

# Wild Things



## Lions, Tigers and Beers

### The Zoological Society's Zoo Brew

Thursday, Sept. 29, 7-10 p.m. (VIP admission at 6 p.m.)

Regular Tickets: \$50 Zoo Pass members and guests; \$60 non-members.

VIP Tickets: \$60 members and guests; \$70 non-members.

To register and for a list of beer and food vendors and designated driver prices, go to [zoosociety.org/Brew](http://zoosociety.org/Brew).

*Chet Rosales, of Brookfield, tastes a beer sample. Last year's event drew 647 people.*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Have you ever been drinking beer and thought, "This would taste a lot better next to a jaguar?" If so, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's fall fundraiser will make your dreams come true. Sample and taste beer from an assortment of breweries at several locations throughout the Zoo, including Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country, the Peck Welcome Center and the Flamingo Patio Beer Garden. Make new friends (human and non-human), drink new beers and try new foods at this fun evening get-together. Proceeds benefit the Zoological Society's 2017 Annual Appeal. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age to participate.

## Take on the Zoo, One Pedal at a Time

### Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride

Sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan

Media Sponsors: News/Talk 1130, FM106.1, 95.7 BIG FM, 97-3 NOW, V100.7

Sunday, Sept. 11, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Register online at [zoosociety.org/Bike](http://zoosociety.org/Bike) by Sept. 9. Day-of-event registrations accepted; T-shirt sizes not guaranteed. Zoo Pass members:

adults (14 and older), \$35; children (3-13), \$12; family of four, \$85.

Non-members: adults, \$40; children, \$15; family of four, \$100.

Day of: adults, \$45; children, \$20.

Take this opportunity to get outside and exercise while seeing animals from all over the world at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

This annual fundraiser for the Zoological Society is an event for everyone. Kids and families can pedal past peacocks, penguins and more on a special 2.5-mile kids' route, while avid bikers can choose one of the distance rides\* (up to 20 miles+) that start and end at the Zoo. While waiting for the distance bikers to return, kids and families will enjoy a post-ride snack, crafts and more at the Kids 'n Critters Corral, sponsored by Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, S.C. After the ride, all participants will rest and recharge with lunch. The registration fee includes entry to the Zoo and parking, a continental breakfast, lunch and a long-sleeve T-shirt.

Special thanks to our contributing sponsors: Be Spectacled; Litho-Craft; R&R Insurance; Southport Engineered Systems; Stephanie Murphy, DDS; Super-Lube; Van Westen Orthodontics; and Wheel & Sprocket.

\*17-mile bike ride is sponsored by Mallery & Zimmerman, S.C.



*Officer Doug Braun of the Wauwatosa Police Department inspects his bike before taking off on a ride.*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

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# Appreciating the Animals

## Elephant Appreciation Day

**Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Free activities; free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

If you've ever stared in awe at the beauty and magnitude of the Zoo's African elephants, Ruth and Brittany, then this day is for you. Learn all about elephants and efforts to conserve wild elephants when you attend Elephant Appreciation Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Talk to the elephant zookeepers, view and touch elephant artifacts such as a real tusk and tail, and buy paintings made by Ruth and Brittany. Proceeds go to the International Elephant Foundation.



*African elephants Brittany (left) and Ruth munch on large pumpkins. The two have been together for 10 years.* Photo by Richard Brodzeller

## Wolf Awareness Day

**Saturday, Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Free activities; free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

Wolves get a bad rap, but they really shouldn't. Years of rumors, misinformation and scary stories casting wolves as malicious man-eaters have led to fear, hatred and persecution of these incredible animals. Native to North America, wolves used to be found in all regions and areas, including Wisconsin, but their populations have greatly declined. Break the cycle and come to the Milwaukee County Zoo for Wolf Awareness Day. Learn the truth about wolves and see how zookeepers care for the Zoo's grey wolf, Nikan. Have fun with wolf-related crafts and do your best wolf howl impression. Learn all about different types of wolves, their behaviors, what you can do to protect wolves and more.

*Timber wolf Nikan. Timber wolves are a subspecies of grey wolves.* Photo by Richard Brodzeller



## 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 October 31:** 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.  
**November through February:** 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.

**The Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes prior to the posted Zoo closing time. The animal buildings close 15 minutes before posted Zoo closing time.**

**School field trips/company outings:** For Zoo Pass members visiting the Zoo with an organized class field trip or company picnic, members' free-admission benefits do not apply. Due to the many busloads of school groups visiting the Zoo, gate staff is not able to board each bus to verify memberships without causing potentially dangerous traffic back-ups onto Bluemound Road. The fees paid for educational outings and company picnics typically include additional class materials or zoo-visit benefits.

**Zoo admission:** Please remember to have your Zoo Pass and identification ready when you arrive at the Zoo's admission gates. You will be asked to present both to the Zoo's gate attendant. If you've misplaced your card, replacement cards may be purchased for \$5. Zoo Pass Plus members: Free parking is valid for one vehicle per membership per day.

**Who can use member cards?** The person(s) named on the Zoo Pass is the owner of the card, and benefits are not transferable to anyone else. We need to have the number of minor children/grandchildren in your household reflected in your membership records for the Zoo's admission gates. Foster children are covered on your membership. **Day care providers: Your Zoo**

**Pass membership does not cover children for whom you provide baby-sitting or day-care services.** The Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any membership being used inappropriately.

**Check your attraction coupon usage with the myAccount feature:** Check out our website, [zoopass.com](http://zoopass.com), for information on setting up your personal myAccount. (The myAccount button is on the top of the page.) This is a feature that will give you online access to your Zoo Pass membership information and much more. You need to create your myAccount and enter a personal password for the feature. Then you will be able to view the number of attraction coupons you have with your Zoo Pass, determine the tax-deductible portion of your contributions, update your email or home address, and more easily complete transactions like sponsoring an animal.

### WILD THINGS

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# GET DOWN ON THE FARM

## Family Farm Weekend

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board  
Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 10 & 11

Free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

Come visit our city's only working dairy farm at the Milwaukee County Zoo's two-day farm fest. Kids can get in touch with their competitive side (and get some vitamin D) by participating in a milk-chugging contest. Children age 10 and under, weighing 70 pounds or less, can test their muscle strength in the pedal tractor-pull contest, sponsored by CNH Industrial. Get your fuzzy fix by visiting the Stackner Animal Encounter area to pet and learn about a variety of animals like rabbits and chickens. See dairy cows, donkeys, hogs and the Zoo's horse, Gypsy. Learn how honey, maple sugar and hand-churned ice cream are made and sample some of the sweet treats. Adults can get in the fall spirit with a fresh-produce farmers market, basket-weaving demonstrations and talks with University of Wisconsin Extension master gardeners — all while listening to the themed tunes of the Bluegrass Allstars.



(Above) Owen X., 3, of Waukesha, churns homemade mint chocolate chip ice cream at a previous year's event.  
Photo by Richard Brodzeller



(Left) Gypsy, the Zoo's Arabian horse, poses for a picture in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. Photo by Bob Wickland

## Reminder!

### Trip to Chicago to see the Terracotta Warriors at The Field Museum

Saturday, Sept. 17, 6:15 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$70 per adult (age 18-64); \$65 per child or senior.

The excavation of the Terracotta Warriors, a large army of clay figurines built by China's first emperor to protect him in the afterlife, is considered to be one of the greatest archeological finds of the 20th century. Join the Zoological Society on a trip to see the Terracotta Warriors at The Field Museum in Chicago. This day is exclusively for Zoo Pass members and their guests. Fee includes transportation and admission to The Field Museum and the Terracotta Warriors exhibit. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon! Register online at [zoosociety.org/Travel](http://zoosociety.org/Travel) or by calling 414-258-2333.

*The Chinese used many different colors of paint on the Terracotta Army figures. However, many of these pigments deteriorated over the years. Conservators work to preserve the remaining colors on these figures to prevent further decay.*

© Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center and Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Mausoleum Site Museum



# ACTING WILD

In the previous issue of Wild Things, you read about some of the new actors performing with Kohl's Wild Theater, the Zoological Society's theater troupe that performs at the Zoo and around the community. Read on to learn more about the rest of the talented recruits. You can still catch four free shows daily at the Zoo through Labor Day.



## **KARA PENROSE, 29**

**Hometown:** San Ramon, Calif.

**Favorite previous roles:** Little Sally in "Urinetown" and Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing"

**Favorite animal(s):** Ring-tailed lemur

**Why did you want to join Kohl's Wild Theater?** "KWT is a great opportunity to work consistently as an actor and have the opportunity to learn and perform a multitude of roles. Plus, I love animals."



## **BRITTANY NOELLE CURRAN, 24**

**Hometown:** Oshkosh, Wis.

**Favorite previous roles:** June in "Marisol," Oldie Mama in "Gint," Emily Dickinson (understudy intern) in "The Belle of Amherst" and Borachio/Antonio in "Much Ado About Nothing"

**Favorite animal(s):** "My two absolute favorite animals in the whole world are my cats, Guapo and Cici, but my favorite wild animal is the bottlenose dolphin."

**Why did you want to join Kohl's Wild Theater?** "I wanted to join Kohl's Wild Theater because it fuses several of my passions — performance, education, animals and the outdoors — into one really cool job!"



## **JJ GATESMAN, 29**

**Hometown:** Las Vegas, Nev.

**Favorite previous roles:** Ellard in "The Foreigner," Edward III in "Henry VI" and Austin in "The Other Room"

**Favorite animal(s):** Lion

**Why did you want to join Kohl's Wild Theater?** "I love performing for children. They give you the most honest responses, they tell you what they need and they are always willing to be surprised."

## **KOHL'S WILD THEATER**

Kohl's Wild Theater is made possible by a partnership among Kohl's Cares, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo. It performs four free 15-minute shows daily at its stage in the farm area, along with daily skits throughout the Zoo, through Labor Day. It also performs shows throughout the year, free of charge, at schools, festivals and community events within a one-hour radius of the Milwaukee County Zoo. For more information, visit [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org). To book a show, contact Julie B. at 414-258-2333 or [KWT@zoosociety.org](mailto:KWT@zoosociety.org).



*Kara Penrose (left) and Brittany Curran play frogs talking to Virgil the vole in the Kohl's Wild Theater play "The Wonderful Lizard of ooZ."* Photo by Richard Taylor

# A Screaming Good Time



## Boo at the Zoo

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 14 & 15, 6-9 p.m.

Free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

No trick-or-treating.

Boo! Get your ghost on with the whole family when you visit the Milwaukee County Zoo on a spooky fall night. This kid-friendly event features caramel apples, a pumpkin patch with hundreds of jack-o'-lanterns (carved by Zoo Pride volunteers), an eerie light show with haunting Halloween displays, a friendly haystack maze, a ghostly train ride and more.

*Alayna M., 3 (in back), watches as brother Grant, 4, gives Frankenstein a high-five in a haystack maze at a previous Boo at the Zoo. Photo by Richard Taylor*

## Halloween Spooktacular

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

Friday, Oct. 21 (trick-or-treating 6-9 p.m.) &

Saturday, Oct. 22 (trick-or-treating 9 a.m.-9 p.m.)

Free Zoo admission for Zoo Pass members with photo ID.

Treat yourself (and your kids) when you go trick-or-treating at the Zoo! Wear your scariest, friendliest or silliest costume and be sure to say "trick-or-treat!" when you stop at the various at-exhibit trick-or-treating locations throughout the Zoo. March in the 2 p.m. parade Saturday, dance with the goblins to live music, run through the haystack maze at the Lakeview Deck, get superstitious during the light show in the Wolf Woods and more.



*(Above) Shiver-me-timbers! Vanshika T., 4, of New Berlin, shows off her pirate getup in the Zoo's Halloween Spooktacular costume parade. Photo by Richard Taylor*

*(Left) Jaguar Francisco gets a pumpkin for enrichment during Halloween Spooktacular. Photo by Olga Kornienko*



# 40 Years of Learning About Animals



College intern Megan Amenda leads a group of 6- and 7-year-olds throughout the Zoo to debunk animal myths and solve a zoo mystery during a previous year's summer camp, "Spy Kids." Photo by Richard Brodzeller

It's 9:25 a.m. on a calm Wednesday morning in August. The sun is up and radiating warmth over the Zoo — foreshadowing a temperature of around 80 degrees. Many animals are still stirring from their slumbers and getting ready for the day with their keepers. But things inside the education building are already hopping. There is activity everywhere; parents, children, siblings, teachers, volunteers all move around the first floor with excitement. Anticipatory chatter fills the halls. Children of all ages file into their colored classrooms — red, green, yellow, blue, purple, orange, white. At the end of the hall is

the green room. Inside, the room is full of games, crafts and activities for the "Animal Champions" camp. A young boy wobbles as he tries to balance like a Goeldi's monkey. A timid girl hides a smile as she colors her animal book filled with facts. In the yard, a father times his daughter as she races like a cheetah and hurdles like a mule deer. And the rest of the day will be like this.

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Education Department is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Forty years ago, a two-person staff offered guided tours of the Zoo and talks to about 10,000 students within the Milwaukee area. Today, the Education Department offers classes and camps to kids from birth to age 14 throughout the year — from Stroller Safaris for infants to science, art and career-focused classes for older children, schools and scout groups. It even offers teacher education and photography classes for adults and classes tailored to families who wish to learn together. In 2011 Kohl's Wild Theater debuted, becoming the largest zoo-based theater program in the country.

Since its official beginning in 1976, the department has grown to 14 full-time employees and well over 20 seasonal staff today. The Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center, a fully-equipped education building, was built in 2004 and features eight classrooms, staff offices, a green roof and large storage rooms for educational supplies. The department's award-winning programs are some of the best in the nation. Classes are held year-round, but summer is when it gets really busy for education. "We have one of the largest summer camp programs among zoos in the nation," says James Mills, director of education for the Society. "Well over 11,000 children and adults experience our camps each summer."

The classes and camps offered in the department are strategically planned and tailored to each age group. People of all ages can learn about the wonderful world of animals in Zoo Classes and Camps that are theme-based and centered on child development, science and relationship building. "Most of the focus is on animals, but they're learning other developmentally appropriate subjects, concepts and skills," says Mills, who is in his 22nd year with the Society. "People rave about our classes, and our staff regularly receive flattering testimonials."



James Mills, director of education, has been with the Society since 1994.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

The department has made a big impact in its 40 years. It now offers 123 different classes and programs throughout the year, boasting 2,307 sessions. Last year, the department served more than 304,000 children, parents, teachers and other community members through its classes, school programs and Kohl's Wild Theater.

Conservation education is a major focus of the department, with the goal of building children's appreciation for wildlife, teaching participants the importance of protecting animals and the natural world, and educating people about the conservation functions of the Zoo. Conservation messaging is woven into many programs, and the department works to reach groups that cannot readily access the Zoo and its programs. The Animal Ambassador (1989) and Animal Ambassador Continuum (2002) programs reach thousands of disadvantaged youth by traveling to urban schools to teach children the importance of animal advocacy and environmental conservation. Animal Ambassador students also visit the Zoo for program lessons. Many of them have never been to the Zoo before. "We really want kids to identify with animals in an empathetic way," says Mills. "We first want to show them how cool nature is and the wonders of life, and then as participants mature, tell them about the ways in which people can help wildlife. We want to leave them with a sense of hope." The department works to reach diverse audiences through community centers, libraries and social service agencies.

In order for the Milwaukee County Zoo to maintain its accreditation with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the Zoo has to provide significant and substantial education programming. "Education is critical in the Zoo's success to remain AZA-accredited," says Mills. The staff and educators in the department feel lucky to be teaching children in such a vibrant, fun setting. "As educators we have a phenomenal stage on which to act due to the diversity of exhibits and animals in our Zoo and the strengths of the Zoo's animal care staff."



*Kay K., of Brookfield, works on her peacock art project during an art class for 6-7-year-olds. Photo by Richard Taylor*



It all comes down to teaching the connections between humans and wildlife and fostering a respect for nature. "Beyond their beauty and fascinating variety, animals and plants provide people with so many benefits and ecological services," Mills says. "I care as much about animals for the future of humanity as I do for the animals themselves."

*By Brynn Herbert*

*Jessica R. and daughter Abby, 9, of Grafton, make a forage box for the monkeys during "Family Zookeeper" class. Photo by Richard Taylor*

**Enrollment for Fall Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, has started. Go to [zoosociety.org/Education](http://zoosociety.org/Education) to sign up.**

# Annual Appeal

## Much More for the Monkeys

As many of you already know, this year's Annual Appeal focuses on the Colobus monkeys and will allow them to move outside for the very first time since the Zoo opened in its current location in 1961. However, the appeal will also benefit two other primate species: the mandrills and the siamangs. It is the most efficient use of the money to upgrade all three exhibits at the same time. As a result, the Colobus monkeys and mandrills will rotate through a shared outdoor exhibit.



*The Annual Appeal will help the Colobus monkeys (pictured above) go outside for the first time ever.* Photo by Olga Kornienko

### Your contribution will help:

- Create a corridor from the Colobus exhibit to the outdoor exhibit next to the building
- Add a scale in the corridor to easily weigh the monkeys, as well as a device that allows medical staff to administer medications to monkeys without anesthesia
- Build a door between the Colobus and mandrill exhibits so one species can utilize the full space while the other is outdoors
- Install more swinging equipment for the siamangs to mimic a more authentic habitat
- Create enrichment opportunities and items for all three species to encourage natural behaviors

**To give** to the Zoological Society's 2015-16 Annual Appeal, please go to [zoosociety.org/Appeal](http://zoosociety.org/Appeal). All donations are tax-deductible.



## Holiday Ornament

In honor of Strannik, the Milwaukee County Zoo's newest Amur tiger, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has chosen a tiger to be this year's holiday ornament and the 25th ornament in its collection. Tigers are known for their majestic beauty and captivating presence. Their courage, perseverance and protectiveness are only a few of their admirable traits. Like any tiger, Strannik reminds us of the splendor and magnificence of all animals and why we work so hard to protect them. In the holiday season, we become more aware of the joy and love in our lives as we are surrounded by family and friends. Every tiger is different — no two tigers have the same stripe pattern. Their characteristics and uniqueness surely remind us of our one-of-a-kind loved ones. Show the special people in your life their irreplaceability when you order this \$14 handcrafted, pewter ornament by local Wisconsin artist Andy Schumann.

*Ornament designed and sculpted by Andy Schumann of Schumann Sculptures.*

**To order** this year's tiger ornament and ornaments from years past, please visit [zoosociety.org/Ornament](http://zoosociety.org/Ornament).



# By the Numbers

1



## 1. Zoo Ball

Zoo Ball guests dance the night away at the annual gala. This year's theme was Hollywood & Vine. The event, sponsored by **Briggs & Stratton Corporation**, raised just over \$500,000 for the Society.

Photo by Stacy Kaat

## 2. Father's Day

Ryan and Vernisha T., of Milwaukee, spend Father's Day at the Zoo with children DeNaro, 1, and Leilani, 4. Dads on Father's Day enjoyed free Zoo admission thanks to sponsor **Prairie Farms Dairy**. The day brought in 7,501 people (1,329 dads). Photo by Olga Kornienko



2

3

## 3. Sunset Zoofari

(Left to right) Terry and Lisa Royea, of Milwaukee, and Linda and Paul Teske, of Waukesha, enjoy the live music at one of this year's Sunset Zoofaris, sponsored by **Tri City National Bank**. The first five concerts in the six-concert series drew 8,369 people. Photo by Olga Kornienko



## 4. Kids' Nights

Savannah W., 8, and brother Greyson, 5, of Milwaukee, smile for the camera after watching U B the Band perform at Kids' Nights. The event, sponsored by **WaterStone Bank**, drew 15,225 Zoo Pass members the evenings of July 12, 14 and 15. Photo by Stacy Kaat

4



5



## 5. Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

July 25 was a beautiful day for the Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, sponsored by **GRAEF**. The event drew 118 golfers and raised more than \$110,000 for the Zoological Society. Photo by Richard Taylor

# Insider Tips

## A Bornean Welcome

Let's all give a big, warm, hairy welcome to the Milwaukee County Zoo's new orangutan, Rayma! Rayma, a Bornean orangutan, arrived at the Zoo on May 4, 2016, and spent her first week on exhibit in early June. She came to Milwaukee from the Topeka Zoo in Kansas, where she lived with her mom, dad, younger brother and another adult female. But don't worry, she'll be OK without them. "Being with one male is fine for her because they're semi-solitary animals in the wild," says Kara DeLanty, one of the primate keepers for the Milwaukee County Zoo. DeLanty is the primary keeper overseeing Rayma's care and was with Rayma every step of the journey from Topeka to Milwaukee.

At 125 lbs. and 11 years old, Rayma was starting to wear out her welcome with her family in Topeka, DeLanty says. "She was getting bossy with them. But it worked out perfectly because we needed a companion for Tom." Tommy is the Zoo's resident male Bornean-Sumatran orangutan.

Adjusting to life in Milwaukee and her new enclosure has been slow but promising for Rayma. "She's been a little shy," DeLanty says. Little by little, Rayma is getting the hang of her new life here at the Milwaukee County Zoo and can be seen exploring her exhibit and testing her boundaries. Though all great apes are smart, DeLanty says that just like people, each animal is unique and has a different personality. "People are used to MJ, the Zoo's previous female orangutan, but Rayma's different and she's younger," says DeLanty. (MJ died in 2015.) While Tom loves playing with bedsheets, Rayma likes to take things apart. The zookeepers and staff had to make modifications to Rayma's exhibit before she arrived. "We had to put bolts in the drains instead of screws because she probably would have taken them out. She's really smart," DeLanty says.

Rayma's introduction to Tommy has been gradual; the two were initially only able to see each other through a mesh grate. However, in late June, DeLanty and other primate staff began formal introductions, allowing Rayma and Tommy to spend a couple hours together each day under close watch. "Tommy has been very gentle with her and we have seen some play behavior and grooming and touching," DeLanty says. "They also have occasionally been sharing food by either placing it in each other's mouths with their hands or even lips-to-lips. It's pretty adorable." Eventually, zookeepers plan to keep the two together all the time except meals.

**Orangutans  
are in big trouble!  
Visit [redapes.org](http://redapes.org)  
to learn more about  
the palm oil crisis  
and what you can do  
to help orangutans  
in the wild.**



Having seen her mischievous and playful personality in her old home in Topeka, DeLanty is optimistic that Rayma will do just fine here at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "I think people will fall in love with her."

To purchase enrichment items for great apes like Rayma and other animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo, visit [milwaukeezoo.org/Conservation/Enrichment.php](http://milwaukeezoo.org/Conservation/Enrichment.php).

By Brynn Herbert

*Rayma the Bornean orangutan arrived at the Zoo in May. Photo by Bob Wickland*

## Golden Lion Tamarin Family Grows

It may be tiny but it sure packs a punch — to your heart. Two golden lion tamarins became first-time parents when their baby was born April 17, coming into the world at a hefty 40 grams. Born to mom Levi and dad Basil, the itty-bitty guy or gal — zookeepers hadn't determined the gender as of press time — has brought a lot of excitement to the small mammals staff. "It's the first time we've had a golden lion tamarin baby in eight years," says Rhonda Crenshaw, area supervisor for small mammals. (Levi was the last golden lion tamarin born at the Milwaukee County Zoo in 2008. Basil arrived in 2015.)

At roughly a third of the size of its already-petite parents, the baby has been giving them a run for their money. "It jumps like crazy, flips around branches, runs really fast," says Crenshaw. "It likes to steal food from mom and dad." Mom and dad have been excellent parents to their new addition, Crenshaw says. "They were perfect right from the beginning."

But you'll have to hurry to see just how small this little one is. Sure, tamarins are tiny as adults (they average 1.4 pounds), but a baby means extra elfin love. "The baby will be full grown around 8 months or so," Crenshaw says.



*Baby golden lion tamarin born on April 17, 2016, to mom Levi and dad Basil.*

Photo by Bob Wickland

By Brynn Herbert



*The seal pup was born June 13, 2016. This is the third pup for Sydney and Ringo.* Photo by Joel Miller

Sydney is a seasoned mother and has been doing a great job, Fleuchaus says. She's very attentive and protective, initially not letting any of the other seals get too close to her new baby. Ringo, who's still spry at 38 years old, isn't too interested in his newborn son — blissfully swimming through the exhibit with Siku and Cosette and resting. "Seal fathers aren't usually involved in taking care of pups," says Fleuchaus.

The Milwaukee County Zoo has been very successful in its breeding of harbor seals recently. Sydney and Ringo have mated every year for the past three years, and each year has resulted in the birth of a pup — all males. King Julian was born in 2014, and Siku was born in 2015. (King Julian was transferred to the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison earlier this year.) The harbor seals are part of a Species Survival Plan® (SSP), and the SSP recommended Sydney's breeding, Fleuchaus says. SSPs are programs through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) to manage specific — typically threatened or endangered — species populations within AZA-accredited institutions.

Sydney nursed her pup for the first few weeks, and then he was weaned to eat fish like the others. Whether or not this new little guy will stay at the Zoo is uncertain. "It's up to the SSP," Fleuchaus says. "They may want to spread his or Siku's genes around and transfer one of them to another facility to breed eventually."

By Brynn Herbert

## Make Room for More Seals

And baby makes three ... pups for Sydney and Ringo. On June 13, Sydney, the Milwaukee County Zoo's 20-year-old harbor seal, gave birth to her third pup. The new addition joins his older brother, Siku, and female Cosette, both 1 year old, in the exhibit. (Cosette came to Milwaukee in May from the Alaska Zoo as a potential mate for Siku.) But the pup doesn't need much training or flipper-holding. "They can swim immediately after birth," says Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor of the North America and Australia areas. "There's a little bit of a learning curve as far as flipper-coordination goes, but he got the hang of it after the first couple days."

## Insider Tips (continued)

### Sloth Brings Spunk

A spirited sloth may seem like an oxymoron. They're famous for being docile and sluggish—rarely moving and sleeping 20 hours a day. But the Zoo's new sloth Fezzik challenges this stereotype. "He's a feisty little thing," says Rhonda Crenshaw, area supervisor for small mammals. Fezzik has already made a name for himself among staff for his sassy personality. "He stands his ground and does what he wants to do."

At a year-and-a-half, Fezzik arrived in Milwaukee from the Topeka Zoo in Kansas. He's taken to his new home in the former river otter exhibit of the Small Mammals Building quite well, but seeing him move around is a rarity. Since sloths are nocturnal, Fezzik is more active after visitors leave. "He likes to redecorate and rearrange his exhibit at night," Crenshaw says. When he's awake, he's quite the handful. Having been minimally, if ever, handled at his previous home makes things a little challenging for the small mammals keepers. "He shakes branches at us and makes this clacking sound," says Crenshaw.

Sloths are solitary animals in the wild and they are arboreal, meaning they live in trees. Fezzik has plenty of room at the Zoo to be a sloth. His exhibit is spacious and temperature-regulated to mimic a sloth's natural environment.

After two years of the Zoo being sloth-less, visitors and staff are excited to have Fezzik. "I really like sloths, and the public does too," Crenshaw says. "Everyone can't stop talking about how happy they are that he's here."

By Brynn Herbert



Fezzik, who arrived in June, hangs upside down in his exhibit in the Small Mammals Building. Photo by Bob Wickland



Two of the Zoo's new rhinoceros vipers. Photo by Bob Wickland

### Vibrant Snakes

The rhinoceros viper is a snake of contradictions. It boasts colorful shapes and intricate patterns yet can easily camouflage itself in the rainforests and swamps of West and Central Africa. It's a predator that ambushes its prey, yet it is generally sluggish. Its venom is intense, yet it has a mild disposition and prefers to live where people aren't found.

All that makes it a snake worth seeing, especially since you don't have to go all the way to Africa to do it, says Billie Harrison, area supervisor of the Milwaukee County Zoo's Aquatic &

Reptile Center. The Zoo recently acquired two male rhino vipers, Horace and Holling, and two females, Ginny and Gertie. "Not a lot of zoos in the U.S. have this species," Harrison says.

Rhino vipers, also called river jacks, are known for their vibrant colors. Many are red, yellow, blue, green and black, but the hues and patterns vary greatly. "Despite these bright colors, they're able to disappear into the landscape pretty well," Harrison says. That's because the busy patterns help the snakes blend in with the dappled light and scattered leaves of the forest floor. They get their name from the hornlike scales on their snouts.

Like all snakes, rhinoceros vipers are cold-blooded, so they tend to move slowly to conserve energy. But they can move quickly when striking prey such as rodents. One of the females particularly likes to hide in the exhibit's plants, so look there if you're having trouble finding her.

By Stacy Vogel Davis

# Zoo Profile

## Technician Makes an Impact on Zoo Medicine

What happens if Zola the giraffe doesn't feel well? Who gives a bonobo an ultrasound? Veterinarian staff, located in the Animal Health Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo, work endlessly to ensure the animals have what they need to be happy and healthy. It takes a lot of schooling and hard work to even get a chance to work with exotic animals, something veterinary technician Joan Maurer knows well.

Working under the veterinarians, technicians do many of the tasks and procedures that nurses do — just with animals. It takes two years of intense schooling in science and medicine to become licensed to work with animals as a tech. "I knew I wanted to work with exotic animals in a conservation setting," Maurer says. But you can't just come straight out of vet tech school and start working on great apes or endangered birds. Maurer worked in a mixed-animal veterinary clinic caring for pets and livestock, honing her skills and gaining the experience she needed before coming to the Zoo.



*Joan Maurer, zoo veterinary technician, studies a slide under the microscope.*

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



*Maurer collects a blood sample from a Grand Cayman blue iguana during a pre-release health screening. Maurer and a team of other volunteers went to the island on a conservation trip in June to track and assess the health of the species' population.*

Photo provided by Joan Maurer

veterinarians, says Dr. Vickie Clyde, staff veterinarian at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "They have to know everything from radiology to hematology to anesthesia, just to name a few," Clyde says. "This specialization is a validation of all the hard work, extra training and commitment by zoo technicians." And hard work it is. "Each day is a challenge," Maurer says. "You don't see the same thing every day."

"None of this — my work, research or professional opportunities — would have been possible without the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee," she adds. "They have supported my efforts all these years, and I'm grateful."

**By Brynn Herbert**

*Maurer takes a blood sample from African elephant Brittany. Maurer and the elephant are separated by a steel barrier.*

Photo provided by Joan Maurer



# Holiday Trip to Chicago



## Zoological Society of Milwaukee Field Trip

Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50 per person

Register with form below, online at [zoosociety.org/Travel](http://zoosociety.org/Travel) or by calling 414-258-2333.

It's that time again! We're headed back to downtown Chicago for a day of holiday fun. Cross off everything on your shopping list by joining the Zoological Society of Milwaukee on our annual holiday trip. Shop-til-you-drop along the Magnificent Mile (Michigan Avenue) and State Street to get in the holiday spirit. If you'd rather take in the sights and sounds of the Windy City, visit the Chicago History Museum, the Shedd Aquarium or The Field Museum. Challenge yourself with a visit to the Willis Tower's glass Skydeck, or take it easy and stroll along the lakeshore. Take a break by dining at one of Chicago's many restaurants and eateries.



Stock photo

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo with a continental breakfast. Buses depart at 8:30 a.m. and arrive in Chicago by 10 a.m. Your trip includes transportation on restroom-equipped motor coaches, beverages donated by PepsiAmericas® and a snack bag on the return trip. (Note to those with allergies: Snacks may include dairy and peanut byproducts.) We depart Chicago at 6:30 p.m. and return to the Zoo at about 8:30 p.m. An itinerary will be mailed prior to the trip. For questions or additional information, please call 414-258-2333.

## CHICAGO HOLIDAY TRIP Saturday, Nov. 12

Name(s) of Traveler(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) & Age(s) of Child Traveler(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Zoo Pass Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to travel with another person or group sending in a separate reservation, please indicate his/her name \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for adults (\$50)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for kids (\$50)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Trip is not tax-deductible)

**Credit Card:** Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard

Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ (Last 3 digits in signature area on back of credit card)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

as it appears on credit card

**Check:** Make payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Please mail this order form and payment to: **Chicago Trip**,  
Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

Space is limited. **Cancellations prior to Oct. 28, 2016 are refundable, less a \$10 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations after Oct. 28, 2016, are not refundable.** Call 414-258-2333 for more information. Trip cost is not tax-deductible. To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.

# For the Love of the Zoo

I'm excited to add my Platypus Circle membership to the list of ways I support the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. Having grown up in Milwaukee, I've been coming to the Zoo since my childhood and have fond memories of trying to peer over the rows of people to see Samson the gorilla, playing in the new Children's Zoo, listening to the macaws squawk in the aviary's free-flight area and riding the train.

My first experience supporting the Zoo financially came when my dad sponsored Mandara the gorilla for me. Over the years, I sponsored several more animals. In addition, I've had a Zoo Pass membership longer than I can remember, have contributed to several annual appeals and am also a member of the Simba Circle, the Society's planned-giving group.

Six years ago, I joined Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary. Now I come to the Zoo more times in a year than the total visits I made when I was a kid! I started out as a Winter Guide and later I signed up for the Primate Committee, which is a favorite, as I majored in anthropology in college. You'll find me near the primates a few Sundays a month, as well as during some of the special events; I love doing the orangutan Animals in Action talks. They're my favorite animal, and I've been lucky enough to see one in the wild (in Borneo), so I can bring some first-hand perspective to my talks.

Besides hanging out with the primates and being a winter guide, I'm also on the Animal Watch and VIP Guide Committees, both of which give me opportunities to stay engaged with the goings-on at the Zoo. We have such a great Zoo here in Milwaukee, and I want to do my part to help it stay that way. So last year I stepped up my commitments and joined the Platypus Circle. Since I work for a company that matches contributions, my donations go twice as far. I receive incredible benefits that make me feel that much more a part of the Zoo's community of supporters, and I know that I'm making a difference in the lives of the animals not only here in Milwaukee, but wildlife everywhere.



*Anne Wandler is a member of Platypus Circle, Simba Circle and Zoo Pride. She is a quality assurance manager with GE Healthcare. Photo by Richard Brodzeller*

*By Anne Wandler*



Support the Zoological Society by joining the Platypus and/or Simba Circles. Platypus Circle members give annually to the Society, while Simba members have included the Society in a will or estate plan. Both contribute to the Society's mission to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Milwaukee County Zoo. Members receive benefits such as invitations to exhibit premieres and other VIP events. For more information, visit [zoosociety.org/Support](http://zoosociety.org/Support) or contact Candy Walton at **414-918-6151** or [candyw@zoosociety.org](mailto:candyw@zoosociety.org).



To learn more about Zoo Pride, visit [zoosociety.org/ZooPride](http://zoosociety.org/ZooPride) or call **414-258-5667**.



Zoological Society of Milwaukee County  
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

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Photo by Richard Brodzeller

# What's Happening

Details Inside

## Aug. 18-21

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte, presented by Meijer\*

## Aug. 27

Animal Safari for animal sponsors\*

## Sept. 1

Fall Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer, begin (pre-register)

## Sept. 2

Senior Celebration, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan Senior Health\*

## Sept. 10 & 11

Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board\*

## Sept. 11

Ride on the Wild Side, sponsored by Wheaton Franciscan (pre-register)

## Sept. 17

Zoo Pass members-only field trip to Chicago's Field Museum (pre-register)

## Sept. 17

Elephant Appreciation Day\*

## Sept. 29

Zoo Brew (pre-register)

## Oct. 8

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6

## Oct. 14 & 15

Boo at the Zoo, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets\*

## Oct. 15

Wolf Awareness Day\*

## Oct. 21 & 22

Halloween Spooktacular, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets\*

## Nov. 3

Registration begins for 2017 Spring Zoo Classes, sponsored by Meijer\*

## Nov. 5

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6

## Nov. 12

Zoo Pass members-only holiday shopping trip to Chicago (pre-register)

## Dec. 2-31

Fantastic Forest, sponsored by Hawks Landscape\*\*

## Dec. 3

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank; media sponsor: WITI FOX 6

## Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18

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

\* Zoo Pass members get free Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass card and photo ID. The bugs exhibit admission is extra. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one vehicle per membership per day.

† More information on these events will appear in future issues of Wild Things.

Family Free Day  
Photo by Bob Wickland

The Zoological Society is now on *Snapchat!*  
Follow us at *ZooSocietyMKE.*

