

TOUCAN TALK



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RARE & WELL DONE.

To most visitors, a zoo is only as good as its animals. Metrozoo is fortunate in having a fine wildlife collection on display in breathtaking surroundings. The zoo's permanent animal collection is valued at more than 1.5 million dollars. The beautiful bongos alone are worth as much as \$60,000, while the Indian rhinos are valued at up to \$80,000.

Recently, the zoo received a valuable addition to its collection -- two white Bengal tiger cubs from the Cincinnati Zoo. Although the Bengal tigers, Nikolai and Natasha (pictured below), occupied the Asian temple replica when the zoo first opened, Metrozoo's most spectacular exhibit was originally conceived as a backdrop for a group of white tigers. Metrozoo officials have long wished to establish their own breeding group of white tigers. With the arrival of Kanpur and Lucknow, the two new tiger cubs, it looks as if the wish is beginning to come true. The cubs cost \$62,000 each and Metrozoo Director Bob Yokel regards them as an investment for the future.

The money to purchase these animals comes from the zoo's animal acquisition fund, a special trust developed to expand and upgrade Metrozoo's wildlife collection. Metrozoo has had outstanding success in breeding animals, including among its accomplishments several first captive births and the prestigious Bean award, the Oscar of the zoo world. Through the

sale of rare animals born at the zoo, Metrozoo is able to acquire other animals for its collection. A litter of four Chinese golden wolves born at the zoo has been sold. They will make their home in Switzerland's Zurich Zoo. Other species Metrozoo has reproduced and sold to various zoos include DeFassa waterbuck, scimitar-horned oryx and Maxwell duiker.

The animal acquisition fund is self sustaining and has enabled the zoo to obtain valuable animals like the white Bengal tigers and the Dama gazelle. The fund is also underwriting the entire purchase of hundreds of rare Southeast Asian birds that will populate the zoo's free-flight Asian aviary, scheduled to open some time this year.

Animals are sometimes provided to a zoo free of charge, as was the case with Metrozoo's gorillas. The family group of gorillas, valued at half a million dollars by Bob Yokel, was obtained on a permanent loan basis from the National Institute of Health. Metrozoo's modern facilities and staff were judged to be the best among the zoos competing to receive the gorillas. The Institute's optimism was justified. Josephine

has become Metrozoo's first pregnant gorilla. In some cases, the animals are bought for the zoo by the Zoological Society of Florida. The Society contri-

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Beyond The Forest

By Bob Yokel, Metrozoo Director

During my 30 years in Dade County, I have heard numerous grandiose proposals that would supposedly be of great benefit to the community. How many of you remember Interama? Well, where is it today? More recently, Watson Island Amusement Park. On again, off again, back again, but still not a spade of dirt turned. Even more recently, on a radio editorial, I heard that what we needed was a major theme park to attract tourists.

Now that seemed odd to me, for down on S.W. 152nd Street, we already have the leading attraction in South Florida and one that also ranks in the Top 10 statewide, based on attendance figures. I asked myself, and I ask you, to consider the following: A key element in the selling of any product, be it toothpaste or theme park, is to make it different and, hopefully, better than the competition. Are we really going to attract or build a theme park the caliber of Disney, Epcot or any of the other star Central Florida attractions? I have my doubts.

Yet, here we sit with an unfinished zoo that is already twice the size of the famed San Diego Zoo and recognized by the zoo profession as the state of the art in zoo design. We need \$3.5 million to complete current development at Metrozoo. I realize that this is a considerable amount of money, but it is not an outrageous amount to invest in a recognized, quality product with proven attraction power. Why build a new attraction from scratch when you already have the beginnings of one with a proven track record? Why not invest our efforts and dollars in the completion, expansion and operation of Metrozoo. It's here, it's ours. Why not complete it and make it better -- a one of a kind, natural experience with universal appeal.

I will admit to being prejudiced about Metrozoo, but there are other, more objective observers who seem to share similar views. On October 28, 1983, *The Miami Herald* ran an editorial entitled, "Metrozoo's Success." It is reprinted here and I urge you to read it. We do not stand alone.

On the principle that nothing succeeds like success, Metro commissioners would be wise to match Metrozoo's increasing popularity with equal commitment and resources. The investment is sure to pay in dividends. Dade sorely needs: a first-rate facility, a tourist draw, a source of community pride, and international acclaim.

Since Metrozoo opened in 1981, its staff has been dedicated to creating a unique attraction that takes advantage of South Florida's excellent climate and rewards visitors with a rich experience. They have succeeded marvelously well.

Metrozoo now is the most popular attraction in Dade and ranks in the Top 10 statewide. It drew more visitors in its first year than any other zoo in history.

Who its visitors are tells a good deal about Metrozoo's success and what should be done to continue its ascendancy. Most of Metrozoo's visitors -- 74 percent -- are from South Florida, but encouraging numbers -- 26 percent -- are tourists.

Thus much of the effort to promote the zoo should be concentrated in South Florida, but the pitch to tourists should be bolstered as well. Visitors here find Metrozoo a bonus attraction. Once they're here, Metro's cageless wonder is a compelling reason to spend extra hours and days in the area.

Given increased support for promotion and expansion, the attraction can be even broader. Only a few zoos use the no-bars concept. Best known is the San Diego Zoo, which has achieved worldwide recognition.

Metrozoo can do as well, if not better. Already it has earned coveted awards for its breeding programs, including the 1983 Edward H. Bean Award, the zoological world's equivalent of the Oscar. Its staff has plans to more than double the acreage now open and to add exhibits, including an aviary, a complete Africa exhibit, and a small-animal display.

Metro administrators have not been as dedicated to Metrozoo as is warranted. This year's budget, for instance, is about the same as last year's, after inflation. The overall poor performance of the national economy is responsible in part.

Still, Metrozoo deserves a higher priority. It provides good, wholesome fun and, if properly supported, can become self-sufficient.

Perhaps it's true that you can't see the forest for the trees. I'm convinced that some can't. In the case of Metrozoo, I think that you must even look beyond the forest to find its true value, an enduring quality that is woven into the fabric of the community.

What you need is vision, a plan, and commitment. The vision is there. The plan is there. The commitment is lacking. Let's go out and get that commitment for the short-term completion and long-term development and operation of Metrozoo. It's an investment in a great community.



By Ileen Seidler,
Education Coordinator

Education Outlook

Education staff, is offered on a graduate and undergraduate level. The classes will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. To register or to find out more, call the Education Department at 255-5551.

Program Lineup

March 5th—May 19th

Sharpshooters

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

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

March 16th, April 6th & May 11th
5 P.M. - 9 A.M. • Grades 4-6
\$17.50—Members / \$20—Nonmembers

Toucan Team

One of our new programs that has become extremely popular. A challenging opportunity to delve deeper into the study of animals and zoos. Participants will use all the resources available in our Education Department to make what they've studied in books come alive. Comparative anatomy and microscopy are only some of the offerings in this program. T-shirts and all required materials are provided.

6 consecutive Saturdays

April 14th—May 19th
9 A.M. - 3 P.M. • Grades 9-12
\$50—Members / \$60—Nonmembers

Metrozoo is one place where you can learn something new every day. It's a living classroom, and the subject is all that is on earth and under the sky. This scenic campus sprawls over 185 acres, and offers views of the jungles of Asia, the steppes of Europe and the veldt of Africa. All right here in Miami.

The zoo is not only a repository of wildlife, it is deeply committed to awareness, education and involvement. Under the auspices of the Zoological Society of Florida, the zoo offers a spectrum of educational programs. It is an unusual opportunity to observe animals in their native habitat, to learn from trained zoologists, and to explore the exciting world of nature.

We believe that, at Metrozoo, learning can be fun.

F.I.U. at the Zoo April 24th—June 7th

Our "F.I.U. at the Zoo" last year was so well received that this year Florida International University and the Zoological Society have decided to repeat the program. There'll be all new classes, concentrating on teaching methods utilizing outdoor settings and special environments. The program, prepared by F.I.U.'s Dr. Edward Reichbach and ZSF's

Spring Registration Fair April 2nd—April 7th

Our education offerings span the spectrum from college level to kindergarten. Our Spring Registration Fair gives parents a chance to find out all about our special summer offerings for kids and to sign up for them. The exciting classes include "Zoo Camp"; "Kinder Kamp"; "Jungle Juniors"; "Art Camp", and "Safari Camp" with something for every child, from kindergarten through high school.

There'll be special activities for the kids while the parents register, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, April 2nd to Saturday, April 7th. There'll be special guests, both human and animal, instant crafts, animal movies and special puppet shows to keep them entertained and give them a taste of the treats in store for them this summer.

Volunteers Needed

Our summer program has tripled in size and scope in the last three years. We need volunteers to lend us a helping hand. If you're an educator interested in developing programs and assisting in classes, give us a call. Volunteers to help with group reservations and office work would also be most welcome.

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



Now that spring is here, can summer be far behind? For many, summer is the perfect time for a vacation. And we've got the perfect vacation planned for you. Just pick your destination and leave the rest to us.

As you know, Toucan Travel offers you exciting opportunities to see wildlife around the world, with congenial companions who share your interests. Best of all, these unique trips benefit the Zoological Society, and through it, Metrozoo.

Zoos & Gardens of Britain May 11th—28th

This trip is bound to be a royal treat. We'll visit some of the best-known zoos in the world when we travel to London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Chester, Bath and Edinburgh. A special welcome awaits us at the London Zoo, Howletts, Whipsnade, the Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, and the Chester Zoo and beautiful Botanical Gardens. We'll drop in on some famous country manors. There's also the intriguing option of flying to the Isle of Jersey for a

tour of Gerald Durrell's world-famous sanctuary for rare and endangered animals.

Galapagos & Quito, Ecuador July 2nd—13th

The Galapagos Islands straddling the Equator are one of the richest wildlife areas in the world. Here's your chance to frolic with a booby, become acquainted with an albatross and spend a night with an iguana. This promises to be an enchanting voyage, with something for everyone, the young, the old and the in-between.

Kenya, East Africa July 6th—22nd August 3rd—19th

Once is not enough for travelers who've been to Africa. Our Kenya safari last year was such a success, we're having an encore performance in July, and another trip in August. If you've already been on this trip, you'll know what to expect. If you haven't,

there's a real adventure in store for you. This time, we'll *fly* the longer distances between game parks so that we can save our energy for watching wildlife. The spectacular wildebeest migration alone will be worth the trip.

Australia July 29th—August 20th

There's a brave new world awaiting you Down Under. Discover the unique flora and fauna of this continent while we travel across it. We'll travel from the south coast, home of the fabled fairy penguins, through the famous Outback, to the great wildlife area of the north. We'll see the Ayres Rock and the world's most famous underwater area, the Great Barrier Reef.

On all our trips, we'll talk to experts in local wildlife. With slideshows and lectures, we'll make the most of our vacation, before, during and after. Are you thrilled with the mere thought of these wild holidays? Then get more information so that you can get ready. Call the office at 255-5551. Then join us for the trip of a lifetime.

Docent Doings

By Freda Houser

What is a volunteer? The dictionary defines volunteers as "those who enter into or offer themselves for any service of their own free will." The AAZPA Public Education Committee defines volunteers as "non-paid personnel who make a commitment to working for an institution on a regularly scheduled basis."

Commitment is the key word and commitment is what characterizes the docents at Metrozoo. They are committed to the Zoological Society and to the zoo itself, contributing their time and talents and becoming involved in various activities with energy and enthusiasm.

Every member of the Docent Council is valuable to the Society and to Metrozoo. However, we would like to single out and salute some docents who have taken the

extra step above and beyond what is required of them.

Susan Kurtz has been a docent for over two years. Currently, she is the versatile Secretary of the Docent Council. Susan can successfully turn her hand to anything that's required of a docent, whether it's conducting walking tours, narrating tram tours, doing outreach and inreach presentations, or cleaning and feeding small animals in the Lecture Animal Building. In addition to all this, she is also the assistant editor and artist of the docent newsletter, *Docent Doings*. At special events, Susan will be right in the thick of things, pitching in with suggestions and taking on whatever needs to be done, always with a smile. With all this, it's no wonder that last year Susan racked up a total of 142 tour credits and 623½ hour credits. We're happy to say that

her devotion beyond the call of duty did not go unnoticed. Susan was among those honored at the Dade County Volunteer Appreciation event during the Superstar contest at Crandon in January. We're really proud of Susan Kurtz, one of our superstar docents.

Francine Garner is a librarian by profession and a docent by choice. She combined her expertise with her interests and compiled a bibliography of suggested reading for docents. The bibliography was prominently mentioned in the October issue of *Library News for Zoos and Aquariums*. Since then, we've received numerous requests for copies of this annotated reading list. Not only is it being used in zoos and aquariums across the country, but it has also found its way as far off as Australia. Nice going, Fran!

Are you interested in joining Susan, Francine and others like them? Then call the Docent Council at 255-2214.

Dates To Remember!

A Big Draw

**Young Artists' Days
March 10th and 11th**

Art imitates life, they say, and young artists will have a chance to create art from wildlife during young artists' days. On Saturday, March 10th, young artists between the ages of 6 and 16 will create animal artwork inspired by Metrozoo's extensive animal collection. Any medium is acceptable, except oil paints. On Sunday, March 11th, the work will be displayed at the zoo and our judges will award the prizes. The entries will be returned to the artists so that they can submit them for the Dade County Youth Fair the following week. We just wanted to put you in the picture so you can sharpen your pencils and collect your crayons.



Eggstravaganza

Easter Festival • April 22nd

Join us Easter Sunday for a family event filled with fun for the kids. There'll be an Easter Parade led by the Easter Bunny, who loves to get his teeth into Easter eggs. If you do too, join our Easter Egg Hunt for children from 2 to 12. There'll be prizes for the fanciest Easter bonnet and for the Easter egg decorated with the best animal motif. That should egg you on to show up for the Easter Festival.

Jungle Jog A Runaway Success

By Laurie Ditmer, Special Events



For the second year running, Jungle Jog at the zoo was a runaway success. Runners showed up in hordes on January 15th, the day of the race. While most races recently have shown a decline in the number of participants, almost 1,400 people complete Jungle Jog -- 200 more than finished the race last year. Like the zoo itself, we hope the race will continue to get bigger and better.

The five-mile race attracted some serious runners from far-flung places. Dorys Langlios of Montreal was the overall men's winner with a time of 24:56. Jane Millspaugh of Boca Raton was the overall women's winner, with a time of 30:14. Other winners in the men's division in various age groups were: Nicholas Ginman (14 and under); Darius Khonsary (15-19); Paul Ski (20-24); Ron Stetina (25-29); Jeff Hlinka (30-34); Pat Chmiel (35-39); George Wetherbee (40-44); Bill Wagner (45-49); Jerry Utter (50-59); and Dan Biele (60 and over). Among the women, the winners were: Stacy Phillips (14 and under); Holly Kelly (15-19); Patty Page (20-24); Norma Suarez-Blackwood (25-29); Elizabeth Oberli-Schuh (30-34); Barbara Berk (35-39); Jenni Seid (40-49); and Joan Greco (50 and above). Victor Farran was the wheelchair winner for the second year in a row.

Those who weren't up to the five-miler but didn't want to miss out on the fun lined up for the one-mile Fun Run, receiving ribbons at the finish line.

Runners who appeared in costume weren't ostrich-sized either. In fact, Chuck Scnepel, dressed as an ostrich, ran away with the prize for best costume.

Although the winners were greeted by cheering crowds, we think some well-deserved applause should also go to the people who worked behind the scenes before, during and after the race. Without them, there would have been no Jungle Jog.

Our thanks to:

- The willing ZSF volunteers who were there from the crack of dawn to the very end, lending a hand with all that needed to be done.
- Metrozoo security staff, curators and zookeepers who chipped in with a smile.
- Cordis Corp. and the South Florida Veterinary Medical Association, who generously sponsored the event for the second year in a row. Representatives Chick McDowell and Bob Pane were right there in the thick of things, running with the best of them.
- The Miami Runners Club for helping us put our best foot forward.
- The Society's Zootography Club for preserving the event for posterity.
- Ron Scholer and Ronlo Construction for keeping the course on the level.
- Footworks for distributing the registration forms.
- Coral Reef Hospital for supplying towels to mop sweaty brows.
- Burger King and Pumpernicks for food to keep the runners' strength up and Coca-Cola for the cups they supplied.

• Special thanks to Star Fluke, Rachel Moore, Art and Steve Valla, John Marshall, Octavio Diaz, Susan Kurtz, Donna Lea Needham, Barbara Birmingham, Freda and George Houser, Helen Malina, Lew Adrian and Kurt Mannchen.

If we left out your name, it was due to lack of space, not lack of appreciation. Thanks to all of you, Jungle Jog was a real winner!





By Don Weiner

ZIP started the new year with a brand new roster of officers. Barbara Birmingham was elected president; Lew Adrian, coordinator; and Gerri Carr, Secretary/Treasurer. Our board members are Barbara Seymour, Carol Zipp, Wayne Wellman and myself.

The new officers hardly had a chance to catch their breaths before the holiday rush was upon us. In spite of the chilly weather, people poured into the zoo and ZIP volunteers were needed to help control the crowds. And indeed, ZIP didn't let us down. To all those who worked long hours on cold days, our warm thanks.

The ZIP security aide program is well under way. ZIP members, after approval and training by Metrozoo Security, will act as the "eyes and ears" for Metrozoo Security on the zoo grounds. If you want to sign up for the ZIP security aide program,

or to find out more about it, contact Lew Adrian.

Jungle Jog -- our largest event of the year -- was a great success. Laurie Ditmer, who handles special events for the Society, would like to thank all the ZIP people who helped with it. She says, "There is no way an event like this can happen without the help of so many volunteers. The ZIP force was certainly in evidence and made a showing that we can all be proud of."

One of our ZIP members, Roy Hawkins, was recently honored by the Dade County Park and Recreation Department on Volunteer Appreciation Day. The Parks Department singled out one representative from each volunteer group working with Dade County for this honor.

ZIP's handbook committee reports that our new manual should be in print sometime in March. The handbook will contain general information for ZIP members as well as specific instructions about the services that ZIP provides at the zoo. The handbook will be distributed to all current ZIP members. It should be especially helpful for new members, while giving old members a refresher course on what ZIP is all about.

RARE & WELL DONE

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buted \$18,500 towards the purchase of five orangutans from the Dierenpark Wassenaar Zoo in Holland. Pan Am recently flew one female, Coco, and her young offspring to their new home in Miami. In honor of the airline, the jet-setting young orang has been named Clipper, and, as you can see from the picture, he's going first class all the way. The five orangutans from Holland will join three others on loan from St. Louis Zoo to make up one of the largest groups of the endangered Sumatran oranges to be found in any zoo across the country.

We think you'll agree that Metrozoo's collection is both rare and well done. We hope it will grow by leaps and bounds.



Officers:

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

Caardvaark

One of the cardinal rules of the Society is that you carry your membership card with you whenever you come to the zoo. Volunteers at the gate are required to check the cards before they let members in. And, don't forget, the card is non-transferable. It allows free admission to the person whose name is on it, not to anyone else. If you've lost your card, you can get a new one for a

dollar from the membership office, which is open from 9-5, Monday thru Friday. If you don't have your card, you can't get into the zoo. So be sure to tuck your membership card in your pocket before heading out to the zoo.

And don't leave town without it. Your card entitles you to free admission at over 70 zoos, animal parks and aquariums across the country. But the card only works if you have it with you

Be a trump -- carry your card.



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