

TOUCAN TALK



SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER / VOL. 11, NO. 5



A DREAM COMES TRUE

Animals get sick, too, just like us. Their medical problems can include cataracts, tumors, broken bones, respiratory ailments and bacterial infections, along with a variety of exotic animal diseases. What happens when an elephant catches a cold? When a hippo has a hernia? When a gorilla breaks a leg?

So far, Metrozoo's veterinary staff has had to work with the animals out on the paddocks or in makeshift quarters. Now the vets can look forward to a state-of-the-art animal hospital, expected to be ready in about seven months.

The animal clinic has been many years in the making. It was in the masterplan for Metrozoo, but the money from the "Decade of Progress" bond referendum ran out before the zoo was completed. The Zoological Society made a commitment to raise the needed funds and build the clinic. Four fundraising years and \$750,000 later, the Christopher A. Weeks Memorial Animal Clinic is on its way.

The project owes a lot to the Austin Weeks family, who made a major contribution to kick off the campaign for the clinic. Austin Weeks, father of Christopher, said, "This is the best way for any person in our community to help build a legacy for generations to come. This vital project is something that all of us can be proud of as Metrozoo gains prominence as the finest zoo in the world."

The Christopher Weeks Animal Clinic is certainly one of the finest of its kind. The 6,000 square foot facility for the treatment and study of exotic animals was designed by architect Christ A. Fergus and is being built by Cohen and Yaeger. It will be off the exhibit area, near the quarantine building.

Although the public will not be able to see the Christopher Weeks Animal Clinic, by the very fact of its existence, Metrozoo will be put in the forefront of the world's zoos. That has been our dream for a long time. Thanks to Austin Weeks, and his daughter Leslie, the dream is coming true.



L to R: Merrett Steirhelm, County Manager; Ron Esserman, Past-President ZSF; Lester Goldstein, President ZSF; Michael Galla, Florida National Bank; Bob Yokel, Zoo Director; and Austin Weeks, major contributor.

Thank You

Arvida Southern has long supported Metrozoo through contributions to the Zoological Society of Florida. Arvida is not only a major financial donor but has also given valuable equipment to the Zoological Society.

One such gift was a large electric cart, which allows us to give V.I.P. tours of the zoo. These tours often result in additional support for our spectacular zoo. Arvida also donated a micro computer system recently to help us maintain volunteer records and animal fact sheets.



Sanford Miot, President
Arvida Southern

Mr. Sanford Miot, president of Arvida Southern, believes "The Zoological Society of Florida is a major driving force behind Metrozoo. One of the few South Florida attractions to be nationally recognized, Metrozoo, with the support of the Zoological Society, will one day become world renowned."

Thank you, Sandy Miot and Arvida Southern, for helping us in our pursuit of that goal.

Your Turn

We hope you've enjoyed hearing from us in the newsletter. Well, we'd like to hear from you, too. Just drop us a line and tell us what you like most about *Toucan Talk*, and what you like least. Are there any topics you'd like to see covered? Any animals you'd like to read more about? All comments, complaints and compliments welcome. We'll respond to them in future issues.

Executive Director: Joseph E. Ferrer
Editor: Mamta Chaudhry-Fryer
Design: Janice McDougall

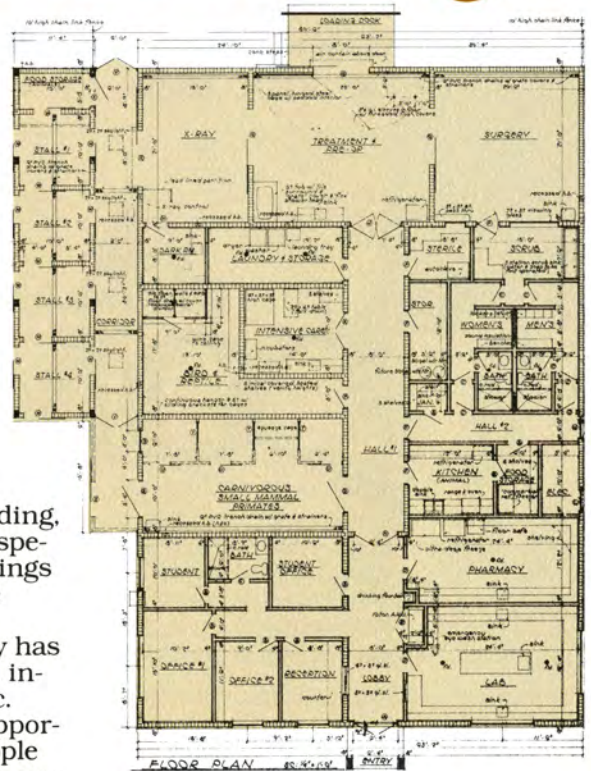
Director's Message

This has been a banner year for the Zoological Society of Florida. Our largest undertaking ever, the Christopher Weeks Animal Clinic, is in the works. It's a promise that we made to the zoo and the community, and we are proud to be fulfilling that promise.

As you can see by the floor plans, it's a unique facility. In addition to providing preventive and routine health care for Metrozoo's animals, the clinic will make it possible to conduct important studies related to breeding, genetics, and endangered species, and to share the findings with other zoos across the country.

The Austin Weeks family has been the leading light and inspiration behind the clinic. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who contributed so much to our efforts, Duane Little and Jim Retsky (*Babcock Company*); Sandy Miot (*Arvida Southern*); John Little (*Matrix Construction*); Bob Yokel, director of Metrozoo, and his staff -- Al Fontana, Bill Zeigler and Dr. Citino; and the Board members and development committees that helped raise the additional funding for the clinic.

This year, we proposed our first million dollar budget and it was approved. However, we can meet this goal only through your continued



membership and involvement. With that, we can continue to make significant and valuable contributions to the zoo. The animal clinic is only the first of many dreams the Zoological Society has for Metrozoo.

Joseph E. Ferrer
Executive Director



Animal Clinic Building Committee. L to R: Duane Little, Babcock Company; Sandy Miot, Arvida Southern; "Machito", African elephant; Alan McClure, animal zoo-keeper; Bob Paul, Paul, Landy, Beiley & Harper; John Little, Matrix Construction and Jim Retsky, Babcock Co.



EDUCATION OUTLOOK

by Diane Ledder, Education Supervisor

Classes For Children

Metro-Zoo Inn

Experience the sights and sounds of the zoo after dark. Spend the evening with zookeepers, who will show you the zoo as you've never seen it before. Bring your sleeping bag and a toothbrush; we'll supply dinner and a great adventure.

October 11 • Grades 4-6
5 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday
\$17.50-Members / \$20-Nonmembers



A.I.R. Scouting Program

Both girl scout and boy scout troops can spend a Saturday learning about Metrozoo's animal collection and the zoo's role in wildlife conservation. The new program will include a classroom presentation, behind-the-scenes tour, and live animal presentation. Scouts will receive the Metrozoo A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest, and Respect) patch upon completion of the program. Several scouting zoo-inns are offered in conjunction with the Saturday program. Scout leaders can familiarize themselves with the program by visiting their council headquarters. Reservations for the program will be taken by the Education Department at 255-5551.

September 21 through May 24, 1986
Saturdays • 9 a.m. to noon
\$5 per scout

Classes For Families

Breakfast With The Beasts

Take advantage of this opportunity to enter the zoo in the early morning hours. Join us for a continental breakfast, followed by a lesson in zoo nutrition. Learn how and what our animals are fed, and meet some of Metrozoo's most personable residents up close.

Sundays, September 22, October 20
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
\$8-Members / \$10-Nonmembers



Classes For Adults

Supper Safari

For adults who would like to experience the zoo at night, but don't care to camp out, we are offering a new program: dinner with wine, followed by a presentation by a member of Metrozoo's curatorial staff, and a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the zoo.

Saturday, October 26
6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
\$15-Members / \$17-Nonmembers

F.I.U. at Metrozoo

Our ever-popular class for teachers will return again this fall. Open to both graduate and undergraduate students, this comprehensive workshop introduces teachers to Metrozoo and assists them in developing interdisciplinary materials to be used in the classroom and at the zoo. "In-Field Credit" is awarded in four disciplines for recertification. Registration is through F.I.U. only. For details, call the Education Department at 255-5551.

Thursdays, September 5-December 19
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
\$30-Members / \$35-Nonmembers



Night Owls

Unwind after a busy week with an overnight adventure at the zoo. An all new program is taught by our zookeepers and includes great food and wine, plus a presentation by the veterinary staff.

September 20, October 18
6 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday
\$17.50-Members / \$20-Nonmembers

Thank You, Porschtek



The Education Department would like to thank Porschtek of Miami for their generous contribution of \$1,000 to underwrite the cost of our summer camp t-shirts. The "zebra" shirts have been a tremendous success. They have been distributed far and wide to: Papua, New Guinea; Kanshasa, Zaire; and Nairobi, Kenya; courtesy of our traveling zoo staff. Thanks again, Porschtek!

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 _____
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, Florida 33177

TOUCAN TIDBITS

Magic At Metrozoo



Help us start a tradition this Halloween, and join us in providing a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. On October 31st, we present an evening of Magic at Metrozoo, featuring Robert Hermens and Edwin the Magician, along with David the Juggler.

The show will begin at 7 p.m. in the amphitheatre and tickets (priced at \$2 for adults, \$1 for children) will be sold at the entrance to

the amphitheatre from 6:15 p.m. Society members are entitled to free admission with their membership cards. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

A bag of goodies will be given to all children as they leave the zoo after the performance.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults, however, can come without a child. We'll see you there!



Cindy Zeigler, Director of Development

We're delighted to welcome Cindy Zeigler on board as the new Director of Development for the Zoological Society. Cindy will work with the Executive Director to develop strategy for the Society's annual fundraising campaign.

Fundraising and corporate development are integral to the Society's role in supporting Metrozoo, and Cindy is exceptionally well qualified to handle both. For the past eight years she has handled similar responsibilities as the Assistant Director of the Florida office of CARE, a non-profit organization funded by community, foundation and corporate donations.

If Cindy Zeigler's face looks familiar to you, it's probably because she has been a volunteer at the Zoological Society for the last four years.

We hope she'll be with us in her new position for many more.

Calendar Of Events

Date to be Announced
Christopher A. Weeks Memorial
Animal Clinic-donor appreciation

October 5th
Koala Ball at
Miami International Mall (8 p.m.)

October 9th - 27th
Exhibition of works by the
winners of the Metrozoo Photo
Contest at the Biltmore
in Coral Gables

October 31st
"Magic at Metrozoo" in the
amphitheatre (7 p.m.)

November 27th
Board of Trustees meeting

November 28 - December 1
Frace art exhibit

December/January
Annual Members' Night
(to coincide with the opening of
the new African exhibit)

New Course • January 12th
Fourth Annual Jungle Jog

March 30th
Easter Egg Hunt

May 11th
Mother's Day Adopt-An-Animal
breakfast



You are invited to a gala evening to benefit the Zoological Society of Florida. The event will be hosted by Joseph E. Brooks, Chairman of Lord & Taylor, and his wife, Alice K. Brooks, at Miami International Mall on Saturday, October 5th, beginning at 8 p.m.

The black-tie ball will include cocktails, dinner, dancing, fashion show and special gifts for each guest. Tickets are \$200 each and are tax-deductible. The evening's proceeds, will support the Zoologi-

Koala Ball

cal Society's koala project. The money will be combined with the generous grant from the Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim Foundation to construct the koala exhibit at Metrozoo.

If you are interested in being a part of this elegant evening at Lord & Taylor, please send your check to us, made out to the Zoological Society of Florida. For more information, contact Pat Superfine at 255-5551.



**Early Offering
To Members**



Regal Bengal

Charles Frace's name is well-known to all wild-life lovers. He captures animals on canvas, combining art and nature in his work. His annual visit to Metrozoo is a popular tradition and we are pleased to announce that he will be back here with an exhibition of his artwork from November 28th through December 1st.

Each year, Mr. Frace presents a magnificent painting, done exclusively for the Zoological Society of Florida. This year, it's the breathtaking Bengal tiger pictured above.

If you would like to reserve a signed, numbered (100) limited-edition lithograph (22" x 32") of the painting, fill in the form below and send a check for \$135, made out to the Zoological Society of Florida. The number of your lithograph will reflect the order in which your check was received.

Be sure to mark your calendar and make it a point to visit the zoo this Thanksgiving weekend. You'll be thankful you did when you see Charles Frace's wildlife paintings.

Please reserve _____ copies
of "**Regal Bengal**" for me.

VISA MasterCard

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Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Check enclosed (Payable to the Zoological Society of Florida).

Mail To: **Special Events, Zoological Society of Florida**
12400 S.W. 152nd Street • Miami, Florida 33177

The Zookeepers

There are many different jobs within a zoo, but none as important for the welfare of the animals as the zookeeper's. The keepers are responsible for the day-to-day feeding, cleaning and comfort of the animals. They know the animals in their care better than anyone, and are therefore the people most qualified to interpret their physical and behavioral condition.

The zookeeper's work is both physical and technical: it requires hours of physically demanding labor combined with keen observational skills and a seemingly innate understanding of animal behavior.

Metrozoo's keepers are a particularly talented and devoted group of professionals. Many keepers have college degrees, and some have graduate degrees as well. All have extensive experience working with animals. Many keepers are articulate teachers as well. They instruct our overnight "Zoo-Inn" programs, and participate in "Breakfast with the Beasts" and F.I.U. classes. In addition, they are often spokespersons for the zoo through local television shows and news articles.

Keepers strengthen their skills and communicate with others in their field through a national organization; the A.A.Z.K. (American Association of Zookeepers). AAZK publishes a monthly journal, the "Animal Keepers Forum", and also sponsors an annual meeting. The National Conference this year will be hosted by the South Florida chapter of A.A.Z.K. from October 19th through the 25th. The confer-

ence will be held at the Coconut Grove Hotel and will include papers on animal husbandry and management.

The credit for coordinating a conference of this magnitude again goes to our keepers. The time devoted to conference planning is above and beyond that required for their jobs.

We are extremely fortunate in having a dynamic and dedicated keeper staff here at the zoo. Their energy and devotion to the animals help to make Metrozoo the world class zoo that it is.



Keepers assist with newborn impala.



Zookeeper Rachel Rogers on nursery duty with baby orangutan "Talu".



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