



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1981  
VOL. 8 NO. 2

# TOUCAN TALK

## **SOCIETY PROPOSES COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Zoological Society of Florida has submitted a request to enter into a contract for services with Metro Dade County to operate the educational services program at Metrozoo. Designed by the Society's education coordinator Ileen Seidler, the proposal has been reviewed and approved by the board of governors and Metrozoo director Bob Yokel. It contains a three-phase program, which can be fully implemented in three to five years, and includes a brief outline of the curriculum for each segment.

Among the key components of the program are tours, amphitheatre and puppet shows, animal demonstrations in the Ecology Theatre and the Asian Contact Village, teacher seminars, zoo camps, classes, pre-visit learning packets for schools, Outreach programs, school tours and multi-media presentations.

One of the goals shared by the Society and Metrozoo is to educate the public about conservation and wildlife. To that end, the Society has already developed a team of well-trained docents and volunteers and has been offering a variety of educational components at Metrozoo since its

opening last July. The Society has made a further commitment to the program by releasing \$10,000 to continue those projects currently being offered, and to obtain the services of a curriculum development consultant. The initial task of the consultant will be to prepare programs slated for implementation this winter and to develop and print the materials needed for those classes.

Stated as one of the proposal's objectives is the realization "that education must proceed hand-in-hand with all conservation efforts. There is no need for captive breeding programs with possible reintroduction into the wild if, through man's ignorance, we once again destroy the animal and its habitat after reintroduction. Education is the only way to increase one's awareness of wildlife and its current struggle for existence."

Thus, the main goal of the education program is to increase the community's respect for the environment by providing opportunities to broaden awareness and subsequent interest in the environment.

It is estimated that when the zoo is open on a daily basis and the entire education services program is operational, the program could serve an estimated 1,200,000 children and adults annually.

## **Sportservice Breaks Ground For New Restaurant**

Metrozoo is a hub of activity these days as December 12 draws closer.

Sportservice Corporation, concessionaire for Metrozoo, is well into construction of an attractive lakefront restaurant harmoniously consistent with the Zoo's stress on authentic replication of natural environment. A circular building will serve as a food and gift outlet, while its second story will be an observation deck offering a panoramic view of the surrounding scenery. Three circular pavilions on the waterfront will give visitors a chance to rest, eat or stroll down a walkway on the lake. The facility will be in operation for the grand opening.

## **Monorail Construction Begins**

Construction on the new monorail began in mid-August. Built by Universal Mobility, Inc., the ride will extend for about two miles. A ground tram will also be available.



## Toucan Chatter

by Jan Beckman

### Special Groups . . .

. . . are welcomed to Metrozoo. If you have a club or organization (twenty or more) and would like to visit the zoo as a group, discount rates are available. Simply call David Shea at Metrozoo (251-0401) to make arrangements. For a special tour for your group by a member of the Docent Council, call the Society office (255-5551). It's fun to share the adventure of Metrozoo with your club friends and a great way to help build membership in the Society.

### Special Talk . . .

. . . is important too. So, while we're on the subject of clubs and organizations, here's an idea for your next speaker. The Society has a Speakers' Bureau that's ready to go. Bill Heuson, Richard Mahmarian and Dan Brennan have met the call of duty morning, noon and night with informative talks for the Lions Club, Civitan Club and the South Dade Chamber of Commerce — just to mention a few. The talks are highlighted with a very professional sound slide presentation of Metrozoo and the grand opening scheduled for December 12. Yolanda Bostrum, docent, is developing a similar program for Spanish-speaking organizations. To arrange for a speaker, call the Society office.

### Our Art Festival . . .

. . . has been announced for Valentine's Day weekend, February 13-14, at Metrozoo. The tremendous appeal of an expanded Metrozoo should make our festival more popular and successful than ever. The juried event had originally been scheduled for Fall 1981. By delaying the event until after the grand opening, artists will gain significantly increased exposure. The Miami Beach and Vizcaya shows will run the prior weekend and the Coconut Grove show is scheduled for the following weekend. Indeed, February will be "Artists' Month" and is bound to draw local and national attention to the Society. Should anyone be interested in serving on the Art Festival committee, please contact the Society office.

### Oh, They Do Grow Up . . .

. . . Remember those cute little lion cubs, Civitan and Civitas, (donated by the Civitan Club) that we all enjoyed petting and taking to meetings? Well, they grew up! Civitan is now the proud papa of two new cubs born to Samantha, who was also donated to the Society by Andy Gibb of the Bee Gees. Time marches on!

### Our Monthly Meetings . . .

. . . have been changed to quarterly meetings at the Museum of Science. The next scheduled meeting will be December 2.

### On-Site Hospital Plans . . .

. . . are reaching the final stage. The Society has spent months compiling data for the hospital proposal which will be used to apply for the grants necessary to fund the \$1.6-million project.

## BOOKKEEPER

**The Society is looking for a part-time bookkeeper to volunteer two days a week in the Society office. Contact Jan Beckman at 255-5551.**



Host and board member George Wilson shows off "Boa Derek"... a perfect TEN!

## Join Us At A Party!

The Zoological Society is hoping to double its membership this year so the Special Events Committee decided to have some fun doing it. Thus was born the idea to enlist the aid of volunteer hosts to open their homes and invite *non* members of the Society to enjoy a cocktail party complete with *live*, and we do mean *live* entertainment, with the hope that the guests would want to become part of the planning and excitement that new Metrozoo is generating.

Our first hosts were Jane and George Wilson (Zoological Society Board Member), who opened their gracious home in Coral Gables to fifty-eight people on July 31, and fifty on August 1 with a double-barreled bid to recruit their friends into our fold. It worked well. Dick Mahmarian, past president of the Society, spoke to the guests on Friday, the first night, along with Mamta Chaudhry-Fryer whose slide presentation delighted the group. On Saturday, Dan Brennan was there to give the talk. Both Dick and Dan gave us an insight into what is happening at the Zoo.

Outside by the Coral Gables Waterway, Laura Rose held forth with her animals, snakes, birds, and the Wilson tortoise and turtles. The guests loved them, and the Wilson grounds soon became a petting zoo.

Through the generosity of the Wilson guests, we are \$735 better off than before the party, and 50 new members will benefit by receiving Animal Kingdom, Toucan Talk, free educational meetings at the Museum of Science, Special Events (for membership only) and *free admission to the zoo for a full year!*

If you feel you would like to help the Society by opening your home for one of these membership-enlisting parties, information can be obtained by calling Kit Bryant at 666-7242. We are planning to continue as long as there is interest and we are making a significant gain on our membership drive. So far, it looks good. Besides, the parties are great fun and something a little different. Come join us!

# DOCENT CORNER

By Ileen Seidler,

President, Docent Council

Now hear this! (And now you can!) Those of you who have been out to the zoo lately and have taken a docent tour have surely found it much easier to enjoy now that we have sound equipment. Our zoo residents really seem to get into the swing of things when they hear the tours approaching . . . who's watching who????

The long awaited \$10,000 Lecture Animal Building that was donated to Metrozoo by our Society is finally under construction. This building will house the animals the docents use for animal demonstration at our Outreach Programs in the community. Though the Society donated the building, the docents have accepted the responsibility of the care and feeding of all the building's inhabitants. We have some of those animals here at the zoo already, and some of our docents have even become "foster parents" to those we haven't had room for. It takes a special dedication to raise, train, feed and love these "critters" and then have to part with them.

There are still some animals that we would like to acquire for the Outreach Program. If you would like to find out how you might help, please contact me at the Society office.

The daytime docent classes are now in session and the applications are rolling in for the October evening sessions. For more information contact the Society office.

**NEXT DOCENT CLASS  
EVENINGS  
OCTOBER 6-DECEMBER 3  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
at Metrozoo  
Contact Society Office at  
255-5551**

## ANIMAL QUESTIONS

1. A camel's hump functions as its water reservoir. True or false?
2. There is only one species of mammal capable of flying. Which one?
3. Which is the largest member of the cat family?
4. The adult Australian kangaroo stands taller than man, tips the scale between 150 and 200 pounds. How big is the kangaroo when newborn?
5. In proportion to its size, which is the most ferocious of all animals?
6. What strange looking animal has the frontal appearance of a buffalo and hindquarters resembling that of a horse? (Hint: we have some at Metrozoo.)
7. Which animal's head weighs almost one ton?
8. Which large animal is believed by many to be the most dangerous of all? Even lions stay away from its herds.
9. Is there a bird whose bill may be as big as its body?
10. How do lions spend most of their time?

Answers on back page.

## NEW PUPPET THEATER TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Metrozoo has been without a puppet theater for some time now. The old theater, built by the Society's Teen Service Team, was completely destroyed by wind.

With the help of board member Lester Goldstein, the Service Team will shortly have a bigger and better theater complete with a puppet workshop. Designed by Don Seidler, the new facility will be located in the Zebrazaar area. Team members have started building new puppets and writing new shows for this popular attraction.

Special thanks for contributions and pledges to finance the new theater go to:

The Janet A. Hooker Charitable Trust  
The Howard Kane Foundation  
Simco Waste Paper Inc.  
Capital Banks, Inc.  
American Savings and Loan Association  
Jack B. Cooper  
City National Bank of Miami  
Ron Eserman — Volkswagen South, Inc.



PM MAGAZINE focused in on the Society's Docent Council last month during an outreach program at Camp Machachee on Old Cutler Road. (L to R) Docent vice president Freda Houser, docents Rose Krubsack and Laura Rose and PM Magazine's Karen Kelly.



Meet the "Class of 81," a very special group of young people who have devoted their summer by becoming involved in our Toucan Team youth program. Special thanks go to Society youth counselors Rose Krubsack and Susan Fried.

## Point of View

By Scott Beasley

*This summer, sixteen young people participated in our youth program at Metrozoo. Mornings were spent in instruction; afternoons in selected projects ranging from photography to animal behavior. One young man decided to write an article. It was so good that we would like to share it with you.*

Zoos seem to show both sides of man's inherent nature. In a way, the idea behind them is cruel. Animals are not and never were meant to be locked up and set aside. They are, by nature, free and unrestricted. Animals have little trouble adapting and living together. Throughout history, very few species have been led to extinction by predators. Environment has played the biggest role in the extinction of wildlife. However, this fact, embodied in the concept of evolution, is only nature's way of producing the perfect animal. The existence and multiplication of man, however, has interrupted this natural cycle. He is killing off nature's perfect animals. It could be argued that man is simply the most perfect animal and deserves to determine the condition of nature. Untrue. Perfection would include thriftiness, a virtue that is not possessed by most *homo sapiens*. No other animal kills for sport, as do humans. An animal in the wild kills only in self-defense or for food. In summary, until man solves his technological troubles, pollution and over-population heading the list, animals will need help to survive.

Another point of view would put the zoo in a humanitarian position. They could be thought of as a way of preserving these lines so that they might someday return to the wild to flourish and roam free after man has solved his problems. This seems to be the purpose of Miami's new Metrozoo. Although a long and expensive process, it appears to be a good first step in this direction. The new zoo will eventually be divided up into eight sections: the Asian Forest Plain, Asian Jungle, Eurasian Steppes, Europe, African Jungle, African Veldt, African Desert and the Preview Center. Each division contains a number of exhibits from that respective part of the world, each exhibit allowing plenty of room to romp. Each exhibit is surrounded by a moat instead of the customary cage. The moat allows free grazing and play, yet gives just as much protection as the steel bars of a cage. The main idea behind the whole project, however, is breeding. Cages keep the animals constantly tense and aggravated, leaving little time for nature to take its course. The new zoo is open, leaving the animals more relaxed and willing to reproduce. We all here at the zoo thank you for supporting us and this lifegiving project.

## The "Perch People"

It started strictly as a membership booth for the grand opening of the Preview Center last July, but developed into becoming the sole information center for Metrozoo and Society alike.

Located on the main walk just before the tiger temple, the Perch is open every weekend and holiday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Here, you can become a new member or ask a question concerning your membership, check on coming special events, or discover the next scheduled show or Docent tour at Metrozoo. You can register a complaint or extend a compliment. The trained volunteers of the Toucan Perch are ready for just about anything.

Next time you're at Metrozoo, make sure you visit the "Perch People."

## VET'S NEW AT METROZOO

Metrozoo has just filled a new position in its Animal Health Department, concluding a lengthy search by zoo officials. Dr. Gerald N. Esra will join Dr. Gordon Hubbell as staff veterinarian.

Esra's experience includes six years as a zoo veterinarian at the Los Angeles Zoo, as well as an internship in veterinary medicine at the San Diego Zoo, after graduating with a D.V.M. from the University of California at Davis. He says, "I am excited about coming to a zoo that has the capability and promise of becoming perhaps the finest in the world, and am anxious to make a contribution in establishing a medical program that will enable the zoo to maintain its animal collection at the highest possible level of good health."

His primary responsibility will be to develop, implement and monitor a preventive health program, as well as attend to other veterinary duties at Metrozoo. "I'm really pleased that we have got somebody with such high qualifications working with us. We have the same approach to treating and managing exotic animals and I'm looking forward to working with him." said Hubbell.

## Society Seeks Executive Director

*A search is underway for an executive director for our fast-growing Zoological Society. To aid us in finding the right person to handle the many facets of this challenging job, an ad has been placed in the next issue of the AAZPA Newsletter. (The text of the ad is reproduced below.)*

*If anyone knows of an individual who meets the qualifications required, please get in touch with Ron Esserman.*

### Executive Director

Executive Director, rapidly growing Zoological Society affiliated with large new "open" zoo. Background required: five years management experience in zoological field; ability to work with governmental agencies essential. Must have experience in following: administration, public relations, fund raising, membership development, public speaking. Positive public image and ability to develop high level corporate and social commitment needed to achieve Society's goal of eventual zoo operation. Degree in natural sciences and/or business administration desirable.

Compensation: \$35,000 plus. Write in confidence to:

Ron Esserman  
Search Chairman, Board of Governors  
16165 S. Dixie Highway  
P. O. Box 570608  
Miami, Florida 33157

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR TOUCAN PERCH

**An exciting new program is being developed for the Toucan Perch. If you are interested in becoming a part of this specially trained group, call the Society office at 255-5551.**



Two of our Orangs enjoy a rare quiet moment on their paddock at Metrozoo.

## Oh, Those Crazy *Pongo pygmaeus*!

Our three orangutans at Metrozoo always seems to be out to catch the attention of the crowd with their crazy antics. And, attract they do! Of all the animals at the zoo, visitors seem to relate and react more closely to the orang than any other animal.

Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) is a Malayan word meaning "man of the woods." They have twelve pairs of ribs and twelve thoracic vertebrae, the only great ape sharing these features with man.

It is also interesting to note that orangs are the only apes, with the exception of the gibbons, to occur outside Central Africa. Living in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, they are among the world's most endangered animals partly due to the extensive destruction of their forest habitat which has been cut for timber. It is believed that fewer than 5,000 orangutans still exist in the world.

The orangs reproductive rate is low. Females give birth to a single young every four years and the morality rate is high. The gestation period is about 275 days. The mother suckles her young for about eighteen months. Orangs reach maturity at ten years and have a life span of about twenty-five years. The males may stand four and a half feet tall and commonly weigh more than 150 pounds in the wild. In captivity, they have exceeded 400 pounds. The females are much smaller.

Next time you're at Metrozoo, spend some time with our crazy *Pongo pygmaeus* - Tabatha, Lucy and Jasper — and say hello to Kurt Mannchen, orang zookeeper.

## Administrator Approved by Board

The Board of Governors has appointed Jan Beckman as administrator of the Zoological Society of Florida. A member since 1979, Jan served as a volunteer, organizing the Toucan Perch, the Society's information and tour booth at Metrozoo.

Jan first came to Miami in 1955 and has been a resident for thirteen years. He attended Riverside Military Academy in Hollywood and graduated from Babson College in Massachusetts.

His background is in advertising marketing and sales. In 1968, he sold his interest in his ad agency which had offices in the U.S. and five foreign countries. Prior to joining the Society, Jan was sales manager of a local real estate firm.

## President's Report

The Grand Opening of Metrozoo is fast drawing upon us. Scheduled for December 12, 1981, both the Society and Metrozoo staff are laboring hard to ensure that the opening is a great success. There will be several special events for Society members — look forward to specific announcements.

Since our last report, we have been very fortunate to secure the services of Jan Beckman as administrator. As a former publicity chairman, he has been a long time active supporter of the Society and its activities. We are delighted to have him with us full time.

On July 7, 1981, Freda Houser of the Docents and I presented a check to Mayor Steve Clark and the County Commission for \$10,000. These funds will be used to build an Ecology Center to house the animals which the docents use in their Outreach Programs.

The completed fund-raising package for the Animal Hospital is now ready and will be submitted to various foundations and major donors for their consideration. If you have a suggestion for a funding source, please let us know.

The Society has also submitted requests for funding for the Nursery/Hatchery Building and for the Education Program to a number of groups. Although no definite commitments have been received, we have had several encouraging responses.

A large contingent from both the Society and Dade County government is going to the national AAZPA Convention in New Orleans in mid-September. In addition to renewing contacts and exchanging information, we are trying to bring the convention to Miami in 1983.

You may recently have received a special letter from Jan Beckman asking for your help in expanding our membership. Please respond. Our members are the foundation of the Society, and we must grow to meet the role of the Society in Metrozoo.

Jack Lowell, President

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

06/26/81	0.0.2	Ring tailed lemurs	M
06/27/81	0.0.1	Impala	M
06/29/81	0.0.1	Impala	M
07/01/81	0.1.0	Dromedary camel	M
07/01/81	0.0.1	Defassa waterback	M
07/02/81	1.0.0	Indian elephant	C
07/03/81	0.0.1	Himalayan tahr	M
07/03/81	0.0.1	Impala	C
07/16/81	0.1.0	Sitatunga	M
07/27/81	1.1.0	African lions	C

### DEATHS:

07/09/81	1.0.0	Black caiman	M
07/14/81	1.0.0	Baird tapir	M
07/17/81	0.0.1	White faced tree duck	M
07/20/81	1.0.0	Capuchin	C
07/24/81	0.0.1	Leopard tortoise	C
07/28/81	1.0.0	Black caiman	M

### TRANSFERS:

07/20/81	0.1.0.	Gelda baboon (Sissy donated to Jacksonville Zoo)	
----------	--------	---	--

### ACQUISITIONS:

07/16/81	0.0.10	American wood turtles (confiscation)	
07/30/81	1.1.0.	Galapagos tortoises (breeding loan from National Zoo via Honolulu Zoo)	

Note: M designates Metro, C designates Crandon; 0.0.0. indicates number of males, females or unsexed of the species.

# 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*

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Justin E. Beals  
Dr. James H. Block  
Edmonson S. Couric, Jr.  
Lester Goldstein  
Dr. Paul B. Lamborn  
Richard Mahmarian  
Beatrice Matheson  
Dr. Joseph Ostroski  
Jeffrey Seeberger  
George M. Wilson  
Robert L. Yokel

## EX-OFFICIO:

Bill Bird, *Director*,  
Dade County Parks & Recreation Dept.  
Steve Clark, *Mayor*,  
Metro Dade County  
Ileen Seidler, *President*  
Greater Miami Docent Council

## STAFF:

Jan T. Beckman, *Administrator*  
Barbara Benz, *Chairperson of Membership*  
Ileen Seidler, *Chairperson of Education*  
Carole Schurman, *Secretary*  
Carole Scheel, *Secretary—Membership*

## TOUCAN TALK STAFF:

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

# ANIMAL ANSWERS

1. False. The animal's huge water supply is stored in its tissues.
2. The bat.
3. Siberian tiger.
4. Under an inch in length.
5. The common shrew, a tiny terror of the animal kingdom with a ferocious appetite.
6. The gnu (a member of the antelope family).
7. Male hippopotamus.
8. Cape buffalo.
9. The toucan, found in Central and South America.
10. Resting and sleeping.

## SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEER WANTED

**Highly motivated, responsible  
and friendly communicator  
needed to coordinate  
volunteers for special events.  
Mostly telephone work with  
minimum record keeping. One  
day per week.**

**Contact  
BUFF MARCH  
Volunteer Coordinator  
238-5050                      255-5551  
(Home)                              (Office)**



**ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
OF FLORIDA**

12400 S.W. 152 Street  
Miami, Florida 33177



Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
MIAMI, FL  
Permit No. 4358