

# TOUCAN TALK



NOVEMBER—DECEMBER / VOL. 9, NO. 6

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD.

By Bob Yokel, Metrozoo Director

As 1983 draws to a close, I realize that some endings can also be beginnings. For instance, the close of the 59th Annual Conference of the AAZPA in Vancouver, B.C., on September 22nd held great significance for Metrozoo and the Society for two reasons. First, it marked the beginning of our preparations to host the 60th Annual Conference in 1984. We anticipate that well over a thousand delegates from all over the world will attend the conference in Miami next year. To make it both meaningful and memorable will require the support of the entire organization, which I am sure will be forthcoming, as it always has been in the past. It is another challenge and yet another opportunity to establish our zoo as a leader.

A second significant event occurred at the closing banquet of the AAZPA conference. Metrozoo was presented with the Edward H. Bean award for its Crocodilian Breeding Program. The "Bean Award" is the Oscar, Emmy and Pulitzer Prize of the zoo world — recognition by your peers for outstanding achievement in the field of animal management and propagation. It is one of those programs that occurs behind the scenes, away from the public eye; yet, it is vital to the future of many endangered species. Remember, this is your award too, because your support made it possible.

The theme of this year's conference was Survival in the Eighties; survival both for wildlife and for the zoos that are their homes. All zoos face the same problems, to some degree, depending upon their locality. However, one thing is becoming increasingly clear — continued growth of membership support is absolutely vital to the future of our zoo. This support does not always have to be in the form of hard cash, it can also come at the ballot box. As many of you are aware, we face the potential of a statewide vote on an issue called Proposition One, to reduce taxes to the 1980-81 level. The outcome of this issue will have far-reaching and long-term implications for this community. It will also have a devastating effect on the county's ability to continue funding the operation of Metrozoo.

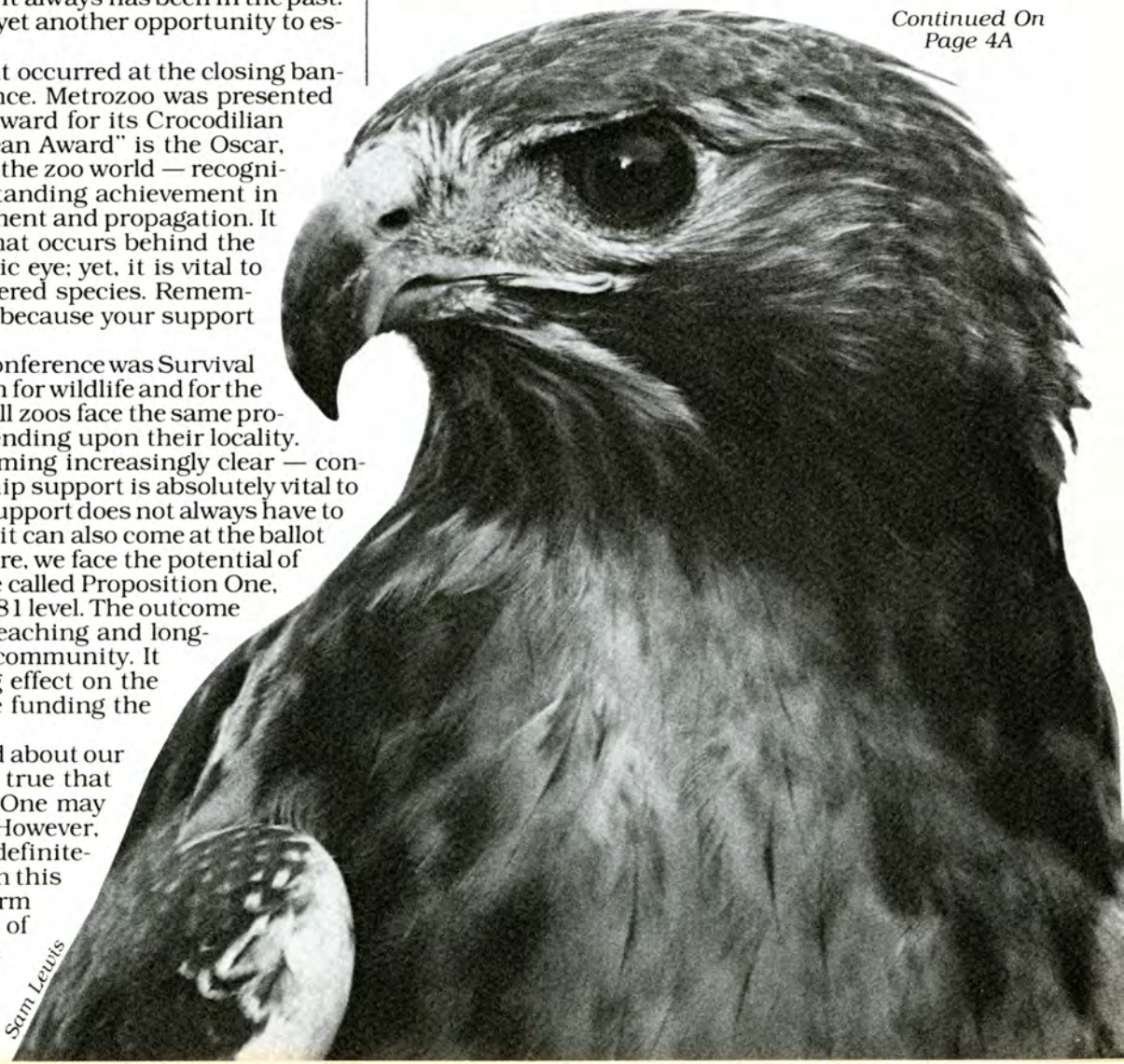
I know we're all concerned about our individual tax burden. It is true that the passage of Proposition One may reduce our property taxes. However, I must point out that it will definitely reduce the quality of life in this community. So, please inform yourself fully on all aspects of Proposition One before you

make a decision and cast your vote, should it come to that. I, for one, would like to do more than just survive during the '80s. I would like to succeed. And, with your help, I know we can prevail.

Just remember, before 1972, Metrozoo was a dream in search of a home. Today, it is a reality. Metrozoo has been labeled everything from a white elephant to the hallmark of modern zoos. It has been criticized as well as acclaimed a critical success — even by some of its former critics. A zoo is many things to many people. And that's the key

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Sam Leuits



# President's Message



The American Association of Zoos, Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) held its national convention in Vancouver, British Columbia recently. The Zoological Society of Florida and Metrozoo were well represented at this conclave of zoo people from all over the world. Some of the indelible memories that I have of the conference: the beautiful city of Vancouver with its magnificent mountains; the warm hospitality of the zoo and aquarium people and their volunteer staff who hosted the gathering; the thought-provoking and stimulating sessions; the exciting and informative exhibits; and the 900 or more concerned participants involved in every facet of zoo activity.

*Survival in the '80s* was the theme of the conference. Even though it covered all aspects of zoo activity, this is the first year in which financial planning was a major highlight. The importance of financial planning was evident in the high attendance at these sessions. Every zoo in the country is facing financial problems at this time because less public funding is available for zoo budget needs — for capital improvements, operating costs and animal acquisition.

The graciousness and hospitality of the people of Vancouver were an example to us all. Especially since Miami will host the national AAZPA meeting in 1984. It is an honor as well as a responsibility for our city to have been chosen as the host for the next convention, when so many zoos were vying for this advantage for their city. The conference will bring over a thousand visitors to Miami. It will afford us the double opportunity of showing off both our zoo and our city. It is a perfect occasion for people to get to know the zoo we are so proud of, and become acquainted with the natural attractions that make South Florida unique.

It is a rare opportunity to make a good impression on important representatives of the zoological world. Their support can do wonders in helping us attain the status of a world-class zoo. To make their visit a success, we need the help of all the volunteers as well as general membership of the society.

The 1984 convention must be a team project, with Metrozoo and the Zoological Society working closely together. The Society works in many ways to support the zoo. Our development committee has been doing a great job in expanding and garnering support for many programs at the zoo. Investing in the zoo is one of the tangible ways to help Miami become a close-knit community again.

If we believe in a future for our community, let us lend a hand and invest in this highly visible, family-oriented project. This is the kind of thing that improves the quality of life in our area for the people who want to live and work here. Metrozoo can be a great rallying point for community pride.

For "*Survival in the '80s*," we must invest in Metrozoo right now. When we bring in memberships for the zoo, when we find contributors, when we support zoo programs, education projects and capital funding, we are investing not only in Metrozoo, but also in Miami.

Ron Esserman, President

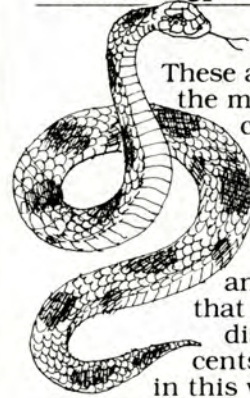
# Docent Doings

By Freda Houser

**Snakes are slimy and wet.**

**All snakes are poisonous.**

**Snakes hypnotize their prey.**



These are just some of the myths and misconceptions that people have about snakes. It's not until they hear otherwise, and actually touch and feel a snake, that these myths are dispelled. The docents play a large part in this with the outreach program that they have developed over the years.

The outreach program entertains while it informs. That's why it is so well received in schools, libraries, hospitals and elsewhere. The docents talk about amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, conservation and preservation. Naturally, they've done their homework, so they know what they are talking about and can answer questions from the audience.

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Docents shows as well as tell. During an outreach, you might see a docent with a boa constrictor draped around her waist, a cockatoo or parrot perched on her arm, or a ferret or a skunk cradled close to her.

Mesmerized, wide-eyed children ooh and aah in hushed voices. Gradually, they overcome their timidity and flock around the animals. Gently, they reach out and touch the animals. It's as if a door has been opened for them, a door to greater awareness and knowledge about animals.

It's with a feeling of elation that docents return to the zoo after an outreach. Their satisfaction is well-founded, as is shown by the piles of letters they receive, thanking them and inviting them to come back.

The outreach is not a replacement for a visit to the zoo, but a valuable extension of it, willingly provided by the docents.

## Zoobilation!

Members' night at the zoo is around the corner. Be sure to mark December 10th on your calendar in black and white. It'll be an event filled with fun, food and friends. Details will follow with your invitation in the mail. This is just a sneak preview of "**Zoobilation**". It's a special night for members only — to show that we've earned our stripes!

### Officers:

Ron Esserman, President  
Lester Goldstein, 1st Vice-President  
Buff March, 2nd Vice-President  
Roger Carlton, Secretary  
Robert Harris, Treasurer

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# Education Outlook



By Ileen Seidler,  
Education Coordinator

**"The Zoo, the Environment and You"** is the title of a special workshop sponsored by the Zoological Society of Florida and the League of Environmental Educators of Florida (LEEF) on November 12th and 13th. A full day of activities and special sessions have been scheduled at the zoo on Saturday; Sunday is reserved for interesting field trips. For complete information and workshop fees, contact me at 255-5551. Sign up for the workshop now — don't LEEF it till the last moment.

The Education Department is offering a special session of programs during the school break. The classes have been coordinated to grade levels, so children can brown-bag it and spend the whole day at the zoo — a tempting alternative to trudging around the malls for last-minute holiday shopping.

## Program Lineup November 4th-February 11th

### Metrozoo Inn

Night life at a zoo is really something and you get a rare chance to observe it. Bring your sleeping bags for this special slumber party, which includes a monorail ride, dinner, a night walk and breakfast the next morning. Registration is limited to the first 15, so hurry if you want to be in on the Metrozoo Inn.

Friday-Saturday • November 4 & 18,  
December 16, January 13  
5 P.M. - 9 A.M. • Grades 4-6  
\$17.50—Members / \$20.00—Nonmembers

### Junior Zoologist

Learn almost everything you always wanted to know about Metrozoo but were afraid to ask. Get your information straight from the horse's mouth during our animal discovery days for budding Junior Zoologists. T-shirt included.

6 consecutive Saturdays  
January 7 - February 11  
9 A.M. - Noon • Grades 7-9  
\$30—Members / \$35—Nonmembers

### Night Owls

At last — a night out for adults only. Find out what the kids have been raving about. Spend a night at the zoo and discover a whole new world of sights and sounds. Bring your sleeping bags; we'll provide dinner and breakfast! For all you night owls, this will be such a hoot!

Friday-Saturday • December 2 & 3  
6 P.M. - 9 A.M.  
\$17.50—Members / \$20—Nonmembers

### Creatures in Celebration

Just in time for the holiday season — a session on animal arts and crafts with a festive theme. The very thing for gifted children. Materials provided.

December 19 — Grades 1-3  
December 20 — Grades 4-6  
December 21 — Grades 1-3  
December 22 — Grades 4-6  
December 23 — Grades 4-6

10 A.M. - Noon  
\$10—Members / \$12—Nonmembers  
(Each Day)

### Apetalk

If you thought learning about apes means monkeying around, this class is for you. You'll discover the difference between monkeys and apes, while studying apes and their behavior.

December 19 • 1-3 P.M. • Grades 1-3  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### Animal Scope

See animals and artifacts close up, when you learn about a microscope and its components. You'll learn to manipulate the scope and prepare your own slides.

December 20 • 1-3 P.M. • Grades 4-6  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### The Wonders of Animals in Winter

When it gets cold outside, we put on warm clothes. What do the animals do? Find out how the environment changes in winter and how animals weather the season.

December 21 • 1-3 P.M. • Grades 1-3  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### Pachyderm Parade

Pachyderm is a big word — so is the animal it describes. Learn about elephants and other thick-skinned animals. Once you learn about pachyderms, you'll be a little like an elephant — you'll never forget.

December 22 • 1-3 P.M. • Grades 4-6  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### In Cold Blood

Learn all about reptiles and their characteristics. Why are most people afraid of reptiles? Once you understand the need for reptiles, you probably won't be.

December 23 • 1 - 3 P.M. • Grades 4-6  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### How They Do It

Captive breeding is one of the zoo's biggest responsibilities. Learn about the different forms of reproduction in the animal kingdom. What are the advantages in instinctive behaviors behind mating forms? How do animals bear their young? Learn the facts of wildlife.

December 27 • 10 A.M. - Noon • Grades 8-10  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### Animal Antics

An exciting chance to learn more about animal behavior. When animals act a certain way, are they doing it instinctively or have they learned that behavior? Answer questions like these and many more after taking this class.

December 28 • 10 A.M. - Noon • Grades 7-9  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### Avian-Ventures

Venture into the world of birds and learn all about our feathered friends. Discover how birds adapt to their environment, and you'll understand the importance of aviaries in zoos that preserve endangered species.

December 19 • 10 A.M. - Noon • Grades 4-6  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

### Bag of Bones

Bone up on some important facts and artifacts. You'll get a rare opportunity to reconstruct part of a human skeleton and go on a fossil hunt.

December 30 • 10 A.M. - Noon • Grades 1-3  
\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

## Enroll Me In The Following Programs.

Programs \_\_\_\_\_  
Session Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(If Desired)  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Class Registration.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Member  
 Nonmember

Membership entitles you to free admission to Metrozoo and 70 other zoos, special events and the Society's publications. Family \$35 / Dual \$25 / Individual \$15. Annual memberships are tax deductible. All registrations must be paid in advance. Refunds will be made up to 1 week prior to class starting date.

Mail to: Education Dept., ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA 12400 S.W. 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33177

As the plane descended, the smoke-covered island of Borneo rose to greet us. We thought it was simply haze, but were quickly informed that the northern part of the island — better known as the independent State of Sabah — was on fire. The millions of smoldering acres were the result of a severe drought.

Sabah was to be our home for the next three weeks. It was here that Tom Foose, AAZPA Conservation Coordinator, and I hoped to find the Sumatran rhino and develop a cooperative capture and breeding program.

At the small, crowded and sweltering airport we were met by Dr. Clive Marsh, Wildlife Director and Educational Coordinator for the Sabah Foundation, a large logging company that also believes strongly in conservation. It was Clive, a very proper Englishman, who had first contacted us concerning the Sumatran rhino.

We crammed our gear into Clive's small jeep and headed for his townhouse. Along the way we learned that Sabah is the least densely populated country in Southeast Asia and has a prosperous middle class. The roads were well paved and signs of construction were everywhere. The capital, where we were, is named Kota Kinabalu after the 13,000 foot mountain peak on the island, the highest in Asia outside the Himalayas.

We spent a day in K.K., as it is called, getting acquainted with Clive and the Sabah Foundation. The next morning we flew across the island to Sandakan, which is on the east coast. We were met by Dr. John Payne, who is associated with the World Wildlife Fund, and by Patrick Andau, Director of Wildlife for Sabah's Department of Forestry. It was through them that we would make political contacts to begin negotiations on the rhino program.

But first, we had to look for the rhino. The next two weeks were spent doing just that. We flew first to a small port named Laha Datu, with a population of around 8,000. Cholera had broken out in the town, considered the worst area in Sabah. In the week before our arrival, 160 deaths and more than 1,000 cases had been reported. We decided that the safest place was the jungle.

For the next 14 days we travelled into all of the known rhino areas, through dense jungles filled with the exotic wildlife that we read so much about. Nearby, acres and acres of the jungle had been cut and burned for oil, palm and cocoa plantations.

At dawn, while mist hung heavy over the forest, we would wake to the calls of Mueller gibbons (the only

# On The Trail

## The Search for the Sumatran Rhino.

By Bill Zeigler,  
General Curator, Metrozoo

species of gibbon on the island) and by the Rhinoceros hornbills flying over our heads, sounding like helicopters. During an evening walk, we saw Malayan water monitors, fairy blue birds, broadbill green birds, shamas, barbets and long-tailed macaques. At other times, we glimpsed orangutans, sambar deer, mouse deer and incredible variety of birds...bee eaters, trogons, leafbirds, more hornbills and, along the coastal waters, we saw the black capped kingfisher.

Thrilled by the wonderful wildlife around us, we were still determined to seek the Sumatran rhino. Guided by a compass, we hacked our way into the jungle, travelled along the coast, even swam across a river, while our equipment floated across on a raft. In spite of all our efforts, all we found were tracks of the elusive rhino.

At the end of two weeks, disappointed at our lack of success, we boarded a plane back to Sandakan. During our last week in Sabah, we visited every official who might have influence in getting the program approved. We also wrote a cabinet proposal to the general legislature. The talks with the officials were very positive. They were all interested in the AAZPA training Sabahans in captive husbandry techniques.

I had a unique opportunity when we flew back to K.K. to participate in a Hash House Run. Hash houses are a very popular British idea originally developed in West Malaysia. The local expatriates got tired of just sitting around their clubs drinking, so they staged races with each other to burn off their energy. The runs, better known as Paper Chases, became immediately popular and now occur throughout Southeast Asia. A path marker known as the Harrier marks a trail by using pieces of paper. At certain points, the Harrier leaves a large number of pieces at one spot known as a check point. From there he can go any direction he wants for up to 50-75 yards through the brush (and believe me, it's rough terrain), before he starts dropping more paper once again. The hounds, or runners, have to circle out from the check point until they find the new trails, then they yell to the other runners to join them. The first one back is, of course, the winner in our eyes, but for them, they are all winners if they complete the course.

When we finally flew out of K.K., we were in good spirits and eager to take on the challenges that lay ahead. We left some good friends in Sabah. I'm confident that as the rhino program develops, I will see them again.

## Timely Tax Tips

By Lester Goldstein

As the Zoological Society grows, so do the gifts and donations to it. Just in time for those who are charitably inclined comes a seminar titled "**Family, Business and Charitable Tax Planning Under the New Tax Laws**".

The seminar, co-sponsored by the Zoological Society and the Vizcaya Foundation, will be held on November 15th at the downtown Omni Hotel, from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. The intensive session will be conducted by Norman A. Sugarman, a tax attorney and former Assistant Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. He will explain how the new tax laws affect business and family estate planning and answer questions about charitable giving under the new tax laws.

There is a \$50 fee to attend the seminar. Pre-registration is required. If you are interested, call development director Joseph Ferrer at 255-5551 for more information.



## The Ecuadorian Canoe

By Peggy Patrick

From the dawn of time, when sabre-tooth tigers and mammoth elephants roamed the earth, scantily clad sailors ventured across uncharted seas in dugout canoes. This tiny craft has survived the test of time, providing transportation and a means of livelihood for an untold number of people. Today, in the space age, it is still used by many people around the world. Few other inventions can parallel the persistence of the ordinary dugout canoe.

When you seat yourself in this canoe and glide silently down a river, you feel man's primordial relationship with the water in a unique way. You can almost hear the echo of distant drumbeats and feel your pulse quicken as you paddle to the rhythms that our ancestors knew so well.

This is more than a boat; it is an inheritance. More men have sailed across the water in a dugout canoe than in any other craft. The mere lapse of time is proof enough. Long after we are gone, future generations will paddle down mysterious jungle rivers and streams in this sturdy vessel.

The dugout canoe is hand carved from a solid tree trunk, usually mahogany or cedar, chosen by the Ecuadorian Indians because of the wood's longevity. The Indians neither paint nor ornament the canoe...it is plain and practical.

The canoe must be kept in the shade during long periods of disuse, or it will dry and crack in the sun. Native Indians usually fill it with water half-way to keep it from drying out too much. In case of small leaks, a coconut shell cut in half acts as a handy bailer.

The Ecuadorian dugout canoe now at our zoo was assembled authentically by Indians who still use such canoes. It was presented to the zoo by me, my husband Roger, and his brother, Captain Grady Patrick. We hope zoo visitors will find as much to marvel at in the dugout canoe as we do.

### LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD.

Continued From Page 1

word — people. People are the most important ingredient in any project, effort or cause. Your support can have a dramatic effect on our zoo's future. Metrozoo can become an even more vital part of the community, enhancing its stability and quality of life.

I personally believe that we have a responsibility to each other and to other living things that share our environment, to create and maintain places like Metrozoo. That responsibility becomes an ethical imperative when we realize that we have not inherited the earth from our parents, we have borrowed it from our children.

# Toucan Travel

By Aileen Lotz

Ever get the feeling that the Zoological Society is really going places? You're absolutely right. Thanks to your response to the travel questionnaire printed in the last issue, we have decided exactly where we're heading. We think we have something for everyone.

By now, all members have received the travel program announcements. Responses are already coming in, so if you're interested in going along, get going and reserve your place as soon as possible.

In addition to some choice destinations, we offer the most congenial travelling companions. The Toucan Travel Club is the place to meet people who are interested in wildlife as well as travel and combine both in our exclusive vacations. We give you a sneak preview of what's in store with slides, movies and brief lectures. Of course, we'll give you tips on what to take along.

If you're not on the Travel Club mailing list, and would like to be, call us at 255-5551 and we'll put you on.

Better yet, attend the next travel club meeting on Monday, November 14th, at 7 P.M. in the zoo. We'll hear about the wealth of bird life and the diversity of habitats in Costa Rica as we discuss the itinerary for our February 9th trip to that lovely Central American country. Mark that on your travel calendar. Mark this as well:

## Travel Calendar

November 24th	Antarctica and the Falkland Islands. There's still time to sign up. Call the office for more information.
January 9th	Toucan Travel Club meeting. Vicariously enjoy the zoos of Great Britain and Europe via a slideshow presented by Metrozoo's Rick Barongi.
January 21st	Everglades National Park. A day trip to a wonderful wildlife resource close to home.
February 5th	Baja, California. A whale of a luxury cruise around the peninsula. Indeed, whales will be the high-light of this trip.
February 6th	Toucan Travel Club meeting: Wonderful preview of our trip to the Galapagos Islands.
February 9th	Costa Rica: this 9-day trip will delight anyone interested in birds.

# Read Between The Lines

## Jungle Jog

is afoot again. Runners return to Metrozoo on January 15, 1984. Help us get this exciting event on track. If you'd like to be on the committee, or to volunteer for the big run, call Ileen Seidler at 255-5551.

## After The Hunt

By Howard Tendrich

If you were handed a box of animal crackers with a clue telling you that Groucho Marx and Shirley Temple knew how to get things off to a good start, what would you do? Well, if you're an experienced hunter, you'd think about Shirley Temple singing "Animal Crackers in my Soup" and the Groucho Marx film *Animal Crackers*. Then you'd dive into the box of animal crackers and find a cookie marked with the location you're supposed to head for. And that's exactly what participants did at The Hunt on October 8th.

Half a hundred cars showed up for the event, each car containing six eager hunters. Starting and ending at Miami Dade Community College's South Campus, the hunters dashed to 14 stops in between, for four hours filled with fun and frustration. At a midnight dinner, the answers were revealed and each clue was fully explained. There were jeers and cheers as the participants realized how obvious the clues were. After the fact, of course.

There were enthusiastic cheers when everyone realized that we had raised almost \$7,000 for the Zoological Society. Part of the money will go to the Adopt-An-Animal program, with Mr. & Mrs. Hunter as the Zooper parents. The rest of the money will go towards a nursery/clinic for the zoo.

Metrozoo director Bob Yokel was there in spirit though not in person. Special Metrozoo pins were presented to the Hunt committee on his behalf. The members of the committee were Monroe & Eve Scheiner, Paul and Marilyn Gustman, my wife Marilyn and myself. We had a wonderful time organizing the event, particularly coming up with the devilishly difficult clues.

But we couldn't have done it alone. We'd like to thank all the participants, the monitors, the committee members and the contributors for making The Hunt such a smashing success. We hope The Hunt will become an annual event. Mark your calendar for the same time next year. We'll see you there!



Richard Lewis

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Design: Janice McDougall  
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# Thinking About Holiday Gifts?



Sam Lewis

You'll find the wildest ones  
through the Zoological Society.  
From antelope to zebra, we offer the  
gifts best suited to wildlife lovers.  
Whether it's a print by a wildlife  
artist, an exhilarating videotape of a  
day at the zoo, a gift membership, or  
an adopted animal, you'll find more  
information on this page. Any of  
these thoughtful gifts will delight  
your family and friends. So just let  
your imagination run wild.

**Gift Memberships.** As a member of the  
Zoological Society yourself, you've exper-  
ienced the advantages of membership first  
hand. You can visit the zoo free year round.  
What's more, you get free admission to 70  
other zoos around the country. You have  
special events for members only. The list goes  
on and on. The membership fee, as you know,  
is tax deductible. Pass on the benefits of  
membership to someone you like. Call Sally  
Liddell at 255-5551 about gift memberships.

**Adopt-An-Animal.** According to the old  
song, the first day of Christmas is the time to  
give your true love a partridge in a pear tree.  
With the variety we have at Metrozoo, you can  
do a lot better than that. Take your pick of  
exotic animals you can adopt as gifts for  
yourself, family or friends. The price ranges  
from \$25 for a mandarin duck to ten times  
that for a lowland gorilla. Whatever you  
choose, we think you'll find it worthwhile.  
Call the Development office at 255-5551 for  
details on the adopt-an-animal program.

**Prints Charming.** If you are interested in  
wildlife, you'll be entranced by the way  
Charles Fracé captures it in his paintings. No  
wonder his shows are so much in demand at  
zoos from coast to coast. He had a show at  
Metrozoo earlier this year and will be back by  
popular demand on Thanksgiving weekend,  
November 26th and 27th. Limited edition  
prints and some originals will be on sale, with  
the artist on hand to autograph his paint-  
ings and talk about his work. A fabulous op-  
portunity to get special gifts for special  
friends this festive season...and we're sure  
you won't be able to resist getting some for  
yourself!

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OF FLORIDA**

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