



MINNESOTA ZOO
Changing how you see the world

zoo tracks



MARCH/APRIL
2008



special green issue

Year of the Frog

EarthFest

Conservation in
Action

mnzoo.org



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This issue of *Zoo Tracks* highlights many of the Zoo's current efforts to operate more sustainably.

As an organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places, the Minnesota Zoo has a special obligation to continually examine and modify our operational activities to align with our educational messages about conservation. Not only is "practicing what we preach" an important concept to convey, but the financial savings generated by best practices in environmental management allow us to invest more in animal care, conservation programs, and improving our guests' experience. This issue of *Zoo Tracks* highlights many of the Zoo's current efforts to operate more sustainably, which is just the beginning. We are committed to doing even more in the years ahead.

One of the most visible examples of this commitment will be the new Education Event Center hidden in the middle of our new

Russia's Grizzly Coast exhibit (best seen from the monorail). This building will provide a dynamic and elegant space for education programs, meetings, and events with direct connections to our parking areas and to the amazing animal experiences of *Russia's Grizzly Coast*. But more than this, the new facility will be the Zoo's first truly "green" building, utilizing many sustainable design strategies and operational principles to reduce energy use and minimize environmental impact. A vegetated "green roof" and earth berms will capture rainfall runoff and reduce heating and cooling requirements. Geothermal wells allow the Zoo to harness the Earth's energy to assist with temperature regulation. Skylights and operable windows will reduce lighting requirements. We intend to seek certification with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program for the building. LEED is a rating system established by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) in which points are given for documented achievement or performance in five environmental categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality. Points are also garnered for Innovation and Design. The Zoo's new Education Event Center uses strategies in all of these categories and will set a new standard for future Zoo buildings.

Like the new wind power generator installed on Zoo grounds by our partner the School for Environmental Studies, *Russia's Grizzly Coast* Education Event Center will be a highly-visible demonstration of our commitment to finding more environmentally-sound ways to keep our guests and inhabitants comfortable. As Minnesota's largest environmental education provider, we think that's essential.

Lee Ehmke

Director/CEO

zoo tracks

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The Minnesota Zoo is an institutional member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums



The Minnesota Zoo is an accredited institution of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums

SORRY Kermit, It Is Easy Being Green!

As a world leader in conservation, the Minnesota Zoo has a long history of taking care of the environment. Here are a few ways we **“think green”** and do what is right for the planet.



THE ZOO AS A CITY

The Minnesota Zoo is like a small city. As such, we strive to improve energy use, recycling, and waste management. As participants in the Minnesota State Government Resource Recovery Program, the Zoo has a 75 percent recycling recovery rate. This means that three-fourths of the zoo's total waste is recycled—which is 15 percent above the state agency goal of 60 percent. Items we recycle include paper, beverage cans, glass, plastic, metal, batteries, fluorescents, solvent, oil, tires, compost, construction materials, wood waste, aluminum, antifreeze, paint, and manure. In addition, engineers at the Zoo have taken steps to update heating and cooling systems, life support, power supplies, and more—providing energy and cost savings while ensuring that operating systems perform as efficiently as possible.

BUILDING GREEN

The Zoo's new *Russia's Grizzly Coast* exhibit features a state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly Education Event Center which uses green building practices—practices that can substantially reduce the negative impacts associated with construction activities. Some of these sustainable strategies include:

- Vegetative roof using native plantings
- Geothermal heat system using the Earth's temperature for heating/cooling
- Recycled content for wood, carpet, steel, paneling, glass, porcelain tiles, etc.
- High efficiency, low energy prismatic lighting with daylight sensors
- Soy-based, mold resistant insulation
- Solar powered pathway lighting
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified products
- Natural and non-mechanical ventilation systems
- Low VOC/odor paints, finishes, adhesives and sealants
- Majority of products manufactured within 500 miles of project site

WIND AND SOLAR POWER

The School of Environmental Studies (SES), located on the Minnesota Zoo's property, is working with Dakota Electric Association on a renewable energy project. They have installed a 20-kilowatt wind turbine and two 1-kilowatt solar panels that will generate energy and learning opportunities for generations. Students from SES are on the project team. Educational displays at the school will include information about how wind and solar energy are generated as well as output readings from the equipment.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)

The Zoo strives to use FSC-certified products for printed materials and building products whenever possible. This growing trend in the forest industry goes beyond using post-consumer waste (recycled) materials. It looks at the entire management process and sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. For example, Zoo Tracks is printed on FSC-certified paper.

Spring Events



earthfest!

a party for the planet

April 19–20

Celebrate all things green at the Minnesota Zoo during EarthFest, a party for the planet. In honor of Earth Day, the weekend will highlight hands-on, eco-friendly activities for everyone. Learn about recycling, composting, green buildings, and sustainable living. The Waste Management Team will provide tips on recycling, and you'll gain valuable information from various environmental organizations on simple ways you can protect the planet. There will also be music and crafts.

Presented by Waste Management.

Electronics Drop-Off!

April 11–12
(NOT at the Zoo)

Waste Management and Sony are sponsoring several electronics drop-off sites in Minneapolis/St. Paul as part of the Sony National Take Back Recycling Program. For locations and more information go to wmtwincities.com.

Our Inner Ape: Human Nature as Seen by a Primatologist

Dr. Frans de Waal
Tuesday, April 8
7:00 p.m.

Great Clips IMAX Theatre



Join us for a lecture with world-renowned primatologist Dr. Frans de Waal. His latest book, *Our Inner Ape*, looks at human behavior through the eyes of a primatologist, using the behavior of chimps and bonobos as metaphors for how we act. Is there both a chimpanzee and bonobo inside us? The evening promises to be engaging, entertaining, and candid. This event is presented through a partnership of the Minnesota Zoo and Gustavus Adolphus College. No charge, but please R.S.V.P. at mnzoo.org.

Farm Babies A Zoo Family Tradition!

March 21–April 13

(Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays)

The sounds of spring are all around us—piglets squealing, chicks peeping, calves mooing, ducklings quacking, and more. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Wells Fargo Family Farm. In addition to adorable baby animals, there will be fun, hands-on kids' activities opening weekend, March 21 and 22. On Saturday, March 22, Peter Rabbit will hand out toy-filled, colored eggs (while supplies last).

Presented by Hormel with support from Dakota Electric Association.

save the date

Military Family Weekend: May 24–26

Russia's Grizzly Coast Opening Weekend: June 7–8

Frogs are going extinct. So are toads, salamanders, newts, and the intriguingly unusual caecilians. In fact, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) estimates that at least one-third of known amphibian species are threatened with extinction. While the major culprit has historically been habitat loss and degradation, many of the declines and extinctions previously referred to as "enigmatic" are now being attributed to the rapidly dispersing infectious disease chytridiomycosis ("chytrid"). This fungus is causing population and species extinctions at an alarming rate. Can you imagine if we were about to lose one-third of the world's mammals?

Year of the frog



To increase awareness regarding this critical issue, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) proclaims 2008 as the Year of the Frog. This year-long promotion marks a major conservation effort to address the amphibian extinction crisis and strives to educate and engage the public in amphibian conservation efforts.

WHY ZOOS?

The combined effect of habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, and chytrid cannot be addressed solely in the wild. Captive populations have become the only hope for many species faced with imminent extinction and are an important component of an integrated conservation effort. AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, with their demonstrated expertise in endangered species breeding programs, have been called upon to meet this conservation challenge.

WHY NOW?

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are committed to ensuring the survival of all amphibian species and are already an active force in amphibian conservation. Since 2000, more than \$1.1 million has been spent on amphibian conservation and research projects in more than 20 countries around the world. Now, with Year of the Frog, we need to take our efforts to the next level, not only by increasing our conservation efforts, but also by engaging the public to learn about and support our critical work to prevent amphibian extinction.

AMPHIBIANS AT THE MINNESOTA ZOO

On the Minnesota Trail, you'll see American toad, gray tree frog, mudpuppy, northern leopard frog, tiger salamander, and wood frog. Along the Tropics Trail, you'll find blue poison frog, green and black poison frog, White's tree frog, and yellow-banded poison frog.

Learn more at aza.org/yearoffthefrog.

foundation NEWS



A Tribute to "Mama and Papa Bear"

Robert and Lucy Schmidt were affectionately known as "Papa Bear" and "Mama Bear" by family and friends. They developed a legacy of giving, and daughter Susie Jedlund, a long-time and dedicated Zoo volunteer, has created a wonderful way to honor their past and present as well as the unique connection between Russia and the Minnesota Zoo.

Papa Bear, Susie's father and an Executive Vice President for Control Data, traveled throughout the world in an effort to improve trade relations between the United States and other countries. His greatest connection was with Russia where he spent a great deal of time, often accompanied by Mama Bear.

Although memorial services were done in private for the family years ago, the Jedland family wanted an additional way to remember Papa and Mama Bear. "We wanted a more public way to honor our parents that represented their passion for Russia in a meaningful way for the family," said Susie Jedlund. Three things came together to create this unique opportunity—Susie's connection with the Zoo, her involvement in planning the Volunteer Education Station in *Russia's Grizzly Coast*, and the presentation of bears from an area that was dear to the hearts of their parents.

The Volunteer Education Station in the new *Russia's Grizzly Coast* exhibit will be named in memory of Robert and Lucille Schmidt. Its location is perfect—right in front of the bear exhibit. The Jedlunds, together with the Minnesota Zoo Foundation, provided a special opportunity for family and friends to pay tribute to Papa and Mama Bear.

To learn more about how you can honor a loved one in such a meaningful way, please contact the Minnesota Zoo Foundation at 952.431.9342.

Animal Sponsorship SPONSOR AN OTTER

The Minnesota Zoo's sea otters, discovered as orphaned pups off the coast of Alaska, will make their public debut with the opening of *Russia's Grizzly Coast* in June. Help them prepare for their new home with a sea otter sponsorship!

Sea otters have the densest fur of any animal on earth, which is how they stay warm in frigid ocean waters (most ocean mammals use blubber instead). But their amazing fur also has been a handicap—their pelts were prized by fur traders, and their reliance on clean fur makes them especially vulnerable to oil spills. At one time, there were as many as 300,000 sea otters, but hunting reduced the population to 2,000 in the early 1900s. Today scientists believe the wild population has rebounded to about 100,000.

Your \$50 sponsorship includes:

- Your choice of an adorable plush sea otter OR the book *Lootas, Little Wave Eater: An Orphaned Sea Otter's Story* by Clare Hodgson Meeker (while supplies last)
- An animal sponsorship certificate
- A sea otter trading card with a photo and fun facts
- The satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference at the Minnesota Zoo

Make your sponsorship donation online at mnzoo.org. For more information call 952.431.9447 or 1.800.366.7811 ext. 447 or e-mail donations@mnzoo.org.

JOIN US FOR

The Great Bear Affair!

You're invited to the social event of the spring season—the Minnesota Zoo's 2008 Beastly Ball on Saturday, April 26. And for those unable to attend, get into the action by purchasing your raffle tickets to win a Toyota Prius, generously donated by Twin Cities Toyota Dealers, and by participating in the second annual Beastly Ball on-line auction.

The *Great Bear Affair* celebrates the opening of the Zoo's new state-of-the-art exhibit, *Russia's Grizzly Coast*, and commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Beastly Ball and the 30th anniversary of the Minnesota Zoo. Join us and enjoy a fabulous evening of dining, dancing, live and silent auctions, and a special opportunity sponsored by Tiffany and Company.

Zoo members, donors, and friends also can help support the Beastly Ball and the Zoo by bidding on great items in the on-line auction, which will open in late March. Be sure to watch for an e-mail that will announce the launch of the auction—you won't want to miss it!

Corporate sponsorships for the Beastly Ball are still available, and individual ticket sales begin March 12. Please contact Bridgette Ruffedt at 952.431.9310 or bridgette.ruffedt@mnzoo.org for more information or if you are interested in making an in-kind donation to the Beastly Ball. Attendance is limited so be sure to respond soon!



Toyota Prius Raffle

The Zoo Salutes TORO!

When *Russia's Grizzly Coast* opens this June, people will rush to see the amazing new animals. Most guests won't notice something virtually invisible that will nevertheless greatly enhance the exhibit—the \$100,000+ irrigation system (including design, equipment, and installation), all generously donated by The Toro Giving Program.

Stacy Bogart, Senior Corporate Counsel for Toro, President of the Toro Giving Program, and a Minnesota Zoo Foundation Trustee says "The Toro Giving Program is committed to beautifying and preserving outdoor environments, enhancing communities and improving people's lives." *Russia's Grizzly Coast's* unique design gives Toro the opportunity to participate in a project where irrigation makes a huge difference, as regular watering is necessary create an authentic Russian landscape.

Toro's company policy allows each employee 20 hours of paid time off annually for volunteer work, and each year a group takes that opportunity to work on a Zoo project. Last spring, they planted the area by the Minnesota Trail's new wild bird deck. Toro employee Debra Ludwikowski went a step further, serving as one of the Zoo's dedicated "blue shirt" volunteers for the past 14 years.

The Zoo's conservation focus is a great fit for The Toro Company's commitment to providing environmentally-responsible products and for the Toro Giving Program's mission. Toro is proud to be a part of the Zoo's accomplishments: "The remarkable progress made by the Zoo in the past six years is a tribute to our community and Zoo donors."

Buy a *Great Bear Affair* raffle ticket today, and you could win a Toyota Prius. Buy one ticket for \$20, and you have a one in 3,000 chance to win. Buy five tickets and your chances of winning are one in 600!



This advanced technology partial zero emission vehicle, with estimated ratings of 46 miles per gallon and 70 percent fewer smog-forming emissions than the average new car, is a great win for you, the Zoo, and the environment. Visit the Minnesota Zoo's Guest Services desk (at the main entrance to the Zoo) to buy your tickets today. The winner will be announced at the Beastly Ball; you need not be present to win.

MINNESOTA **CLIMATE** **ICON** **IN PERIL** **CHANGE**

Moose have always been a part of the Minnesota Zoo, and rightly so. They are the largest member of the deer family, historically found throughout much of our state's northern-forested region. They are a symbol of what is pristine and wild in our state, and they have become an icon species for the Minnesota Zoo. Yet, recent environmental changes have given the moose an uncertain future, both at the zoo, and in the wild.

The Minnesota Zoo has a long history with moose, exhibiting them since we first opened in 1978. A total of 32 moose have called our Zoo home since that time, 14 of which were born and raised within our enclosures. We were a pioneer in moose management during those early days, providing husbandry and management techniques that would best promote their health and longevity in captivity. After 30 years of experience with this species, we can proudly say average life spans of our captive moose now exceed those of their wild Minnesota counterparts.

Unfortunately, new challenges are being confronted in captive moose management due to the recent spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). A fatal brain and nervous system disease, CWD is found in elk and deer in certain parts of the country. Moose are also susceptible. Although it hasn't been found in wild deer in Minnesota, governmental restrictions have been placed on the movement of deer between zoos or from the wild. This may have long-term effects for Minnesota Zoo moose. Orphan calves have traditionally been accepted in the past from wild moose populations in both Minnesota and Alaska. Without the occasional addition of these new animals, a genetic bottleneck will be encountered with the possibility of negative inbreeding effects. New animals can now only be sought from one of the few other zoos that are also part of this disease surveillance program. Recently, two yearling bulls were acquired from a zoo in Ontario, Canada that qualified under these new restrictions. We are hopeful that this new influx of moose genetics will keep our herd viable for the next several years.



Minnesota's wild moose population is also being challenged. According to a recent Department of Natural Resources (DNR) survey, moose populations are declining at an alarming rate. The population in the northwest part of the state has declined from around 4,000 animals in the mid 1980s to a present number of 84 and is expected to be nonexistent within a few years. The northeastern population has also dropped to approximately 6,500 animals from an estimated 8,400 the previous year. Scientists suspect an underlying factor to this decline to be a warming climate. Minnesota is on the southern fringe of the moose's range and with weather warming significantly in recent decades, the more warm-tolerant white-tailed deer become candidates for taking over moose habitat. Projections show that Minnesota winter and summer temperatures are likely to increase, and along with it, a continued decrease in wild moose numbers. The large body size that helped the moose adapt to our historical cold weather is also limiting their ability to adapt to our current warming trend.

Our climate has warmed and cooled several times over the history of our planet. Yet, current observations reveal it to be changing at a faster rate than ever before. If this trend continues, many cold-adapted species may be in peril. Moose species have proven themselves to be survivors, having evolved from a more primitive gigantic ancestor and enduring waves of mass extinctions following the Ice Age. Let's hope they can continue their legacy and adapt to these current changes, both in zoos and in their native habitat.



conservation in action

Wolverines in Southeast Alaska

This project hopes to get an accurate count of wolverine populations in southeast Alaska by discovering which habitats are preferred by reproductive females, tracking movements of males and females, and studying breeding habits and offspring. Researchers hope to provide evidence that viable populations are dependent on the survival of reproductive females which are adversely affected by human disturbance. Information gained on preferred denning habitat can be used to increase wolverine breeding in captivity. Staff champions for this project are Deb Arndt and Amanda Ista.



Wolverine



Fishing Cat

Fishing Cat Occurrence and Status in Southeast Asia

Current work in Thale Noi Non-Hunting Area, Pattalung Province, Thailand seeks to document and safeguard wild populations of fishing cats at a number of sites throughout Thailand. Working closely with local residents and relevant conservation authorities, sign recognition and camera trapping techniques have been used to carry out focused surveys for fishing cat occurrence. The nature and extent of threats to the species are also being compiled, as well as engaging residents and conservation staff in coordinated conservation measures. This project was championed by Maria Reedstrom and Fred Swengel from the Tropics Trail.

Great Lakes Piping Plover Recovery Project

The Great Lakes piping plover is endangered, with fewer than 60 breeding pairs. Janet Long, Minnesota Zoo animal health zoologist, participated in this project in 2005 and in 2007. Volunteers help with incubating and hand-rearing salvaged eggs and chicks, feeding and caring for them for 28 days. Fledged chicks are banded and released.



Piping Plover



Blue-throated Macaw



Beaver

Blue-throated Macaw Field Conservation Research in Bolivia

This project provides protection of the rarest macaw species in the world. Poaching is discouraged through the presence of the field team and vulnerable nest sites are monitored to add data to the ongoing population census. The staff champion is Dave Cruz from the *World of Birds Show*.

Voyageurs National Park Beaver Population

This project focuses on an important native wildlife species of Minnesota, and its impact on natural Minnesota habitat. It involves advancing the knowledge in the dynamics of the beaver population in northern Minnesota, the effects of its changing density on local habitat, and the prevalence of disease within the population. Staff champion is Zoo Veterinarian Tiffany Wolf.

Ecuador's Cloud Forest Birds: Las Tangaras Reserve, Mindo

The conservation research objective of this project is to monitor bird populations at Tangaras Reserve, a protected area adjacent to one of the main trails for waterfall tourism and the 50,000 hectare Mindo-Nambillo Protective Forest. The study investigates aggregations of birds in interior cloud forest and compares them with forest edges to determine which species avoid edges and fragments created by deforestation. Steve Estebo of the Zoo's bird crew traveled to Ecuador to participate in this program.

The Ulysses S. Seal

Conservation Grant Program awards small grants to projects promoting the conservation of wildlife and natural ecosystems throughout the world. They are championed by members of the Zoo staff. Here is an update of recently-supported projects.



education

ZOO 2008 CAMP

Spaces are still available for our summer Zoo Camp. Our naturalists are specially trained to guide your child in exploring the natural world and our Zoo through animal visitors, games, activities, crafts, and behind-the-scenes tours. Your child will go home full of fun facts, creative animal crafts, and exciting stories about their day. Offering week-long camps for toddlers–12th grade children. Register online at mnzoo.org

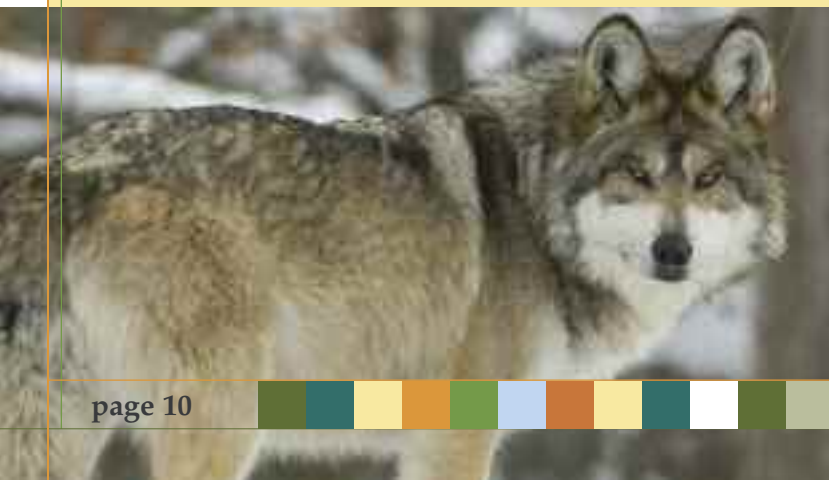
family OVERNIGHTS

Times: 7 p.m. – 9 a.m.

Dates: May 2—Dolphins Dusk to Dawn
May 16—Farm Yard Slumber
April 18—Hootin' and Howlin'

Fees: Zoo member: \$45/participant
Non-member: \$65/participant

Individuals and families are invited to spend the evening exploring topics such as the watery world of dolphins and sharks in Dolphins Dusk to Dawn, owls and gray wolves in Hootin' and Howlin', or farm animals in Farm Yard Slumber. Cost includes all activities, a behind-the-scenes tour, an evening snack, breakfast, and a T-shirt. Open to people age five and older. Anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



Family Zoo Adventures

Times: 1–3 p.m.

Fees: Zoo member
\$17.50/participant
(minimum 1 adult/1 child=\$35)

Non-member:
\$24/participant
(minimum 1 adult/1 child=\$48)

These adventures are designed for children ages four–eight and their favorite adults.

March 8	Grin and "Bear" it
March 16	Magnificent Marsupials
March 29 or 30	Sensational Sea Turtles
April 12	Barrel O'Monkeys
April 27	Simply Sheep
May 10	Radical Raptors

See a Great Clips IMAX Theatre film after your class with a \$3 discount coupon from the instructor.

Preschool Classes

Times: Fridays
9:30 a.m. – noon
OR 1–3:30 p.m.

Fees: Zoo member: \$27/child
Non-member: \$32/child

These child-only classes are designed for children age four through kindergarten and include a story, craft, and snack.

March 7	Lovable Lemurs
March 14	Hippity Hop
March 28	What's Hatching
April 4	Shark!
April 11	Big Cats
April 18	Rainforest Safari
April 25	Pigs on Parade
May 2	Turtle Tales
May 9	Dynamic Dolphins
May 16	Monkey Business
May 16	Mooing Around
May 23	Goofy Goats

Reptiles 101

Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m.

Fee: \$10/participant

Snakes, lizards and many other "scaly" animals are growing in popularity as house pets. If you already own a reptile, or are thinking of adding one to your household, don't miss this fun and informative class. Open to adults and children 6-15 years when accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required.

CareerDAYS

Times: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Dates: Tuesday, March 11 and Saturday, May 3

Fee: \$30/participant

Learn about science careers and receive practical advice on how to prepare for the future. Call 952.431.9466 for more information.

PEREGRINE Ed-Venture

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Date Sunday, May 11

Fees: Zoo member: \$45/participant
Non-member: \$50/participant

Ages: 14 + (minors must be accompanied by an adult)

Learn about and celebrate the remarkable conservation success story of the peregrine falcon. Your journey starts at the Zoo and continues as you explore peregrine life in the field by visiting local nest boxes and viewing peregrines in the wild. Lunch is included. Go to mnzoo.org (click on Education then Community Programs) or call 952.431.9320.

TODDLERTIME

Times: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. OR 11 a.m. – Noon

Fees: Zoo member: \$15/adult & child*
Non-member: \$20/adult & child*

*Each additional adult or child will be charged \$15. Maximum of two children per one adult.

Spend some quality time with your toddler at the Zoo. Join a Zoo naturalist who will read a story and lead an animal encounter, an activity, and a craft project focusing on a specific topic. Toddler Time is designed for children ages two and three along with their favorite adult.

TOPIC:

Hissin' & Hootin'

Animal Dwarfs & Giants

Circles, Squares & Stars

DATE:

Monday, March 3

OR Saturday, March 15

Monday, April 7

OR Saturday, April 19

Monday, May 5

OR Saturday, May 17

EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete one form per child.

Photocopies are acceptable.

Mail to: Education, Minnesota Zoo,
13000 Zoo Boulevard
Apple Valley, MN 55124.

Child's Name _____

Grade/Age _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Member# (for member rate) _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

E-Mail _____

First Choice _____

Date/Time _____

Second Choice _____

Date/Time _____

Third Choice _____

Date/Time _____

Fourth Choice _____

Date/Time _____

TOTAL FEE _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check

Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

To register for these programs, visit mnzoo.org and click on Education and Community Programs or use the enclosed registration form. Online registrations will receive a confirmation via e-mail.

For further information call 952.431.9320 or toll free at 1.800.366.7811 ext. 320.

KIDS Zone



Craft Zone

Milk Carton Bird Feeders

Here's a fun way to recycle an empty milk carton by making it into a bird feeder. The birds, and the environment, will thank you.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- 1/2 gallon cardboard milk carton
- String or twine
- Scissors or exacto knife
- Hole punch
- Birdseed
- Dowel or twig

WHAT YOU DO:

1. With the help of an adult, cut a square for windows on opposite sides of the milk carton.
2. Make a small hole under each window.
3. Put a small wooden dowel from a local craft store or a small twig in the hole beneath the windows so the birds can perch while eating.
4. Make another small hole on the top of the milk carton where the sides come together.
5. Attach a piece of string or twine to the hole and hang from a tree or something similar off of your deck or porch.
6. Fill your homemade feeder with seed and get your binoculars ready to sit and watch your neighborhood birds enjoy the fruits of your labor.
7. See if you can identify at least three birds that come to visit you.

For other fun recycled craft ideas, visit

enchantedlearning.com/crafts/earthday/glue or
kids.nationalgeographic.com/Activities/Crafts/Recycled-disco-ball

50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth

By The Earthworks Group

Andrews and McMeel Publishing

Ages: 9–12

The book *50 Simple Things* helps children and parents understand how they are connected to the world through their actions, teaching families to develop habits that protect our resources. Fifty short chapters tell what they can do to help the environment in a practical and positive way. It also includes a special section called "Eco-Experiments" that illustrates specific projects showing how some environmental problems are caused. Available at Timber Lodge Traders.

WORDFUN

How many words can you re-use by using the words
R-E-U-S-E A-N-D R-E-C-Y-C-L-E?

Have a contest with your friends or family members to see who can come up with the most words using "REUSE AND RECYCLE" in five minutes. Below are some words to get you started.

Can	Use
Yes	Dance
Sue	

Bread Pudding

Zone Food

FUNFACTS

Today, many people don't think twice about throwing food away, but long ago families made use of everything when they cooked. The recipe for bread pudding was developed as a way to use old or stale bread for a delicious dessert.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 cups of scalded milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. of ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 3 cups of bread torn into small pieces

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Combine butter and milk, stirring until butter is melted. Cool to lukewarm.
2. Combine sugar, eggs, nutmeg, and salt. Beat with an electric mixer at medium speed for one minute. Slowly add milk mixture.
3. Place bread in a lightly greased 1 1/2 quart casserole; sprinkle with raisins and pour batter on top.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes or until set. Serve warm.

TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Adopt one or all of the following ideas to recycle and live lightly on the earth.

TOILET TRICKS

Most people are surprised to learn the place they use the most water is in their toilet tank! In order to conserve water, put something heavy in your toilet tank like a brick or a plastic jug filled with water. You'll save about 1 1/2 gallons of water every time you flush!

SIX-PACK RINGS

The little plastic circles that hold together six-packs of cans or bottles should be put in the garbage, but often they end up in lakes or rivers where they hurt or kill wildlife. To help, clip the six-pack rings carefully with a scissors. The animals will thank you.

A BOUNTY OF BAGS

Many bags from grocery stores end up in landfills. Start a new fad and be cool by re-using the same plastic or paper bag you used last time you went shopping. Or next time you go to the store take your own cloth bag and re-use it.

EVERY LITTER BIT COUNTS

If you go for a walk around your neighborhood you will notice garbage in the street. You can be the "pollution patrol" and help pick garbage up. Why? Many items can harm animals. And don't forget to throw YOUR garbage away properly.

LIVE LIGHTLY

Light bulbs use a lot of energy and only a small amount is used as light. Be sure to turn out lights when leaving a room and encourage others to do the same. Dusting light bulbs also helps—the dustier the light bulb the less light the bulb gives out.

CARS, CARS, CARS!

Millions of people drive cars creating exhaust which is harmful to the earth. Next time you go someplace, think twice and see if it's someplace you can bicycle. Encourage your parents and friends to bike, as well. Chances are, if you lived in another country you would bicycle to work all the time.

THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW!

The History of the Recycling Symbol

The symbol of three arrows in a closed loop or circle are rooted in the first Earth Day in April, 1970. They refer to recycling, recyclable and recycled products. It all started with a nationwide art contest for a design that would identify a paper company's products using recycled waste. This symbol indicates minimal waste is left behind by reusing most of what used to be considered trash. The winning symbol represented the process of recycling paper. More than 500 students entered the contest. A young man named Gary Dean Anderson from Nevada was the winner and changed the way we forever look at our garbage today.





Zoo Travel Adventures

Autumn in Yellowstone
September 12–18, 2008
\$1,995 per person, double occupancy

This fall trip combines wildlife viewing, geothermal features and the peak of beautiful autumn foliage. Our guide is a world renowned carnivore ecologist and animal tracker. Price includes ground transportation from Billings, Montana, accommodations, guides and meals. Airfare not included.

Sweta and Zawadi at the Henry Vilas Zoo
Madison, Wisconsin
September 27–28, 2008
\$199 per person, double occupancy

Africa returns to the Zoo in summer 2009! Come with us to visit our two giraffes, Sweta and Zawadi, visit Obrich's Bolz Conservatory and the International Crane Foundation. Price includes round-trip motor-coach transportation, hotel accommodations, entrance fees, and tours.

Go to mnzoo.org for detailed itineraries, or call Claire at 952.431.9364.

member news



NEW DOLPHIN WEBLOG!

The Zoo has two new Atlantic bottlenose dolphins! Read the Dolphin Weblog to learn about "April" and "Allie" and how they are adjusting to their new home. Updated weekly at mnzoo.org.

E-NEWS UPDATES

If you are not among the 20,000 households receiving E-News, contact us at zoo.members@state.mn.us. Provide us with your current email address and membership number and we will keep you in the know!

E-MAIL RENEWAL OFFER

We will contact you by email before your membership expires with special offers for renewing early. Online renewals save us time and mailing costs and we pass this savings to you! Contact us with your email address and membership number at zoo.members@state.mn.us.

MEMBER MONDAYS—MARCH 3 & APRIL 7

No large groups are scheduled the first Monday of the month (October-April). **SHOW YOUR CARD AND SAVE!** Receive a 20% discount at Lancer Food Service on Member Mondays.

MEMBERS' LANE OPEN WEEKENDS

Please have your current card and photo ID ready for both adults listed on your membership.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



The Zoo is celebrating 30 years in 2008. We are known for our conservation efforts including success in breeding rare and exotic birds. A Zoo milestone occurred in 1980 when the first Bali mynah chick was born at the Minnesota Zoo. This species is extremely endangered with fewer than 10 in the wild. Commercial logging continues to threaten their future. The Zoo has successfully bred this rare bird, helping to bolster the captive population.



Zoo Information

Minnesota Zoo Hours

OPEN DAILY
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information call
952.431.9200 or visit
mnzoo.org.

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*Call 952.431.IMAX (4629) to reserve your
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PROTECT: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Support our animals and our environment. Find books, organic apparel and Protect Products at the Minnesota Zoo Gift Shops.

Members receive a 10% discount



go a little WILD...

VOLUNTEER at the ZOO!

Visit mnzoo.org and click on
"Volunteer" for more information.

thank you!

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