

# Wild Things



## A GIFT TO ZOO

Shopping for gifts this time of year can be stressful. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is here to take away the concerns that come with presents: Will they like it? Will they use it or how long will they use it before it ends up in a closet? The gift of a Zoo Pass could be the answer to shopping headaches.



### WHY DOES A ZOO PASS MAKE A GREAT GIFT?

#### THE GIFT PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Free Milwaukee County Zoo admission 365 days a year
- Value! The Zoo Pass pays for itself just after two visits
- Four electronic coupons that can be used for a ride on the North Shore Bank Safari Train, the Penzeys Spices Carousel, Meijer Zoomobile or admission to the Zoo's 2019 special summer exhibit
- Subscriptions to the Society's Wild Things newsletter and Alive magazine
- Discounts and priority registration for fundraising events and education classes
- Discounts in the Zoo's gift shop
- Access to member-only events
- A plush-toy caribou - for new gifts only (*while supplies last*)
- Your Zoo Pass gift purchase is tax-deductible

## WHY ARE ZOO PASSES SOLD THROUGH THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY?

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is a nonprofit organization with a mission to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Milwaukee County Zoo. Your Zoo Pass dollars help us with all three pillars of our mission.

**STAY UP TO DATE:** The Society has its own social media channels to keep members up to date on member events and news about the Society, the Zoo, conservation and education.



[facebook.com/ZooPass](https://facebook.com/ZooPass)



[instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE)



[twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE)



Snapchat: ZooSocietyMKE

# TREE-MENDOUS DECORATIONS

## Fantastic Forest

Sponsored by Hawks Landscape

Dec. 1-28

When you come to the Fantastic Forest, you'll see handmade ornaments that could put Pinterest to shame. Paper plates become bears, yarn and wood can make a chicken, and paper mache can create just about anything. All it takes is the imagination of dozens of children from local youth groups. This year, groups that signed up will transform the trees to make you feel like you are "Taking a Tour Around the Zoo." Hawks Landscape donates the 65 evergreen trees that will be decorated in late November. Each group will be assigned a section of the Zoo to depict in ornaments. You'll see animals from the farm, Small Mammals Building, pachyderm mall and other animal areas. Every year, the youth groups bring handmade to a whole new level. You never know what you're going to see.

While the trees are decorated with animals, one tree is decorated for the animals. The zookeeper-hosted Giving Tree is decorated with ornaments listing items the animals need. Anyone can remove an ornament, buy the item and bring it back to the Zoo.



<< *St. Roman Brownie Troop 20120, of Milwaukee, decorates a tree with African animal-themed ornaments.*

Photo by Bob Wickland

Photo by Bob Wickland



## MEMBERANDA

**Zoological Society office hours:** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.

**Zoo hours through February:** 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.

**Holiday hours:** The Zoological Society offices will be closed Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving and Dec. 25. The office will remain open from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, and Jan. 1. Visit us anytime online at [zoopass.com](http://zoopass.com).

**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 see:** [zoosociety.org/Membership/Things2Know.php](http://zoosociety.org/Membership/Things2Know.php)

**Tax-deductible portions for the Zoo Pass categories are:** Individual (Basic: \$60, Plus: \$71); Individual +1 or Couple (Basic: \$75, Plus: \$85); Individual +2, Family and Single Adult Family (Basic: \$80, Plus: \$100); Family +1 (Basic: \$99, Plus: \$105); Family +2 (Basic: \$106, Plus: \$118); Family +3 (Basic: \$122, Plus: \$131); Affiliate (Basic: \$154, Plus: \$157); Benefactor (Basic: \$218, Plus: \$220).

**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 & Aquariums 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.php](http://zoosociety.org/Membership/Reciprocal.php), 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. 139, November-December 2018

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

Editor: Katie Krecklow  
Designer: Scott DuChateau

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10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383  
Phone: 414-256-5412 Web: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# A GIFT LIKE NO OTTER

\$35  
SPONSOR  
EMERALD  
THE OTTER



**IT'S** no surprise one of the most popular exhibits this year is the home of the four new otters. Not only is it a new exhibit, the small mammals are adorably energetic. Guests can see them swim, play with the water slide feature and run around the rocks and grass. North American river otters are one of the only animals that play for fun and no other reason, and it's just as fun for humans to watch their play time. This holiday season, get in a playful spirit and sponsor Emerald, one of the female otters, as a gift for yourself or someone else.

Emerald came to Milwaukee from the Miller Park Zoo in Illinois. She shares the exhibit with females Shamrock and Clover and male Larkey. With this \$35 sponsorship, you will receive a plush-toy otter, a certificate of sponsorship, name recognition on our "All in the Family" donor board for a year and an invitation to Animal Safari – our behind-the-scenes event in August for animal sponsors. Upgrade your sponsorship to the \$75 level and receive an otter photo and two Zoo attraction tickets.



Photo by Bob Wickland

Price includes shipping and handling. Visit [zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php](http://zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/Limited.php) for more information and to purchase a sponsorship. Tax-deductible portion of this sponsorship is \$29.

## GIFTS TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT

The act of giving can warm your heart. Inside the Zoo you can not only buy gifts for your loved ones, you can feel good about the gifts you buy. Service Systems Associates (SSA) runs the Zoo's concessions, merchandising and catering. Concern about plastic flooding our oceans and landfills has been a hot topic in the news this year. SSA worked with one of its vendors to remove the plastic packaging from 10-15 of its toys. This initiative, spanning across 50 of their locations in the country, has stopped 10,000 pounds of plastic from going into landfills.

You can also support local businesses when you shop at the Zoo. SSA features products from local vendors like Baby Jack & Co., Nestled Pines and Good Earth. Or, you can buy a plush-toy animal to donate to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Since SSA started the plush donation program in December, it has collected more than 200 plush toys for Children's Hospital.

Zoo Pass holders are eligible for a 20% discount in the gift shops this holiday shopping season. Starting Thanksgiving and ending Jan. 1, hundreds of items are available at this special member discount. The discount does not apply on clearance items or the two-for-\$32 plush or promo plush-toy deal. SSA is working to remodel the main gift shop in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place. During construction, guests can go to the gift shop next to the Flamingo Café.



# 2018 BY THE



**A**

Aviary added two mammals – greater Malayan chevrotains – to its collection of 227 birds.



**B**

Beasties™ delighted families in the Zoo and around Milwaukee and Waukesha.



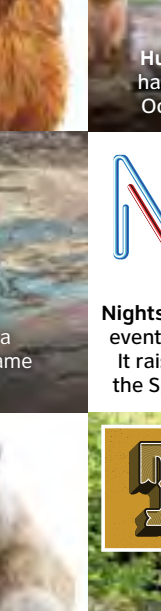
**C**

Construction of the new elephant exhibit this year included an indoor care center large enough for up to five elephants and space for guests.



**G**

Gordy the groundhog arrived at the Zoo from Indiana. Will he see his shadow next year?



**H**

Hungry and thirsty guests had new food options with Ooz and the Bear Garden.



**I**

Irving and Ichabod are the new African crowned cranes.



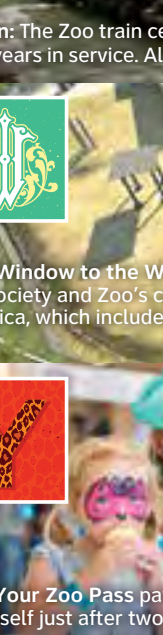
**M**

Milo was selected in a Facebook poll as the name for the baby seal.



**N**

Nights in June is a special evening event just for Zoo Pass Members. It raised more than \$11,000 for the Sponsor an Animal program.



**O**

Otters arrived and their brand-new exhibit opened.



**S**

Snow Lilly the polar bear filled in on Groundhog Day and saw her shadow.



**T**

Train: The Zoo train celebrated 60 years in service. All aboard!



**U**

Udders on the Zoo's cows are milked twice a day.



**V**

Vegetables are popular with most animals at the Zoo. They go through 250 pounds of romaine lettuce and 200 pounds of carrots in one week.



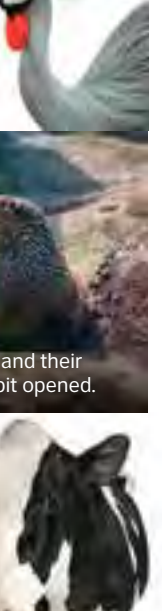
**W**

Window to the Wild was announced in May as the Zoological Society and Zoo's capital campaign. The first phase is Adventure Africa, which includes new homes for elephants, African hoofstock, hippos and rhinos.



**X**

X-ray machines at the Zoo can be used on animals of all sizes to help diagnose health concerns.



**Z**

Your Zoo Pass pays for itself just after two visits.



**Z**

Zahra, the baby gorilla born at the Milwaukee County Zoo, is growing and thriving with her surrogate family at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.



# ALPHABET



**D**inosaurs invaded the Zoo, and 215,034 guests came to see the exhibit.



**E**ducation classes are available throughout the year for ages infant to adult.



**F**ish tanks on display in the Aquatic & Reptile Center hold 132,000 gallons of water.



**J**amaican iguanas are improving in the wild thanks in part to conservation efforts of the Zoological Society and Milwaukee zookeepers.



**K**ohl's Wild Theater introduced a traveling musical about space and the atmosphere and a new summer show about good and bad information about pets on the Internet.



**L**ake Evinrude is a great place to spot geese, ducks and trumpeter swans Boo and Ghost.



**P**eacocks roam free inside the Zoo. There are about 50 peafowl that strut and delight guests.



**Q**uarantine is where all incoming animals are housed for at least 30 days before going into their exhibits.



**R**ed pandas are this year's Zoological Society ornament. Buy one today!



## 2018 AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Photo by Joel Miller

**The Milwaukee County Zoo received accreditation from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).**

The accreditation process involves a written application and an on-site inspection to ensure the Zoo meets standards related to animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and more. Accreditation is granted for 5 years.



**Conservation coordinator and head of the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative, Dr. Gay Reinartz, was named one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's Women of Influence.**



Photo by Joel Miller

**The Creative Department received recognition for its sign design in Otter Passage.** The Wisconsin Sign Association awarded the team first place in the Directional/Wayfinding category.

# HEAD OF THE CLASS



Photo by Paul Ruffolo

The opportunity to learn is all around you inside the Milwaukee County Zoo. It comes from the Zoo Pride volunteer talking to guests at an exhibit, it's in a performance by Kohl's Wild Theater and it's most obvious inside the education building. At the head of these departments is the Zoological Society's new senior director of programs, Julia Petersen. This new position brings education, conservation and volunteers under one umbrella. "Ultimately bringing these together should make the Zoo experience more seamless so guests can absorb educational messages about the animals, exhibits and conservation and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world around them," says Petersen.

"...IT HAS POWERFUL IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION IN OUR COMMUNITY"

Petersen joins the Zoological Society after several years with Milwaukee Public Schools as the head of the organizational planning division. Petersen started her career as a teacher with a specialty in early childhood and elementary science and language arts. Married to a member of the military, Petersen often moved around and lived in states including Florida, Oklahoma, Washington and Alaska before moving overseas to Hungary. Throughout these moves, she broadened her education and career pathway to public administration, working in nonprofit and local and federal government positions.

The Society's position caught her eye because of her passion for not only education but also conservation. Zoo Classes and Camps provide unique content and educational opportunities beyond a traditional classroom. A child's exciting, hands-on visit to a Zoo Class can translate into great dinner conversations at home, which inspires return visits to the Zoo and evolves into a deeper understanding of the natural world for that child and family. "When this happens across thousands of children, it has powerful implications for conservation in our community," says Petersen.

Looking to the future, Petersen wants to ensure members of the community have broad access to education programs at the Zoo generally and the type of programming they want specifically. "Our members and volunteers have shared ideas with us about our programming, and we're looking to pilot some of those ideas starting as soon as summer of 2019."



## AVAILABLE CLASSES

**Zoo Class is a perfect opportunity to spend quality time with your youngsters. Parents or grandparents can push their little ones in a stroller during Stroller Safari or join their kids in class up to age 5. Zoo Classes involve interactive learning, which makes things easier to understand but also more fun. Here are some of the classes still available through December:**

**Reindeer Adventures:** Ages 4-5 with or without an adult. Kids will learn about reindeer, their antlers and hooves. Then, the class will go to the Zoo's reindeer barn to meet the animals up close. Shhh ... kids will get a special surprise visit from Santa or Mrs. Claus.

**Penguin Power:** Age 3 with an adult. Kids can empower their inner penguin by making a penguin costume and learn how the animal slides on its belly, balances an egg on its feet and swims after fish.



# COMMUNITY OF BACKYARD ANIMALS



We all love the animals inside the Zoo, but it's important we show the same love to the animals in our backyard or parks. This winter, an energetic gnome named Hadley comes to life and teaches kids and families about finding harmony in yards big and small. This new Kohl's Wild Theater musical, fittingly called "Finding Harmony," shows how squirrels, rabbits and even the grass and plants are all part of an ecological community.

## Important Lessons

As part of the theme related to a backyard community, Kohl's Wild Theater teamed up with the Wisconsin Humane Society for the first time. The Humane Society helped the writers dispel the myth that mother rabbits will abandon their babies if they sense a human's smell on them. Audience members will learn what to do and not to do when they see a baby rabbit.

## New Ideas and Perspectives

In addition to a new partnership with the Humane Society, key players of this musical brought new ideas. The playwright, set designer, choreographer and music director were all new to Kohl's Wild Theater. "Each of them is a respected professional in the local theater community, and I'm thrilled with the innovative ideas and perspectives they are bringing to the piece," explains Zach Woods, director of "Finding Harmony." One difference fans will see is a puppeteer. All the puppeteers are totally visible for the duration of the show instead of hidden within a set. Woods thinks this will help bring the puppet to life through body language and interaction.

## Showtime

Schools, libraries and other community groups can start booking "Finding Harmony" now. The show is available starting in February 2019. Kohl's Wild Theater is made possible by a partnership with Kohl's Cares, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo. It performs shows throughout the year free of charge at schools, festivals and community events within a one-hour radius of the Zoo. For more information and to book a show, visit [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org).



*Book now!* ☆ ☆

**Catching Some Zzzz:** Ages 6-7 or ages 8-10. Some animals sleep in trees, some sleep with their eyes open and others sleep standing up. Discover the strategies animals use to sleep safe and sound. Kids will decorate a pillowcase to take home for their good night's sleep.

Zoo Classes and Camps also make great gifts. You can buy a gift card from the Zoological Society, and recipients can cash it in when registering for classes. Registration for Winter and Spring Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, starts Nov. 15 for Zoo Pass members. Zoo Pass members not only get priority registration, each class is offered at a discounted price. To check out classes and register online, visit [zoosociety.org/Education](http://zoosociety.org/Education).

Photo by Bob Wickland



# HELP US CROSS THE FINISH LINE

The Zoo's two African elephants, Ruth and Brittany, are now in their new home. Everything in this exhibit is new and bigger. Their outdoor space alone is four times the size of their current exhibit and includes three enrichment walls and a watering hole that can hold up to three fully submerged elephants at one time.

The new state-of-the-art Elephant Care Center features five individual elephant stalls, an indoor Rec Room for year-round viewing and a Learning Loft for education classes and VIP Events.

But the plans don't stop there. The African hoofstock (impala, bongo, yellow-backed duiker and more) are getting a new home at the same time, with future plans to build new homes for the hippos and rhinos. It's all part of what will be called Adventure Africa. This project will transform 25% of the developed footprint of the Zoo, representing the largest physical change to the Zoo since it opened at its current location in 1961.

To make these positive changes, we need your help to cross the finish line. As a partner with Milwaukee County, the Zoological Society has set a goal to raise \$25 million for its portion to support Adventure Africa. Every dollar counts, and there are multiple ways everyone can help.

- **Start a Facebook fundraising page.** Take a look at [facebook.com/ZooPass](https://facebook.com/ZooPass) and click on fundraisers. Create a page to help Adventure Africa and allow friends and family to donate in your name. It can be for your birthday or just because.
- **Buy a 6-inch Beastie™** from Guest Services inside the Zoo. Each Beastie is \$30 or buy four and get one free.
- **Have your child's classroom put together a fundraiser.** That could include a bake sale, coin clash, talent show or an aluminum recycle drive.
- **Clean your closets and hold a rummage sale.** Funds from your sale can be donated to Adventure Africa.
- **Does your child love animals?** Throw him or her an elephant-themed birthday party and ask for donations to Adventure Africa.
- **Take a virtual tour** and see where your donations will go. You can see the plans for the new elephant and African hoofstock exhibits at [elephant.Win2Wild.com](http://elephant.Win2Wild.com). After taking a tour of all the new features, [click on the Donate Now button and help make Adventure Africa a reality.](#)

**Your contributions to Adventure Africa will help transform 25% of our beloved Zoo today and for generations to come.**

**DONATE NOW!**

[elephant.Win2Wild.com](http://elephant.Win2Wild.com)



Exhibit renderings provided by HGA



# SOMETHING TO CHIRP ABOUT

With the use of a feather duster, a nature CD and live crickets, zookeeper Bryan Kwiatkowski is equipped to raise black-necked stilt chicks for the first time at the Milwaukee County Zoo. It's a big job that zookeepers conquered not once, but three times this year. The first clutch hatched in January, and zookeepers kept a close eye on how mom and dad would react. "The parents have not raised chicks together before. Our female has had chicks before but was inattentive," says Kwiatkowski. The parents did a great job of incubating the eggs, but once the eggs hatched it was a different story. "Mom was easily distracted and would defend her nesting area but lose track of the chicks. The chicks would wander and become chilled and hungry." That's when zookeepers intervened to raise the chicks. It was a similar situation when the parents had more chicks in May and again in August.

When hand-raising chicks, keepers start by creating an environment that will result in healthy and strong chicks. The flooring in their enclosure, called cactus matting, is made of a soft, interwoven plastic material. Keepers create tiny hills and uneven surfaces to help strengthen their legs and toes. Two feather dusters are in their enclosure to simulate parents. "If they are stressed or need a little extra TLC, they can nuzzle in there like they would with mom or dad," explains Kwiatkowski. A nature CD plays in the room to mimic natural environmental sounds and also helps to muffle human voices that may be distracting to the chicks.

When it comes time to eat, zookeepers use live foods like blackworms and small crickets along with a dish of fish-based pâté. Because the chicks don't have a parent to show them where food is, the movement of worms or crickets can attract the birds to the food dish where they will find enough to eat. Kwiatkowski also witnessed the power of siblings. "When one is going for a cricket, everyone wants the cricket. They are always interested in what the others are discovering."

Keepers kept each clutch of stilts behind the scenes for about one month before they were old enough to go out on exhibit. Black-necked stilts are not very common in zoos, so the chicks raised here have gone or will be going to other locations to help increase the population. Two of the males have gone to the NEW Zoo in Green Bay, two more went to Miller Park Zoo in Illinois in October, and one male and one female are slated to go to the Los Angeles Zoo. You can continue to see mom and dad in the shorebird exhibit inside the bird building.



Photo by Richard Brodzeller



*The black pieces on the ground are pieces of cactus matting to help their toes, feet and legs.*

Photos by Bryan Kwiatkowski

# GROWING INTEREST



A zoo is a great place for kids and adults to learn about animals they normally don't have a chance to see in the wild. Here at the Milwaukee County Zoo, it's also a worldwide destination for researchers to learn about lesser known animals like bonobos.

Bonobos were discovered fewer than 100 years ago, and we are still learning new things about the great ape. Since Milwaukee has the largest bonobo collection in North America and is one of only seven zoos in the entire country to house bonobos, many researchers head to Milwaukee. Jeroen Stevens from Antwerp Zoo in Belgium has been studying bonobos for 24 years. Right now, he is in the midst of a multi-year study on how much and how fast bonobos grow. "In humans, we know there are two growth spurts.

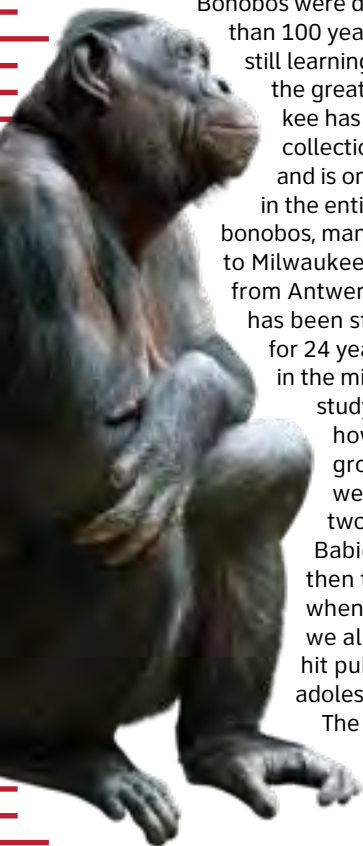
Babies grow fast and then they grow slower when they're kids, and we all know when you hit puberty you hit an adolescent growth spurt.

The theory is this does not exist outside of humans," explains Stevens.

The bonobos are instructed to put their arms into a clear plexiglass tube that has markings. Stevens then records the length from the thumb to the elbow. The bonobos think it's really fun and they get a reward afterward, which can make it harder on Stevens and the zookeepers. "You have to give everybody a chance, and the problem is some animals will never stop. They keep doing it, and they love it so much." Not only is it fun for the bonobos, it is the easiest and safest option for both animal and keeper.

Having researchers and other bonobo experts come in and out of the Milwaukee County Zoo is a win-win situation. The bonobos have fun and zookeeper Stacy Whitaker says she learns new things. "It gives us information on how to take care of animals in zoos. We don't know everything about bonobos so it helps keepers, zoos and the people who manage them."

Stevens is measuring bonobo growth in Milwaukee, Columbus, Belgium, Germany and Austria. He is five years into the study and says it's too soon to make any conclusions.



*Zookeeper Stacy Whitaker helps measure a bonobo's arm length.*

Photo by Joel Miller



*Bonobo Laura.* Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Photo by Olga Kornienko

## THE RUN & ONLY

**Samson Stomp & Romp**  
Sponsored by Amica Insurance  
Jan. 20, starting at 9:30 a.m.



# BUILDING SUSPENSE



The Milwaukee County Zoo has two new animals that you won't be able to see for a year or maybe more. It may seem mean to tell you about an animal that you can't see, but the species is exciting and it will be worth the wait. Zookeepers are raising two arapaimas behind the scenes. Arapaimas are the largest freshwater fish on the planet. Aquatic & Reptile Center curator Shawn Miller says they can grow up to 10 feet or larger and weigh about 400 pounds. Right now, they are not quite up to a foot. Because they are so small, they can't go into the tank with the other fish because they would become prey. It will

take 12 to 18 months to get them big enough and ready for the Amazon tank. Shawn explains many organizations don't have room for such a large fish, but the Zoo's Amazon tank is 55,000 gallons and will easily support two arapaimas along with its current collection.

It's been about 13 years since the Zoo had an arapaima. Shawn says guests will not only be impressed with their size but also their colors. "Those guys pick up some really bright greens, reds or iridescent blues depending on the individual. We don't know what colors they will be until they get up to size."

## QUICK FACTS

- Arapaimas are found in Brazil, Peru & Guyana.
- They can breathe air and survive up to 24 hours outside of water.
- The arapaima's mouth works like a vacuum that sucks in food.

### **Sprint or jog into the new year with the Zoo's annual Samson Stomp & Romp.**

This unique run has people of all ages running past their favorite animals. Named after the Zoo's late silverback gorilla Samson (1950-1981), there are four races to choose from: a 5k run that can include teams, a two-mile and one-mile run, or a quarter-mile romp for kids. Wear some extra layers and get your blood pumping as you zip past the penguins and zoom by the bears.

Individual runners can pre-register for \$25 or start a team and pay \$20 per runner. Same-day registration is \$30. The children's romp is \$10 per child. Registration includes Zoo admission, parking and a long-sleeved T-shirt. Zoo Passes are not valid for this event.

**Registration is online at [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org).**

# HONORING SUPPORTERS

On Sept. 13, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee hosted a dinner to thank some of its most generous supporters. Members of the Platypus Circle and Serengeti Circle gathered at the Peck Welcome Center for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a gourmet dinner. About 350 donors who support the Society and the Zoo through sponsorships, grants and donor programs came to the event. Here are some of the award winners.



## JUDY HOLZ STATHAS

was presented with the President's Award for her extraordinary vision, service and contributions to the Zoological Society and the Zoo. Only a few people have received this prestigious award. Judy Holz Stathas has provided extraordinary financial support to the Society and the Zoo through personal gifts from her and her husband Bill and in collaboration with her family through the Holz Family Foundation and Holz Motors. Major gifts include lead donations in both the last capital campaign and the current Window to the Wild Capital Campaign. Holz Stathas has been with the Associate Board and Board of Directors since 1995 and chaired several events, including Zoo Ball in 2004 and again in 2017 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Zoo.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo

## JAY MCKENNA

received the Emu Egg, one of the Society's highest honors. As president and COO of North Shore Bank, McKenna is a key supporter of the bank's sponsorship of the Zoo's Safari Train and Family Free Days. For nine years, McKenna has been a member of the Board of Directors and is currently a member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, helping bring Adventure Africa to life.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo



The *Pan paniscus* (bonobo) Award for conservation was presented to the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**.



The **A.O. Smith Foundation** received the *Panthera leo* (lion) Award for education.



**Northwestern Mutual** was recognized as the corporation of the year with the *Loxodonta africana* (African elephant) Award.



## BY THE NUMBERS

1



### 1. Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

A sold-out crowd of **144** took a swing at the Society's annual golf fundraiser. On July 30, Birdies & Eagles, sponsored by GRAEF, raised more than **\$109,000**.

Photo by Peter Zuzga

### 2. Snooze at the Zoo

More than **1,400** campers spent the night inside the Zoo for Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Post Consumer Brands and Sentry Foods. The fundraiser, Aug. 8-11, raised **\$65,765** for the Zoological Society.

Photo by Stacy Kaat

2



3



### 3. A la Carte

Carlos M., Jeremiah, 4, and Jelixsa, 9, enjoy the different tastes at Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte, presented by Meijer. The four-day event, Aug. 16-19, attracted **58,421** people.

Photo by Bob Wickland

### 4. Animal Safari

A special day designated for animal sponsors brought in **8,850** people. The Aug. 25 event, sponsored by Lifeway Foods, gave animal sponsors a chance to take specific behind-the-scenes tours such as the indoor home of the giraffes pictured here.

Photo by Paul Ruffolo

4



5



### 5. Senior Celebration

Senior Celebration, sponsored by St. Camillus, A Life Plan Community, is a day dedicated to anyone 55 and older. The Aug. 31 event brought in **7,366** people. Events like line dancing, bingo and music kept the party going.

Photo by Olga Kornienko



# “HOOKED” ON A GOOD NIGHT

## Puttin’ on the Ritz

Sponsored by Husch Blackwell

Jan. 17 at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

It’s easy to get hooked on the Zoological Society’s annual Puttin’ on the Ritz fundraiser. The black-tie event features an evening of amateur boxing. While the main event is action packed, the whole event is a knockout. The evening starts with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at 6 p.m. Guests can take a look at dozens of items up for auction including sports memorabilia, dinners and travel. A gourmet dinner will start at 7:30 p.m. followed by the boxing matches. The boxers, arranged by Future Olympian Boxing Association, will fight in three-round bouts. The boxing ring is sponsored by Bridgewood Advisors.

**Cost:** \$200 per person, \$2,000 for a table sponsorship or \$3,000 for a ringside table sponsorship. Of the \$200 per-person cost, \$80 is tax deductible.

**Register at [zoosociety.org/Ritz](http://zoosociety.org/Ritz) or call 414-258-2333 to request a paper invitation.**

Photo by Stacy Kaat



# WILDLIFE SAFARI TO TANZANIA

Witness some of your favorite animals in their natural habitat when you go on an African safari. Milwaukee County Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser and Zoological Society President and CEO Jodi Gibson will travel with you on this wild excursion devoted to the country of Tanzania. The trip includes tours of the Tarangire National Park, known for having thousands of elephants – the largest population of elephants in northern Tanzania. Your official tour guide will then take you to Lake Manyara National Park. Described as a paradise, this park is filled with more than 350 species of birds and offers a forest filled with monkeys, baboons, giraffes, zebras and the king of the jungle – lions. The sixth day of your safari includes the Ngorongoro Crater. The crater is 1,800 feet deep and 102 square miles. Believed to have been created two million years ago, the crater has become mostly savannah and is a prime spot to see black rhinos, crowned cranes and wildebeest. The trip ends with a tour inside the Serengeti National Park and Oldupai Gorge. See one of the world’s most important paleoanthropological locations where evidence of *Homo habilis*, stone tools and extinct animals have been uncovered.



This trip is planned and organized by Classic Escapes, an AZA member and vendor. Jodi Gibson and Chuck Wikenhauser will accompany the group with a maximum of 15 travelers. The safari is July 23 to Aug. 2, 2019. Anyone who books their trip by Dec. 30, 2018, gets a \$300 discount per person.

For more details about price and what is included in this trip go to [zoosociety.org/Travel/Tanzania.php](http://zoosociety.org/Travel/Tanzania.php). Jodi, Chuck and Classic Escapes will host an informational meeting on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

**To RSVP for the meeting, email [membership@zoosociety.org](mailto:membership@zoosociety.org).**

Photos provided by Classic Escapes.



# LITTLE LILY, BIG SMILES

There's a lot of love for the Zoo's first baby red panda, Lily. She was born in June to first-time parents Dash and Dr. Erin Curry. Lily was named after Dr. Lily Alanna Parkinson, a recent vet resident at the Zoo who first spotted the baby via ultrasound in the womb and tracked the pregnancy. Red pandas are around 5 ounces when they're born and are blind for the first several weeks up to a month. Lily is now closer to 7 pounds and eating foods like bamboo and biscuits. Red pandas prefer the winter so there is a good chance you will catch a glimpse of the family outside.

To celebrate the news about Lily and the overall cuteness of red pandas, purchase this year's holiday ornament featuring a red panda couple cuddling. The handcrafted, pewter ornament is created by local artist Andy Schumann. The ornament is \$14 and includes postage, mailing materials and sales tax.

**To buy this ornament or an ornament from years past, go to [zoosociety.org/Ornament](https://zoosociety.org/Ornament).**



Photo by Joel Miller



# SANTA'S STOP AT THE ZOO

## Breakfast and Lunch with Santa

*Sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles*

Dec. 1-2, 8-9, and 15-16

Guests must pre-register.

**Cost: Adults: \$22.95, children (3-12): \$17.95, 2 and under: \$5.95; parking not included.**

While Santa is checking on his reindeer at the Milwaukee County Zoo, families have the chance to spend a little time with jolly ol' St. Nick. Santa and Mrs. Claus are inviting you to have breakfast or lunch with them this December inside the Peck Welcome Center. In addition to children sitting on Santa's lap for a picture and a quick chat about their Christmas wish list, there will be live entertainment and a gift for each child. Breakfast includes Racine Danish Kringles, pancakes, sausage and fruit. Lunch offers pulled BBQ pork sliders, chicken tenders, and macaroni and cheese. After the event, you can take the rest of the day to walk around the Zoo. Don't forget to go visit the reindeer; the Christmas spirit helps get them ready for the big day.

Limited tickets available so register now.



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**Sponsor Emerald  
the otter,  
page 3.**

Photo by Bob Wickland

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Details Inside

## Nov. 3

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)\*

## Nov. 15

Online registration begins for 2019 Spring Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer

## Dec. 1

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)\*

## Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16

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

## Dec. 1-29

Fantastic Forest, sponsored by Hawks Landscape\*

## Jan. 5

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)\*

## Jan. 17

Puttin' on the Ritz at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, sponsored by Husch Blackwell (pre-register)

## Jan. 20

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

## Feb. 2

Groundhog Day at the Zoo\*

## Feb. 2

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)\*

## Feb. 3

Winter and Spring Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, begin

## Feb. 6

Online registration begins for Zoological Society Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices

## Feb. 23

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

## March 2

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6 (Parking fees still apply)\*



**Samson Stomp & Romp, page 10-11.**

Photo by Olga Kornienko

\*Zoo Pass members get free Milwaukee County 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.

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 Milwaukee Zoo Pass App



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



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