The Newsletter of the Zoological Society of Florida, a non-profit organization supporting Metrozoo

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#### MAY-JUNE / VOL. 13, NO. 3

# ZOO BABIES

S pring is here, flowers are blooming, the grass is growing again, and animals at Metrozoo are having babies. Although babies are born (or hatched) here all year long, for birds and mammals, the greatest numbers appear between March and June. Most of the reptile hatching activity occurs during the months of August and September.

In the mammal department, perhaps the most significant birth is that of our new black rhino. Born on March 11, weighing 82 pounds, Makuu, a Swahili name meaning "having good qualities", is the first black rhino to be born at Metrozoo. Makuu is especially important because the black rhino is part of the SSP program.

The bird department is very excited about the hatching of three yellow billed storks. This represents the first hatching of these animals in the United States. The young hatched on March 15th and can already be seen and heard in the nest. These birds can be found in the large gumbo tree above the observation platform in the aviary. Herring and smelt are provided down in the flamingo pond for the parents. Both parents carry the food back up to the nestlings.

Other first hatchings for Metrozoo include the white breasted waterhens and long tail parakeets in the aviary. In addition, an Andean condor egg was discovered in their nest on April 1st, and it is hoped that these highly endangered birds will be producing young once again.

The birth rate at Metrozoo has increased every year since the zoo opened. This is due in part to the increased number of species exhibited, and also, and perhaps to a greater extent, to the better selection of animals for breeding purposes, and to the quality of pre- and post-natal care given by our keepers and veterinary staff. Managing the animals population at Metrozoo is a sophisticated process, and breeding animals is not left to chance. Care must be taken to avoid inbreeding. Our behind the scenes quarantine area gives us even more room for breeding colonies of reptiles, birds, and mammals. In fact, many animals are born at the zoo that are never placed on public exhibit. Bald eagles, Andean condors, Ôrinoco crocodiles, kudu, and Grant's zebra are a few of the animals that remain in off-exhibit areas. In addition, because of space limitations of the exhibits, it is estimated that 80% of the mammals born at the zoo are sold or traded before they are one year old. This is done to avoid undue stress to the animals, as they are

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better able to handle the strains placed on them during shipping while they are young. Also, in many species,

males will not tolerate other males once they reach reproductive age, so any male babies born are generally traded. *Continued on Page 2* 

Keeper Trish Haney feeds a pygmy goat.



A Siamese crocodile takes his first look at the world.

# "S.S.P.Animals"



Black rhinos are part of the SSP, or Species Survival Plan. The Plan represents a cooperative effort among zoos to manage endangered species. In this way, the population of a species available for breeding is composed of the entire population of all participating zoos rather than only the animals at one zoo. Metrozoo is participating in the SSP for a number of species, including the Indian rhino, orangutan, gorilla, and tapirs, to name just a few. Future issues of "Toucan Talk" will highlight these animals.

# **ZOO BABIES**

#### (Continued from Page 1)

Some animals that breed well at Metrozoo are considered to be extinct in the wild. The Siamese crocodiles, for example, have no habitat left in their native land. In 1979, Metrozoo received the Bean award (comparable to the motion picture "Oscar"), for the first hatching of these reptiles in the Western hemisphere. The entire crocodile breeding program was honored

entire crocodile breeding program was honored once again in 1984. Slender horned gazelles are another animal that are no longer found in the wild. In March alone, three of these gazelle babies were born, including a set of twins.

1986 should be a banner year for births at Metrozoo. Come out the grounds and take notice of all the new young faces.

Keeper Debbie Hodges bottle feeds a hungry Thompson's gazelle.



Through the generosity of Mayor's Jeweler's, thousands of Metrozoo visitors were afforded a closer look at Sweeney, a 9 lb. female koala on loan from the San Diego Zoo. In order to display one of San Diego's animals, Metrozoo had to meet very specific housing requirements. Sweeney's climate controlled, glass enclosed exhibit trailer was custom-built, thanks to a major contribution from Mayor's. In the future, the trailer will be available to display Metrozoo newborns that require special care. In addition, the trailer can be used to display animals at special events off Metrozoo grounds. Samuel Getz, the Vice President of Mayor's Jewelers and a member of our Board of Trustees, had the honor of cutting the ribbon at Sweeney's debut.



Check presentation in support of Koala Project (L to R) Hank Luria, Sam Getz, Lester Goldstein and Bill Bird.

Mayor's Jewelers has not been the only organization to step forward and support the koala project. The Doctor Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Foundation kicked off the fund raising drive with a major gift. This was followed by Lord & Taylor's Koala Ball, which raised over \$50,000. Eastern Airlines has donated the round trip air fares necessary to bring both of our visiting koalas (Blinky Bill for the Koala Ball and Sweeney for her month on exhibit) to Miami.

Without the help of these organizations and our membership, the upcoming permanent koala exhibit at Metrozoo would not happen. We thank all of our supporters and invite you to join them in becoming a part of the Koala Project at Metrozoo.



#### Mayor's Vice President Samuel Getz Cuts the Ribbon at the Opening of Metrozoo's Temporary Koala Exhibit

He is joined left to right by Zoo Director, Robert Yokel; Director of Parks & Recreation, Bill Bird; Board Members, Bern Levine, Laura Jack, Howard Tendrich, Sandy Miot, John Little, Hank Luria; Vice President Mayors Jewelers, Sam Getz; Zoological Society President, Lester Goldstein; Chairman, Zoological Society Board of Trustees, Ron Esserman; Comptroller, B.P.I. Inc., Lee Wertheim; Zoological Society President Elect, Roger Carlton; Managing Director, Lord & Taylor, International Mall, Robert Ross; Lo Doughty, and Toni Zahn of Eastern Airlines. Sweeney of course, slept through the whole affair.



# New Zoo Residents

Metrozoo has 4 new residents: Vietnamese Pot-bellied pigs. Until very recently, these animals were not found in zoos in the United States. The Bowmanville Zoo in Ontario, Canada, is participating in a project to raise these rather unusual animals, and Metrozoo is pleased to assist. Our animals, two males and two females, were born in Canada.

Our curatorial staff first saw these animals in the Basel Zoo in Switzerland where they are part of the children's petting zoo. They become so tame, as a matter of fact, that an adult female pig is allowed to roam the public walkways with zoo patrons. The immediate plans for our pigs will be to put them in one of the stalls in Sulawesi Village.

Although they are considered to be domestic pigs, the Vietnamese Pot-bellied pigs differ from the typical farm animal in that the backbone is bent, causing the abdomen to drag almost on the ground. In fact, in pregnant females, it actually does scrape along the ground. These animals mature very early and are excel-lent breeders--our four were born to parents under a year old. Their small size, wrinkled pug noses, and friendly temperament should make these pigs a welcome addition to our animal contact area.

### Zoological Society Recognizes Young Talent

Metrozoo recently sponsored a creative writing contest for Southwood Junior High School's Center for the Arts. Students spent time on the zoo grounds observing the animals and writing poems based on their observations.

The Education Department was faced with the difficult task of judging these excellent entries. Although the job was not an easy one, it was rewarding to see the talents of our community's young people. We are pleased to reproduce the first place poem. "Nature's Paradox (Galapagos Tortoise", by Jill Bassett.



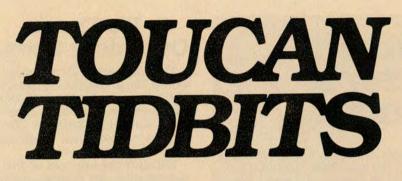
**Poetry Contest Winners** Standing: Shakela Barnes, Cathleen Millett; Seated: Patrick Downey, Jill Bassett.

#### Nature's Paradox (Galapagos Tortoise)

Resting on his time-worn skin, etched with scars of perserverence, he carries his shell of lifewith dignity. He innocuously plods within his solitary world, yearning to discover the technique that will enable him to obliterate his rigid veneer and expose his docile charm.

> Jill Bassett, 9th grade Southwood Junior High

Second Place: Patrick Downey "A Friend in the Trees" Third Place: Cathleen Millett "Clandestine Witness" Honorable Mention: Shakela Barnes, "Indian Gaur"



### **Remember Mom**

Mother's Day is always special. If you have "adopted" a Metrozoo animal in the past, or are considering such an adventure soon, you will enjoy this special "Breakfast With The Beasts" program on Mother's Day. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m., before the zoo is open to the public. You will have a continental breakfast and be joined by a beast or two not normally expected to share a meal with humans.

The price for this special breakfast program is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Members who are participants in the "Adopt-An-Animal" program will have priority in registration.

If you haven't been able to think of something unique for your mother this year, why not take her to the zoo? -- for breakfast!

# **Calendar Of Events**

May 4th Greater Miami Aviculture Club Mtg.

**May 11th** Mother's Day Breakfast Adopt-An-Animal 'Parents'

> Memorial Day Weekend Art Show / Sale Guy Coheleach

**June 1st** Father's Day Breakfast With The Beasts

June 21st Greater Miami Aviculture Club Mtg. Seminar by Leading Avian Vets Call Elaine Spear at 522-8682

> October 18th 'The Hunt' All New Watch For Details Soon

# Judd's Concert at Metrozoo

If you missed the Judd's concert, you missed one of Metrozoo's most popular performances. Take advantage of your zoo membership to attend future performances by nationally renowned artists.

Zoological Society President Lester Goldstein and Executive Director Joseph Ferrer welcome Naomi Judd to Metrozoo. Thanks go to Bud Light for their support of the concert.







County Commissioner Claire Osterle with Joe Fletcher (Executive Director Metro Dade Transportation Administration) and daughter.

Miami Metrozoo is now as close as the nearest bus stop or Metrorail station, with the initiation of ZooBus, an hourly express bus running from the Metrorail Dadeland North station to Metrozoo every Saturday and Sunday.

ZooBus' first run, Saturday, April 5, was celebrated in style, with a busful of Dade County officials, zoo animals, Metrozoo and Zoological Society of Florida dignitaries and balloons. Commissioner Clara Oesterle, chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Board of County Commissioners, directed the riders on ZooBus' maiden voyage.

The fare for the ZooBus trip is 25¢ each way. Riders of ZooBus receive a coupon for discounted admission to Metrozoo: \$1.50 off for adults, \$1 off for children aged 3-12. In addition, upon boarding ZooBus for their return to the Metrorail station, riders will receive a free transfer for their return trip on Metrorail or Metrobus. With these discounts, the total cost for Metrorail and ZooBus transportation and Metrozoo admission is equal to the zoo's regular cost of admission.

Said Metrozoo Director Bob Yokel, upon announcement of the start of ZooBus, "We feel strongly that Metrozoo is a community resource, and should be accessible to everyone in Dade County. The establishment of ZooBus means that now even those without private transportation will be able to enjoy the zoo, and at an affordable price."

ZooBus leaves the Metrorail Dadeland North station hourly on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning at 10:15, with the last trip at 3:15. Return trips leave the zoo hourly beginning at 10:45 a.m., with the last trip at 5:45 p.m., following the zoo's closing at 5:30 (ticket booths clost at 4:00 p.m.). If the express service is popular, additional buses will be added. This service is on a 6month trial basis.

# **EDUCATION OUTLOOK**



#### **Breakfast With The Beasts**

Take advantage of this opportunity to enter the zoo in the early morning hours. Enjoy a continental breakfast, followed by a lesson in animal nutrition. Learn what and how zoo animals are fed, and meet some of our most personable residents up close. May and June presentations will feature a special animal guest for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day Adopt-An-Animal Breakfast: Limited enrollment, participants in our Adopt-An-Animal program will be given registration priority. 8:00-10:00 a.m. \$8-Members / \$10-Nonmembers

Sunday, June 15: Father's Day Breakfast 8:00-10:00 a.m. \$8-Members / \$10-Nonmembers

Classes For Adults

Adult Zoo-Inn

We are bringing back another session of this popular program. Spend an entire night at the zoo: dinner and a presentation by the veterinarian begin the evening; an after-dark tour and evening with a zookeeper follow.

By Diane Ledder, Education Coordinator

Bring your sleeping bag and prepare for an unforgetable experience. Friday, June 15 6:00 p.m. Friday - 9:00 a.m. Saturday

6:00 p.m. Friday - 9:00 a.m. Saturday \$20-Members / \$25-Nonmembers

#### T.E.C. Workshop

Part of a series of workshops offered through the Teacher Education Center for the spring, this 10 hour program will train teachers to utilize the zoo as a classroom more effectively and help them interpret the zoo to others.

> Two consecutive Saturdays: May 10th and 17th

NO CHARGE - Registration through T.E.C. only



#### Supper Safari

For adults who would like to experience the zoo at night, but don't care to "sleep over", we offer this popular new program: a presentation by a member of the curatorial staff is followed by dinner "al fresco" and a behind the scenes tour.

Saturdays: May 24th and June 21st \$20-Members / \$25-Nonmembers

#### **Biology of Captive Wildlife**

This is a 3-credit undergraduate course offered through the biology department of F.I.U. It is designed to introduce both majors and nonmajors to the biology and manage-ment of captive wildlife. Lectures will be given by the Zoological Society education department and Metrozoo staff, and will include discussions of behavior, nutrition, veterinary medicine, research, and management as they apply to the study of captive exotics. Students will tour off-exhibit facilities such as the quarantine and breeding areas, nighthouses, and holding facilities. Registration for the course is through F.I.U. The course number is ZOO-3892 (reference number: 1418, off campus course).

Summer Session B: June 30th through August 13th Mondays & Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m. \$30-Members / \$35-Nonmembers PLUS F.I.U. tuition

#### Silver Safari

This new program provides a memorable day at the zoo for retirees. A classroom presentation will be followed by a narrated tram tour of the grounds. Walking will be minimal. Participants may also elect to have lunch at the Beverly Hills Cafe, directly across the street from Metrozoo, after the program. A luncheon special will be available to participants. Experience the zoo in comfort!

Wednesday, May 21st • 10 a.m.-noon \$4-Members / \$6-Nonmembers

Luncheon: \$3.95 payable to Beverly Hills Cafe on the day of the program

**Registration Policy:** Registration for zoo classes is by mail or credit card only. Program information may be obtained over the telephone, however a reservation in the program is contingent upon payment. Fees may be paid by check, money order, cash, or Visa/Mastercharge. A confirmation letter will be issued upon receipt of payment. Fees are refundable up to 1 week before the program date.

# CLASS REGISTRATION.

City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Bus. Pho	ne
	DER THE AGE OF 18:	
Home Phone	Bus. Phor	ne
Students Age (as of June	e 1): Grade in so	chool (as of Sept.):
Program(s):		Fee S_
		Fee S
Membership Fees Includ	ed (Family \$40 / Dual \$30 / I	ndividual \$20) 8 _
	Expiration Date	_ TOTAL 8 _

**Membership** entitles you to free admission to Metrozoo and 70 other zoos, special events and the Society's publications. Family \$40 / Dual \$30 / Individual \$20. 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 Department ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA 12400 S.W. 152nd Street Miami, Florida 33177 (305) 255-5551

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#### Kindercamp

AGE: 3, 4, 5 years old

This is a seeing, doing, touching, learning experience for the little ones. They will learn the characteristics of different types of animals through direct observation and contact, as well as through crafts, games, stories and songs.

#### DATES:

June 23rd through 27th; July 28th through August 1st; or August 11th through 15th FEE:

\$60-Members / \$70-Nonmembers Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

#### **Jungle Juniors**

#### AGE: Grades 1-3

"Jungle Juniors' will spend their mornings exploring the zoo in many ways. By entering the zoo before regular hours, they will observe zookeepers on the job, and learn how our animals are fed and cared for. They will also have a chance to meet some of our friendly zoo residents "up close".

#### DATES:

July 21st through 25th or August 4th through 8th FEE:

Participant's Name

\$70-Members / \$80-Nonmembers HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

# Summer Programs At Metrozoo

Summer is just around the corner, and it's not too early to begin planning for summer zoocamp. This summer promises to be the most memorable yet. Our zoo is growing and getting more exciting each year. Give your child a memorable summer: Zoocamp at Metrozoo!

#### Zoocamp

AGE: Grades 4-6

Zoocampers will enjoy learning about zoo animals while gaining an appreciation for the function of a modern zoo. They will learn from the education staff, zookeepers, and from the animals themselves. Campers should bring a brown bag lunch Monday through Thursday; Friday we will provide lunch with the zookeepers.

DATES: July 14th through 18th FEE:

\$90-Members / \$100-Nonmembers HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.





#### Summer Safari

AGE: Grades 7-8

For young teens interested in pursuing careers in wildlife biology, zoology, or veterinary medicine, Summer Safari provides a valuable experience. Participants will learn about the management of captive wildlife through behind the scenes tours and contact with the zoo staff. DATES: August 18th through 22nd FEE:

\$70-Members / \$80-Nonmembers HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

#### **Toucan Team**

AGE: Grades 9-12

A special 1 week session of this popular program for teens will be offered this summer. Students study biology, animal behavior, and management of exotic animals with teachers from the Education Department and Curatorial staff.

DATES: July 7th through 11th FEE:

\$70-Members / \$80-Nonmembers HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to noon

# CLASS REGISTRATION.

City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Bus. Phone	
	IDER THE AGE OF 18	
Home Phone	Bus. Phone	
Students Age (as of June	e 1): Grade in s	school (as of Sept.):
Program(s):		Fee S
		Fee S
Membership Fees Includ	ed (Family \$40 / Dual \$30 /	Individual \$20) 8
□ Mastercard □ Visa E	Expiration Date	TOTAL 8

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1986 will surely be recorded in the annals of Society history as the year of achievement, when dreaming stopped and reality began. The purpose of our organization is to support Metrozoo and never has our cause been more evident than in the visible proof that has blossomed behind the scenes at the zoo this year.

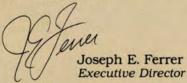
The zoo does not have, as yet, a permanent reptile/amphibian exhibit. Our very valuable collection had been housed in rooms located in the administration building. The Society this year succeeded in obtaining an environmentally controlled trailer to house the collection until an appropriate exhibit can be built.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Bern Levine, a member of our Board of Directors, the Society has committed to construct a Brooder/ Hatchery building to enable the zoo to meet its full potential in bird production. This building will provide the proper environment for the incubation of eggs and rearing of young.

Finally, the jewel in our crown; because of the love, support and dedication of each and every one of you, the Society is proud to announce the opening of the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Hospital. This "state of the art" facility will provide a complete treatment and diagnostic center for all of the zoo's animals. Although it will not be open to the public, rest assured that it is a building that every member can be proud of.

The Zoological Society of Florida could not function without its Volunteers. The dedication of these people was demonstrated to the fullest during the five week visit of Sweeney the koala. Their willingness to pitch in and work at jobs that often changed in description and location on an hourly basis; coming in early and staying late; and facing the public with a smile while answering the question, "What four hours is Sweeney awake?" four thousand times a day, prove what we in the Society office have known all along: our volunteers are the greatest!

1986... the year of achievement ... only the beginning of many more wonderful projects which through your continued support, will make this the finest zoological park in the world.



**Executive Committee:** Lester Goldstein, President Roger Carlton, First Vice President R. Ray Goode, Second Vice President Jeb Bush, Secretary Lawrence O. Turner, Jr., Treasurer Ronald Esserman, Past President **Board of Directors:** Frank C. Baiamonte Gordon J. Bingham Dr. James H. Block Beverly R. Carter R. Alan Fortier George W. Fortner

B.B. Goldstein

Sherrill W. Hudson

**Rick Hensler** 

Laura Jack **Charles Kantor** Bern M. Levine, D.V.M. Mrs. Richard E. Litt John K. Little Hank Luria Mrs. John P. March Deborah Dunn McDonald Sanford B. Miot **Robert Paul** John D. Pennekamp, Jr. Aristides J. Sastre, Jr. Monroe Scheiner, M.D. **Richard Shack** Howard J. Tendrich Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim Robert L. Yokel

#### **Toucan Talk:**

Editor: Diane Ledder Design: Janice McDougall

### We Thank Our Lucky Stars...

The Education Department would like to thank Celestron and Phil's Camera for the loan of the telescopes and the expertise of their staff in making the "Even-ing Under the Stars" program such a memorable event.

Without the support of the community, our Special Events would be something less than special. The Special Events De-partment would like to thank the following donors for their generosity:

Pumpernik's, for their contributions to the success of Jungle Jog & Deerwood Liquors, for their assistance with the Sweetheart Supper Safari.

If you have goods or services you would like to offer to the Society, call Pat Superfine at 255-5551.

## **Zoo Trave**

Travelling with the Zoological Society of Florida is so easy. Choose a destination, call 255-5551 to receive an itinerary and reservation form, send in a deposit which will secure a place and pack your bags!

(Trip prices quoted for Australia and Kenya include a \$200 tax deductible contribution to the Zoological Society of Florida.

#### Australia & New Zealand

New Itinerary & Dates

Oct. 17 - Nov. 4 19 days • \$3,750

Nature's best kept secret. The long isolation of this "Island Continent" has resulted in the evolution of a distinct fauna and flora found nowhere else in the world. Because it is the most isolated of continenents many forms of plant and animal life long since extinct elsewhere thrive here. Visit koalas in their native country and envision the upcoming permanent koala exhibit at Metro-200.

#### Kenya

Sept. 26 - Oct. 10 • Nov. 21 - Dec. 5 15 days • \$2,696

Join the excitement of a safari adventure via London and Nairobi. Experience the wilds of Amboseli National Park; view the breathtaking Mt. Kilimanjaro; spend a day and night at the famed Mt. Kenya Safari Club; journey to Lake Naivasha, a bird watcher's paradise; view game at Masai Mara/Northern Serengeti. Take the photos you have only dreamed about.

#### EARTHWATCH

If you are looking for even more adventure, inquire about the cooperative program between the Zoological Society of Florida and EARTH-WATCH.



# Guy Coeleach Art Show

The Zoological Society of Florida will be hosting the first annual Guy Coeleach Art Show during the Memorial Day weekend, May 24, 25 and 26 in the trellis area at the entrance to Metrozoo. The artist will be available Sunday and Monday, May 25 and 26 to sign purchased prints. His limited lithographs, similar to the one pictured above, will be for sale ranging in price from \$25 to \$1,000. Mr. Coeleach has devoted over thirty years to the careful study of the animal world. He is also an ardent conservationist and has donated many of his original paintings and prints to assist a wide variety of conservation organizations. He will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the sales to the Society's Adopt-An-Animal program.

### "Hey There, Hi There, Ho There"... Sweeney Welcomes Mickey to Metrozoo

Walt Disney World characters brought a bit of Disney World to Metrozoo on April 13th.

The world acclaimed mouse, known to all as "Mickey", was able to katch the koala while both celebrities visited Metrozoo.

Many children of all ages had the opportunity to share a bit of magic with Walt Disney World characters and enjoy a medley of Disney music through the day.

We are certainly looking forward to another visit from the Magic Kingdom in the future. Any members who were unable to join the fun this year may want to be on the lookout for the next "tour".





# April Fools The Jokes On Who?

Irene Richard, disc jockey for Love 94, agreed to live in a cage at Metrozoo until she raised \$4,000 to make up for a bad joke she played on her listeners on April Fool's day. She announced over the radio that Sweeney the koala was stolen from the zoo. The zoo and the Society phone lines were jammed all day with distressed callers worried about the koala. Miss Richard raised over \$11,000 for the Koala project during her three days in the cage!

> Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Permit No. 4358 Miami, Florida

#### Zoological Society of Florida 12400 S.W. 152nd Street Miami, Florida 33177 (305) 255-5551

#### **REMINDER:**

Members MUST Present Membership Card For Free Admission To The Zoo.