

MAY-JUNE 1981
VOL. 8, NO. 1

TOUCAN TALK

MEMBERS NIGHT HUGE SUCCESS

Our members and their guests came and they kept on coming Sunday, April 26 for the Society's first Annual Members' Night at Metrozoo. The evening was a tremendous success for Chairman Howard Tendrich and his corps of volunteers.

"We expected a good turnout; maybe as many as 600," commented Howard, "So, we doubled all of the plans and orders from the previous Members' Night."

By Friday, over 800 reservations had been received at the Society's office. And, when all was said and done, close to 1,800 had enjoyed a very special evening at the Metrozoo Preview Center.

Exotic drinks were served at the Zebrazaar while the Polished Brass Quintet provided sophisticated background music. Tony Pellicane, Society member, fascinated both young and old with his frisbee in the "Wizzydry of the Disc" on the amphitheatre lawn.

Isadore Tendrich acted as "Chief Raffle Hustler" and raffled off a neat array of donations made by local merchants, while Buff March, Special Events Chairperson, was busy welcoming members and special guests.

The Docent Council was on hand to provide special tours and were also stationed around the Zoo to answer questions and direct visitors. An animal contact area was setup to the delight of members.

As a very special treat for the evening, the membership joined in wishing Natasha and Nikolai, our Bengal tigers, a "Happy Birthday." The Metrozoo staff worked very hard in creating twin "tiger cakes" complete with "icing" and hot dogs as candles. At 6:30, the tigers were released to discover their birthday surprise on the paddock as the membership sang "Happy Birthday" and enjoyed their own "people cake."

Barbara Birmingham had her hands full at the Society's information and membership booth, The Toucan Perch. Along with the help of the Toucan Team and regular volunteers, the booth brought in a good number of memberships.

For sure, the first Membership Night at Metrozoo was a tremendous success. A very special thanks to all of our volunteers.

PHASE ONE ON SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER OPENING

December will bring a major change at Metrozoo. Presently operating as a 35-acre Preview Center, the zoo will expand to 160 acres with more than fifty exhibits.

Expected to be in operation seven days a week, the opening of Phase One in December will include: Asian Jungle, Asian Forest Plain, Eurasian Steppes, Europe and a portion of the African Jungle.

As you can see, much of the area is presently receiving the finishing touches. Everything will be perfect for the grand opening.



The Asian Elephant display will delight visitors. Note the massive protectors constructed for the trees on the paddock (left).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last several months have been exciting and productive ones for the Society.

The Board of Governors adopted a set of goals and objectives which are published separately in this issue of Toucan Talk.

The Society has voted funds to build an Ecology Center building to house the small animals used by the Docents in their lectures. The building should be completed this fall.

The Board approved hiring a fund raiser, John Adams, and a grants coordinator, Gail Wright, to work on raising money for the Animal Hospital and the Society projects.

The monthly meetings of the Society have had substantially increased attendance of 100 people per meeting thanks to the excellent programs produced by Patti Ragan.

We had our most successful "Members Night at the Zoo" ever in April, with over 1,800 members and their guests in attendance. Congratulations are due to the event chairman, Howard Tendrich, and all those who helped him.

The Society has developed an educational program for the Zoo which has been adopted as part of the Dade County Budget request for the Zoo. We continue to enjoy excellent rapport with the Dade County staff responsible for operation of the Zoo.

As we look to the opening of the first main section of the Zoo in December, we welcome the support and assistance of every member. Please help us to achieve our goals and make Metrozoo the best facility of its kind in the country.

Jack Lowell, President

Goals of the Zoological Society of Florida

Near Term:

1. Raise funds for construction of an on-site Animal Hospital at the new Metrozoo.
2. Double memberships from 2,500 to 5,000.
3. Expand Society's role in education program.
4. Raise funds for and build two small visible projects within the Zoo, such as an animal contact area and animal nursery.
5. Expand Society's support by increasing corporate involvement.
6. Hire additional staff—secretary and Executive Director.
7. Improve communications with members.
8. Amend and correct By-laws and Charter.
9. Establish liaison with Fairchild and Vizcaya.

Long Term:

1. Ensure sufficient public support to have the best possible Zoo.
2. Obtain funding for on-going capital and operating budgets from public and private sources.
3. Start and maintain high quality educational and entertainment programs in the Zoo.
4. Explore and capitalize on other opportunities for the Society.
5. Increase membership to 70,000.

DOCENT CORNER

By Ileen Seidler,
President, Docent Council

In 1974, the Greater Miami Docent Council was established and a strong foundation was laid. Over the past years, the basic structure was built and we are now ready for expansion.

Our exciting plans for 1981 include at least four new Docent classes, developing new programs for the handicapped, a program for boy and girl scouts, advanced classes for Docents, exciting Docent field trips expanding our zoo-oriented activities and more—much more.

We've a busy year ahead of us given the enthusiasm and support of our present and incoming Docents as well as that of the Zoological Society. Our plans *will* be realized. Presently, we have fifty Docents, nine of whom are provisional from the last class. A class is now in progress with twelve students.

For those of you who would like to become part of a dedicated group of volunteers, whose aim is to increase the knowledge and awareness of "zoodom" in our community, please contact the Zoological Society office.

The Council's Outreach Program is doing very well. These programs afford children in all Dade schools the opportunity to learn about animals and man's relationship to them and about their new Metrozoo through the instruction of our Docents. Exciting teaching aids include a slide presentation and live animals in the classroom.

Our library has had some interesting additions lately. We've received a complete set of Funk and Wagnalls *Illustrated Wildlife* and numerous books on primates via the Society.



Mike Weeks, Metrozoo Landscape architect, demonstrates the art of tree planting to Scout members. 250 trees were planted by the Scouts in the European Forest Area during National Clean Air Week at Metrozoo.

New Docent Classes Forming

AUGUST (Days): Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays for eight weeks. 9:30 a.m.-Noon.

OCTOBER (Evening): Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays for eight weeks. 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 255-5551



All it takes is a little bit of flour, water and glue, lots of creativity and the Zoological Society's Service Team to produce those wild, wild puppets for our puppet shows. Here are three of that ambitious group hard at work: Brenda Seidler, Nikki Burgun and Ann O'Leary.

ZEBRAS: An Animal Zoo Review

Zebras, of which there are several species, are more strikingly patterned than any other large mammal. Their stripes, which students of camouflage call ruptive markings, tend to break up the outlines of the animals' bodies, rendering them inconspicuous when viewed from a distance.

The arrangement and thickness of the stripes on the flanks and rump are the key to identifying the several species of zebras. At Metrozoo, we now have three Grant's Zebras on display: two adult females and one baby female born at Metrozoo last January. "Daddy Grant" and other zebras representing the Grevy's species are still at Crandon.

Grant's have fewer and broader stripes and are shorter and narrower in size in comparison to other species. They belong to the horse family, bray like an ass and have a single toe on each foot.

While Grant's are rarely domesticated, the Grant's at Metrozoo are quite docile and easily handled. In the wild, they run in small herds of four to fourteen. Some of the stallions are solitary. Zebras defend themselves by biting and kicking and play like domestic horses. Their greatest enemy is the lion.

Found only in Africa, zebras were used by the ancient Romans in arenas and circuses. The Romans called them "horse tigers." Zebras live to be about twenty years old with a gestation period of about twelve months. They breed very well in captivity, and usually one foal is born a time. The foal is born with brownish stripes to protect it from its predators. As it gathers strength and speed, the stripes gradually darken.

Now, here's the "sixty-four thousand dollar question." Does the zebra have black stripes on a white body or white stripes on a black body? There's an answer!

Teen Service Team Update

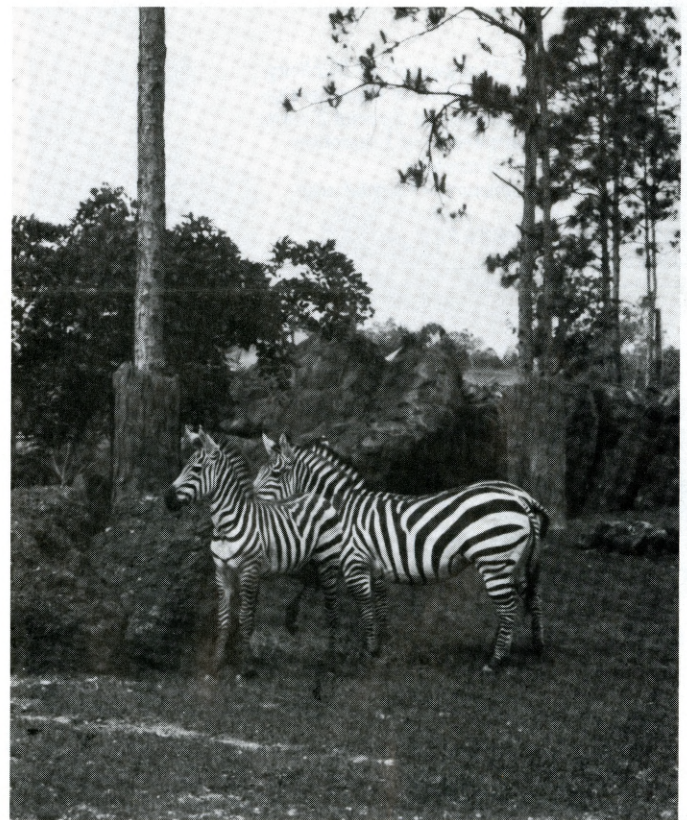
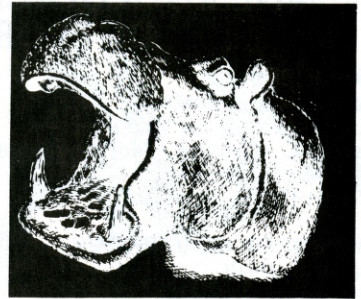
by Ileen K. Seidler
Youth Activities Chairperson

If you have been to the Metrozoo Preview Center recently, you were sure to see many of our Teen Service Team members helping out in just about every possible way.

Currently, the group is busy working on new shows and puppets for their popular Saturday puppet shows. Unfortunately, the puppet theater was completely destroyed by wind recently and we are now looking for funds to build a new and permanent theater.

If you're wondering how to get involved with the Teen Service Team, it's really easy. If you are a student in grades 9-12, just join the Toucan Team Class, attend all 8 sessions, complete a special service project and PRESTO! It's a wonderful opportunity to join a really active group of teenagers who share lots of common interests such as: animals, conservation, animals, field trips, animals, community services, animals, preservation of our animals at Metrozoo, animals . . . get the picture?!

The Summer 1981 Toucan Team will start June 27. There's room for only 20 participants. Call the Society today for an application so **YOU** won't be left out!



Grant's at Metrozoo temporarily share the exhibit with wildebeests divided by a moat. The exhibit was designed for a future predator-prey display.

Membership Increasing Rapidly

In the last six months, membership in the Society has jumped by about 1,000, bringing the total number of members to around 3,200.

Barbara Benz, Membership Committee Chairperson and Carole Scheel, Membership Secretary, have been moving through a steady flow of new applications and renewals generated by several large mailings, the efforts of the Toucan Perch at Metrozoo, Members' Night and the Society's participation in the recent Dade County Youth Fair.

The computer seems to be working very nicely now after much hard work. There are still minor problems with changes in address, however, it is basically correct and as current as possible. We have had some complaints regarding receipt of mail from the Society and we are addressing that problem with the Post Office where the difficulty seems to rest.

The importance of increasing our membership during 1981 is vital. Wouldn't it be great if every member could bring in one new member over the next few months. The Society would have 6,400 members!

Why not share the application (below) with a friend or relative. Additional applications are available by calling the Society office.

Advantages of Membership

Members help to support many important activities: the preservation and propagation of endangered species; educational programs; research in pathology, nutrition, reproduction and behavior. And, for your entertainment, membership also offers these year-long benefits:

- Free admission to Metrozoo and other zoos in the U.S. and Canada.
- Free subscription to the colorful and informative Animal Kingdom magazine published bi-monthly.
- Our own newsletter, Toucan Talk, with exciting updates on the happenings at Metrozoo.
- Advance notice of special events and educational programs.

Membership dues are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____

Interest in helping zoo _____

Family Memberships: (Names & Ages & Birth Dates of Children 13-18 living in same household)

ZOO SCRAMBLE North American Animals

How quickly can you find twenty of our favorite North American animals? Draw a line around them. They run up, down, forward, backward and diagonally.

F L O W R E B M I T	BADGER
P E A O A G U O C Z	BIGHORN
G R I L C L M O X R	BISON
R R A V N C R K E P	BOBCAT
A I T E U A A U O C	COUGAR
E U A R K T C R S Y	DOLPHIN
B Q C I S J C U Q L	GRIZZLY
R S B N W L O I U Z	MANATEE
A Q O E O V O Z I Z	OTTER
L U B I S O N I P I	POLAR BEAR
O E E T A N A M R R	PORCUPINE
P R A I R I E D O G	PRAIRIE DOG
H O Y A E H K O N D	PRONGHORN
W T R L D O K L G V	RACCOON
C T X C M N T P H R	RED FOX
O E A O U Z Y H H E	SKUNK
U R K K P P O I O G	SQUIRREL
G S S E X F I N R D	TIMBER WOLF
A B I G H O R N N A	WALRUS
R E D F O X J D E B	WOLVERINE
N R O H G R N O R P	

ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE



Please make your check payable to: The Zoological Society of Florida
For further information call: (305) 255-5551
 Please send additional applications.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA

12400 S.W. 152 Street, Miami, Florida 33177 (305) 255-5551

- Individual..... \$15
- Family..... \$25
- Contributing..... \$100
- Sustaining..... \$500
- Life..... \$1,000
- Benefactor..... \$5,000

Toucan Chatter

Ever so Humble . . .

. . . there's no place like home the new, yet temporary home for the Zoological Society at Metrozoo.

Nestled in the tall pines beyond the Administration Building, the 12' x 56' trailer is a tremendous improvement over the Society's Candon facilities. It even has a view of the tigers and tapirs with occasional zoo sounds from the newly arrived lions (not on display).

The "trailer" reports that several office items are desperately needed: electric typewriters and stands, desks, chairs, a fire extinguisher and files.

Luck of the Irish . . .

. . . brought good fortune to the Society at the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in winning the best non-professional float award. President Jack Lowell and other Society members led the Society's float atop two elephants down Flagler Street and up Biscayne Boulevard followed by "Lollie the Trolley" with Parade Chairman Bryan McIntyre and other enthusiastic members.

The Docents had the best seat in the house at their party in the Columbus Hotel with music, drinks and a ton of tempting food.

Welcome the Caroles . . .

. . . to the Society Staff. That's Carol with an "e" and to make it even more confusing, their last names both start with "S"!

Carole Schurman has recently joined the Staff as secretary, replacing Jeanette Jordan. Carole Scheel became membership secretary in January to assist Barbara Benz. Welcome!

A Publicity Chairman . . .

. . . was named in April by the Society's president. Jan Beckman is now busy forming a Publicity Committee and is looking for volunteers. If you're interested and have experience in publicity or advertising, contact him at the Society office.

The Docents Adopted . . .

. . . the Auburndale Elementary School as part of the Dade Partners' Program. The partnership was a result of a recent outreach program conducted by Ileen Seidler.

The Last Meeting . . .

. . . was scheduled for June 3rd at the Museum of Science. Our next open members meeting will be on September 2.

With Daylight Savings . . .

. . . Metrozoo hours have been extended to 5:00 p.m. when the gates close. The park closes at 5:30 p.m. Docent tours start at the Toucan Perch at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. There are animal shows in the amphitheatre at 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Special Summer events as announced.

Upgrade Your Membership . . .

. . . and receive a magnificent, numbered, T.A. Strawser tiger litho. These collector prints are not for sale and are in limited supply. They are only available with preferred, tax deductible memberships: Contributor (\$100), Sustaining (\$500), Life (\$1,000) and Benefactor (\$5,000). For further information, please contact Jan Beckman at the Society office.



VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	* Male	* Female	* Unknown	
04/12/81	0.1.0			Flying fruit bat
04/12/81	0.0.1			Ring tailed lemur
04/13/81	0.0.1			Maxwell's duiker
04/15/81	1.0.0			Sable antelope
04/23/81	1.0.0			Siberian ibex

DEATHS:

04/01/81	0.1.0			Flying fruit bat
04/03/81	1.0.0			Wood duck
04/11/81	0.1.0			Bushbuck
04/17/81	1.0.0			Indian spot-billed duck
04/22/81	0.1.0			Blackbuck
04/26/81	0.0.1			Pigmy monitor
04/29/81	1.0.0			Water monitor

TRANSFERS:

Aldabra Tortoises
Galapagos Tortoises
Cape Buffalo
Camel (1)
Lions (2)

Zoo Keepers Report

By Jean Hromadka

The American Association of Zoo Keepers is an association dedicated to progressive husbandry by instilling professional attitudes in animal keepers. The goal of the AAZK is to provide the best possible care for captive animals in our zoological parks by creating knowledgeable and enthusiastic animal keepers.

Since keepers from around the world felt there was a need to share their knowledge and experiences, the organization was conceived in 1968. Today, there are over thirty active local chapters around the world with a membership around 1,200.

With the formation of a new AAZK chapter here at Metrozoo in January, we were able to attract over thirty-two members not only from our own facility, but from Dreher Park, Markham Park, Monkey Jungle and Parrot Jungle.

Our monthly meetings are held in Metrozoo's library at 8:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. We have started a monthly newsletter and a number of committees to help us communicate and grow closer as a group. We are striving to create a logo that will equally represent all the parks involved in our South Florida Chapter, and plan to experiment with our first fundraiser this month. The proceeds will be used for projects to strengthen the Chapter and to offer ways that will educate and involve the community in today's living museums.

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA

OFFICERS:

Jack Lowell, *President*
 Ron Esserman, *1st Vice President*
 Daniel Z. Averbook, *2nd Vice President*
 Buff March, *Secretary*
 Robert Harris, *Treasurer*

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 Edmonson S. Couric, Jr.
 Lester Goldstein
 Dr. Paul B. Lamborn
 Richard Mahmarian
 Beatrice Matheson
 Dr. Joseph Ostroski
 Jeffrey Seeberger
 George M. Wilson
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 Dade County Parks & Recreation Dept.
 Steve Clark, *Mayor*,
 Metro Dade County
 Ileen Seidler, *President*
 Greater Miami Docent Council

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 Captain John Haliburton
 Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Kisling
 Ralph S. Scott
 John H. Slater
 Charles Zink
 Marlin and Carol Perkins
 Carol Perkins

STAFF:

Jan T. Beckman, *Chairperson of Publicity*
 Barbara Benz, *Chairperson of Membership*
 Buff March, *Chairperson of Special Events*
 Ileen Seidler, *Chairperson of Education*
 Carole Schurman, *Secretary*
 Carole Scheel, *Secretary—Membership*

TOUCAN TALK STAFF:

Jeanne Naples, *Editor*
 Jan Beckman, *Articles*

PART TIME OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Several volunteers are needed
 for telephone and light office
 duties 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
 weekdays. No typing.

Call Carole
 255-5551

Answer to Zoo Scramble



**ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
OF FLORIDA**

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