

# WILD

## THINGS

SEPT/OCT  
2022



**4**  
*A New  
Species  
Has  
Arrived*



**8**

*Bike Inside  
the Zoo*



**3**

*Beer & Food  
Tasting*



NOV  
12

# DANCING IN THE ZOO



Photo by Bob Wickland

## Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo

Raise your pulse to raise some money. By joining the Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo, you're not only helping yourself to a healthy workout, but also you're helping the Zoological Society. Money raised during the event goes to the Society's Sponsor an Animal program. Zumba is a popular workout that uses basic dance rhythms from salsa, merengue and more.

This year you can sign up for one of two sessions. Each session is led by Zumba Jammer™ Rachel Beimel and local Zumba® Fitness instructors. Don't be intimidated if you have never tried Zumba. This is a perfect event for people of all skill levels. All you need is comfortable clothes, shoes and a positive attitude.

### Session 1: 4–5:30 p.m.

(Check-in starts at 3 p.m.)

### Session 2: 6:30–8 p.m.

(Check-in starts at 5:45 p.m.)

**Cost:** \$20 per person per session if registered before Nov. 12. \$25 at the door if tickets are still available.

**If you get the chance to sit out or dance, we hope you dance. Tickets go on sale Sept. 5, 2022.**

Cover Photos:

Oryx and beer photos stock



Printed on  
recycled paper.



## 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.–4:30 p.m.

### Zoo hours:

9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Please note:** The following areas close before the posted Zoo closing time: drive-in admission gate (45 minutes prior), walk-in gate (one hour prior) and animal buildings (15 minutes prior).

**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 or lost 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 and Aquariums' listing of 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 in your household 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 baby-sitting or day-care services. The Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any membership being used inappropriately.



### WILD THINGS

Issue No. 159, Sept.–Oct. 2022

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

**Editor & Writer:** Katie Krecklow  
**Designer:** Scott DuChateau

**Photos taken by Garrett Hopkins unless otherwise noted.**

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**Phone:** 414-258-2333 **Web:** [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

### Contact the Milwaukee County Zoo at:

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



OCT  
6

# POUR, ROAR AND **EXPLORE**

## **Zoo Brew**

*Sponsored by Educators Credit Union*

We know you've been "brewing" with excitement for the return of Zoo Brew. This beer- and food-tasting event features different stations around the Zoo for you to try new or favorite brews. Sip a lager in the beer garden by a campfire. Swish around an IPA in the big cat building while watching the lions, tigers and jaguars. Then savor a microbrew in the Peck Welcome Center while listening to live music.

Get a jump start and order a VIP ticket to enter the event one hour early! Or, purchase a designated driver ticket and enjoy the food samples, entertainment and a fall evening in the Zoo.

### **Zoo Pass Members & Guests:**

Regular ticket: \$50

VIP ticket (early entry at 6 p.m.): \$60

Designated driver ticket: \$20

### **Non-members:**

Regular ticket: \$60

VIP ticket (early entry at 6 p.m.): \$70

Designated driver ticket: \$30

**Registration opens on Aug. 16.**

**We are still accepting beer and food vendors.**

**To sign up, go to [GoZooBrew.com](http://GoZooBrew.com).**



Photo by Peter Zuzga



# BACK FROM EXTINCTION

**T**hree new animals at the Zoo have a big story to tell, and the Zoo hopes you stop to soak it all in. Three female scimitar-horned oryx are moving into the former elephant yard that is next to the red river hog and hippo habitats. The first thing you should know when seeing these animals is they are extinct in the wild. Oryx are native to North Africa and are a desert antelope. They went extinct in the 1980s from over-hunting and loss of food due to excessive livestock grazing. The good news is – thanks to zoos and sanctuaries – organizations are working to reintroduce the animals to the wild, specifically in Tunisia and Chad.

## Meet the oryx

The three oryx came from a conservation center in Ohio. There is 6-year-old Babe and 1-year-olds Moza and Zahara. The first thing you will notice about these desert antelopes is their very large horns. Since Babe is older, her horns are much larger than the 1-year-olds'. An oryx's horns can grow as long as 3 feet! Moza and Zahara are related; they have the same father. You won't see them playing in water very often. They can go months without drinking any water. Oryx are adapted to live in hot and dry places and will often get moisture from the plants and vegetation they eat. Their bodies can tolerate an internal temperature of 116 degrees Fahrenheit meaning oryx don't need to sweat as much and don't need as much water.

## What brought them here?

The Zoo's former elephant yard has been empty since the elephants moved to their new home in 2019. The hippos briefly used it while their new habitat was being built, but the Zoo staff was looking for a new species to enjoy the space. First, staff had to identify a species that would thrive in that habitat and then determine where the animal could go when construction on the new rhino habitat begins. Curator of Large Mammals Tim Wild, who worked with oryx in the past, felt they would fit in well with the terrain of the habitat and can easily live with the waterbuck, kudu and zebra once construction starts. Construction is expected to start in 2023. **To read more about the construction and how you can help, turn to page 14.**

*At the time of print, the oryx have not moved into their new space. They are expected to be outside mid- to late-August.*





# HIDDEN GEM



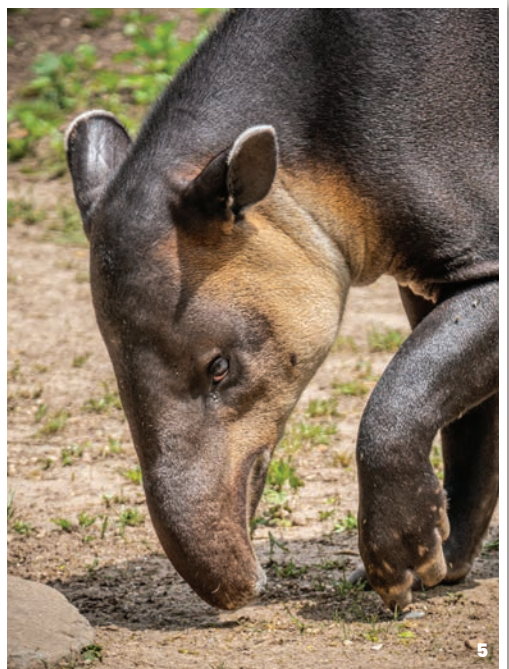
**T**here is an animal at the Zoo that has stolen the hearts of his keepers, and he'll steal your heart too if you give him the chance. It's libu the Baird's tapir. Tapirs aren't a commonly known animal, especially compared to elephants, giraffes, camels or big cats. That can change now.

libu – pronounced eww-bo – is a 4-year-old male. He lives in the South America yard along with the alpaca and rheas. For a 500-pound animal, he is pretty quick and nimble. "He can be so calm then so feisty. He goes back and forth between this nice, calm animal and the animal that needs to whoop it up and run around the habitat," says Winter Quarters supervisor Danielle Faucett. The tapir's body is tapered like a bullet, narrow by the head and bigger in the back. This makes it easier for them to run through dense vegetation or drill through brush in the wild. At the Zoo libu doesn't need to run through vegetation, but he does like to run around and jump over things.

Depending on his mood, zookeepers can go into the off-exhibit stall with libu to work on training and health checks. Many animals at the Zoo get food rewards during their training sessions, but libu prefers getting rubs. So when the zookeepers need to take his blood pressure, get blood or have him stand still for a radiograph, he gets rewarded with touch. "We can manipulate any part of his body with a rub. If we scratch his bottom he'll sit down, if we rub his belly he flops down on his side," says Faucett. The way libu reacts to his rubs is just one of the many reasons his keepers love him so much. If keepers can't be in the same

space as him for training, he does get special food rewards. His favorites include bananas, apples and sweet potatoes.

Another tapir characteristic that is just too cute not to share is their large, flexible nose. It's often used in the wild as a snorkel. If tapirs feel threatened, they will hide underwater and poke their snout above the water for air. Their nose can also help them grab onto food or a branch while they eat the leaves. The next time you're at the Zoo be sure to say hi to libu and enjoy the characteristics and personality that make him so special.





# THE **BIG** REVEAL

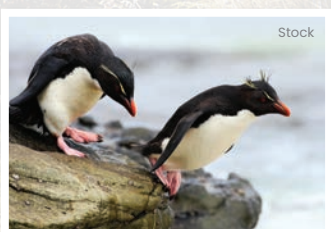


**Breaking news!** We are happy to announce this year's ornament features the rockhopper penguins. Rockhoppers are easy to spot with their unique tufts of yellow feathers by their very red eyes. Rockhoppers share a habitat with the gentoo penguins inside the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary.

The 2022 ornament features an adult rockhopper with a chick. The handcrafted design showcases the unique feathers and short body. Each year, local artist Andy Schuman studies the features of the animal selected for that year's ornament and sketches a design before carving it out of clay. The final product is then cast in pewter.

Four new rockhoppers joined the waddle (group of penguins) at the start of the year. Males Tate and Rocky came from the Newport Aquarium in Kentucky, and Christina and Britney came from the St. Louis Zoo. There are now 10 rockhoppers: five males and five females. With the four new additions, the penguins are still working out who they want to pair up with. Right now, the only paired-up couple is Clover (F) and Squirt (M). These penguins rarely mate for life and often have different partners as time goes on.

When there is an egg, both parents take turns incubating it. In the wild, rockhoppers usually stick to shallow water but are capable of diving up to 330 feet in pursuit of dinner – fish, crustaceans and squid.



**Each ornament is \$16 and includes shipping and handling. You can also buy one of our 30 other ornaments from years past by going to [zoosociety.org/ornaments](https://zoosociety.org/ornaments).**



OCT  
20-23

# CARVING OUT FUN



## Boo at the Zoo

*Presented by Prairie Farms Dairy*

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

It's time to lift your spirits and enjoy a boo-tiful night at the Zoo. Boo at the Zoo is back to a walking event through the Zoo. As the sun starts to set, enter the Zoo and see it in a whole new light (or whole new darkness). Decorations throughout the park will delight kids and adults. Halloween décor includes hundreds of freshly carved pumpkins throughout the Zoo courtesy of the Zoo Pride volunteers and staff. While those pumpkins light up the path, your faces will light up when you watch a professional pumpkin carving demonstration. Watch the amazing transformation and detailed work put into the giant pumpkin.

There won't be any tricks, but there will be treats. Kids can load up at treat stops throughout the Zoo. But don't look down at the goodies too long, or you'll miss the still walker going through the Zoo. Other opportunities include riding the Raven's Rail (the Halloween-themed train ride). Costumes are not required, but it's just a lot more fun when you wear them.

**Tickets are required and can be purchased at [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org).**

**Adult: \$13.50, Child: \$11.50**

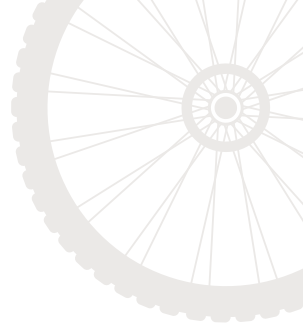
**Zoo Pass members receive a 15% discount with their member ID and promo code **treat**.**



Photo by Paul Ruffolo

SEPT  
11

# A "WHEELIE" GREAT TIME



## Ride on the Wild Side

Sponsored by Annex Wealth Management  
7 a.m. check-in/registration; 8 a.m. start

Get into gear and sign up for the Zoological Society's Ride on the Wild Side bike ride. This is the one time a year you can take your bicycle through the Zoo. Experience the Zoo at a whole new speed. Zip through the turns and get ready for the hills (both up and down). You may even catch an animal or two watching you zoom by.

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. Riders that do the kids' route can take as many laps as they want before 9 a.m. After the ride, stick around to enjoy kids' crafts, lunch and a day at the Zoo.

*Helmets are mandatory for this event.*

### Registration includes:

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

### 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.





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



### **New This Year!**

Make your contributions even bigger by collecting pledges and donations. Or, if you can't ride this year, help the Zoological Society raise money for conservation, education and Zoo support.

#### **Examples of how donations can help:**

- \$50 donation helps provide maintenance for the animal web cams the Society hosts for the Zoo.
- \$250 donation will help pay for travel expenses for zookeepers involved in the Belize Zoo Pat Gives Back conservation work.
- \$500 donation helps provide a Zoo Camp or Class experience for five children who might not otherwise be able to attend.

**Thanks to our supporting sponsors:** BMO Harris Bank; Carmex; Cedar Crest Ice Cream; Dave & Buster's; Festival Foods; Honest Teeth Dentistry; J.K. Lee Black Belt Academy; Lifeway Foods; Litho-Craft; Prairie Farms Dairy; R&R Insurance; Southport Engineered Systems; Stephanie Murphy, DDS; TrueSmile Orthodontics; Wheel & Sprocket

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

# Zooventures!

It's time to start thinking about the school year starting. Back to reading, writing, arithmetic and the ever-exciting field trips! The Zoo is a popular spot for field trips for kids from kindergarten to high school. Teachers can add a special experience to their field trip when they book a school program with the Zoological Society.

One program, in particular, is getting a lot of attention from teachers – “Hungry, Hungry Animals.” This program for 1st and 2nd grade includes four stops throughout the Zoo. Students will have an up-close interaction with an animal, see a behind-the-scenes area to learn how food is prepared for the animals and tour several areas of the Zoo. Instructors are stationed at each stop to share information about what the animals eat and/or engage the students in hands-on learning with information and biofacts to see up close or touch.

This class is a newer concept for the Zoological Society. Zooventures was designed during the pandemic for schools interested in reducing the amount of time students spend indoors in close proximity. This new approach maximizes time on Zoo grounds where student learning happens in close proximity to the animals. This class launched in the spring and was filled every week it was offered. More than 350 children participated in the program. Due to the program's success, the department is looking to add more ages and topics in the future.

School programs are a great way to complement lesson plans and spark a love for wildlife in children. Topics and lessons through these school programs align with learning standards such as NGSS and Common Core.

**Educators can learn more about school programs and how to book an experience by going to [zoosociety.org/education](https://zoosociety.org/education).**



Each student will also get a brochure with interactive activities during the class. They can learn how to use a map and be on the lookout for certain birds.

Students can practice what they learned by drawing a picture of food items each animal would eat.







# TRAVELLING THEATER

**K**ohl's Wild Theater's free performances and guest interactions inside the Zoo end for the year on Sept. 5. But, you don't have to wait until next summer to see them again. Throughout the year Kohl's Wild Theater travels to festivals, libraries and schools within a 60-mile radius of the Zoo, free of charge. It's part of our mission to educate people about the importance of animals and protecting the environment. Each musical gives an important message through song, puppets and a little comedy.

This fall, KWT will be taking the musical "Leona Lionheart Saves the World" on the road. The musical follows 11-year-old Leona as she learns about three women who made their mark in conservation. If you have seen a musical by Kohl's Wild Theater before, this one may look a little different. Two of the actors will play narrators and guide Leona on a journey through a book about these conservationists. Its fast-paced dialogue and ever-changing characters bring Leona's imagination to life.



The three females highlighted in this musical are **Anna Comstock, Eugenie Clark, and Wangari Maathai.**

**Anna Comstock** was an entomologist (insects), the first female professor at Cornell University and an artist. She used her skills in art to draw detailed images of insects that would complement pamphlets and textbooks.

**Eugenie Clark** is often referred to as the shark lady. She discovered many behaviors in sharks we didn't know before, conducted 72 deep dives, and gave us insight into the world around us.

**Wangari Maathai** was the first woman from Africa to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. She is highly recognized for her Green Belt Movement, which planted more than 30 million trees in Africa and helped 900,000 women. Maathai combined science, social commitment and active politics.



Photo by Paul Ruffolo

If you want to check out a show on the road, or if your school or business is interested in booking a performance, go to [WildTheater.org](http://WildTheater.org).

# SPOTLIGHT

## ON ELEPHANTS & MILWAUKEE



**T**he Zoo's three African elephants, Ruth, Brittany and Belle; their zookeepers; and the Milwaukee County Zoo will be getting worldwide attention this fall. The Zoo was asked to host the annual Elephant Managers Association Conference in October. It's an honor to host the event, and Elephant Care Coordinator Erin Dowgwillo is ready to show more than a hundred people from around the world why we are a top-notch zoo.

Attendees of this conference will get the chance to share ideas and learn new elephant care techniques. One of the most important things Dowgwillo takes away from these conferences is networking. "I met an elephant foot consultant at a conference 17 years ago,

and I still call him with questions or for advice," Dowgwillo explains. Footwork and care are very important for the health and wellness of elephants. Zookeepers check the elephants' feet each day to make sure the bottoms and nails aren't overgrown, bruised or showing signs of distress. The Zoo's elephants weigh between 7,400 to 10,000 pounds. Imagine all that weight on their feet! That's one reason they need extra attention and care. During the conference, attendees will see footwork training in action. It's a great opportunity to see it live and not just read about it or watch a virtual presentation.

The Milwaukee County Zoo's elephant habitat just opened in 2019. It features a 1.6-acre outdoor space that is four times greater in size than the entire former





**The elephants are trained to show the keepers their feet for health checks.**

Photo by Joel Miller

elephant home. Moving elephants to a new space takes a lot of patience and years of training. Dowgwillo says she expects to answer questions about the Zoo's successful move. "There are a lot of new people coming into the business, and they will want to learn from our process." Conferences like this are also a great opportunity to talk about different enrichment items or exercises for the magnificent mammals.

In addition to the Milwaukee County Zoo and the elephants being in the spotlight, Dowgwillo is helping organize a day for guests to explore the city. Whether they go on a river tour, check out local breweries or get a taste of Milwaukee history, guests will get a true Milwaukee experience.

**We are seeking donations to host the event. If you would like to contribute, please contact Patty in Marketing Partnerships at [pattyhm@zoosociety.org](mailto:pattyhm@zoosociety.org).**



# FINAL FUNDRAISING PUSH

Thanks is not a strong enough word to express the gratitude we have for the hundreds of donors that have helped our Capital Campaign to create Adventure Africa. The Zoological Society publicly announced the campaign four years ago, and we are in the home stretch. Adventure Africa is the largest physical change to the Zoo since its opening in 1961, transforming 25% of the developed footprint. With a goal to raise nearly \$27 million, the Society has about \$800,000 left and hopes to finish the fundraising by the end of the year.

Adventure Africa was a three-stage plan to create a new habitat for the Zoo's elephants, African hoofstock, hippos and rhinos. The elephant and African mixed-species yard opened in 2019. The elephant home is much larger and also includes a giant indoor habitat that allows guests inside year-round.

The hippo habitat opened on time and on budget in 2020. Milwaukee is one of only a dozen zoos with an underwater

viewing feature. Happy the hippo can be seen sleeping underwater or gliding along the bottom with only a pane of glass separating the giant animal and the guest.

Soon, the design process for the new rhino home will be underway. When construction is completed, guests will be able to see the rhinos and hippos inside throughout the year, similar to the elephant habitat. Construction is expected to start next year and also includes plans for a new central pathway through the Zoo.

Donors have ranged from foundations, corporations and individuals donating millions of dollars to children creating school fundraisers or donating their lemonade stand money. We are thankful for everyone who has helped us get closer to our goal. Now, to help us bring it home, the Society is asking people to visit [win2wild.com](http://win2wild.com) and consider donating. Anyone who donates more than \$100 will have their name displayed on a digital board within Adventure Africa.





SEPT  
24

# GRACEFUL GIRAFFES



## Kids Conservation Club Workshop

**Two sessions to choose from: 10 a.m. or 11 a.m.**

Kids Conservation Club is a great way to get your child involved in the Zoo and wildlife. For \$25 a year (per child) KCC members sponsor an endangered animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Benefits include an animal fact sheet on that year's animal, collector cards with endangered animals, the child's name on the donor board in the Peck Welcome Center and invitations to two free workshops a year.

In September, the workshop is all about giraffes. It's a perfect time to see the giraffes with a new baby in the herd! Kids will create a giraffe craft, enjoy a snack and take a walk to see the giraffes where a volunteer will give inside information on the gentle giants.

If you are a member of the Kids Conservation Club and want to register for this workshop, contact Becky Luft at [beckyl@zoosociety.org](mailto:beckyl@zoosociety.org).

**If you're interested in joining the club to get these great benefits, go to [zoosociety.org/sponsorananimal](http://zoosociety.org/sponsorananimal).**



OCT  
1

NOV  
5

DEC  
3

# AFFORDABLE ADVENTURES

## Family Free Day

*Sponsored by North Shore Bank and FOX6*

**Parking and other fees apply.**

Bring your friends, your friends' friends, your family, even your Uncle Charlie, because when you come on Family Free Day, admission is free. Between October and March, the first Saturday of the month is free at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Venture through the wooded paths, soaking in the natural landscape. Stop by to see the otter families. The pups grew quickly, but they are energetic and love to play. The fall is also a great time of year to see the impressive antlers growing on the caribou. They are the only species to have antlers on both males and females. Top off the day with a visit to the Zoo's elephants. If you don't see them outside, check out their indoor home where you can also learn more about the elephants.



Nonprofit  
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Permit No. 4073



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

**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

## QUICK FACT:

Baird's tapirs have four toes on their front feet and three toes on their hind feet.

**Read more on page 5.**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



### Now-Sept. 5

Special summer exhibit, Dino Don's Dragon Kingdom, sponsored by Sendik's Food Market

### Now-Sept. 5

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

### Aug. 18-21

Milwaukee a la Carte at the Zoo, presented by Meijer\* (**Zoo opens at 11 a.m. each day.**)

### Aug. 27

Animal Safari: Behind-the-scenes tours for animal sponsors

### Aug. 31

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

### Sept. 11

Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride, sponsored by Annex Wealth Management (pre-register)

### Sept. 24

Kids Conservation Club Workshop (pre-register)

### Oct. 1

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

### Oct. 6

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

### Oct. 20-23

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

### Nov. 5

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

### Nov. 12

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



Photo by Bob Wickland

### PAGE 2

**Get a workout with Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo.**

**Proceeds help the Sponsor an Animal program.**

\* 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://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)

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

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



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.