

Wild Things

A Meal and Memories

Breakfast and Lunch with Santa

Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles

Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20.

Cost: \$20 age 3 to adult; \$6 for children 2 and under; parking is \$12.

Online registration begins Nov. 2; guests must pre-register. See milwaukeezoo.org

or call 414-771-3040 for more information. Must register by Nov. 18.

Santa Claus can be an elusive figure. He comes to homes late at night and leaves gifts, but he's never caught in the act. Santa does, however, make public appearances, like at the Milwaukee County Zoo in December when kids can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy a festive meal with delicious kringle. The event takes place in the Peck Welcome Center and includes live entertainment and a gift for each child. After the meal, go outside to see the Zoo's winter-loving animals. 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!***



Julian D., 4, of Sussex, eats kringle at last year's event.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Holiday Gifts!

Here are five great gift ideas for the holiday season available at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's online gift store (zoosociety.org/Shop).

Zoological Society gifts help animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo and are fun to receive.

1 For anybody who visits the Milwaukee County Zoo more than once in a year, a Zoo Pass is the perfect gift. It gives a year of FREE admission to the Zoo. Your gift can include parking with the Zoo Pass Plus, and it's fully tax-deductible. Members get free or discounted admission to more than 150 zoos and aquariums nationwide. Other benefits include discounts and priority registration for Zoological Society education classes and camps, and a 10 percent discount off purchases at the Zoo's gift shops. You'll also get priority registration for Zoological Society events, invitations to members-only events, free 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 2016 exhibit of giant animatronic bugs, which are electronically loaded to the Zoo Pass) and a plush-toy animal. Offer applies to new gifts only and while supplies last. To purchase, go to zoosociety.org, stop in the Zoological Society office at the Zoo or call 414-258-2333.

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Bedazzled by Colorful Animals



Antoinette S., of Milwaukee, points out an animal ornament to her granddaughter, Aubriella, 4, of Lake Geneva, Wis. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Many animals sport dazzling colors and patterns — think cheetahs, red pandas, poison frogs and peacocks. You'll get to see handmade ornaments of these animals — and many more — hanging from 63 evergreen trees at the Milwaukee County Zoo in December. The ornaments are created by Milwaukee-area youth groups who participate in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Trim-a-Tree project. From Dec. 4 through Dec. 31, 2015, you can visit the Fantastic Forest in the Zoo's U.S. Bank Gathering Place. Enjoy the vibrantly colored animal ornaments festooning the trees and admire the imagination of the child artists. Visit the zookeeper-hosted Giving Tree, adorned with ornaments of "toys" Zoo animals need. To donate to the Giving Tree, call 414-256-5466. The Fantastic Forest is sponsored by Hawks Landscape, which is donating the trees.



Memberanda

Zoological Society office hours: Through April 2016: weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Holiday Hours: The Zoological Society offices will be closed on Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day) and Dec. 25. The office will remain open until 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 24 and until 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Zoo hours: Through Feb. 29, 2016: weekdays, 9:30-2:30 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/Membership/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 and 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.

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/Membership/Reciprocal, if you have any questions.

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.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 121, November-December 2015

Wild Things is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee six times a year: in January-March, April-May, June, July-August, September-October, November-December.

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Web: zoosociety.org

Great Apes, Great Wines, Great Times

Wines and Beers of the World

March 3, 2016, 7-10 p.m.

Regular tickets*: \$50 Zoo Pass members & guests; \$60 non-members; \$20 designated drivers.

VIP tickets**: \$60 Zoo Pass members & guests; \$70 non-members; \$30 designated drivers.

Pre-register at zoosociety.org/Wine or at 414-258-2333.

What do human beings and certain other creatures have in common regarding alcohol? They enjoy it! Bumblebees, birds, primates and even wild elephants sometimes imbibe the fermented juices of fallen fruits, sap and nectar. Join the *Homo sapiens* branch of the animal kingdom in a celebration of libations from around the world at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's popular spirits-and-primates fundraiser. This is the only event where people can sample wine, beer and appetizers in close proximity to the Milwaukee County Zoo's primates 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.

*Zoo Pass 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 percent WI sales tax included). The VIP designated driver ticket has a tax-deductible value of \$25, and the regular designated driver ticket has a tax-deductible value of \$20. You must pre-register and you should do so early — event usually sells out. All ticket sales are final and are not refundable.



Kim and Ryan Knipple, of Waukesha, sample wines at a previous event. Photo by Richard Taylor

Holiday Gifts!

Continued from page 1



Visit zoosociety.org/Shop for holiday gifts!

2 Make the holidays happy by sponsoring Happy, the Zoo's male hippo. When you sponsor Happy you'll receive an 8-inch plush-toy hippo, a certificate of sponsorship, a hippo fact sheet, an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event at the Zoo, a one-year subscription to *Alive* magazine and *Wild Things* newsletter, sponsor recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for one year and more. Send your holiday gift anywhere in the United States for only \$35 (plus \$5 for shipping and handling per package). We must receive your form by Dec. 16, 2015, to guarantee delivery for the Christmas holiday.

3 It had been 23 years since a gorilla was born at the Milwaukee County Zoo. On Nov. 25, 2014, that changed with the birth of Sulaiman to first-time mom Shalia. In honor of Sulaiman — whose name means "peace" in Swahili — this year's holiday ornament is Shalia and Sulaiman. This ornament is handcrafted from pewter and designed by Wisconsin artist Andy Schumann. To guarantee delivery for your holiday gift-giving, place your order with your payment by Dec. 16, 2015. Each ornament costs \$14, which includes postage, mailing materials and 5.6 percent WI sales tax. You can also buy individual past ornaments or the entire series of 24 for \$288 and save \$48.

4 Purchase a Zoological Society gift certificate in any amount and the recipient can apply it toward a Zoo Pass membership, any of our Zoological Society events, or education classes or summer camps for children ages birth to 14 years old for one year from the date of purchase. To order, go to zoosociety.org/Shop.

5 Do you know a child who loves animals? Then get 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 animal fact sheet, hands-on workshops for kids and parents, an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event at the Zoo in August and more!

Fun, Hands-on Zoo Classes

All classes are run by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

Giving the Gift of Time Together

"I gave my dad Stroller Safari classes as a present so he could enjoy the classes with his grandson," says Jessica Ciatti, a new instructor in the Conservation Education Department. "I want my gifts to be long lasting. What could be more useful than the gift of education?" Zoo Classes offer a great opportunity for children and adults to learn and spend time together. As an instructor, Jessica sees firsthand how classes positively impact children and their adults. "I enjoy watching how excited they get acting out an animal together or finding food at an activity station. It's an experience both the child and adult remember long after the class is over. Plus, the children aren't the only ones who learn — adults do, too!" A family class is the perfect opportunity to spend time with multiple children or older children (ages 4-14). December's family class is "Family Explorers: Brazil." Find out which animals live in the rivers, rainforests and deserts of Brazil, learn a little Portuguese and create your own *Carnaval* masks to take home. To give a Zoo Class as a gift, go to zoosociety.org/Shop to purchase a gift certificate.

Spring Zoo Classes

It's time to register for Spring Zoo Classes! Try the Family Zookeeper class and go behind-the-scenes with your family. Or, sign up your 6- to 10-year-old for "Animals of the Amazon" to discover animals that lurk in the water or make their homes in the treetops! Registration for February-May 2016 Zoo Classes begins on Nov. 5. Zoo Pass members receive priority registration and discounts on classes.

"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 2016 programs.

UWM Course at the Zoo for Teachers

"Fit for Survival: Animal Habitats and Adaptations" takes place March 5 and 6, 2016, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Learn techniques to develop study units and how to use the Zoo as a teaching resource. Call UWM Outreach at 414-229-5255 for more information and to register.

Workshop for Early-Childhood Educators

"Bears" is a three-hour workshop on Saturday, April 23, 2016, for early-childhood educators. Learn how to incorporate a unit about bears in your own classroom. Workshop includes animal background information, classroom station ideas, project samples and a guided tour to see the bears at the Zoo. Workshop content is mainly for educators of ages 2-5. To register, call 414-258-5058 or visit zoosociety.org/TeacherEdu.

zoosociety.org/Education

Charlie B., 9, and his mother Desiree — both from Oak Creek — participate in a family class about animals from Australia. Photo by Bob Wickland



A Bonobo Takes on Bullying



Jane the bully (left), played by Alecia Annacchino, tussles over a notebook with Molly (Lindsey Gagliano). Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Kohl's Wild Theater Outreach Plays in the Community

Kohl's Wild Theater continues to offer free performances at community events, festivals and schools year-round.

If you follow the news, you'll know that bullying in schools is a major problem. It's something Dave McLellan, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Kohl's Wild Theater program coordinator, found out in a big way back in 2011. "During our first outreach session to schools, we sought feedback on topics teachers would like covered in future KWT shows," he says. "We consistently received requests to cover the topic of bullying." Four years later, those requests continue to come in. That's why Kohl's Wild Theater is bringing back the play "Bullies and Bonobos."

Why bonobos? James Mills, director of the Zoological Society's Conservation Education Department, wanted to do a play highlighting the intelligence of bonobos and their capacity to show empathy. "Research indicates that children who can empathize with others are far less likely to engage in bullying behavior," says Mills. "Once we realized the natural pairing of bonobos and an anti-bullying message, we knew we could create something special."

In the 40-minute play, which is made possible by a partnership between the Zoological Society and Kohl's Cares, the main character, a fourth grader named Molly, wants to start a new recycling center at her school. Her plans are thwarted by a school bully. Enter Bobo the bonobo, Molly's imaginary friend. He turns a visit to the Milwaukee County Zoo into a timely lesson. Ultimately Jane, the bully, sees the error in her ways and ends up joining Molly's recycling club. The play, which is designed for grades 2 through 5, also teaches about the importance of recycling and ape conservation. For example, coltan, a mineral used in electronics such as cellphones, is mined within the African country where bonobos and certain gorillas live. Recycling small electronic products can help protect their habitat. Adds McLellan: "This play addresses so many important topics: recycling, ape conservation and bullying."

By Zak Mazur



Great ape advice: Molly talks to her imaginary bonobo friend, Bobo, about how to deal with a bully at school. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

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. "Bullies and Bonobos" opens on March 1 and runs through May 27. This performance and all others are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. To book a performance or check available dates, visit wildtheater.org or contact Julie B. at the Zoological Society at 414-258-2333, or KWT@zoosociety.org.

Fashion Sits... at the Ritz

Puttin' on the Ritz

Sponsored by Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek

Boxing ring sponsored by Bridgewood Advisors

Jan. 28, 2016, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, 1721 W. Canal St.

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

To register: zoosociety.org/Ritz.

♪ *If you're blue and you don't know/where to go to/ why don't you go/where fashion sits/at ...*

Puttin' on the Ritz! Yes, sir, it's time to dress to the nines and head over to the Potawatomi Hotel & Casino for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's 21st annual Puttin' on the Ritz fundraiser. Get ready for a night of gourmet food, drinks, a live voice auction and amateur boxing, arranged by the Future Olympian Boxing Association. You can sponsor a corporate table of eight for \$3,000 that includes ringside seating and listing in the event program. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available. Last year's event raised \$204,652 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 by Jan. 22, 2016.

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



An amateur boxer steps up to his opponent at last year's event. Photo by Olga Kornienko

Natural-Born Artist

If you've ever purchased or received a Zoological Society of Milwaukee holiday ornament, then you've witnessed the handiwork of Wisconsin artist Andy Schumann. He's crafted Zoological Society of Milwaukee ornaments for the past 22 years (for some years he designed two ornaments). But curiously, he didn't know he would become a professional artist until later in life. "In the early '80s I studied at Concordia University concentrating on foreign languages — German, Hebrew and Greek — and was considering entering a seminary." He obtained a minor in art, but art was just a hobby. Not too long after graduating, Schumann saw a bronze sculpture that piqued his interest, and it stuck with him, even though he went on to become a middle school teacher of general studies. After a few stints of teaching at different schools, Schumann decided to explore his interest in art and took a job at an art gallery in Thiensville. "I was particularly struck by the wildlife artwork," he says. He then realized he wanted his lifelong hobby to become his profession, so he opened a studio in 1993. By 1994 the Zoological Society became one of his first customers. "I had done woodcarving and some painting in the past, but I became attracted to metals because I liked their strength." Pewter was of particular interest because it's easy to mold, he says. And for the Zoological Society, pewter was a perfect medium for ornaments that it wanted to offer during the holiday season.



Andy Schumann puts the final touches on a clay model of this year's gorilla mom and baby ornament. Photo by Stacy Vogel Davis

His artistic process begins at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "I come to the Zoo, take a photo of the animal if I can, and then I start sketching." Robin Higgins, the Society's vice president of communications, marketing and membership, goes over the sketches with Schumann to approve them. Later he shows her a clay model before getting the go-ahead to mass produce the ornaments. "Andy works very hard to portray our Zoo's animals accurately in the ornaments he creates," says Higgins. "It also feels good to know the Society is supporting a local artist." *By Zak Mazur*

Working out for the Animals



Zumba instructor Gloria Tarrer gets the crowd sweating at last year's event. Photo by Bob Wickland

Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo Feb. 27, 2016, 6-8 p.m.; event check-in at 5 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person if registered by Feb. 25; \$25 at the door. Open to ages 14 and up. No experience and no dance training needed. All fitness levels welcome. Event takes place in the Peck Welcome Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Pre-register at zoosociety.org/Zumba, or call 414-258-2333.

Do you like dance and exercise? Or maybe you need a little motivation to exercise? Here's some motivation: You can raise money for the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. And not only will you help the animals, you'll also improve your health at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee'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. You can also purchase cool Zumba® fitness apparel and raffle tickets to win fun prizes. Money raised benefits the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. This event sold out last year — so register now.

\$17 of your fee is tax-deductible. All ticket sales are final and not refundable.

Run, Romp and Stomp

Samson Stomp & Romp

Sponsored by Amica Insurance

Jan. 17. First race starts at 9:30 a.m.

Mail entries must include full fees and be received by Monday, Jan. 4. Runners may pre-register online until 5 p.m. Jan. 13.

For more information: 414-771-3040

To register: zoosociety.org/Stomp

Some of the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo are sprinters, like cheetahs. Others are built for a slower, long-haul run, like the gray wolf. If you want to do well in the Zoo's annual race that honors Samson, the Zoo's most famous silverback gorilla, it's recommended you channel your inner wolf and pace yourself. The race, which takes place throughout the Zoo's grounds, offers four routes for runners of all speeds: a 5K competitive run — which can include teams — a 2-mile fun run, a 1-mile romp or a quarter-of-a-mile romp for children. Individuals can pre-register for \$25, and teams for \$20 each. Children's romps are \$10 per child. Registration fee includes a 100-percent cotton long-sleeve T-shirt, Zoo admission and parking. Zoo Pass memberships and gift certificates cannot be used for this Zoo fundraising event.



Alex Andraski, of Waukesha, gives it his all at last year's event. Photo by Olga Kornienko

SHARK WEEK ALL THE TIME



♪ *Dun-dun. Dun-dun.*

The opening notes of the “Jaws” theme song makes movie lovers think of one of the most celebrated thrillers or all time. But for shark enthusiasts, it’s a symbol of the bad rap sharks have gotten for decades. Keepers and volunteers at the Milwaukee County Zoo are working to change that image with shark talks twice a week in the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC).

The talks aim to teach zoogoers the truth about sharks and their importance to the ecosystem, while also demonstrating a new training program for the sharks at the Zoo. The talks started during “Shark Week” in July, and the response was so positive that members of Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society’s volunteer auxiliary, offered to keep them going. “We want to combat the negative thoughts and ideas people can have about sharks,” says Jennifer Herbert, chairwoman of Zoo Pride’s ARC Committee.

Zoo Pride volunteers—including Jaci Steffes, left, and Jennifer Herbert—give shark talks in front of the Pacific Exhibit twice a week. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

During the talks, held on Monday and Thursday afternoons, a Zoo Pride volunteer offers information about sharks in front of the Pacific Exhibit, which holds several leopard sharks. Today, volunteer Don Caithamer tells the crowd that there are more than 400 species of shark. Only 30 pose any risk to humans, and that risk is minimal. “For every one person killed by a shark, 25 million are killed by humans,” he says. There has only been one recorded attack by a leopard shark, Caithamer says. It was 60 years ago and the victim got a bloody nose.

Attendees watch as a zookeeper feeds the sharks from above the tank. Keepers are training the sharks to touch a buoy in the water with their noses before receiving their food. Eventually, they hope the sharks will follow the buoy to the surface of the water and lie in a stretcher so keepers can check their health. “The amount of stress placed on the sharks is greatly reduced when they’re willing participants in their exams and medical procedures,” zookeeper Melissa Spreda says. “It also allows us to provide better medical treatment should the need arise. Plus, the training provides excellent mental stimulation for the sharks.”

The talks have been popular and informative. “People are surprised to hear that most sharks are not aggressive,” Herbert says. “They’re also very surprised when they learn that sharks can be trained.” The aquatic world is important to Herbert and her family, she says. They have a home on Lake Superior and enjoy aquatic activities such as scuba diving and catch-and-release fishing. She also chairs Zoo Pride’s Seafood Watch Committee, teaching people the importance of sustainable seafood.

The health of the shark population should be important to everyone, Caithamer says. Many species are endangered because of ocean pollution and hunting, both for food and as part of intentional efforts to eliminate sharks in coastal areas. Sharks are important predators that help keep other ocean species in balance, Caithamer says. “They’re beautiful creatures, but they’re persecuted because we’re afraid of them.”

By Stacy Vogel Davis

If you go: Shark talks take place in front of the Pacific Exhibit in the ARC at 1:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Zoo Visit Conjures Memories from Home

Most people who visit the Milwaukee County Zoo have never encountered exotic African animals in their natural habitats. But a number of African children who visited the Zoo for Career Day on Aug. 26 have, and encountering some of those animals brought back memories from home. Take, for example, 14-year-old Hanibal H. "I learned the Milwaukee County Zoo had animals I used to see in Africa before I came to Milwaukee," he says. "I used to see hyenas, giraffes, elephants. I used to feed them, although some were very dangerous animals." The reason Hanibal and 15 other African children were at the Zoo is because they are refugees or immigrants who fled their homes or the refugee camps where they were living. "On average there are 150 African refugees or immigrant children in Milwaukee that we serve annually," says Fessahaye Mebrahtu, executive director of the Pan-African Community Association (PACA), which helps African immigrants and refugees in the Milwaukee area adjust to life in the United States. The children, ages 8 to 15, hail from 10 countries. They're also members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, which PACA collaborated with in organizing the trip. The goal was to expose the students to various types of careers available at the Zoo.

The visit to the Zoo had a profound impact on the youngsters, says Bernadette Matua, careers development coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of Milwaukee. "The first thing I noticed was the kids were able to relate their lives here with their lives back home," she says. "It helped them to feel comfortable. They were like, 'Oh, here is an elephant, there is a giraffe.'" A number indicated they wanted to become volunteers at the Zoo in the future. One 10-year-old named Mulubrahm wrote in a thank-you card: "I want to become a zookeeper!" In addition to encountering animals from back home, the students learned about the challenges the animals face in the wild. "Many wondered how they could have a role to play to help animals facing extinction," says Matua. "They want to be part of the solution."



Two friends pose in front of the Holz Family Impala Country as other members of the group feed giraffes at the MillerCoors Giraffe Experience.

Photos courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee

Zookeeper Profile: Joan Pappas



Joan Pappas holds one of the Zoo's tarantulas. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Zookeepers at the Milwaukee County Zoo must have a strong affinity for the animals in their care — it goes with the territory of being a zookeeper. But this doesn't mean they aren't passionate about other animals, too — even animals that are the polar opposites of their Zoo charges. Take zookeeper Joan Pappas. By day she cares for the Zoo's largest animals: African elephants Brittany and Ruth and the five-member giraffe herd. At night, her attentions turn toward palm-size animals with eight legs — tarantulas! "I've always liked bugs," says Pappas. "Unfortunately, spiders have an undeserved bad reputation. Tarantulas are a crucial component

of the food cycle, both as predators and prey. Quite a few mammals and reptiles eat tarantulas. And tarantulas and spiders eat a lot of insects." Pappas finds it ironic that people tell her they'd love to pet an elephant, but most would never handle a tarantula. Elephants, she says, are far more dangerous.

Pappas graduated from Millikin University in Illinois with a degree in biology, although at that time she didn't intend to become a zookeeper. "A month after getting my degree I got a part-time job as a zookeeper at Cosley Zoo in Wheaton, Ill.," she says. "Within six months of working there I knew I wanted to be a zookeeper." After stints at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, S.D., and the Racine Zoo, Pappas became a zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo in August 2005. Pappas loves the combination of mental and physical work required to be a zookeeper, as well as getting to work outside. She's also completely intrigued by the Zoo's elephants. "The most interesting and challenging thing about my job is working with animals as intelligent and emotional as elephants," she says. "I've known Brittany for 10 years and I've known Ruth for nine years. They both still surprise me now and then, and I still don't think I've got either one completely figured out. I probably never will."

Of all her experiences with animals at the Zoo, what stands out most to Pappas was watching Bahatika, the Zoo's male giraffe, grow up. "He arrived at the Zoo as an 11-month-old calf," she says. "I've gotten to watch him grow and develop into a big, goofy, personable bull who just recently fathered his own first calf. It's pretty amazing to have been lucky enough to witness so much of his life firsthand and see him come into his own."

By Zak Mazur



Insider Tips

Neat Feet and Spurs

Crested screamers are birds with some interesting adaptations. One of the first things you may notice about the Milwaukee County Zoo's two crested screamers is their feet. They look like formidable weapons, as if each digit could be used for ripping flesh. But in fact they're designed to navigate swampy, marshy habitats in their native Bolivia, southern Brazil and northern Argentina. They use their long, unwebbed toes to grasp vegetation. Despite being about the size of a turkey, extensive hollow spaces in their bones make them light, so they can also walk on dense mats of floating plants. Another interesting adaptation is the large, bony spurs on the inner side of each wing, used to defend territory and for self-defense.



A crested screamer at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Like most birds, crested screamers are monogamous, which is why on Sept. 8, a new male was introduced to Rita, the Zoo's resident female crested screamer. "We are hoping that eventually the new male will breed with Rita," says Carol Kagy, Zoo area supervisor at the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. So far things are going well, she says. "They get along, they vocalize periodically, sometimes if keepers are present, sometimes if something startles them, or if they simply want to identify their territory." The name of the bird gives away another special attribute: their distinctive call, which is one of the loudest of any bird and can be heard two miles away. You'll be able to see the two crested screamers next summer in their exhibit near the Mahler Family Aviary and Macaque Island — but you may hear them first. (Please note that the Mahler Family Aviary is closed until spring 2016.)

By Zak Mazur

Fish is a Straight Shooter

You're an insect perched on a branch, going about your insect business. You scan your surroundings, always on the lookout for predators. What you don't see is a powerful blast of water rushing at you from below. You're knocked off balance and fall into the water. You struggle but in seconds you're gobbled up by an archer fish. Archer fishes, which live in brackish mangrove swamps in some coastal areas of India and Southeast Asia, are one of the few fishes in the world that hunt in this manner. In July 2014, the Milwaukee County Zoo acquired three archer fishes, but they were very small at the time. Now they are easy to see in the Mangrove Exhibit in the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC). If you're lucky you can watch them use their unique form of hunting. "They're routinely fed crickets, krill and other food items that require them to use their keen targeting abilities to catch," says Billie Harrison, supervisor of the ARC. Archer fishes are able to generate a stream of water that can hit prey from 9 feet, but only with great accuracy from about 4 feet. They do this by placing their tongue against a groove on the roof of their mouth, forming a tube that powerfully forces water out when they snap their gills shut. Although a relatively small fish, the blast is surprisingly powerful. "If you get hit in the face with this jet, it stings like an insect bite," says Alberto Vailati from the University of Milan in Italy, who has studied archer fish. Interestingly, some researchers, like Vailati, consider the manner the archer fish shoots water as a form of tool use. "The fish actively and deliberately influences the hydrodynamics of the water so it qualifies as tool use," he says. Craig Berg, curator of reptiles and aquarium at the Zoo, says other fishes have shown examples of tool use. "Some cichlids test leaves on which they lay their eggs to make certain they aren't easily moved if conditions become unfavorable," he says. "Several different species of wrasse, a family of brightly colored fish, pound shellfish on rocks to break them open." But squirting a highly calibrated, accurate and powerful jet of water to hit terrestrial prey has got to be one of the coolest examples of fish tool use.



An archer fish at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

By Zak Mazur

Insider Tips continued

Cool Marine Biodiversity

When you imagine marine biodiversity, you might think of places like Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the South Pacific, as well as other South Pacific islands and atolls, or perhaps the Caribbean and other warm-water locales around the world. But there is great biodiversity that thrives in the cool waters off the northern West Coast of the United States. Puget Sound, an inlet bounded by Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., is a prime example. "Puget Sound is just as diverse as a coral reef," says Jeff Johnson, an aquarist/zookeeper in the Milwaukee County Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC). With 200 species of fishes, Puget Sound is three times more diverse than the warmer waters of San Francisco

Bay, which is farther to the south. According to Johnson, many zoos and aquariums give this part of the maritime world short shrift, which is one reason a Puget Sound Exhibit was built in 1995 when the ARC underwent renovations. In spring Johnson and Craig Berg, curator of reptiles and aquarium at the Zoo, went to a conference held in Monterey Bay, Calif. They took the opportunity to scuba dive off the coast of Monterey which, according to Johnson, has similar biodiversity to Puget Sound. "I was amazed by the kelp forests," says Johnson. "On our dives we saw California sea lions, seals, sea otters, many species of fishes and vast fields of white-plume anemones." The dive gave Johnson more ideas for reopening the ARC's Puget Sound Exhibit, which was closed in April for renovations and opened in mid-May. "We've already stocked the exhibit with splitnose rock fish and shiner perch, as well as invertebrates like spot prawn, purple urchins, both black and red turban snails, and white-plumed anemones," he says. Berg says the exhibit contains five phyla. "Think of a phyla as a grouping of organisms based on general specialized body plans. Every other exhibit at the Zoo only displays one phylum, i.e. one body plan. So this small exhibit displays more biodiversity of basic body plans than the rest of the Zoo put together."

By Zak Mazur



Two shiner perch in the Puget Sound exhibit Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Caroline Krider Photo by Stacy Kaat

New Board Chair has Passion for Animals

It's hardly surprising why Caroline Krider was recently tapped to be the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's latest board chair: She cares deeply about animals. That's why Krider, the senior vice president at U.S. Bank overseeing large corporate relationships in southeastern Wisconsin, has been a longtime supporter of the Zoological Society. Previously, Krider had a 3-year-long stint as the Society's board vice chair. She was also a co-chair for Zoo Ball in 2013. In 2014 Krider was awarded the prestigious *Pan paniscus* award for her support of Zoological Society ape-conservation efforts. "I am particularly fond of bonobos and other primates," she says. "But I also love the cats." Owing to her overall passion for animal welfare, Krider also serves on the board of the Wisconsin Humane Society, where she's been a weekly volunteer for more than 15 years, socializing small animals and facilitating introductions between prospective guardians and pets. Additionally, Krider received a Milwaukee Business Journal 2014 Women of Influence award. "We are extremely excited

to welcome Caroline Krider as our new board chair," says Dr. Robert Davis, president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. "Caroline's passion for education — coupled with her love of animals, most especially for our ape-conservation efforts — makes her perfect for her new role."

By Zak Mazur

Joeys Join the Kangaroo Mob

We've all seen the cartoon images of a mother kangaroo with a joey peeking out of her pouch. "How cute," you might think. But kangaroo development is more than just cute — it's pretty amazing, as demonstrated by the births of two joeys recently at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The red kangaroos were born to first-time mothers Ama and Anastasia at the Zoo. The females, as well as a third female, Angel, came from Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield, Mo., in 2014. Zookeepers hoped the females would breed with male kangaroo Willeroo to increase the size of the kangaroo group, known as a mob. And they did—Anastasia gave birth to a female joey around March 8, and Ama gave birth to a joey of undetermined sex around March 22. Zookeeper Mike Hoffmann says, "They're very calm, confident moms."

At the time of birth, the joeys were about the size of grapes. The blind, hairless babies made their way to their mothers' pouches to nurse and stayed there for about six months as they continued to develop. They started nibbling on grass and pellets as soon as they came out of the pouch, although they will return to their mother's pouches to nurse until they're about 8 months old.

The joeys' father, Willeroo, died shortly after they were born of a stomach twist. But here's the amazing part — Willeroo might still have fathered more joeys. A female kangaroo always gives birth to one joey at a time, but she can conceive a second joey just after the first one is born. In that case, development of the embryo is suspended until the first joey leaves the pouch. Mother kangaroos are even capable of providing different kinds of milk to joeys in different development stages. When nursing two joeys at a time, the mother will provide high-fat milk to the younger joey out of one teat and a lower-fat milk out of another teat for the older one.

The joeys bring the total number of kangaroos at the Zoo to nine. They can be seen year-round in the indoor and outdoor exhibits at the Australia Building. Stay tuned to find out if there are any more joeys waiting in the wings.

By Stacy Vogel Davis

*Kangaroo mom Anastasia
with joey in pouch*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



By the Numbers

1. Dino exhibit

The Milwaukee County Zoo's special summer exhibit, Expedition Dinosaur, sponsored by **Sendik's Food Markets**, drew 260,078 visitors this summer. Here Elizabeth S., of Brookfield, poses in front of a carnotaurus with her children, Tommy, 8, and Emma, 6. Photo by Olga Kornienko



2. Sunset Zoofaris

Heinz S., of Wauwatosa, dances with his son, also named Heinz, age 14 months, at a Sunset Zoofari, sponsored by **Tri City National Bank**. A total of 11,420 people attended the evening concert series held on six Wednesday evenings during summer. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



3. Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

From left: Peter McCauley and David Persons of Chicago; Zoological Society of Milwaukee President and CEO Bert Davis; and Van Sapp, of Oak Park, Ill., take a moment to pose at the Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by **PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**. The event, held on July 27, attracted 137 participants and raised \$108,689.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



4. Snooze at the Zoo

From Aug. 12 to 15, 1,580 people (419 families) got to sleep under the stars at the Milwaukee County Zoo for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by **Kellogg's & Sentry Foods**. The event raised \$62,395. Pictured here: Marine Yoo, of Lodi, sets up a tent with Ky, his 2½-month-old son, in a baby carrier. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

5. A la Carte

The **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** a la Carte, presented by **Meijer**, drew 70,032 people from Thursday, Aug. 20, to Sunday, Aug. 23. Here, Katie Schwartz, of Oak Creek, enjoys an ear of roasted corn. Some 29 Milwaukee-area vendors participated.

Photo by Olga Kornienko



6. Animal Safari

Gavin K., 5, of Kenosha, examines the thick bars in the hippo holding area at Animal Safari, sponsored by **Dermatology Associates of Wisconsin, S.C.** A total of 5,496 people attended the event. Photo by Stacy Kaat



There is Still Time to Give



Stock photo

The end of the year is a popular time to give to charity. New as well as veteran donors will be thinking about making charitable gifts before Dec. 31. But with so many other activities filling your busy schedule, are you wondering if you will have time to finalize your end-of-the-year donations? This year, don't be put off by the variety of seemingly complex ways to give. Focus on the simple and stick with the familiar. Here are a couple of easy, straightforward ways to give to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee:

Life Insurance — Life insurance is a wonderful yet often overlooked tool for making a gift. This gift can be set up by filling out a beneficiary form with your insurance company and listing the Society as the recipient of all or a portion of the policy's proceeds. A group life policy provided through work is perfect for such a gift.

Retirement Plans — Your retirement plan, whether through your employer or your own Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or 401(k)s, 403(b)s and pension plans, can designate the Society as a beneficiary of the remaining balance. Unlike family members named as recipients, charitable organizations do not pay income taxes when they inherit and withdraw from IRAs and 401(k) accounts. By listing the Society as a beneficiary of the account, the entire designated amount (without income tax) can be used to help support the Society's mission. These gifts are arranged by simply contacting the administrator of your plan.

General Operations Gift — Maintaining daily operations is a critical component for us to fulfill our mission to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Zoo. You can make a one-time gift to help support these operational costs or make a pledge. A pledge can be as simple as a larger gift commitment phased in over time. This enables you to schedule your giving now, saving you time in the subsequent years, and allows the Society to plan for the future with greater certainty.

Become a Platypus Member — The Platypus Circle is a group of donors at the \$500 level or above. Joining this important group of donors helps build one pillar of our financial foundation. It also provides an opportunity for like-minded individuals to enjoy special events and activities held annually at the Zoo.

These simple options show that you don't have to be a financial expert to make a charitable year-end gift. As you finalize this year's donations, remember that by choosing to do one or more of these easy options, you can generate income tax deductions that could help reduce your tax bill. Only gifts made by Dec. 31 can help reduce the amount of taxes owed. Each of these possibilities require only a small amount of time, but can help make a big impact.

Make a Planned Gift – Simba Circle!

The Simba Circle recognizes the extraordinary people who have named the Zoological Society of Milwaukee in their wills or other estate plans via a planned gift. By making this thoughtful commitment, you create a legacy ensuring that the Zoological Society continues to carry out its mission for future generations. Members enjoy a wide array of benefits. For more information about the Simba Circle, call 414-918-6150, or email candyw@zoosociety.org or go to zoosociety.org/Simba.



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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. 5

Online registration begins
for Spring Zoo Classes:
zoo.org/Spring.

Nov. 7

Family Free Day at the Zoo,
sponsored by
North Shore Bank;
media sponsor: FOX 6.

Nov. 14

Zoo Pass members-only holiday
shopping trip to Woodfield Mall and Ikea
in Schaumburg, Ill. (pre-register).

Dec. 5

Family Free Day at the Zoo,
sponsored by
North Shore Bank;
media sponsor: FOX 6.

Dec. 5

Fantastic Forest
at the Zoo,
sponsored by
Hawks Landscape
(Dec. 4 through
Dec. 31).

Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20

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

Jan. 9

Family Free Day at the Zoo,
sponsored by
North Shore Bank;
media sponsor: FOX 6.

Jan. 17

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

Jan. 28

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

Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo.*

Feb. 3

Online registration begins for Zoological Society
Summer Camps (see the Summer Camps brochure
packaged with your January-March Wild Things).*

Feb. 6

Family Free Day at the Zoo, sponsored by
North Shore Bank; media sponsor: FOX 6.

Feb. 27

Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo (pre-register).*

March 3

Wines and Beers of the World
(pre-register).*

March 5

Family Free Day at the Zoo,
sponsored by North Shore Bank;
media sponsor: FOX 6.

March 12 & 13

Behind the Scenes Weekend.**

March 19

Zoo Pass members-only field trip
to the Shedd Aquarium and
Adler Planetarium in Chicago.†

March 19 & 20

Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny,
sponsored by Racine Danish Kringle.†

**“Like”
us on Facebook
and follow us on
Twitter and Instagram
for great photos,
animal news &
fun Zoo trivia!**

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Family Free Day

*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.

†More details in the January-March issue of Wild Things.