

WILD CONNECTIONS



A newsletter from your friends at the Miller Park Zoological Society

November 2021

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Fun Fact:
Did you know that Duikers can be diurnal, nocturnal, or both?

Who's Who at the Zoo: Wendy Klessig, Zookeeper



Growing up in Wisconsin, Wendy's family had cats and dogs but no exotic animals. By the age of 10 she knew she wanted to be a zookeeper. Being a zookeeper is her calling, she never had a Plan B.

When you start a career as a zookeeper you have to go to where the jobs are and that is exactly what Wendy did. Prior to coming to Miller Park Zoo, Wendy worked in three different zoos: The New Zoo in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown, South Dakota; and Birmingham Zoo in Birmingham, Alabama.

When she started as a zookeeper she was obsessed with big cats. It was a pleasant surprise to her to work with marine mammals at such a small facility. She grew to especially love sea lions and seals. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

Need A Unique Gift? The Zoo is Here to Help!



The Zootique gift shop has been offering unusual gifts since it first opened in the Kattoefer Animal Building, 1914. Today it is located just inside the Zoo entrance. You do not have to be a member and can shop any time the zoo is open. Prices range from 50 cents to 75 dollars.

There are many options. Zootique gifts are not just for kids. What grandma wouldn't love a rubber chicken tea infuser? And, every pesky older brother could certainly use Chocolate Dipped Insects or an Original Worm Snax.

If you prefer to give an experience as a gift you may purchase gift memberships and tickets to otter and tortoise feedings.

To make the best of your gift-giving dollars, members get 10% off gift shop items year round. Between Black Friday and Christmas, members can take advantage of a 20% discount on gift shop purchases.

In addition to gifts for your human friends, you can purchase to support animals through the ZooDoption program. By adopting an animal, you support exceptional daily care of the Zoo's animals. When you visit the zoo next you will know you have helped pay for food, medical care and enrichment. This symbolic act makes you part of Miller Park Zoo.

Come on out and find unique gifts and support the zoo.

Happy shopping!

See the Zoo at night...

WILD LIGHTS

TWO WEEKENDS!

Dec., 3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

COST:

\$3 per person (ages 3 and up) for members,
\$8 per person (ages 3 and up) for non-members, under 3 free.

See the Zoo lit by hundreds of luminarias!

Thank you to our Carousel, Hot Chocolate
and Decorating Spot Sponsor T-Mobile.


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MILLERPARKZOO.ORG



*The Zoo will follow the CDC's and the
State of Illinois' COVID-19
requirements at the time of the event.*

Please call the Zoo
for tickets at
309-434-2250 



Thinking about giving a gift to the Zoo this season? Here are some ideas on our Amazon Wish List. Click on one below to see what is needed for your favorite animal.

Small Mammals

Birds

Carnivores

Primates

Reptiles

Volunteer Call!

We have an immediate need for Animal Care Volunteers. If you have free time and would like to contribute to the care and well-being of our animals, this opportunity is for you! Must be 18 or older, able to work one 4-hour shift a week and obtain a negative TB test. Our volunteers play a key role in our success! We hope to work with you soon.

For more information on animal care or special events volunteering, contact Morgan Hinchon at 309-434-2250 or mhinchon@cityblm.org.



Fun Educational Programs at the Zoo

Miller Park Zoo offers a variety of fun & educational programs throughout the year. Registration is required for all classes. All program registration is handled through the Bloomington Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department. [Click here](#) for registration information. For additional information on Zoo programs contact us at (309) 434-2250.

Zoo live streams and other video content ▶ [PLAY ALL](#)



Naming Our North American River Otter



Gifts for our Snow Leopard
Miller Park Zoo



Gifts with our Red Pandas and Pallas Cats

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