

# TOUCAN TALK



JANUARY—FEBRUARY / VOL. 10, NO. 1

# FEATHERS IN OUR CAP.

*By Ron Esserman, President*



I'm very proud of what the Society has accomplished over the past year and I'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

Last year, our volunteers worked almost 30,000 hours for the Society and the zoo. Computed at minimum wage, they donated over \$100,000 worth of time.

The Zoological Society provides the zoo with over \$60,000 in support services, such as travel, equipment, the gorilla lift, the orangutan family, the Eagle project and conservation studies.

Our newly formed Development Department raised over \$90,000 in pledges of support. The Society matched the Burger King challenge grant of \$50,000 by coming up with an additional \$150,000 towards the Nursery/Clinic.

The Society also provides \$150,000 to staff the Education Department at the zoo.

The Society's Travel Program offers members a unique opportunity to go on exciting trips, and with one trip to Africa alone, raised \$12,000. Last year, we had some exciting events and this year we will plan more and better special events for **Members Only**.

With a good year behind us, we are looking forward to the challenges of a great year ahead. We are in the process of expanding our Board of Members and building a Board of Trustees to include most of the concerned and influential members of our community.

We plan to expand our development and education programs, both philosophically and financially. Perhaps more important than anything else, we are fully committed to get the whole community involved to raise whatever is necessary both publicly and privately to fulfill this zoo's potential and complete construction within two to three years. We will begin this coming year by starting construction on the Nursery/Clinic.

Now is the time for all of us to stand behind the zoo, financially and politically. I, for one, pledge to do so. Please join me in this commitment of support.

— Richard Lewis



— Sam Lewis



By Peggy Rogers

ZIP has always regarded the horse show as its pet project, and this year we were delighted to work with other volunteers as well. The occasion was the "Arabian Horse Festival in Miami", co-sponsored in November by the Zoological Society of Florida and the Sunshine State Arabian Club to benefit several local charities. The opening day of the event at the Tropical Park Equestrian Center was for the benefit of the Zoological Society. In the past, the Society has received \$12,000 towards the nursery clinic from these shows.

In addition to the spectacular horses, special events were scheduled to make this a gala affair. All shows had about 350 participating horses, some of them valued at over a million dollars. The Arabian Horse Festival in Miami draws horses, riders and trainers from as far away as Minnesota and California. Often their owners, such as Burt Reynolds and Kenny Rogers, are even better known than the horses.

There were informative classes during the day, showing people how horses and riders are prepared for the show ring. The Zoological Society's docents offered a special outreach program, displaying small animals to the thrilled visitors. In the evening, there was a family-oriented party with food, drinks, live entertainment, and an auction of attractive prizes.

ZIP volunteers staffed the shows, as usual, to ensure that everything ran smoothly. With the help of the docents, we were able to make it a successful and enjoyable event. We look forward to the next one.

# Ways Of Giving

To give or not to give...that is no longer the question. With April 15th coming closer, the question is how to donate your dollars so that they benefit both the Zoological Society (and through it the zoo) and yourself. Here are some suggestions:

## Cash Contributions.

The most common gift is one of cash. It is mutually beneficial. The Society has immediate availability of funds. The donor enjoys an immediate tax saving.

## Gifts Of Securities.

Tax laws are deliberately structured to encourage gifts of appreciated securities to charitable or non-profit organizations. Savings are two-fold. First, no capital gains tax is paid on any increase in value of the securities since their purchase; second, the donor receives an income-tax deduction based on the fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

## Gifts Of Property.

The Zoological Society will work with the donor of real estate, boats, airplanes and other such property to secure the maximum allowable tax deduction. Other tangible personal property, such as significant works of art, can also qualify for tax benefits, or may be sold to provide additional funds to the Society and Metrozoo.

## Life Insurance.

When the Zoological Society is irrevocably named as owner and beneficiary of the policy, premiums are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

## Bequests.

Once heirs are provided for, a gift to Metrozoo through the Zoological Society should be considered as an important part of a donor's philanthropic commitment.

## Matching Gift Programs.

Many corporations, businesses and other groups offer a matching gift program. When one of their employees donates to the Zoological Society, the company will match that gift. The benefits of this very generous program are apparent -- by giving to the Zoological Society and informing the employer, the employee's contribution to Metrozoo can be doubled.

Our development staff will gladly work with your attorney or tax advisor to tailor your gifts to our mutual benefit.

## Officers:

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

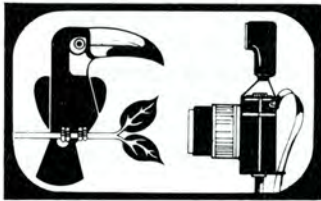
## Board Of Directors:

Dr. James H. Block	Ronald Petty
Jeb Bush	Donald Rosenberg
R. Alan Fortier	Dr. Monroe Scheiner
R. Ray Goode	Richard Shack
Bern M. Levine, D.V.M.	Ana P. Soler
Bobbi Litt	Howard Tendrich
Hank Luria	Lawrence Turner
Richard Mahmarian	R. L. Yokel
John D. Pennekamp, Jr.	

# Education Outlook

By Ileen Seidler,  
Education Coordinator

Have you always longed to do some string pulling? Here's your chance to learn all about puppets. Join a new group under the direction of professional puppeteer and television personality Jeff Liebman. If you always thought puppets were kid stuff, think again. Remember Jim Henson and his Muppets? Help us get our show on the road. We are preparing shows for school programs at the zoo on weekdays. We need adult volunteers to help develop the programs.



Speaking of developing, the Zoo-topography Club is gearing up for an action-packed 1984. Shutterbugs, plan to join now. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M. in the zoo's Classroom II. Find a focus for your interest in wildlife photography.

If you've been scouting around for a challenging program, keep your eye on the zoo. Starting in February, the Education Department will present Scouts for A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest and Respect) at Metrozoo. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will take an upfront and behind-the-scenes look at zoos and the animals

that inhabit them. Through the scouting organization, they will receive a patch when they successfully complete various requirements.

For the older Scout, we've established an Explorer Post here at the zoo. Explorers are affiliated with the Boy Scout Council of America and are sponsored by the Zoological Society of Florida. Metrozoo Explorers give young adults, aged 14-20, an opportunity to discover all there is to know about different zoo careers.

## Program Lineup

### 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

### Snap Judgements

If you're already a photography buff, develop your lens flair. Refine your skills and acquire new techniques at the zoo and on field trips. Comments and critique of work provided by noted photographer, Dan Wilson.

4 Sessions & 1 Field Trip • Mondays  
January 23-February 13 • 7 P.M.-9 P.M.  
High School - Adult  
\$35—Members / \$40—Nonmembers

### Sharpshooters

If you've gone beyond the basics, you'll be interested in the advanced photo-

graphy class offered by Dan Wilson. In it, you can let your creativity run wild and learn techniques to express yourself clearly through photographs.

4 Sessions & 1 Field Trip  
Mondays - March 5th — March 26th  
7 P.M. - 9 P.M. • High School & Adult  
\$35—Members / \$40—Nonmembers

### Film Fest

Continuous all-day showings of wild-life and nature films, including the popular Gerald Durrell films about the **Ark on the Move**.

Free to all zoo visitors.  
January 28th & February 24th  
10:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

### 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 mono-rail 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  
January 13, February 10, March 16  
5 P.M. - 9 A.M. • Grades 4-6  
\$17.50—Members / \$20—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 • February 17-18th  
6 P.M. - 9 A.M.  
\$17.50—Members / \$20—Nonmembers

## Enroll Me In The Following Programs.

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

# Class Registration

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

# Toucan Travel

By Aileen Lotz

It looks as if travel is in the cards for many Zoological Society members this year. Judging by the response to our Toucan Travel brochure for 1984, many of you are eager to set out for wilder shores, with other Society members as your travelling companions.

We've been flooded with requests for trip itineraries. This is how it works: some trip brochures are mailed to the entire membership, while others are available at your request. Our recent issue of Toucan Travel will give you an idea of the wildlife tours we have to offer. If you haven't received the yellow Toucan Travel brochure, call 255-5551 and we'll rush a copy to you.

A word to the wise — if you're interested in any of the trips, be sure to mail your deposit early because the tour groups are limited and our trips are proving very popular indeed. Our trip to the Everglades National Park, for instance, was a sell-out. By popular demand, we've scheduled a second one for Saturday, February 25th. Call the office to see if we can still squeeze you in.

Space is still available for our one-week trip to Costa Rica, rescheduled for March 5th. Call us immediately if you're interested.

Since you're interested in wildlife, you'll probably want to plan your vacation around one of our exciting trips to the zoos of Britain, to the Galapagos, Kenya or Australia. If you haven't received a detailed itinerary in the mail, call the office and we'll be glad to send you one.

If you want to make sure you know all about our trips, join the Toucan Travel Club. Fellow travellers meet regularly at Metrozoo to talk about upcoming trips, hear people who are knowledgeable about particular places and see interesting slide presentations. Call 255-5551 for the date, time and subject of the next meeting.

If you're itching to travel, don't worry: you've just been bitten by the travel bug.



## A Howling Success

To say thank you, the Zoological Society hosted parties for its volunteers and for Metrozoo staff last year. The Board has decided that this year the two parties will be combined and we hope Halloween Howl will become an annual tradition. To give us an idea of what's in store for us, Metrozoo's Lynn Songdahl tells us what Halloween Howl '83 was like...

The zoo is a pretty wild place any time of the year, but on Halloween, witches, ghouls and other ghostly creatures got together in the bewitching setting of the Crossover Restaurant.

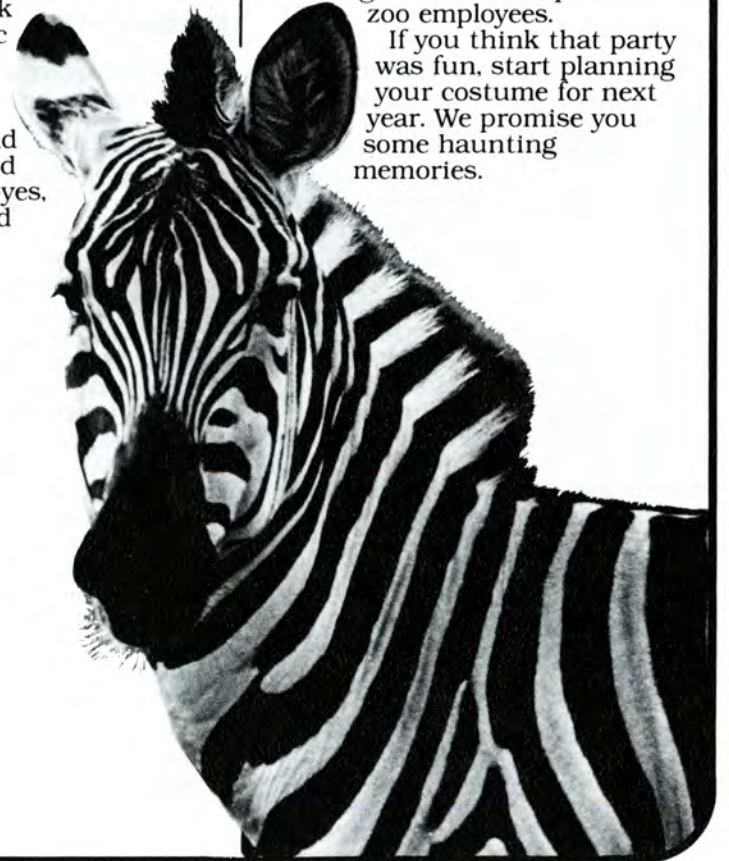
Sportservice plied us all with wonderful food and drink, while D.J. Bruce S. of Mobile Sound Productions kept our feet tapping to catchy music and flashing lights.

The highlight of the party was the costume contest. Judges Bob Yokel, Ron Esserman, Cindy de Tournillon, Bill Zeigler and I had a hard time choosing the winners from such characters as Marilyn Monroe (Lisa Rust), The Blues Brothers (Frank Rivera and Eric Stephens), Santa Claus (Dave Fraser) and Gandhi and wife (Buddy and Elsa Watkins)—yes, he really shaved his head!

Among the winners were Chuck Harvey, who came as Boy George the wrestler, and Janet Ross, who was the Unknown Drunk. Trish Haney came as a white tiger and stalked away with the best animal costume, while Ron Magill's chilling Dracula won a special prize. In addition, there were other exciting costume prizes, as well as one for dancing.

Well, the party's over, but the goodwill lingers on. We'd like to thank all the people who made the evening such a howling success: Cindy de Tournillon and Bill Zeigler for masterminding the event; Ann O'Leary and Estelle Watkins for taking Polaroids for posterity; Sportservice for being such good hosts and sports; Scandinavian World Cruises, Rafters Athletic Club, Sonesta Beach Hotel, Victoria Station, Whistler's, Luria's and Ron Esserman for providing the sought-after prizes. Most of all, thanks to the Society for making this party a reality and for generously offering Zoological Society gift memberships to all zoo employees.

If you think that party was fun, start planning your costume for next year. We promise you some haunting memories.





# A Christmas Story

By Bob Yokel, Metrozoo Director

Last year, Metrozoo welcomed four million visitors to its 400-acre, 350-exhibit zoological park and botanical garden. The visitors included the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premiers of Russia and China, and, last but not least, the Queen of England. Tourists from every state in the Union and 32 nations around the world graced our grounds and made us a truly international attraction.

Highlights during the year included performances by the Miami Symphony, Ballet and Opera, with live theater provided by the University of Miami Ring Theater group. Other special events included the Wildlife Art Festival, with over 250 exhibitors, the annual Christmas Pageant, and performances by noted jazz, rock and country-and-western artists.

Close to a quarter of a million schoolchildren from almost every county in Florida passed through our education program. For many, it was the highlight of the school year; for others, their very first visit to a zoo and first-hand experience

with the world of exotic creatures.

There was a population explosion in our animal collection, with a number of multiple births in many species, bringing our total collection to over 1,200 species and over 8,000 specimens. Our productivity was supplemented by the acquisition of a group of Giant Pandas and a family of Koalas from their respective countries, a gift for which we were most grateful.

The truly high point of the year, of course, was the opening of our Polar Bear complex. Five acres of ice and water with polar bears, penguins, seals, walruses and other assorted inhabitants of that frigid world so few of us have the opportunity to observe first hand.

Metrozoo's operating budget was a little over \$35 million, which included the operation and maintenance of the zoo as well as breeding, conservation and field study programs throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, South America, Australia and Africa. The international zoological community developed stronger bonds each day. Their voice is not only being heard

'but sought out on many environmental issues that face the world.

**Is this a fairy tale?** Only if you want it to be. A zoo is a living thing. It is born, grows, matures and can also die without a strong life-support system. **What is that life-support system?** A strong and growing Society membership and community support. **What can I do to help?** Sign up your relatives, friends, neighbors, the entire neighborhood, the clubs and organizations you are affiliated with. Don't be afraid to ask. We have a quality product in Metrozoo, one that is receiving more and more national recognition every day. Be proud of it. Get out and ring the bell, shake the tambourine, make some noise about Metrozoo. Give a membership to someone special. Adopt an animal. They make wonderful gifts, too. There are almost 20,000 of you out there now. If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our strength and capabilities in just one short year.

**Happy New Year!** Only you can make it one for the zoo.

# Docent Doings

By Freda Houser

The docents were busy as beavers last year. Sometimes numbers tell the story better than words, so we jotted down some figures that summarize our activities.

For the tram tours, UMI gave the Society \$17,325. About 75 docents

actively participated each month, and even more rallied around to help with special events like Jungle Jog, Members' Night, Halloween Haunt, Horse Shows and Market Surveys.

Activity	Number	People Reached	Volunteer Hours
1. Regular walking tours	523	7,821	790
2. Special walking tours	147	6,790	234
3. Stationed Interpreter	148	4,124	304
4. Tram tours	887	32,887	681
5. Inreach at Sulawesi	87	13,842	247
6. Outreach Programs	65	17,883	456
7. Toucan Perch (Information Booth)			1,230
8. Lecture Animal Building Cleaning and Feeding Animals			1,825
9. Totals		83,347	11,064

Hours include all above plus office, meetings, class, etc.

All that was fun, but we got down to business with our annual elections in December. The results:

President ..... Freda Houser  
 1st Vice-President ... Carla Eberhardt  
 2nd Vice-President ..... Flo DeNapoli  
 Secretary ..... Susan Kurtz  
 Treasurer ..... Cindy de Tournillon  
 Education Chairman ... Martha Block  
 Outreach Liaison . Kathleen Tomasulo  
 Member-at-Large ..... Judy Spanders

Under the leadership of this able advisory board, we look forward to a very busy year. There will be two training classes in 1984.

February 7th through March 29th  
**Daytime Classes**  
 From 9:30-11:30 A.M.  
 On Tuesdays & Thursdays

September 17th through  
 November 8th  
**Evening Classes**  
 From 6:30-8:30 P.M.  
 On Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 Call 251-2214 and become a doer.  
 Be a docent.

# Jungle Jog

Time to jog your memories about the second annual Jungle Jog, which is around the corner. Register now for the race on January 15th and get in shape for the five-mile course, covering the perimeter of the zoo.

Registration forms can be picked up at Footworks on Sunset Drive, at other local races and at the Zoological Society's information booth at the zoo. If you are among the first 1,700 registered participants, you'll get a free T-shirt. For the second

year running, Cordis and the South Florida Veterinary Association have generously agreed to help sponsor the race.

There will be awards for runners who place first through fifth in each age group. Special prizes will also be awarded for best costume and to the best team.

So start making tracks to register for Jungle Jog...with your best foot forward.



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