



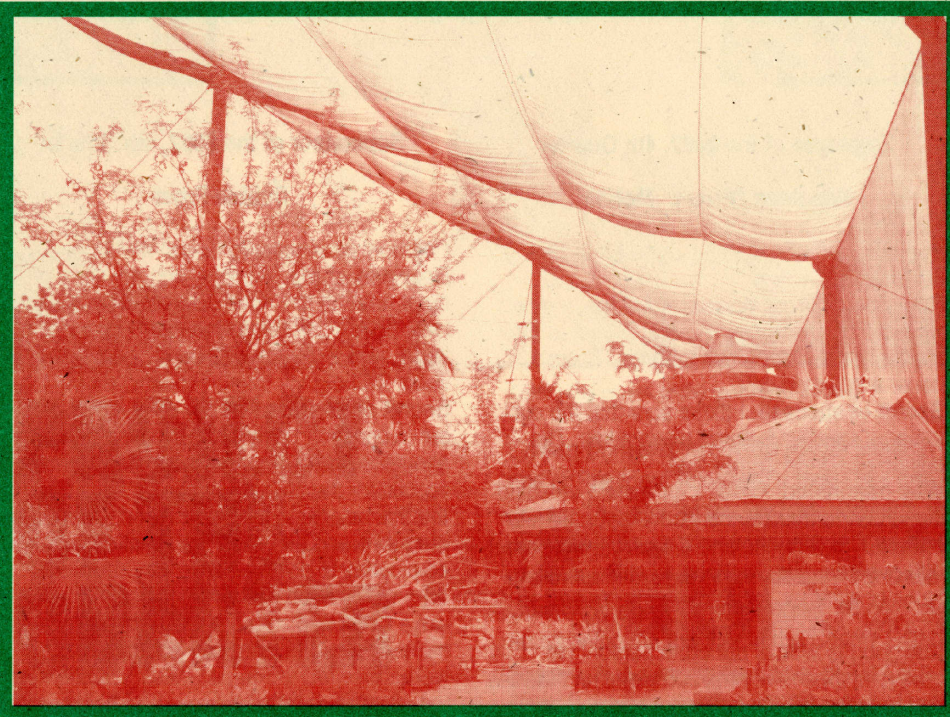
park place

NEWS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE
MIAMI - DADE PARKS DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2003

It's Raining Birds

Metrozoo Aviary opened in May

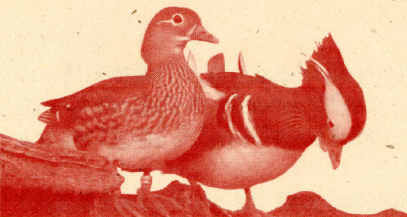


Aviary at Metrozoo

Once again beautiful birds and their songs reign over the skies of Miami Metrozoo.

This month, the Zoo opened the American Bankers Family Aviary: Wings of Asia. The attraction features colorful and elaborately feathered Asian birds, including pheasants, hornbills, mynahs and magpies.

Complete with a waterfall, babbling brooks and temple, the Aviary is a simulation of an Asian jungle. There you'll find birds strutting about, perched in trees, in flight and wading for fish.



The Asian temple has glass view walls for observing fish underwater.

Spread across 2.6 acres, the attraction includes interactive exhibits, an air-conditioned gallery for educational presentations and a free-flight zone, which is contained by a netted, hurricane resistant enclosure.

One exhibit traces the lineage of birds, which many scientists believe evolved from dinosaurs. Visitors will be able to explore the similarities and relationships between birds

Aviary continued on pg 8

Parks' Customer's Satisfaction Rises Above the Crowd

County Manager recognizes employees for outstanding customer service

With employees willing to go out of their way to provide pleasant and helpful experiences for others, the Parks Department has always stood above the norm when it came to customer satisfaction.

The department's commitment to excellent customer service was tested in 2002 by the County's Secret Shopper program, which evaluates courtesy, professionalism, knowledge, telephone requests and service delivery. For the second consecutive year, Parks ranked above average.

It's no wonder. When secretly shopped, more than 200 Parks employees scored ratings of four or five on a scale with five being the highest for customer service.



Tropical Park Boxing Center Manager Dwaine Simpson, one of 200 employees recognized for excellent customer service, takes a phone call with ease.

Secret Shopper continued on pg 7

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Park Directions



Vivian Donnell
Rodríguez, Miami-
Dade Parks Director

One of the wonderful things about working for Miami-Dade Parks is witnessing and participating in the growth of our department. This spring, we've held more than 30 groundbreaking and dedications. They're

all special and important to our community, but one that stands out is the re-opening of the Aviary - The Wings of Asia - at our very own Miami Metrozoo.

It was truly a great privilege to be a part of this historic re-opening. As you know, Hurricane Andrew destroyed the old aviary, and its rebirth is a testament of our community's will and tenacity.

The mission of the Zoo is to encourage an appreciation for wildlife and to promote its conservation for future generations. The aviary helps us to further achieve those goals.

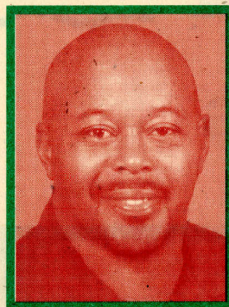
From their elaborately decorated plumage to their songlike sounds, the birds of Wings of Asia are sure to generate interest in nature's creatures.

We present to the world not only an aviary that entertains but educates as well. The gallery will house educational and interactive exhibits that appeal to both children and adults. The most exciting and possibly the most profound in relation to evolution, is an exhibit that traces the ancestry of birds back to dinosaurs. I invite you and your families to visit our Aviary soon. It truly is a wonderful source of pride for all of us at Parks.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our partners and staff that worked tirelessly over the past decade to return a treasure to our community.

You'll see more about the history of the Zoo in a column in this newsletter, as we make preparations to celebrate the department's 75th anniversary next year by looking back at our accomplishments. Look for more 75th anniversary articles, exhibits and events as the year unfolds.

EMPLOYEE & SUPERVISOR OF THE 4TH QUARTER



Employee of the 2002, 4th Quarter

Napoleon "Pokey" McNair

Position: Auto Equipment Operator 2/ Sound & Stage Production

Best part of job: I like it all, from the people I work with to the customers that I meet to the challenges that each event brings. There's never a dull moment!

Secret of success: I make sure that the customer is satisfied before I leave a site. The customer always comes first.

Why nominated: Pokey's consistent outstanding job performance and work output are legendary. Covering the entire county, with almost 400 events a year, working all shifts, in all types of weather, for all departments and all locations, including the private sector-- Napoleon is always our go to person! He always responds without complaint and tackles any situation with good humor and a creative outlook, according to nominator Charles Collins.

Other Nominees for Employee of the Quarter:

Jose Arreola
Juan Hernandez

David Livingstone

Rolonda Breckenridge
Beverley Hucey

Ana Ascanio

Park Attd., NAM
Auto Equip. Oper. 1,
Region 3
Admin. Off. 3,
Planning & Dev.
Lifeguard 1, Reg. 5
Off. Supp. Sp. 3,
Human Resources
Training Tech.,
Human Resources



Supervisor of the 2002, 4th Quarter

Debbie Frost

Position: Storekeeper, Kendall Warehouse
Best part of job: Working with my team of employees at the warehouse. We have a great crew. Every day brings new and challenging tasks, and everyone pitches in to accomplish them. Without my team, I couldn't do my job.

Secret of success: I enjoy what I'm doing. I am in constant communication with field personnel to find out what's needed and what's special for the children they care for. Knowing that I'm helping to create fun for children in our programs and providing tools that allow our employees to do their job is very rewarding.

Why nominated: Debbie is constantly seeking ways to make our Kendall Warehouse run more efficiently. Under her leadership, the warehouse has increased sales, utilizing innovative marketing techniques. She believes that the best way to market our services is to show our customers what is available. Debbie has created a cohesive team of employees, where she leads by example, according to nominator Bill Solomon.

Other Nominees for Supervisor of the Quarter:

Frederick Williams Landscape Sup.1, NAM
Rodell Collins Landscape Sup.3, NAM
Lina Leahy Chief, Man. & Budget
Eduardo Salcedo Prog. Coord., Deering Estate

EMPLOYEE & SUPERVISOR

OF THE 1ST QUARTER



Employee of the 2003, 1st Quarter

Aurelia Pierre-Louis

Position: Clerk 4, Finance Division

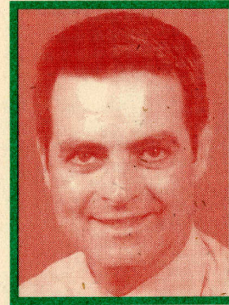
Best part of job: I love talking to the employees out in the field. I work closely with them to help me get the job done. It's like calling a close friend when you need help.

Secret of success: I'm a good listener and I'm patient. I'm also sensitive to the needs of others and their work. Once you do that, the door opens.

Why nominated: Some say Aurelia has one of the toughest jobs in the county - contacting delinquent customers with past due invoices! She handles all the returned checks for the Parks department. Dealing with cold rejection and rudeness from customers is part of her job. But with tender tenacity and passive aggressive persistence, she passionately perseveres until she receives payment. Through it all, Aurelia maintains a delightful disposition, according to nominators Peter Williams, Jim Mulrooney and Dea Martinez.

Other Nominees for Employee of the Quarter:

Alfredo Moliere II	Auto Equip. Oper., Kendall Warehouse
Joe Nathan Brown	Park Attd., Homestead Bayfront Park
Andres Martinez	Park Attd., Homestead Bayfront Park
LaTonia Pickford	Rec. Leader, Perrine Park
Robert Winterode	Park Attd., Larry & Penny Thompson Park



Supervisor of the 2003, 1st Quarter

Edward "Bann" Williams

Position: Park Planner 3, Planning & Research

Best part of job: I enjoy the people and the type of projects that I deal with on a daily basis. The fact that I'm able to work in different areas throughout the county from small community parks to the large natural areas is very exciting.

Secret of success: I am dedicated to motivating and inspiring my co-workers to share their ideas for improving future projects, so that everyone is involved with the process. I am grateful for the knowledge and experience that each contributes. We all work really well together.

Why nominated: Bann, as he is affectionately known, displays strong leadership skills, with a quiet approach to maximize work productivity. He has a keen ability to designate projects to the appropriate staff member, possessing the sharpest skills to affect the greatest results, according to nominators Jennifer Blattman and Eric Hansen.

Other Nominees for Supervisor of the Quarter:

Aquilla Andrews	Public Facility Mgr. 4, Goulds Park
Vishnu Majaraj	Public Facility Mgr. 4, Crandon Tennis Center
Laura Caceres	Admin. Off. 3, Finance Division
Dwayne Simpson	Rec. Sp. 2, Boxing Center



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Mission Statement

We create outstanding recreational, natural, and cultural experiences to enrich you and to enhance our community for this and future generations.



Miami-Dade County
Alex Penelas, Mayor



Board of County Commissioners

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson
Katy Sorenson, Vice Chairperson

Betty T. Ferguson
District 1

Dennis C. Moss
District 9

Dorrie D. Rolle
District 2

Sen. Javier D. Souto
District 10

Sally A. Heyman
District 4

Joe A. Martinez
District 11

Bruno A. Barreiro
District 5

Jose "Pepe" Diaz
District 12

Rebeca Sosa
District 6

Natacha Seijas
District 13

Jimmy Morales
District 7

Steve Shiver
County Manager

Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

Vivian Donnell Rodriguez, Director
Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Dept.



The Miami-Dade Parks Family wishes a safe return for our friends and colleagues who have been called into active military duty for the Iraq War.

Pedro Crespo, Deering Estate
Timothy Koonce, Region 1
Larry Washington, Region 1

Park Personalities!

1. Kersetta Busey of Carol Park and Vanessa Robinson of Lake Lucerne Park with NFL Wide Receiver Santana Moss during a Black History Month celebration at Myrtle Grove Park.
2. Mayra Diaz joins her sister Vivian Forrhat-Diaz of Procurement and family for the Parents' and Children's Day celebration held April 7 at the Women's History Gallery.
3. Maria Guerrero of Parks Security displays a picture perfect smile.
4. The Easter Bunny, Mercy Diaz of the farm program at Amelia Earhart Park, delivers smiles as well as eggs during the Amelia egg hunt.
5. Parks Director Vivian Donnell Rodriguez congratulates Margarita Coll on her retirement.
6. Chris Rollins of Fruit and Spice Park patrols the grounds during the Redland Natural Arts Festival held in January.
7. Rachel spends a workday with father Rick Sherman of Planning.
8. Danny Larkin of Risco Park takes a break during a visit to the Hickman Building.
9. Barry Steinman of Miami-Dade County Auditorium dons a smile.
10. Arlene Bouza-Jou of Leisure Access and patrons at A.D. Barnes Park Playground.
11. Just call him the Bird Man or Carl Burch of Metrozoo.
12. Pam Rose of Camp Owaissa Bauer extends a friendly greeting while on Nasdaq-100 Open parking-lot duty.
13. Linda Rose and April Rosenik hold down the store at Fruit and Spice Park.
14. Roger Lewis of Management and Budget and retired Human Resources Chief John Aligood at Aligood's retirement party.
15. LaTonia Pickford of Perrine Park signs in for the Supervisors' meeting held at African Heritage Cultural Arts Center.
16. Jesse Fernandez of Black Point Marina is laid back.
17. Rene Pettyjohn and Lucy Binhack of Leisure Access at the Supervisors' meeting.
18. Sheila Austin of Arts and Culture plays the flute during the Parents' and Children's Day celebration.
19. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Music Teacher Isis Roberts also performs during the Parents' and Children's Day celebration.
20. That's Alex Cann of Homestead Bayfront Park behind those shades.





Moving up



Congratulations! You deserve a round of applause as you climb the ladder of success.

January Promotions

Samuel Cullen Jr.	Marina Attd.
Giorgio Russo	Marina Attd.
Joaquin Tack-Fang	Rec. Spec. Spv.

February Promotions

Linda Baker	Rec. Spec. 2
Mildred Brunson	Admin. Officer 2
Roberto Diaz	Park Attd.
Gonzalez Esteban	Park Attd.
Danny Ferrer	PSO
Terry Parks	Park Attd.
Jose Perez	Park Attd.
Yolanda Rivero	Acct. 2
Robert Stewart	Arborist
Carlos Vazquez	Park Attd.

March Promotions

Evelio Arias	Park Attd.
Enrique Brito	Park Attd.
Cristian Cardenas	Park Attd.
Roberto Carmona	Rec. Spec. 2
Tomas Diaz	Park Attd.
Eric King	Rec. Leader
Odiles Pierre	Park Attd.
Esther Reyes	Rec. Leader
Pedro Reynaldo	Rec. Leader
Michelle Marshall	Park & Rec. Mgr. 2
Napoleon McNair	AEO 2
Gina San Martin	Admin. Officer 3
Roderick Speight	Landscape Spv. 1
Vivian Uchdorf	PSO 3
Bruce Valenzano	Rec. Leader
Ricot Valiere	Park Attd.

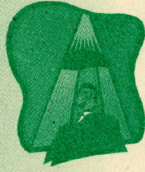
Moving Steady



Thank you for your many years of service. We couldn't do it without you.

Martha Macdonald	35 years
Carl Burch	30 years
Lee A. Dennis	25 years

Moving In



WELCOME to the Miami-Dade Parks family.

January New Hires

Ashley Battard
Jane Dozier
Karen Esty
Derrick Excell
Jennifer Herrington
Kuriston Jackson
Karin Mas
Isabel Mendez
Stephanie Monnier
Trina Nelson
Orlando Perez
Jose Ramirez
Maria Rignack
Noah Rosenblatt
Carlyn Ross
Lena Roundtree
Evilet Valiere
Johnny Zeigler

February New Hires

Helen Barnfather
Marvin Burroughs
Scott Cantine
Karol Figueroa
Marcus Kennedy
Billy Lewis
William Lindley
Daniel Maya
Edgar Moore
Catherine Morin
Steven Neal
Oscar Ortega

March New Hires

Segundo Benitez
William Bosch
James Bush
Courtney Campbell
Maxo Charles
Marlon Clarke
Gerald Farr
Manuel Gonzalez
Grant Jordan
Lorraine Lee
David Lombardi
Ana Machado
Nicolas Menendez
Sabrina Parker
Montevis Price

Tornado Hits Miami-Dade Parks

Prepare now for hurricane season

The March tornado that touched down in Liberty City ravaging several of Miami-Dade parks and facilities was a sobering reminder of the perils of stormy weather.

An estimate of \$104,000 in damages were reported for Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, Olinda Park, Marva Bannerman Park, Partners Park, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, The NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park and Pelican Harbor Marina. The department is also projecting a clean-up cost of \$125,000.

Being prepared for inclement weather can considerably reduce material and physical losses and safety hazards that accompany storms. June 1 through November 30 is Hurricane Season.

Miami-Dade Parks' updated Emergency Operations Manual has been released and is available on the Info Tree in the Director's office folder. Please make sure you are aware of these procedures, which include dealing with hurricanes.

Experts offer the following tips for hurricane preparation:

Rodney Rodriguez
Eddie Sanders
Harold Smith

Moving On

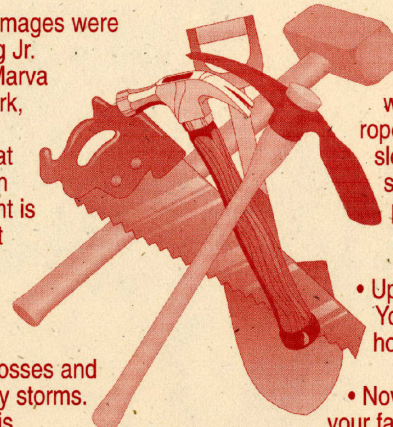


Retirees

Farewell. The Parks family thanks you for your years of service and wish you much happiness in your retirement.

Margarita Coll	26 years
Mercedes Cruz	25 years
Al Levine	33 years

- Start preparing your home and family now. Should a storm occur and you are called to work, you should have the comfort of knowing your family is safe.



- Check your hurricane supplies. The "Hurricane Box" should be stocked with rakes, shovel, picks, ropes, nails, digging bar, sledge hammer, working saws, nail gun, 2 x 4s, gas pump and siphon tube and first aid box.

- Update employee rosters. You should have correct home and beeper numbers.

- Now is the time to trim trees at your facilities and parks. Call Jack

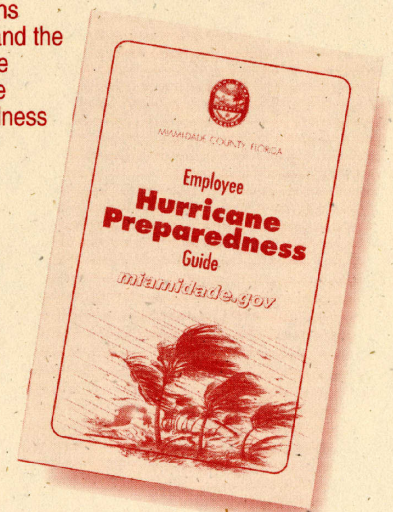
Stewart of Natural Areas Management at 305.257.0933 to schedule an appointment.

- Know what role you are expected to fill before, during and after a crisis. Be sure to see if you should come to work and to let your supervisor know you are OK.

- Be safety conscious - especially after the hurricane. Be careful while using chainsaws and stay away from downed power lines.

- Read the Emergency

Operations Manual and the Employee Hurricane Preparedness Guide.

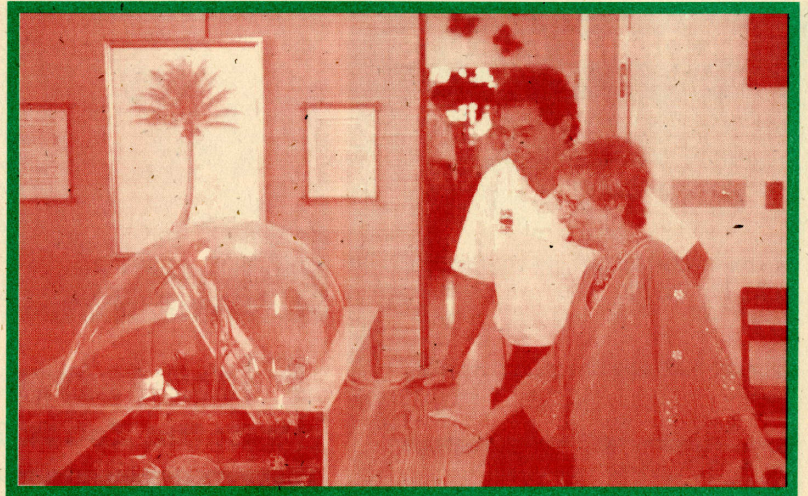


Secret Shopper continued from pg 1

County Manager Steve Shiver personally sent those employees a thank you note for their "dedication to provide the best possible service." The department congratulates the following employees:

Barbara Abal
 Gladys Adan
 Paul Adler
 Joel Alpizar
 Maria Angulo
 Essie Barba
 Aime Barrios
 John Birzten
 Katherine Black
 Jay Bogaards
 Carie Bonet
 Maria Eugenia Breto
 Mindy Brishke
 Kenny Brito
 Dasha Browal
 Donna Brown
 Georgia Brown
 Sekena Daniels Brown
 Audrey Broughton
 Eva Burnett
 Mitchell Burroughs
 Kersetta Bussey
 Glenn Caldwell
 Manny Carvajal
 Tannis Chomme
 Janie Clark
 Ruby Cleare
 Sam Cohn
 Nekeya Collins
 Penny Conrad
 Ana Cruz
 Linda Cunningham
 Angela Dandrige
 Robert Daniels
 Tiffany Daniels
 Annie Davis
 Dan Davis
 Rene Diaz
 Linda Digennaro
 Pete Dinqler
 Mike Dmytriw
 Debra Dorsett
 Zelita Dunbar
 Letitia Dunn
 Cindy Falcon
 Jim Ferguson
 Daisy Fernandez
 Digna Fernandez
 Jesse Fernandez
 Joe Fernandez
 Jose Fernandez

Norma Fines
 Gail St. Fleur
 Jim Ford
 Jean Foreman
 Frank Garcia
 Nydia Garcia
 Jenera Gibson
 Marina Giron
 Luisa Gomez
 Mary Gonzalez Bruzzo
 Barbara Gouldener
 Steve Grant
 Zelma Griffin
 Wanda Harder
 Judy Hall
 Roger Hammer
 Dolly Hanson
 Roy Hardemon
 Ruthie Harvey
 Treniese Henderson
 Sandra Hill
 Leslie Hooper
 Jim Hoover
 Jose Hoyos
 Brandy Jackson
 Ida Jackson
 Janet Jackson
 Johnnie Jackson
 Shantrel Jenkins
 Barry Jewett
 Deallo Johnson
 Paula Johnson
 Alicia Kelly
 Tyshika Kitchen
 Joselyn Lehmann
 Mabel Lerebours
 Ron Lerner
 Al Levine
 Celia Leyva
 Alex Lopez
 Joe Loveet
 Amy Lunsford
 Ernie Lynk
 Adelle Lyons
 Michelle Marshall
 Louise Martin
 Felicia Martinez
 Teresita Martinez
 Lechone Mathis
 Alexis Matos
 Lloyd McAvoy
 Rose McCoy
 Alice McGowan
 Jeanete McNaughton
 Debbie Mescha
 Ryan Mescha
 Melissa Miano
 Kiara Miller



Naturalist Ernie Lynk uses his excellent customer service skills to explain an exhibit to a patron at the Crandon Park Visitors' and Nature Center.

Phil Mirkin
 Raymond Mitchell
 Carmen Montezuma
 Lucia Mora
 Dolly Morris
 Rosalva Morua
 Louis Moser
 Larry Nunzio
 Rose O'Connell
 Jim O'Connor
 Litza Oramas
 Carlos Pascual
 Mirtha Pazos
 Pablo Pena
 Victor Penalosa
 Robert Pepper
 Sheri Perez
 Greg Pessolano
 Kay Pettitt
 Renee Pettyjohn
 Cassandra Polige
 Alonza Pratt
 Betty Purcell
 Troy Reid
 Ester Reyes
 Pedro Reynaldos
 Juanita Richardson
 Nicky Rijos
 Alexander Robinson
 Donna Rolle
 April Rosenik
 Susana Ruiz
 Girogio Russo
 Johnny Sanders
 Myra Santana
 Jenny Sarmiento
 Pat Shmiel
 Wayne Silvestro

Dwaine Simpson
 Debra Smith
 Karen Smith
 Raquel Smith
 Albert Sotolongo
 Stephanie Springer
 Bernice Stringer
 Barbara Summerall
 Claudia Tabares
 Allan Taylor
 Bob Thigpin
 James Thomas
 Bonnie Thompson
 Sally Timberlake
 Joanne Velez
 Marty Vila
 Eunice Villamizar
 Karen Walby
 Bette Walton
 Larry Washington
 Yvette Washington
 Carolyn Watson
 Elaine Watson
 Jetaun Watson
 Donald Wealy
 Jeff West
 Frank Wick
 Gloria Wilkins
 Alessandra Williams
 Debbie Williams
 Terrance Williams
 Gloria Willigar
 Dotty Wimbley
 Felicia Wright
 Tess Yagecic

UPCOMING EVENTS

Redland Farm and Garden Show
Fruit and Spice Park
June 7-8

Inner-City Games Fishing Tournament
Black Point Marina
June 21-22

National Park and Recreation Month
July

Mayor's Health and Fitness Challenge
Amelia Earhart Park
July 4

July 4 Concert and Fireworks
Amelia Earhart Park

USATF Junior Olympics
Tropical Park
July 29-August 3

 **come play with us!**

Aviary continued from pg 1

and dinosaurs by viewing and handling realistic casts of dinosaur fossils and bird skeletons and searching for fossils in a giant sand dig.

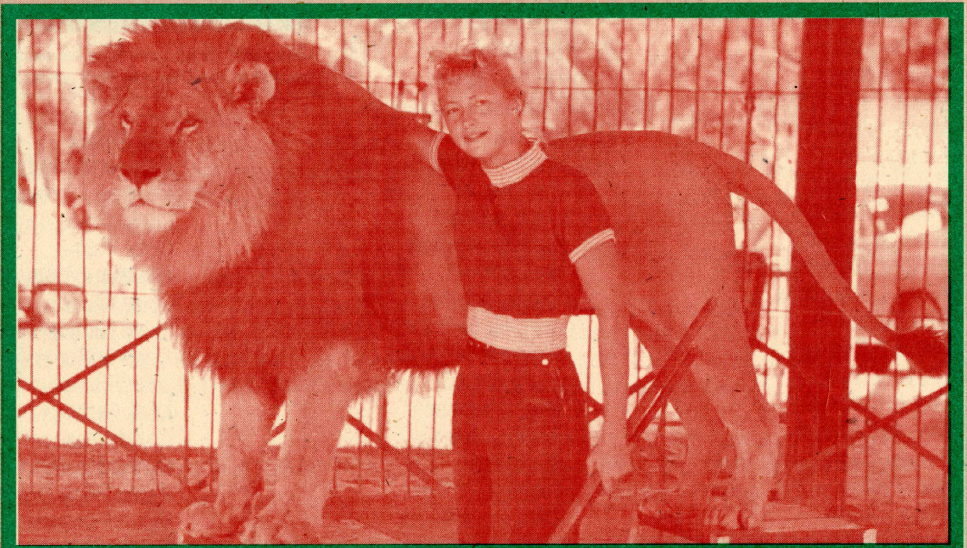
The opening of the attraction completes the Zoo's recovery from Hurricane Andrew, which in 1992 destroyed the aviary. Marking the return of the birds, the Zoo has planned a month-long celebration. Every weekend in May, the Zoo will honor Asian culture. There will be demonstrations of Chinese acrobats, Japanese art, kite and oriental mask-making and dances and music of the East.

Located at 12400 SW 152 Street, the Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$12 adults, \$7 children ages 3-12. County employees receive a 20 percent discount.



Next year Miami-Dade Parks will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Park Place will spend this year looking back at some of the department's significant moments. We start the series "Flashback" with the creation of Miami Metrozoo.

Flashback 1948: the Zoo is Born



In the Zoo's early days, the animals were kept behind bars. Now the wildlife roam free in a cageless environment that uses moats to keep the animals at bay.

You can say the birth of Miami Metrozoo wasn't planned. It was an accident.

In 1948 a traveling animal show from New Mexico broke down on Tamiami Trail. The county helped fix the truck. Financially strapped, the owner paid the county with two small black bears, a chimpanzee, two small grey monkeys and a goat.

At the same time, Parks officials were looking for ways to increase attendance at Crandon Park.

Hence, it was decided to use the animals - excluding the goat that was sent to a farm - to create Crandon Park Zoo. Operating on a bare-bones budget, county officials used materials purchased for jail cells to cage the animals.

Shortly after opening, the Zoo received a jaguar after the owner abandoned the animal at the airport. Over time, the population at Crandon swelled to around 1,200. Outgrowing the park, the Zoo was relocated in 1980 to its present location at 12400 SW 152 Street.

Contrast to its humble beginning, Miami Metrozoo today is 740-acres of parkland housing about 291 species, representing 1,549 specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods and fish. It's five times larger than the average zoo in the country.

In a cageless setting, the Zoo showcases some of the world's most fascinating creatures, including the Komodo dragon, Bengal tiger, African warthog and gazelle and the Australian kangaroo and wallaby.