

# WILD

## THINGS

SEPT-OCT  
2021



08

*Bike Ride  
in the Zoo*



07 *Inspiring  
Gorilla*



03 *Halloween  
Drive-Thru*



SEPT.

1

# OLDER, WISER & FREE



## Senior Celebration

*Sponsored by  
St. Camillus Life Plan Community*

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

Guests 55 years and older get free admission to the Zoo. (Parking fees still apply.) While this year's event is slightly modified, there are activities and entertainment around the Zoo. Enjoy some music on both the Flamingo Patio and the Generac Zoo Terrace. Grab a complimentary tote bag and head over to the Peck Welcome Center for a game or two of bingo. Top the day off with some ice cream while enjoying the outdoors and the animals.

*Entertainment sponsored by Network Health*

*Photos by Stacy Kaat*



## MEMBERANDA

We value your relationship with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (Society). The Society does not sell member/donor information to third parties, but may share limited information with the Milwaukee County Zoo for the purpose of confirming membership status.

### **Zoological Society office hours:**

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Zoo hours:** 9:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Hours subject to change after Labor Day. Please note that the Zoo's admission gates close 45 minutes before the posted Zoo closing hours. The Zoo's walk-in gate closes one hour prior to posted Zoo closing times. The animal buildings close 15 minutes prior to Zoo closing times.

**Zoo Pass admission:** Please remember to have your Society Zoo Pass and identification ready when you arrive at the Zoo's admission gates. If you've misplaced your card, replacement cards may be purchased for \$5. Zoo Pass admission is valid for regular daytime Zoo hours and many events. Please remember the person(s) named on the Zoo Pass must accompany any guest if there are guest privileges on the Zoo Pass card.

**Visiting other zoos and aquariums:** We have agreed to participate in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' listing of reciprocating accredited institutions. Some accredited zoos and aquariums choose not to participate in this program and therefore do not appear on our list. Most facilities honor free or discounted admission for two adults and two minor children. Members should call ahead to the facilities they plan to visit to get current information. In a few cases, we have opted not to reciprocate with some institutions that are in close proximity to our Zoo. Members are encouraged to review the updated list by going online at [zoopass.com](http://zoopass.com).

**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 members' minor children/grandchildren reflected in your membership records for the Zoo's admission gates. Foster children are covered on your membership. Day-care providers for children: Your Zoo Pass membership does not cover children for whom you provide babysitting or day-care services. The Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any membership being used inappropriately.



### **WILD THINGS**

Issue No. 154, Sept.-Oct. 2021

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

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**Phone:** 414-256-5412 **Web:** [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



This publication is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

**Cover photos**

Bike rider by Bob Wickland; gorilla by Joel Miller; peacock by Paul Ruffolo

OCT.

14-17,  
21-24

# HOWLING HALLOWEEN FUN



## Boo at the Zoo Drive-Thru

*Presented by Prairie Farms Dairy*

**5:30-9 p.m.**

**Pre-registration required for this after-hours event.**

Bring your crew for a Boo drive-thru. Stay in your vehicle and enjoy the different Halloween themes around the Zoo including Candy Corn Garden and Frankenstein's Village. Drive by hundreds of pumpkins individually carved and lit with a candle. Roll down your windows to enjoy the Monster Mash and other fun Halloween songs. There will be stops along the way if you want to buy a snack or merchandise.

This is an after-hours fundraising event for the Zoo. Guests must buy tickets ahead of time and select an arrival time. There are now eight days to choose from! Prices are by the carload: \$55 for non-members and \$50 for Zoo Pass members when they purchase online with the promo code **BooPass2021**. Tickets and more details at [milwaukeezoo.org/events](http://milwaukeezoo.org/events).

*Boo at the Zoo is a merry-not-scary event, so all ages are welcome.*

OCT.

7

# EXPLORE THE POUR

## Zoo Brew

*Sponsored by Educators Credit Union*

**7-10 p.m. (VIP Entrance at 6 p.m.)**

Whether you like ales, stouts or lagers, explore different beers during our fundraising event, Zoo Brew. This beer- and food-tasting event allows you to try the best in the area while enjoying an evening at the Zoo. Plans are still being finalized. Find the latest details at [zoosociety.org/ZooBrew](http://zoosociety.org/ZooBrew) as they become available.



# “CHARGING”

**Rhinos are known for putting their head down and charging at objects.**

At the Zoological Society we are taking a metaphorical approach and charging to the end of our capital campaign, which includes a plan to create a new home for the rhinos and a new central pathway. This is the last phase of Adventure Africa that included habitats for the elephants, African hoofstock and hippos. While the final design is yet to be determined, here is what the Zoo is hoping to do.



**Create two new indoor year-round exhibits: the Hippo and Rhino Rec Rooms.**

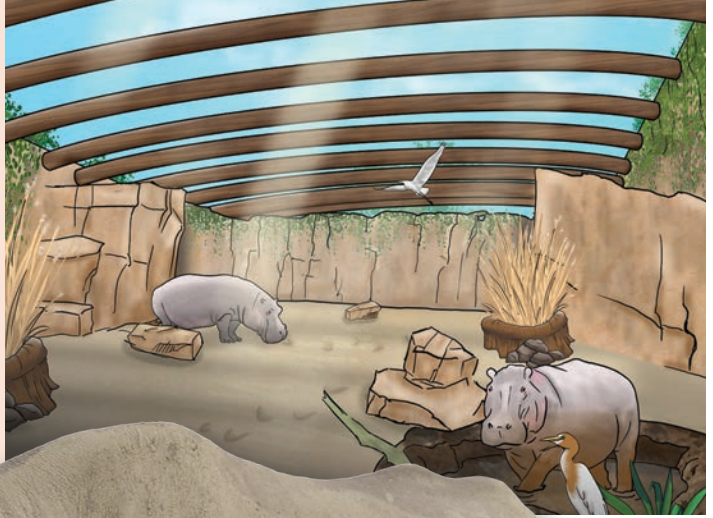
This is especially important as the Rec Rooms will provide two additional indoor viewing options for our guests and animals during Wisconsin's cold weather months, similar to the indoor Elephant Care Center.



Repurpose the old outdoor elephant yard and two current rhino spaces into **two large outdoor rhino exhibits enhancing the Zoo's ability to breed rhinos.** Current breeding opportunities are limited because of the slope in the current outside yards.

# INTO A NEW HOME

**Utilize an animal-friendly, soft substrate in the Hippo and Rhino Rec Room indoor exhibits** – a softer surface than the current concrete floors. The Zoo is also planning to **incorporate an overhead open canopy**, which will allow the hippos and rhinos to have sunshine when they are inside.



**Establish a pathway through the center of the Zoo.** Guests would be able to enter a new walkway next to the new Dohmen Family Foundation Hippo Haven to stop by the big cats or stroll through and exit near the camel yard. They may choose to stop and visit the new indoor Hippo Rec Room and visit the new additional small mammals exhibit.

**Pending fundraising, design plans for the new rhino exhibit and central pathway should be finished by 2022, and the anticipated completion date for the rhino exhibit is 2023. Please consider a gift to support this transformational effort and make this exciting endeavor a reality!**

**Visit [win2wild.com](http://win2wild.com) to see the plans and make a donation.**

# CALLS OF THE WILD

Every day in the Holz Family Foundation Impala Plains and the African Forest in Adventure Africa, zookeepers play seven different instruments creating a wild orchestra. The sounds aren't all played together, however. They are played individually to notify each species it's time to come inside for dinner and start

their night-time routine. Each animal has different needs, and zookeepers need them to come in individually. That's why zookeepers trained each species to come when they hear their sound and their sound only. Here are the calls of the wild.



*Ostrich: triangle*



*Impala: wood percussion blocks*



*Zebra: jingle bells*



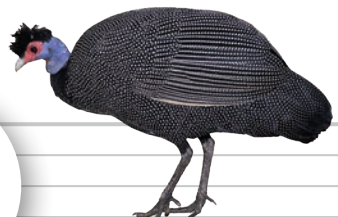
*Grey crowned cranes: bike bell*



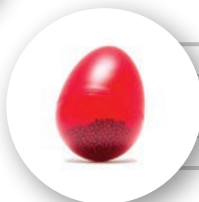
*Bongo: cow bell*



*African spur-thighed tortoise: small cow bell (higher pitch)*



*Guinea fowl: egg shaker*



# SAFE & SOUND

In April 2021, the Milwaukee County Zoo welcomed a new gorilla troop made up of females Dotty and Nadami and male Oliver. While all of the animals at the Zoo are distinct in their own way, Oliver has a characteristic that makes him particularly unique: he is hearing impaired, the lasting effect of a fever he had as an adolescent. The extent of his impairment is not fully known, but his keepers suspect he's completely deaf. Though he otherwise recovered from his illness, his hearing loss created some initial challenges.

Through his early years of life, Oliver was part of a bachelor group of gorillas, and his keepers noticed he'd occasionally be teased by other members of the troop who could sneak up behind him. Thankfully, when Oliver began living with female gorillas, he was able to enjoy the typical social life of a male gorilla. "Because gorillas communicate so well using facial expressions and body language, he seems to do really well at leading the girls in his troop," says Dawn Kruger, Milwaukee County Zoo zookeeper.

"The females mostly respect his place as the silverback."

Oliver's keepers take small measures to keep him comfortable. Notably, they make sure they get his attention before shifting to avoid startling him, and they rely on consistent eye contact when communicating. Other than that, his care is essentially the same as the other gorillas. "When training the gorillas, we pair a verbal cue with a visual cue to signal the behavior we want," says Kruger. "In theory, we don't need to talk to Oliver, but we still do."

Oliver has also learned to take various cues from Dotty and Nadami. For example, when he notices they get up to shift to a new exhibit, he gets up too. He's also an excellent judge of time and anticipates the various phases of his daily routine. Oliver's quality of life is a testament to both the exemplary care of his keepers and his inner fortitude; his ability to thrive through adversity is an inspiration to us all.





Photo by Bob Wickland

SEPT.  
12

# GET INTO GEAR

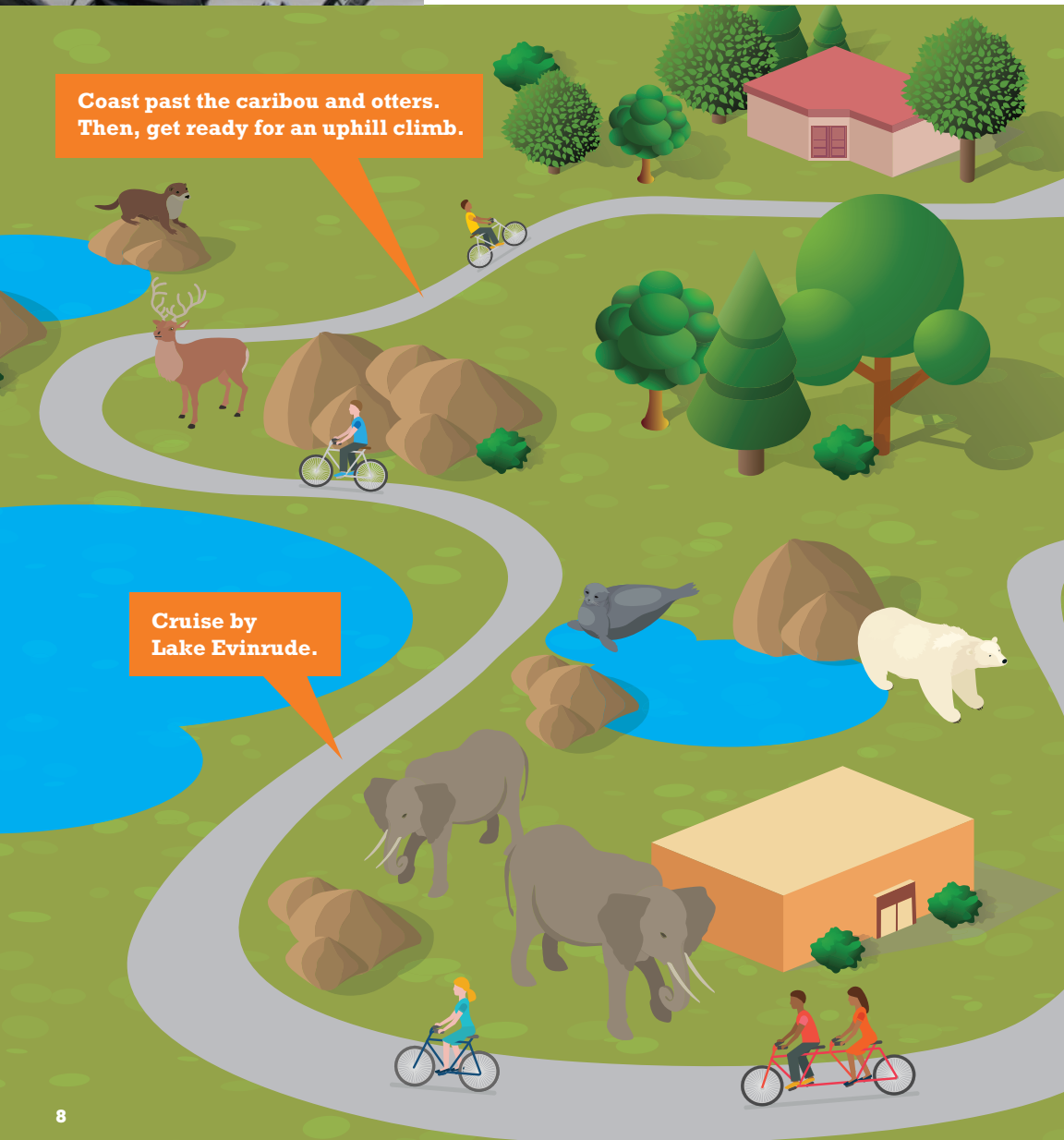
## Ride on the Wild Side

*Sponsored by The Corners of Brookfield*  
**7 a.m. check-in/registration; 8 a.m. start**

Get yourself – and your tires – pumped up for the return of Ride on the Wild Side. This is the one time of year you can ride your bike inside the Milwaukee County Zoo. Zoom past the caribou, soar by the elephants and glide near the penguins before the Zoo opens.

There are four routes to choose from: a 2.5-mile kids' route that stays inside the Zoo or a 10-, 17- or 27-mile ride that starts and ends in the Zoo but goes out on local trails.

*Helmets are mandatory for this event.*



Coast past the caribou and otters.  
Then, get ready for an uphill climb.

Cruise by  
Lake Evinrude.



**Registration includes:**

- A long-sleeved T-shirt
- Continental breakfast and lunch
- Crafts and activities for kids
- A day at the Zoo plus parking

**This annual fundraiser helps the Zoological Society's mission to conserve, educate and support the Zoo.**

**Registration Fees**

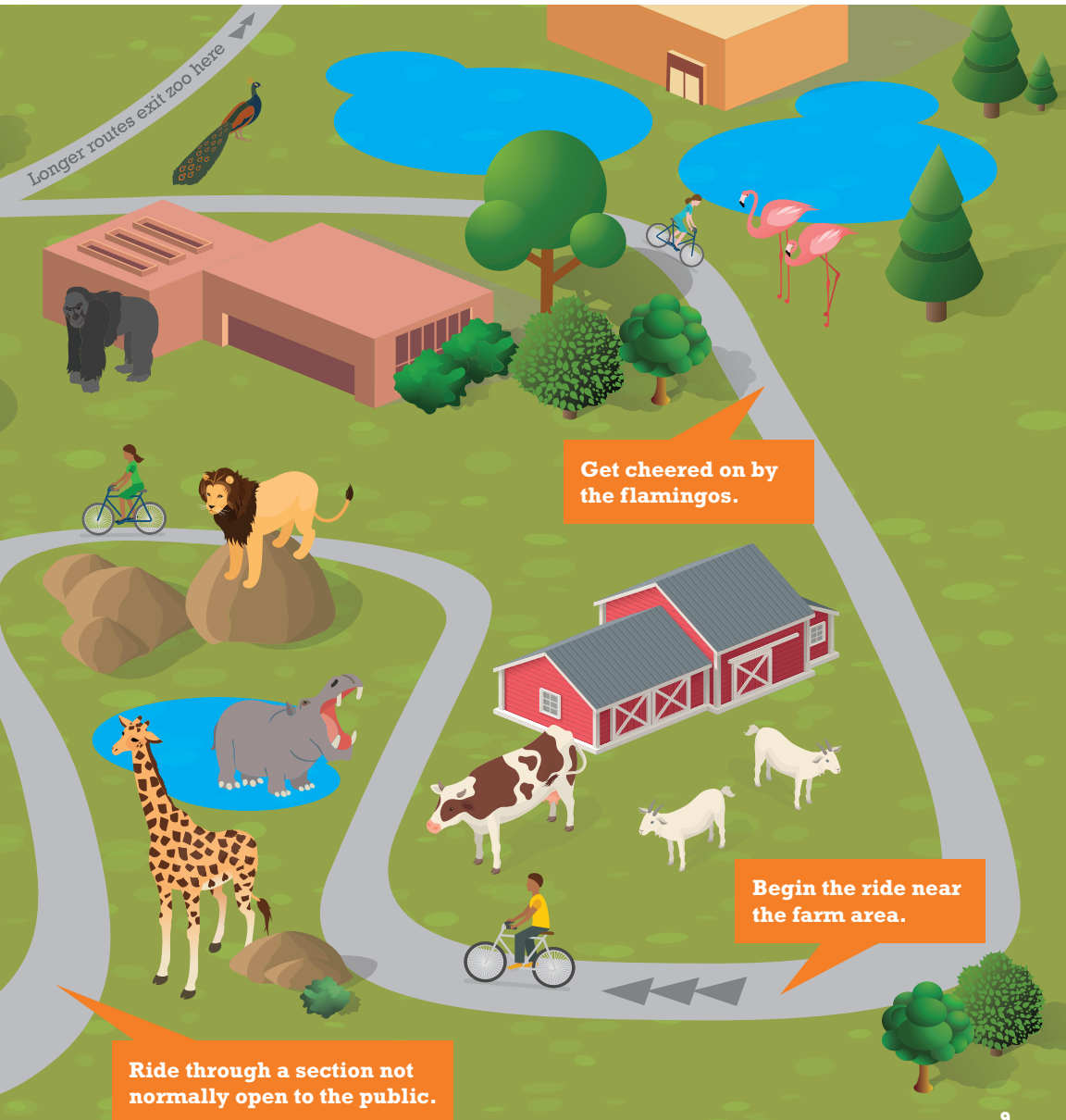
	Zoo Pass Member	Non-Member	Day of Ride
Adult (14 & over)	\$40	\$45	\$50
Child (13 & under)*	\$15	\$20	\$20
Family of 4**	\$100	\$120	N/A

\* No one under 18 is admitted without a registered adult.

\*\* Family of 4 pricing applies when 2 adult registrations and 2 child registrations are purchased.

**Thanks to our supporting sponsors:** BMO Harris Bank; Carmex; Festival Foods; Honest Teeth Dentistry; Lifeway Foods; Prairie Farms Dairy; R&R Insurance; SaintA; Sargento Foods; Southport Engineering; Stephanie Murphy, DDS; Van Westen Orthodontics

**Media sponsors:** News/Talk 1130 WISN, FM106.1, 95.7 BIG FM, V100.7



# NEW PIGS ON THE FARM

**The letter P** is very popular right now inside the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. There are three new pigs, **Peabody**, **Percy** and **Penelope**. Penelope is an American Guinea hog and shares a habitat with Kunekune pigs Peabody and Percy (pictured in this spread). Pronounced “cooney conney,” this breed is from New

Zealand, and their name translates to “fat and round” in Maori, a language spoken by indigenous New Zealanders. Kunekunes are fairly new to the United States, first arriving in the 1990s. Stop by the farm area and pay a visit. They are in the habitat next to Trinity the Scottish Highland cow and Carnation the Belted Galloway cow.



## KUNEKUNE QUICK FACTS

- 1 Peabody and Percy are brothers and were born in April.
- 2 Kunekunes can grow up to 4 feet long and between 130 to 220 pounds.
- 3 The long hair under their chin is actually a wattle. Many goats have them too.
- 4 The two are on a mini-pig food pellet diet. They also like romaine, tomatoes and carrots and get grapes as a training treat when they get weighed.

# CONTINUE THE JOY OF LEARNING



This summer, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee welcomed children back to in-person classes at the Zoo and the results were amazing! Infants to 14-year-olds were able to return to the Zoo and see and learn about the animals firsthand. From the youngest students getting in touch with nature to older kids learning about zoo careers, the smiles are contagious.

This fall, the Society is excited to continue our Zoo Classes in person. While COVID

continues to alter how things operate, the quality of the programming remains the same. Changes include smaller class sizes, masks and distancing. Classes will be available for children infant to 11 years old. Educators are putting the final touches on their plans but can tell you some of the fan favorites are expected to return. That includes the popular class "Reindeer Adventures" when kids visit the reindeer and possibly the big guy in the red suit.

**Registration is expected to open in late September and early October with classes starting in November.**





# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A KWT STAGE MANAGER



Stage manager Natasha gets the set ready for the next show inside the Zoo.

**B**y the time Kohl's Wild Theater actors take the stage, the show is a fine-tuned machine. But the minutes, hours and days leading up to each performance require tireless behind-the-scenes coordination from a group comprised of, but not limited to, the playwright, set and puppet designers, composer, sound engineer and director. Among these oft-unsung members of the production team is the stage manager, the person responsible for overseeing virtually every aspect of production on the day of a show.

The stage manager's life on a performance day is, quite fittingly, wild. They are responsible for packing, driving and unpacking the tour van;

coordinating venue logistics; supervising stage setup; running a sound check; providing time calls for the actors; distributing educational materials and surveys; synchronizing the start of the show; and calling all of the technical cues throughout the performance. They're also in charge of ironing out any unexpected wrinkles throughout the day.

"Stage managers work hard to maintain the vision of the director on the road, but we trust them to make gut calls when they need to," says Zach Woods, manager of artistic direction. "For example, if we get into a venue and the space isn't big enough they might need to cut a set piece, which could impact the blocking. They'd have to address this in the moment. They're the director's voice in the field, and there's a certain amount of flexibility that is required of them."

For audiences, a Kohl's Wild Theater performance is a journey to a world filled with talking animals, colorful songs and lessons about the environment. For the stage manager, it's a busy, tiring, extraordinarily fulfilling day at work. Kohl's Wild Theater will have three part-time stage managers this fall, each capable of running all of the active shows.

**To book a virtual or in-person performance this fall, visit [WildTheater.org](https://www.wildtheater.org).**



## CONGRATULATIONS

to Kohl's Wild Theater for winning the Monte Meacham Award from the American Alliance of Theater and Education. This award honors KWT for its outstanding contributions to theater for youth.

# COVID TEST TRAINING

COVID-19 not only changed the lives of humans; it also impacted the animals at the Zoo. Very quickly, animal experts around the globe discovered big cats like tigers, jaguars and lions are able to contract the virus. That's why zookeepers at the Milwaukee County Zoo took extra precautions around the animals and started training some of them to take a nose swab test. Big Cats area supervisor Katie Kuhn has been working with tigers Kash and Tula in addition to cheetah Imara. "We started with the cats that we thought would catch on quickly, so we could fine-tune our training process," says Kuhn.

The test process is similar to the one for humans – a swab goes into the nostrils. Thanks to the trust between the keepers and animals, and the fact the animals are very food-motivated, the tigers and cheetah are ready to go. Here's how it works. A chute specifically made to fit the cat's head hangs on the mesh inside their den. The keepers give the command "head," and the cat puts its head into the chute with its nose up against the mesh. It gets rewarded with its favorite food – usually meat for the tigers. Then, the keepers will say the word "swab," and the vet tech makes the swab. The cat gets rewarded again with its favorite snacks. According to Kuhn, the cat may sneeze after the swab or give the keeper a glare. "For the most part, they take it well and come right back for more



snacks. It's not so uncomfortable that they won't do it for some treats."

Zookeepers and veterinarians do regular health checks on the animals, and it's more beneficial for the animal to do it while awake – anesthesia can be stressful on an animal. "It seems like COVID will be around for a while, and we want to ensure their health just like we do with everything else such as blood draws, yearly vaccinations and weigh-ins," says Kuhn. "This is just one more way we can monitor and protect them."



SEPT.  
10

# RECYCLE, PAINT, CREATE

## Green Art Contest

Registration deadline Sept. 10

### Drop off projects Sept. 18-26

Here's something you may not hear often: let your children dig in the trash for their next masterpiece. (Although we suggest it be your garbage and not a stranger's.) The Zoological Society's Green Art Contest encourages children 17 and younger to create animal art with discarded or recyclable materials. This year's theme is "Animals of North America."



Artwork should include a North American animal.

Prizes will be awarded in each age category.

Repurpose items like soda cans, bottles or toilet paper rolls.

To enter, visit [zoosociety.org/GreenArt](https://zoosociety.org/GreenArt).

All pieces of artwork will be displayed on our website after judging takes place the week of Sept. 27.

## 2021 ORNAMENT REVEAL

To celebrate the Zoological Society's 30th animal ornament, local artist Andy Schumann has captured the beauty of the sloth. The handcrafted ornament is made of pewter and commemorates the exciting addition of female sloth Nentas. She came from a zoo in Seattle and shares a habitat with male Fezzik.

You can order this year's ornament or any of the previous 29. The cost of each ornament is \$16, which includes postage, mailing materials and WI sales tax. Proceeds assist the Zoological Society in providing support to the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Visit [zoosociety.org/Ornaments](https://zoosociety.org/Ornaments)



NOV.  
13

# GROOVE IS IN THE HEART



Photo by Bob Wickland

## Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

*Session I 4-5:30 p.m. Check-in at 3 p.m.*

*Session II 6:30-8 p.m. Check-in at 5:45 p.m.*

### \$20 per session

Get on your feet and dance to the beat! Zumba® is back at the Zoo. This year, we are offering two sessions to allow more room for everyone to dance their heart out. This event is perfect for people of all skill levels – as long as you are ready to have fun. Routines are led by Zumba Jammer™ Rachel Beimel and include local instructors who are ready to get your blood pumping. Money raised from this event goes to the Zoological Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Anyone 14 and up is welcome to sign up.

**Go to [zoosociety.org/Zumba](https://zoosociety.org/Zumba) to register.**

OCT.  
9

# A CAMEL ADVENTURE



## What is Kids Conservation Club?

This club is part of the Sponsor an Animal program. Each year, KCC members sponsor an endangered animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The cost is \$25 and includes:

- A certificate of sponsorship
- An animal fact sheet on that year's animal
- Collector cards with pictures of endangered animals and fun animal facts
- Invitations to two free workshops a year
- An invitation to a free behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors held in August

## Kids Conservation Club Workshop

*Pre-registration required*

**Session I 10 a.m.**

**Session II 11 a.m.**

This year, the Zoo's camels welcomed a baby named Oliver. The group – called a caravan – consists of male Stan and females A.J. and Sanchi. This October, members of the Kids Conservation Club will learn even more about camels, like what's in their humps or why they have so many eyelids. Kids will take part in camel-themed crafts and activities followed by a visit to the camel habitat.

**KCC members must RSVP to Becky Luft by Sept. 29 by phone at 414-258-2333 or email, [beckyl@zoosociety.org](mailto:beckyl@zoosociety.org).**

**The workshop is free to KCC members and one parent or guardian. Admission and parking not included, or you can use your Zoo Pass.**

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

**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

## QUICK FACT:

Rhinos have poor eyesight but excellent sense of smell and hearing.

Help build a new home for the rhino. See details on pages 4 & 5.

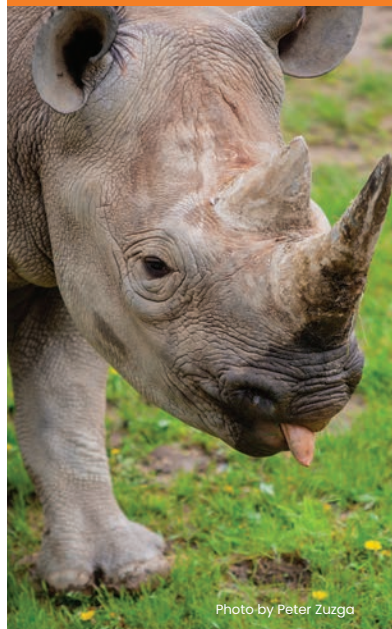


Photo by Peter Zuzga

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Due to COVID-19 and health and safety guidelines, the Zoo and Zoological Society have had to make changes to events. For the most up-to-date information about these and other events, visit [zoosociety.org/events](https://zoosociety.org/events).

### Now-Sept. 6

Special summer exhibit, *Sean Kenney's Animal Super Powers made with LEGO® bricks*, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market

### Now-Sept. 6

Kohl's Wild Theater's summer season at the Zoo with free shows daily\*

### Aug. 24-26

August Member Nights: Last Call Before Fall: a members-only evening event, sponsored by Milwaukee Montessori School\*

### Aug. 28-Sept. 4

Animal Safari: Virtual behind-the-scenes tours for animal sponsors

### Sept. 1

Senior Celebration, sponsored by St. Camillus Life Plan Community\*

### Sept. 10

Kids Green Art Contest registration deadline

### Sept. 12

Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride, sponsored by The Corners of Brookfield (pre-register)

### Oct. 2

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank & FOX6\*

### Oct. 7

Zoo Brew, sponsored by Educators Credit Union (pre-register)

### Oct. 9

Kids Conservation Club Workshop (pre-register)

### Oct. 14-17 and 21-24

Boo at the Zoo Drive-Thru, presented by Prairie Farms Dairy (pre-register at [milwaukeezoo.org](https://milwaukeezoo.org))

### Nov. 6

Family Free Day, sponsored by North Shore Bank & FOX6\*

### Nov. 13

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

\* Zoo Pass members get free regular Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one vehicle per membership per day. Platypus Circle members receive free admission and parking with their card.

## CONNECT WITH US!

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

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

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

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

 Milwaukee Zoo Pass App



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



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