces Zoo classes as gifts. "It's great to give them something fun and educational," she says. "Zoo classes are something to look forward to after a birthday or holiday is over." To give a Zoo class as a gift, go to [zoosociety.org/shop](http://zoosociety.org/shop) to purchase a gift certificate.

*"Our 3-year-old LOVES learning about animals. It's so cool to learn about an animal and then get to see it up close at the Zoo."*

**Kelly & Brian J.  
Milwaukee, Wis.**

Zoo classes are available for children ages birth to 14. Different topics are available each month. In December, 3-year-olds learn about penguins. Children wear penguin costumes and try to balance an egg on their feet like a penguin parent. Adults can attend classes for children ages 2 to 5. Multiple adults can attend family classes for children ages 4 to 14. December's family class is "Family Explorers: Egypt." Decode hieroglyphs in a classroom pyramid, learn about the animals of Egypt and carve hieroglyphs on sand board.

## Spring Zoo Classes

It's time to register for spring Zoo classes! From bugs for 2-year-olds to learning about the job of a wildlife biologist for kids ages 6 to 10, there's a Zoo class for every child. Registration for February-May 2015 Zoo classes begins Nov. 6, 2014. To register: [zoosociety.org/spring](http://zoosociety.org/spring).

## "Zoo to You" School Programs

Teachers, bring the Zoo to you! Education programs are available at the Zoo or as outreach to schools. Register now for spring 2015 programs. To register: [zoosociety.org/school](http://zoosociety.org/school).

## Summer Internship Opportunities

Do you know a college student who loves working with children? We're accepting resumes for education interns for our 2015 summer camps. Interns assist instructors in the classroom, lead Zoo tours and supervise high school volunteers. For requirements, go to [zoosociety.org/intern](http://zoosociety.org/intern).

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



(Left) Lori H., of Franklin, and her son Tommy, 3, spot a funny-looking "penguin" in the mirror.  
(Right) Sonja C., of Hustisford, reads to her son Kele, 4, at a Zoo class on penguins.



# Volunteering

## Volunteer of the Year Awardees

About four years ago Zoo Pride volunteer Mary Jo Crawford returned from an Association of Zoos and Aquariums Docents and Volunteers (AZADV) conference in Memphis, Tenn. The conference, held every year, brings together zoo volunteers from all over the country to share ideas. Crawford was so inspired by the experience that she resolved to have Milwaukee host the 2014 conference. She approached Zoo Pride Volunteer Coordinator Lynn Wilding with her idea, and Wilding readily agreed. Then it dawned on Crawford that she was in for a huge undertaking. She'd need somebody to co-chair the conference. Luckily, she knew just who to turn to: fellow Zoo Pride volunteer Kaye Lynne Carpenter.

The two turned their dream into a reality when Milwaukee hosted the week-long conference in October. The event drew 400 volunteers and docents from all over the country, as well as Canada and

Australia. Their incredibly hard work didn't go unnoticed. "Mary Jo and Kaye Lynne have dedicated 1,040 hours to make this event a success," says Dr. Robert Davis, president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. "The conference serves as a feather in the Zoological Society's cap." For this reason, they were honored with the *Leontideus rosalia* Volunteer of the Year Award. The two will receive the prestigious award on Friday, Nov. 7, during the Zoo Pride Recognition Banquet. Zoo Pride is the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

It's not surprising that Crawford and Carpenter both received the award — they work together like a well-oiled machine. "We've volunteered together at least since 1987 when I joined Zoo Pride," says Crawford (Carpenter joined in 1986). "We really complement each other very well." Carpenter agrees. "We seem to be joined at the hip." They've literally spent thousands of hours together in Zoo Pride. Crawford has volunteered 10,128 hours and Carpenter 12,347. Crawford is the chair of VIP Guides, which gives people behind-the-scenes tours of the Zoo, and has served on almost all other Zoo Pride committees. Carpenter chairs Animal Watch, for which Zoo Pride volunteers stand near exhibits and take observational notes on animals. Both have worked on each other's committees for years.

Organizing the AZADV conference was the largest Zoo Pride project by far. The massive conference consisted of 13 field trips, from a visit to the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo and an Upper Dells Boat Trip to a Milwaukee Beer Barons City Tour and Miller Brewery Trip. Guests could also listen to 59 speakers and paper presentations pertaining to issues from zoo theater to orangutans that use iPads and much more. "We had about 15 committees we had to coordinate," says Carpenter. "There are more pieces that have to be put together than people realize, such as organizing the hotel contracts, the field trips, transportation, getting vendors and more." Crawford says the conference couldn't have been a success without the help of the Zoological Society as a whole. "Lynn Wilding was a godsend," she says. "She kept all the details in line and always knew what should be the next steps. We also have to thank the Creative Department and the ZSM's IT team — Dominic Schanen and Christine Tousignant — as well as others who helped us get donors. It was a real joint venture."

## Walk on the Wild Side

Tour the Zoo with a Zoo Pride volunteer. Walks of 1½-2 hours focus on outside exhibits and feature animal facts and conservation efforts. These tours take place throughout the year except on days with large events or on holidays.

For more information, go to [zoosociety.org/zooprider](http://zoosociety.org/zooprider) or call 414-258-5667.



*Kaye Lynne Carpenter (left) and Mary Jo Crawford hold their award.*

Photo by Bob Wickland

# Insider Tips

## Snow Leopards Overcome the Odds

In spring, Jessica Munson — the Milwaukee County Zoo’s big cat supervisor — noticed something odd about Tomiris, the Zoo’s 14-year-old snow leopard. “She looked like she was getting fat,” says Munson. But how could Tomiris, who is kept on a carefully calibrated diet, gain weight? Munson wondered if she was pregnant, but that seemed unlikely. “Tomiris never had cubs, and no captive snow leopard ever had its first litter at her age,” says Munson. “Plus, we never saw Tomiris mate this year.” An ultrasound in late May, however, confirmed Tomiris’ pregnancy. A cub was born on June 1. Shortly thereafter, the cub was named Sossy by David and Madeleine Lubar, of Fox Point, who won the naming privilege at a Zoological Society auction.

Excitement over Sossy’s unlikely birth was soon dampened when it became apparent he had a problem. “Sossy was born with his legs splayed in a condition known as ‘swimmer puppy syndrome,’” says Munson. “He could only drag his back half behind him.” But zookeepers weren’t going to give up on Sossy. The solution: physical therapy. The goal: have him running, jumping and climbing with little difficulty. Keepers had Sossy walk between two wooden boards to guide his legs into the correct position. They also massaged his legs and encouraged him to play on balance toys, such as a plastic rocking horse, to improve his strength. Keepers borrowed techniques that were used on a snow leopard with the same condition at Utah’s Hogle Zoo. They also used dog physical therapy techniques because “snow leopard therapists don’t exist,” says keeper Amanda Ista. “So you take what’s closest.”

Sossy seemed to enjoy his therapy. By three weeks he willingly crawled into his crate at the beginning and end of sessions. His keepers say he’s sweet and spunky with a bit of a temper, expressing annoyance with hisses and growls. Sossy’s boldness, coupled with good care from his first-time mom, paid off: He can now navigate the outdoor exhibit. Unfortunately, Sossy’s success occurred around the time his father died in September. Although saddened by Genghis’ death, zookeepers are heartened that his genes will live on in Sossy.



*Sossy walks between two wooden boards designed to guide his legs into the correct position as zookeeper Craig Pavlik looks on.*

*By Stacy Vogel Davis*

## Assuring a Fish Future

Longear sunfish aren’t the type of fish people pose with for a photo before releasing. They’re small and inconspicuous, but that doesn’t mean they’re not important. Unfortunately, their preferred habitat — clear, reasonably warm streams and rivers with moderate amounts of vegetation — has dwindled due to human-built dams and runoff pollution from agriculture. Since 1979, longears have been endangered in Wisconsin. Their precarious status is of great concern for many, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and



*A captured longear sunfish in an aquarium at the Zoo awaiting release into the aviary pond.*

Craig Berg, curator of reptiles and aquarium at the Milwaukee County Zoo. “Every species plays a special role in the ecosystem; biodiversity is important,” says Berg. “Every species that goes extinct is one more species our descendants will never get to experience.”

A relatively large population of longears is found in a section of the Mukwonago River about a 45-minute drive from the Zoo. Berg and the DNR are concerned this fragile population could be wiped out by disease or contamination of the river should a train in the vicinity derail. To protect the future of the species, Berg and the DNR created an assurance population of longears in the ponds in front of the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary at the Zoo. In September, about 45 longears were caught in the Mukwonago River and later released into the ponds. Berg hopes the longears will create a breeding population to help ensure the viability of this colorful fish.

*By Zak Mazur*



## Spreading Valuable Genes

The vast majority of genetic diversity in tree kangaroos is found in one small place in the world: the remote Huon peninsula of Papua New Guinea. But thanks to Kiama, a 16-year-old tree kangaroo from the Milwaukee County Zoo, this species' valuable genes are spread far and wide. "Kiama has had six joeys," says Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor of North America and Australia. "We think this is the most of any captive tree kangaroo. Over the years, her offspring have been sent to zoos across the United States." Kiama's latest joey, a female, is estimated to have been born on Dec. 5, 2013. It's difficult to determine a tree kangaroo's exact birth date because of the unique way marsupials give birth. A joey is about the size of a grape when it's born and then makes a perilous climb to its mother's pouch. Gestation lasts 42 to 46 days, so the only way to confirm a birth is by checking the mother's pouch 50 days after she was seen mating. Kiama's newest joey was confirmed during a pouch check on Dec. 11, 2013.



Inset photo by Dawn Fleuchaus

*Kiama. (Inset) One of Kiama's previous joeys in her pouch.*

Kiama's breeding success is due in large part to the fact that she's a great mother. "She's confident and relaxed, which reduces stress on the joey," says Fleuchaus. "She's very attentive, cleaning and nuzzling it in the pouch." You can see Kiama and her newest joey in the Australia Building.

*By Zak Mazur*

## Hungry, High-Strung Hogs

The two brothers amble about their exhibit, snouts on the ground, tails wagging. They seem oblivious to the world around them, but don't let their nonchalance fool you. The brothers — Radish and Mango — are red river hogs, and hogs by nature are high-strung. "They're always paying attention to their environment," says Tim Wild, curator of large mammals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. They have to be. In their natural habitat — the rainforests, wet savannas and waterways of Western and Central Africa — they're hunted by leopards, lions, spotted hyenas, pythons and humans.

Of course, at the Zoo they don't have to worry about such dangers. The 7-year-old brothers arrived on May 8, 2014, from the Charles Paddock Zoo in Atascadero, Calif. Their exhibit, refurbished thanks to generous support from Jane and Quinn Martin, is located next to the elephants, which is one reason Wild acquired this species. "We needed to stay within the African theme," he says. "Plus, the Zoo never had red river hogs before, and they're colorful and active." Red river hogs are named for their reddish-brown fur and because they're often seen swimming across rivers. Their swimming ability (they can even swim underwater) is one way they avoid predators. Other defensive adaptations are their hearing, vision and speed. Some of these adaptations serve another purpose: They help the hogs locate food. Red river hogs use their disk-like snout to plow up vegetation and identify edible material by touch and smell. Although Radish and Mango are fed a hearty diet of hay and root vegetables, they supplement their diet with anything they can find in their exhibit. As a result, the grass that was planted before their arrival is almost all overturned. "I didn't expect the grass to last for long," says Wild. "But that's what they do — root around looking for grubs and bugs." You can visit Radish and Mango in spring when the weather warms up.

*By Zak Mazur*

*Radish looks for snacks in his exhibit.*



# Helping Hands

Want to give us a helping hand? Whether you're excited about our events, education programs or conservation efforts, you can help! Details on the Web: [zoosociety.org/support](http://zoosociety.org/support).



Photo by Richard Taylor

Isaac T., 12, and sister Kylee, 4, of Milwaukee, check out sting rays.

## Goodbye, Summer Rays

They came with curious names such as cownose sting ray, bonnethead shark and horseshoe crab. Zoogers got to see up close why these animals acquired such descriptive names at the Zoo's special summer exhibit, Sting Ray & Shark Bay, sponsored by **Sendik's Food Markets**. From May 24 to Sept. 1, about 183,648 visitors got to watch the animals swim gracefully around a 14,000-gallon pool and touch their slippery skin. Some helped coax the rays and sharks to the surface by hand feeding them. Make sure to visit the Zoo next summer to catch the return of the popular dinosaur special exhibit.

## Those Summer Nights

Summer days drifted into music-filled summer nights at the Milwaukee County Zoo during Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by **Tri City National Bank**. On Wednesday evenings from June 25 to July 30, Zoo guests dined, watched animals and listened to the tunes of local musicians such as Pat McCurdy and the 5 Card Studs. Tri City National Bank customers hitched a free ride on the Penzeys Spices Carousel, and all visitors paid reduced admission. More than 11,400 attendees took advantage of the after-hours fun.

Pat McCurdy, of Milwaukee, sang on the Flamingo Patio Stage on July 2.



## Go to the Greens

Blue skies and mild temperatures made for a great day on the links at this year's **Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament** on July 28, sponsored by **Fiduciary Management, Inc.** In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, this annual fundraiser drew 149 golfers and raised \$115,337 for the nonprofit Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The event included 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner and an auction.

Members of **Fiduciary Management, Inc.**'s team, from left: Mike D'Amelio, of Purcellville, Va.; Joe Still, of Brookfield; Bladen Burns, of Wauwatosa; and Dan Schenck, of Milwaukee.



## Dreaming of Animals

As the sun set over Lake Evinrude and eyes closed, children and adults drifted to sleep. Perhaps some dreamed of animals? What's certain is everybody awoke to animals. That's because they were camping at the Milwaukee County Zoo for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) annual Snooze at the Zoo fundraiser, sponsored by **Old Orchard Brands & Sentry Foods**. Held from Aug. 6 to 9, each night's campout included a picnic dinner, a movie on the Ralph Evinrude Landing, a campfire and s'mores sponsored by **The Sleep Wellness Institute**. The next morning campers enjoyed a continental breakfast and a day at the Zoo. The popular campout attracted 410 families (1,574 people) and raised \$62,701 for the nonprofit ZSM.

*Randy L., of Wauwatosa, and son Jameson, 6, put up their tent along the shore of Lake Evinrude.*



## Insider Peek Perk

People who sponsor animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo enjoyed a special perk Aug. 23 when they could go behind the scenes during the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Animal Safari event, sponsored by **Welch's** and **Pick 'n Save**. Animal sponsors could visit the hippo barn, flamingo quarters, camel barn, elk barn and more. Zoogoers who were not animal sponsors could still hear "in front of the scenes" talks and check out displays of animal artifacts and food and enrichment items. About 8,050 people attended the event and 31 people became new animal sponsors.



*Zoo Pride volunteer Margie Puls, of Wauwatosa, shows Nolan L., 6, of Denmark, Wis., an elephant molar.*

Photo by Mary Macchare

## Critters + Cuisine = Good Time

Usually the animals are the biggest draw at the Milwaukee County Zoo. But from Aug. 14-17 they had to compete with mouth-watering food from nearly 30 of Milwaukee's best restaurants, as well as live entertainment. The result was a top-notch experience in dining and music at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte**. Nearly 75,000 people grazed on everything from jambalaya and egg rolls to cheesecake and cheese curds while listening to



*Theresa Ignaczak (left), Jim Bullis and Dana Dominguez, all of Milwaukee, share nachos.*

live music at stages around the grounds, including the Lakeview Stage sponsored by **Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.**® Headliners included WAR and Sam Llanas, formerly of BoDeans. Kids got creative at the Kohl's Color Wheels mobile art experience, while adults could relax with a glass of wine at the Giraffe Village Wine Tent.

Photo by Richard Taylor

# Helping Hands *(continued from page 13)*

## Down on the Farm

From ice cream-making to tractor pulls, Milwaukee's urbanites made way for rural sensibilities at the Zoo's Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. Nearly 16,000 children and adults joined in the fun Sept. 6 and 7 at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm, with activities including a farmers market, milk-chugging contest, craft fair and chats with University of Wisconsin Extension master gardeners. Children ages 10 and under weighing less than 70 pounds competed in the Pedal Tractor-Pull Contest, sponsored by CNH Industrial. The Bluegrass All Stars added a down-home feel to the weekend.

*Erica T., of Pewaukee, and her daughter Madelyn, 3, checked out tomatoes at the farmers market.*



## Wild Ride

Families, teams and individuals came to the Milwaukee County Zoo for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride. The Sept. 14 fundraiser was sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan — Midwest Spine & Orthopedic Hospital/Wisconsin Heart Hospital and St. Joseph campuses and had promotional support from FM 106.1, News Talk 1130, The Big 920, Oldies 95.7 and 97-3 RadioNOW. The event is the only time people can ride bikes in the Zoo. The ride drew 823 riders and raised more than \$31,400 for the ZSM. In addition to the 17- and 27-mile rides — which both start and finish at the Zoo — there was a new 10-mile ride. Children were encouraged to bring along their favorite plush-toy animal for the 2.5-mile-long Critter Caravan through the Zoo. Kids enjoyed post-ride snacks, made crafts and could get temporary tattoos in the Kids 'n Critters Corral, sponsored by Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C. Contributing sponsors included Be Spectacled; Burke Periodontics & Implant Dentistry; Edge Advisors, LLC; Lake Country Health Center; Litho-Craft Co., R&R Insurance Services, Inc.; Southport Engineered Systems; Stephanie Murphy, DDS; the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee; and Wheel & Sprocket.



*Max C., 3, of Waukesha, gets ready to ride his bike.*

## Seniors Celebrate at the Zoo

Seniors had seniority at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Aug. 29 during Senior Celebration, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health. More than 8,700 guests 55 and older got free entry to the Zoo (parking not included) to participate in activities such as bingo and a mile walk in the Wisconsin Senior Olympics. Guests listened and danced to live music on the Flamingo Patio and Zoo Terrace stages, sponsored by San Camillo. The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee sponsored a tennis-like game called pickleball, and seniors enjoyed complimentary cookies from Aldi.

*Gerry and Hugh Saver, of Whitefish Bay, dance at the Flamingo Patio stage.*





# Many Ways to Support the Zoological Society



## End of Year Giving

Please consider supporting one of the finest jewels in Wisconsin — the Milwaukee County Zoo — by making a year-end donation to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). Without support from donors like you, the ZSM could not fulfill its mission to promote conservation, educate the public about animals and their natural habitats, and support the fantastic exhibits and animals of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Is there a specific program or exhibit you have a passion for and would like to support? If so, please contact the Development Office at 414-258-2333, ext. 301.

## Platypus Circle Memberships Make Extraordinary Gifts

Do you need a special gift for the person who has everything? Or maybe you need an ideal gift for the Zoo lover in your life? We have just the answer! Our transferrable Platypus Circle memberships are so treasured by friends and family that they ask for them again and again. Platypus Circle membership offers supporters benefits such as behind-the-scenes tours and invitations to special events. Platypus cards can be shared with friends, employees and business contacts. Corporate memberships are also available. To learn more, go to [BeAPlaty.org](http://BeAPlaty.org) or contact Kim Peterson at [kimp@zoosociety.org](mailto:kimp@zoosociety.org) or 414-258-2333, ext. 310.



## Planned Giving Embraces the Zoo for Generations to Come

Through a planned gift, you can create a legacy of giving that will help sustain the Zoo's future for your family and the community for generations to come. Giving options come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes for many income levels. To learn more, visit our planned giving website at [zoosociety.org/simba](http://zoosociety.org/simba) or contact Kim Peterson at [kimp@zoosociety.org](mailto:kimp@zoosociety.org) or 414-258-2333, ext. 310.



*(Top) Themba, the Milwaukee County Zoo's adult male lion.  
(Bottom) Lion cubs at the Milwaukee County Zoo.*



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**Page 3.**

Photo by Richard Taylor

## What's Happening

Details Inside

### Nov. 1

Zoo winter hours begin: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on weekends.

### Nov. 1

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\*

### Nov. 6

Online registration for spring classes: [zoosociety.org/spring](http://zoosociety.org/spring).

### Nov. 15

ZSM members' holiday shopping trip to Chicago (pre-register).

### Dec. 5-Jan. 1, 2015

The Zoological Society's Fantastic Forest, sponsored by Hawks Landscape.

### Dec. 6

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\*

### Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21

Breakfast & Lunch with Santa, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringsles (pre-register).

### Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Zoo open 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.\*  
ZSM office open 9 a.m.-noon.

### Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Zoo open 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Admission free to Milwaukee County residents with ID.\*  
ZSM office closed.

### Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Zoo open 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.\*  
ZSM office open 9 a.m.-noon.

### Jan. 1, 2015, New Year's Day

Zoo open 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Admission free to Milwaukee County residents with ID.\*  
ZSM office closed.

### Jan. 3

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\*

### Jan. 18

Samson Stomp & Romp, sponsored by Amica Insurance (pre-register).

### Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo.\*

### Feb. 4

Online registration starts for ZSM summer camps (see the Summer Camps brochure with your 2015 January-March Wild Things).

### Feb. 5

Puttin' on the Ritz dinner and boxing fundraiser, sponsored by Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C. at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino (pre-register).

### Feb. 7

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\*

### Feb. 28

Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo (pre-register).<sup>+</sup>

### March 1

Zoo spring hours begin, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

### March 5

The ZSM's Wines and Beers of the World (pre-register).<sup>+</sup>

### March 7

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by North Shore Bank, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.\*

### March 14 & 15

Behind the Scenes Weekend.\*\*

### March 21

ZSM members' field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago (pre-register).<sup>+</sup>

### March 28 & 29

Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringsles (pre-register).<sup>+</sup>

\*Zoological Society members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking.

<sup>+</sup>More details in the January-March issue of Wild Things.

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