

# Great Apes

March 10th was a memorable day for Metrozoo--we had our first gorilla born here; the first, we hope, of many.

This pioneer baby, offspring of Jimmy & Josephine, was delivered after a gestation period of 242 days. When the newborn was discovered at 6:20 a.m. it was completely dry, which meant that it was born an hour or two before discovery. Both the mother & the child were in good shape.

In fact, Josephine acted like a natural mother from the beginning, cradling the baby close to her body, with one hand underneath. Because of this, zookeepers couldn't get a good look at the infant and were only able to tell it was a male two days after it was born.

The day of the birth, mother and child were reunited with Jimmy, the father, and J.J., the older son, for a few hours. During the next week, while the four of them were together during the day, at night Josephine and the newborn were separated from the other two for some needed rest and recuperation.

J.J. was very curious about his new brother and would constantly touch him. But whenever J.J. got too rough in his exploratory behavior, Josephine would cuff him on the head.

The baby has been named Moja, a Swahili word referring to the number "one".

The glorious birth of our first gorilla at Metrozoo makes it a little easier for us to bid farewell to two of our best-known inhabitants, Ramar and Hope. They were here on breeding loan from the North Carolina Zoological Park in Asheboro, and are now going back.

Although there's no confirmation that Hope is pregnant, several staff members have seen Ramar and Hope mating and are quite hopeful. Whether or not Hope is pregnant, Ramar is a success story all by himself. He was trained as part of a Las Vegas act and became "imprinted" on humans. Metrozoo's greatest accomplishment has been his adjustment to other gorillas. He is now acting like a true gorilla.

Although we will certainly miss Ramar and Hope, we're optimistic about the future of Metrozoo's gorilla family and the population growth of captive lowland gorillas.

*The gorillas at Metrozoo are sponsored by Coral Reef Hospital.*



## A Gift Of Love



With Mother's Day (May 13th) and Father's Day (June 17th) around the corner, show your parents you love them with a special gift. Call the Adopt-An-Animal program at 255-5551.

## Thank You

*From time to time we would like to recognize our corporate sponsors in these pages. Their generosity and vision are helping us to meet our goal of building a world-class zoo right here in Miami.*

**Ryder System, Inc.** is a staunch supporter of the Zoological Society of Florida, and through it, of Metrozoo. One of our largest single sponsors to date, Ryder has donated \$25,000 to the zoo and sponsors the endangered Bengal tigers, Nikolai and Natasha.



Lorraine Charney, vice president for corporate programs at Ryder, stated: "We are proud of our association with the Zoological Society and enthusiastic about the success of Metrozoo. It's a

wonderful community resource in an area which is experiencing tremendous growth and prosperity.

The zoo definitely improves the quality of life in our area. It is a valuable asset and we at Ryder System are pleased to be a part of it."

*In March, the Zoological Society kicked off a fundraising campaign for 1984. Thanks to our corporate sponsors and dynamic board members, we have already raised \$100,000! We are optimistic that this will be a banner year for the zoo and for all of us at the Zoological Society who support it.*

# A Tall Story

Most zoo visitors consider the giraffe one of the outstanding exhibits at the zoo. And no wonder! Giraffes are truly unique. The lovely coat pattern on each giraffe is as unique and individual as a human's fingerprints.

There is only one kind of giraffe, but giraffes are divided into nine subspecies, each representing a different geographical area of Africa, with a different coat pattern.

The word "giraffe" comes from the Arabic word *Zarafah*, meaning the "one who walks swiftly." Of course, the main reason for the giraffe's fifteen-foot stride is the incredible length of its legs. On top of that, it has the added length of its neck, around six and a half feet. Small wonder, then, that giraffes are the tallest of living land mammals—the male reaches a height of 17 feet, while the female is slightly shorter at 16 feet.

In addition to its remarkable height, the giraffe has several other unusual physical features. Even though its neck is extremely long, the giraffe needs to spread its legs wide apart to lean down for a drink of water—each drink consists of about 10 gallons of water.

To lift the 550 pounds of head and neck, a giraffe has powerful muscles in the shoulders. Everything about a giraffe is on a larger-than-life scale. Its basketball-sized heart pumps 20 gallons of blood per minute and the

six-foot tail whisks off flies from most parts of the body.

Speaking of the body, the giraffe has a four-chambered stomach and can eat up to 75 pounds of food a day. Its diet consists mainly of leaves. That's why giraffes are usually found in savannahs and tree-dotted plains. They travel in loose herds, numbering between two and 50, depending on the availability of food.

In the wild, giraffes mate between July and September. After a gestation period of 420-450 days, a single offspring is born. It's a bouncing baby, typically weighing 150 pounds at birth and standing six feet tall. In the first week alone, a baby giraffe grows an inch taller per day, and by the end of the first year will be close to 10 feet tall.

You have the rare opportunity to see two baby giraffes right here in Miami. Metrozoo exhibits the reticulated giraffes, which come from northern Kenya. Until mid-February, we had four adult females, two of whom were pregnant. Now there are two new additions to Metrozoo's giraffe collection—Kita and Brennan. Kita is a female and was born on February 25th, while Brennan, a male, was born March 3rd.

Come out to the African Plains Exhibit at Metrozoo and see Kita and Brennan. You'll find them a cut above other zoo babies.



Pix by Christopher B. Maher

The giraffes at Metrozoo are sponsored by Southeastern Public Service Co./Victor Posner.

# Education Outlook

By Ileen Seidler,  
Education Coordinator



Are you in a flap about summer activities for your children? Send them where they belong...to the zoo. They'll discover that in the zoo's beautiful surroundings, learning can be fun. While special programs teach them to understand animal behavior, the antics of the animals will make them 'owl with laughter. So fly by our office, or mail in your registration. Summer at the zoo is bound to be a real hoot.

## Summer Lineup

### **Zoo Searchers**

Rose Krubsack will lead an exciting journey of exploration into prehistory. Learn about animals who roamed the earth long before there were people around to study them. Each week you'll examine a new topic, ranging from fossils to insects to birds. Animal parts will be analyzed under a microscope. All materials are provided and participants will receive a T-shirt. 2 sessions.

4 consecutive Saturdays • June 16—July 7  
July 14 thru August 4 • 9 a.m. to Noon  
Grades 5 & 6  
\$45—Members • \$55—Nonmembers

### **Breakfast With The Beasts**

A chance for the whole family to learn about the fascinating food habits of various animals at the zoo. Eat breakfast at the zoo before it opens, and then watch the animals eating their breakfast at Sulawesi. Did you know, for instance, that the aardvaark loves to slurp up a wheatgerm and honey milkshake? In fact, he makes a real "earthpig" of himself.

Sunday, June 17th, July 22nd & August 12th  
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. • Families — Adults  
\$8—Members • \$10—Nonmembers

### **Jungle Juniors**

An exciting way for you to get acquainted with the zoo and its inhabitants. Children

will enjoy learning about animals and identifying them for clues. Reel animals will join real ones as you watch a "creature feature". Mid-morning snack and T-shirt provided. On Friday, enjoy lunch with the zookeepers.

2 sessions • June 18 thru 22nd • July 30 thru Aug. 3 • 8 a.m. to Noon • Grades 1 — 3  
\$55—Members • \$65—Nonmembers

### **Art Camp II**

The earliest cave drawings were of animals. You, too, can discover the magical world of animals in art. Observe the characteristics of various animals and find out how you can distinguish them from each other. All art materials provided.

2 sessions • June 18 thru 22nd • July 23 thru July 27 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Grades K—2  
\$45—Members • \$55—Nonmembers

### **Zoo Camp**

One of the nation's finest zoos is right here at our doorstep. Take advantage of a unique opportunity to explore the exciting world of animals, learn about animal behavior and how animals adapt to their changing environment. Each day's program will focus on a different topic, including marine mammals, reptiles, birds and much, much more. Bring a brown-bag lunch with you. A T-shirt, mid-morning snack and Friday lunch with zookeepers will be provided.

2 sessions • June 25 thru June 29 • July 16 thru July 20 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Grades 3-6  
\$75—Members • \$85—Nonmembers

### **Art Camp I**

The world of Nature and the world of Art come together in a program about animal art. It's a creative way for children to learn about animals and helps develop their imagination and observation. T-shirt and all art materials provided.

July 2 (no class July 4) thru July 6  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Preschool  
\$35—Members • \$45—Nonmembers

### **Kinder Kamp**

An active program involving child participation. You will learn about animals, how they look, how they move and what sounds they make. Each day, you'll learn about something different, including reptiles, birds and mammals. You'll make a lot of special animal friends at the zoo during this exciting camp.

2 sessions • July 9 thru July 13 • Aug. 13 thru Aug. 17 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Preschool • 3 to 5 years old  
\$40—Members • \$50—Nonmembers

### **The Investigators**

You'll discover fascinating facts as an investigator of the animal world. Through various clues, you will be able to identify various plants and animals, observe animal behavior and learn about animal breeding. This is a program you won't want to miss. T-shirt and all materials provided.

2 sessions • July 23 thru 27 • Aug. 13 thru 17  
9 a.m. to Noon • Grades 7 to 9  
\$55—Members • \$65—Nonmembers

### **Summer Safari**

You can go on safari without flying out to Africa. There's a wonderful world of wildlife right here in Miami and the Society's summer safari offers you a unique opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at some of the zoo's outstanding exhibits. You can use all the resources available in the Education Department to make what you've studied in books come alive for you. T-shirt and all materials provided. There'll be a zoo-inn on Friday, and dinner with the zookeepers.

August 6 thru August 11 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Grades 8 to 12  
\$75—Members • \$85—Nonmembers

### **Gifted Goings-On**

All children are talented but only some are gifted. The Zoological Society is pleased to present a special program just for gifted children. On "Spaceship Earth" you'll learn about the relationships between animals and everyone and everything aboard the planet. The requirement to register is a score in the top 10% of a recognized IQ or achievement test. Midmorning snack and T-shirt provided. The class will be taught by Dave Cole, certified teacher of gifted children.

August 6 thru August 10 • 9 a.m. to Noon  
Gifted, ages 4, 5 & 6  
\$45—Members • \$55—Nonmembers

### **Shutter Bugs**

A class which focuses on animal photography for beginners. Just bring a 35mm SLR camera and learn from professional photographer Dan Wilson how to shoot animals in the kindest way possible.

4 consecutive Thursdays • July 5 thru July 26 • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. • High school thru Adults • \$35—Members • \$40—Nonmembers

### **Snap Judgements**

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

4 consecutive Thursdays • Aug. 2—Aug. 23  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. • High school thru Adults  
\$35—Members • \$40—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 Tid-Bits

## Travel Program



If you think these pictures of Toucan Travel's safari to Africa last year look exciting, then you'll be thrilled about our plans for this summer. We'll be visiting three of the richest wildlife habitats in the world.

Have you always wanted to sail to the Galapagos? To go for a balloon ride over the Serengeti Plain? To take a train ride across Australia? Then choose one of our intriguing trips and do it this summer.

*SPACE IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. SO YOU MUST ACT AT ONCE. CONTACT AILEEN LOTZ, TRAVEL COORDINATOR, AT 661-9500 IMMEDIATELY FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS FOR THE EXCURSIONS DESCRIBED.*



### Galapagos.

Ron Magill, assistant curator of reptiles at Metrozoo, will lead the Galapagos trip. He has prepared some excellent briefings on the unique flora and fauna of Darwin's "enchanted isles" to help you get the most out of your trip. Accommodations aboard the Santa Cruz are very comfortable and you'll visit the best of the islands' wildlife. If you like, you may even snorkel with the seals.

### Africa.

The highlight of our July flying safari to Kenya will be a balloon ride high over the wildebeest and zebra migration at the northern end of the Serengeti Plain. On this trip, we will also visit several of the lakes

famous for flamingos and other exotic birdlife.

Rick Barongi, Metrozoo curator of mammals and one of the leaders on last year's safari, will lead this year's August trip.

Both safaris include a stay at an unusual private tented camp, with an opportunity for night game runs.

### Australia.

For many people, Australia represents the ultimate in travel fantasies. Our excellent itinerary captures the best that Australia has to offer, and includes train and plane rides over the vast distances of this diverse continent. Several options for additional travel are available on this trip. However, air space is extremely limited, so don't wait another instant if you want to join fellow Zoological Society members on this great trip.

**Next Year:** If you have a dreamed-about destination you'd like included on the travel program next year, call Aileen Lotz at 661-9500 or 255-5551 and let her know. Who knows? Next year you could be there.

## Travel Calendar

Galapagos Islands and  
 Quito, Ecuador . . . . . July 2-13  
 Kenya, East Africa . . . . . July 6-22  
 (flying safari)  
 August 3-19  
 Australia . . . . . July 29-Aug. 20

## Zookeeper For A Day

Most zookeepers are members of A.A.Z.K., the American Association of Zookeepers, which prides itself in promoting professional animal care. In the fall of 1985, the national A.A.Z.K. conference will be held in Miami. Hundreds of zookeepers from all over the U.S. will come here to share their wealth of knowledge. To help raise money for this conference, A.A.Z.K. is having a "Zookeeper for a Day" raffle.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each. For your ticket, return this registration form with a \$1.00 per try and a self-addressed envelope for tickets to be mailed to you. Or, you can buy them on weekends at a booth set up near the entrance to the zoo. Raffle tickets will be sold during May and June. The winning name will be drawn on July 4. The winner will be allowed to pick any Saturday in July to experience Metrozoo the way zookeepers do—behind the scenes.

You must be 15 years or older to win. Those under 15 can participate

if a parent agrees to accompany the winner on that special day. The winner will be required to sign a Dade County release form and to adhere to Metrozoo safety regulations.

If you've always wanted to be a zookeeper, here is your chance to make your dreams come true. Buy your raffle ticket today. If you're the winner, you'll spend a thrilling and informative day discovering what exactly zookeepers do. And, by contributing to the A.A.Z.K. conference, you'll be helping them to get even better at what they do.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of Tickets at \$1 Each \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: A.A.Z.K. Chapter, Metrozoo  
 12400 S.W. 152 St., Miami, FL 33177

March 7, 1984  
 F.S. Tucker Elem.  
 3500 Douglas Rd.  
 Miami, Florida 33133

Docent Council  
 Zoological Society of Florida  
 12400 S.W. 152 St.  
 Miami, Florida 33179

DEAR Ladies,

You where very nice To F.S. Tucker. If it wasn't for you we would never had gotten that close to a snake. That we could touch! It was very good. I've learned more about animals than just going To The zoo. Thank you for bringing The animals.

Sincerely,  
 Miguel Peruyero

# A Colorful Success



Young Artist's Day at the Zoo, an annual tradition carried over from the old Crandon Park Zoo, continues to grow...This year it was bigger and better than ever, thanks to **Godfather's Pizza**, 3,282 visitors and over 200 participants.

The spotlight was on the young artists, who had from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. to complete their masterpieces inspired by the animals at Metrozoo. When they were finished, the artists rushed over to the exhibit area like a herd of migrating wildebeest.

The paintings, like the animals themselves, were rare and beautiful. Our judges had their work cut out for them, but they were equal to the task. A special "thank you" to educator, Jack Tendrich, Metrozoo director Bob Yokel and Charlie

Folds, public relations director for WSVN - Channel 7. Mr. Folds, better known to the children as "Toby the Robot", delighted them by distributing hats and autographs.

And hats off to all our winners who claimed their prizes during the awards ceremony in the amphitheatre.



All the prize-winning entries were proudly displayed at the Dade County Youth Fair and were later moved to the Godfather's Pizza restaurant across from the Falls.

Although only some of the drawings won, we feel that each and every participant was a winner. Thanks to Godfather's Pizza, all who participated, all who helped and all who attended, the community spirit on Young Artist's Day was itself a work of art.

Category	Winners
Ages 6 & Under	1st ..... Danny Cole
	2nd .... Brian Cummins
	3rd ..... Jessica Willis
	4th ..... Lauren Schwartz
Ages 7 - 9	1st ..... Sarah Adams
	2nd .. Christina Gonzalez
	3rd ..... Allison Bloom
	4th ..... Sara Wooley
Ages 10 - 12	1st ..... Kenny Oppriecht
	2nd .... Richard Etienne
	3rd .. Sandra Ching-Sang
	4th ..... Misty Passmore
Ages 13 - 16	1st ..... Shelby Barfield
	2nd ..... Kim Baldrige
	3rd ..... Bill Fitzgibbon
	4th ..... Jeff Underwood

*Pix by Arnold Pakula*

## Zoo & Aquarium Month Proclaimed For June

President of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Charles L. Bieler, officially proclaimed June, 1984 as Zoo and Aquarium Month.

More people go to our zoos and aquariums than to all the professional football and baseball games combined, Bieler said. By encouraging more and more zoogoers to see firsthand and so appreciate animals, Zoo and Aquarium Month can significantly save endangered wildlife", according to Bieler.



## Gorilla gorilla gorilla

The lowland gorilla is the largest living primate in the animal kingdom. Adult males weigh over 400 pounds. Sometimes, gorillas in zoos can weigh more than 700 pounds, but this is because they eat too much and don't get enough exercise. Females are usually half the size of males.

Gorillas are social animals, banding together in troops of 5 to 30. The troop is led by a dominant member, usually the largest male. He decides on travel routes, selects resting areas and defends the troop against danger.

Gorillas occupy large home ranges, stretching from 5 to 30 square miles. The boundaries of one troop's territory may overlap with another's, but the central area is the exclusive domain of that troop. Where neighboring groups overlap, they either ignore each other, or intermingle for a brief period.

Although they are the least arboreal of the great apes, gorillas are perfectly capable of climbing trees.

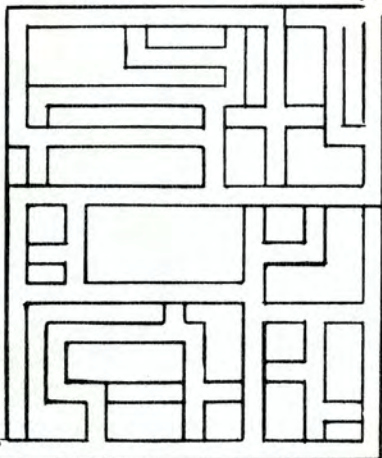
Females and juveniles usually sleep in crudely made nests more than twenty feet above the ground. The larger males usually sleep on the ground, but can be enticed aloft by tasty fruits or plants.

Adult males become sexually mature at about seven years old, but do not develop the silver-grey hair on their backs until 12-14 years old. Females do not develop the "silver-back".

Charging through the bush, making roar-like barks and chest beating are common displays used by most gorillas, but especially the silverbacks. Confrontations between large males begin with yawning and staring. This is usually followed by barking or roaring and chest drumming. Chest beating is a behavior unique to the gorilla. They all do it, for different reasons. When not used in a threatening display, chest beating helps to relieve tension, to communicate with others, or as a prelude to other actions.

# Kidding Around

Baby opossums ride on their mothers' backs. Can you help the little fellow who is just "hanging around" find his mother?



## Can You Unscramble The Animals' Name?

**BOBING** - Arm over arm I swing through the trees.

**ORGOANKA** - I can hop while Joey rides.

**MONGLAIF** - My rosy pink feathers and long legs are very distinctive.

**PANTHEEL** - My trunk is really an elongation of my nose.

**DROCCIOLE** - I'm a large reptile. When my young ones hatch, I collect them in my mouth.

**RABEZ** - I'm often described as a white horse with black stripes.

**SOTTOIRE** - I might live to be over 100 years old, but I never change my shell.

**DAXAD** - I'm an antelope and I live most of my life without drinking. I get moisture from the plants I eat.

**LEZAGEL** - Light on my feet and graceful. I am very speedy.

**CHORTIS** - I'm 8 feet tall. I can't fly, but I sure can run.

**Answers:** Gibbon, Kangaroo, Flamingo, Elephant, Crocodile, Zebra, Tortoise, Addax, Gazelle, Ostrich.

Editor: Mamta Chaudhry-Fryer

Design: Janice McDougall

Published for its Members by the Zoological Society of Florida

# Metrozoo Entertainment Guide

## Showtimes

### Flying Free Bird Show

**Location:** Amphitheater

**Length of Show:** 20 minutes

**Times:** Weekdays 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:30  
Weekends & Holidays  
11:00 / 1:00 / 3:00 / 4:30

### Elephant Show:

**Location:** Elephant ring, across from Sulawesi

**Length of Show:** 15 minutes

**Times:** Weekdays 1:00 / 3:30  
Weekends & Holidays  
11:30 / 1:00 / 3:30



### Sulawesi Zookeeper Presentations

**Location:** Sulawesi, our Malayan Village

**Length of Show:** 15 minutes

**Times:** 12:00 / 2:30 / 4:00

**Camel Rides** ..... \$1.50

**Elephant Rides** ..... \$1.50

**Location:** Sulawesi, our Malayan Village

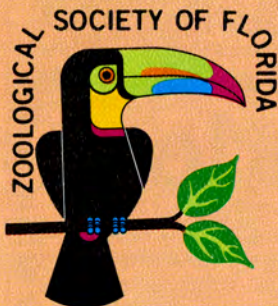
### Puppet Shows

**Location:** At Zebrazaar

**Times:** 11:30 / 2:15



Something exciting is always happening in or around the Sulawesi Village at Metrozoo.



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