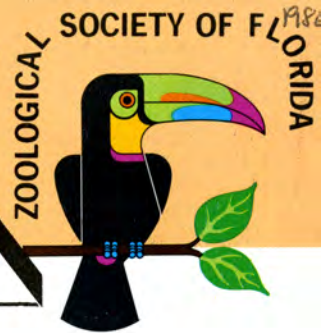


TOUCAN TALK



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

JULY—AUGUST / VOL. 14, NO. 4

A PROMISE KEPT



THE OPENING OF THE CHRISTOPHER A. WEEKS ANIMAL CLINIC

by Rick Hensler

Throughout the planning stages of Dade's new Metrozoo, a first-class animal clinic was always a priority. However, as the County's financial woes mounted, it became more and more apparent that money wasn't even available to continue construction, much less add a major new animal health facility.

The need was never more obvious than one afternoon five years ago this month, when staff and volunteers battled the elements to help Maude, an 800 pound dromedary camel, attempt to deliver her first calf.

Labor complications had developed, but the zoo vet along with the bulk of his veterinary equipment, was stuck in Sunday traffic on Rickenbacker Causeway. This, plus the lack of solid on-site support facilities, created an insurmountable challenge, even for the skilled Metrozoo staff.

As the Miami Herald reported on June 8, 1981... *"Everything possible was done, the doctor was flown in by police helicopter. Paramedics borrowed surgical instruments from a nearby hospital. Assistants paced outside the makeshift operating room on an outdoor paddock at Dade's Metrozoo."*

Borrowed instruments... makeshift operating room... the top fund raising priority for the Zoological Society of Florida was becoming clear.

Zoo vet Dr. Gordon Hubbell, flown in from his home on Key Biscayne, managed, with help, to roll Maude over and tie her legs to a Dade County pine. He would need to attempt a C-section (Caesarean).

It would have been a simple operation in the proper facilities, it was later said.

Metro fireman John Carroll, who was assisting in the birth, called Coral Reef Hospital on his fire department radio. The hospital lent Metrozoo some surgical tools. The veterinarian, his shirt, slacks and sneakers covered with mud, also borrowed Carroll's obstetrics kit.

For lack of funds, Dr. Hubbell, past president of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, was trying to work miracles in the mud.

After eight hours, it was over. Had it lived, the veterinarian quietly told zoo workers, the baby Maude had carried for ten months would have been a female. But the calf was dead. Workers covered her with a white sheet.

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A PROMISE KEPT:

Continued from Page 1



Two hundred and seventy people attended the dedication of the new animal clinic, the most significant accomplishment of the Zoological Society of Florida to date.



Zoological Society President Lester Goldstein joins Leslie and Austin Weeks in unveiling the commemorative plaque at the entrance to the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic.

Worse yet, and even more detrimental to the zoo's goals, Maude, a breeding female, died hours later. Out of this came a new resolve among those active in the Zoological Society. A promise was made to build, for Dade County, one of the finest animal clinics anywhere.

On Wednesday, June 11, 1986, that promise was kept. The Society dedicated and deeded over to Dade County the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic, the most significant achievement in the thirty year history of our organization.

More than \$750,000 was raised toward clinic construction over the past five years, with over \$200,000 contributed by Austin and Leslie Weeks, father and sister of Christopher.

"This project could not have been accomplished without the support of the community and our 50,000 members," stated Society President Lester Goldstein.

"In addition to the Weeks family, we are particularly grateful for the generosity of the

Knight Foundation, Burger King Corporation, the Virginia Kirk Grieves Estate, the Henry Muell Estate and Paul and Maxine Frohring."

The 6,400 square-foot clinic features an innovative design and state-of-the-art equipment, facilitating treatment of the zoo's newborn, injured or ill animals. Routine preventive veterinary care provided to Metrozoo's valuable animal collection by veterinarian Dr. Scott Citino and his staff will be that much easier.

Other features include a sophisticated surgery room, newborn and intensive care areas, a fully equipped laboratory and live-in quarters for student interns.

Metrozoo Director Bob Yokel adds: "The goal of the Society has been to identify those needs that cannot be met by Dade County and to step in and fill the gap. The opening of this clinic is the finest example to date. We should all be very proud."

The day after Maude died, Yokel had reflected, "There's life and death at a zoo. We deal with it every day. You never like it, but you deal with it."

Now, thanks to the concern of so many people, we can deal with it a lot better.

Veterinary student Cheri Hansen is assisted in her examination of a newborn Chinese water deer by veterinary technician Jacky Shaw. The exam was performed during the dedication of the new clinic.



“S.S.P. Animal:” Baird’s Tapir

Although they are frequently mistaken for anteaters, tapirs are actually close relatives of horses and rhinoceroses. They are herbivorous, eating leaves, fruits, and berries. Tapirs are endangered due to habitat destruction in their native Central America, and because they are hunted for their meat. Baird’s tapirs are very rare and are not found in many United States zoos. Metrozoo’s six animals represent about 20% of the captive Baird’s tapirs in the United States.



Female Baird’s tapir with offspring.

At Metrozoo, the keepers are encouraged by the veterinarian to work closely with the animals in order to make routine health care less stressful. Tapirs can be relaxed so completely by scratching them that minor medical procedures can be performed without using drugs. This “scratching down” process must begin when the tapir is very young. Although our keepers do develop a rapport with the animals, they are always aware of the dangers. The teeth of a tapir are much like those of a horse, but with even larger canines.

Tapirs like the water and can often be found in their pool with only the white tips of their ears and their flexible trunk-like snout exposed. When not in the water, they prefer the shaded areas of their exhibit. Metrozoo has been successful with its tapir breeding program. Like their Malayan cousins, Baird’s tapir babies are striped and spotted at birth, looking much like a watermelon with legs. At birth, after a gestation period of from 390 to 400 days, they may weigh close to 20 pounds. By 5 or 6 months of age, the babies lose this spotted coat and take on the coloring of the adult, a solid dark brown. They may live up to about 20 years and reach weights up to 600 pounds, with females being larger than males. Maya, one of our breeding females, has had two offspring and is likely to become a grandmother soon.

The Yearly Physical



How do you examine a 400 pound gorilla?

Metrozoo’s Veterinarian, Dr. Scott Citino, was confronted with this enormous task last January. Under his expert direction, all four members of our gorilla family were immobilized for their annual check-ups. Each gorilla was given a complete physical examination which included blood pressure, blood samples, X-rays, E.C.G., eye, ear, nose and dental inspections, tuberculosis tests, body measurements and weights. Jimmy, our big silver-back male, weighed 405 lbs., followed by Josephine at 180 lbs., Jimmy, Jr. at 155 lbs. and 22 month old Moja at 21 lbs. (*and growing fast*).

After a long ten hours of dedicated teamwork, all the gorillas were given a clean bill of health. Metrozoo’s Veterinary and Animal Science staffs along with

Dr. Clarence Gibbs of N.I.H.; Dr. Fred Brindle, anesthesiologist at Jackson Memorial Hospital; Dr. Loyde Wrubel, dental surgeon; Dr. Lorraine Karpinski, veterinary ophthalmologist; and Phil Ettinger, mobile radiography, are all to be commended for helping to ensure that these endangered great apes will continue to grow and prosper at our zoo.



“Say ahh...”

TOUCAN TIDBITS



All New — "The Hunt"

Mark your calendar for October 11 and select your team! This year's "The Hunt" will take place entirely on zoo grounds and on foot.

As in the past, teams of six (that usually works out to three couples) will search for one clue and then another and another... until they have solved them all. Zebrazaar area for a late night

treat.

Please complete and mail the coupon below with payment (\$60 per couple). The 1986 hunt is again being schemed by the renowned Zoological Society of Florida's "The Hunt" committee of Gusman, Gusman, Scheiner, Scheiner, Tendrich & Tendrich; without whom this annual event just wouldn't be the same.

Calendar Of Events

July 1—August 15

Look for Adopt-an-Animal information on McArthur milk cartons. Tune in to JOY FM107 for special promotions

July 7—11

Toucan Team 9:00 a.m.—noon (grades 9—12)

July 13

John Sebastian & Dave Mason, concert sponsored by Pepsi and LOVE 94 (free) produced by P.A.C.E.

July 14—18

Zoocamp 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (grades 4—6)

July 16

Zootography Club Meeting 7—9 p.m.

July 20

Blood, Sweat & Tears concert sponsored by Budweiser & WSHE (members \$2 in advance, \$3 concert day) Produced by P.A.C.E.

July 21—25

Jungle Juniors 9:00 a.m.—noon (grades 1—3)

July 28—August 1

Kindercamp 9:00 a.m.—noon (ages 3,4,5)

August 4—8

Jungle Juniors 9:00 a.m.—noon (grades 1—3)

August 11—15

Kindercamp 9:00 a.m.—noon (ages 3,4,5)

August 20

Zootography Club Meeting 7—9 p.m.

August 18—22

Summer Safari 9:00 a.m.—noon (grades 7&8)

My team will include:

1. M/M _____ PHONE _____
2. M/M _____ PHONE _____
3. M/M _____ PHONE _____

Please enclose \$60 per couple and send to:

THE HUNT c/o Zoological Society of Florida
12400 S.W. 152 Street / Miami, FL 33177 / Phone: 265-5551

White Tigers Born June 6!



Citicorp Vice President Alan Fortier looks on as Dr. Citino and assistant Jacky Shaw feed the new white tigers. The cubs, born June 6 will be on display in the exhibit trailer across from the orangutans. We are grateful to Citicorp for their support of the white tiger exhibit.

EDUCATION OUTLOOK

By Diane Ledder, Education Coordinator

Classes For Children

Zoocamp

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.

July 14 through 18
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Grades 4-6
\$90-Members / \$100-Nonmembers

Jungle Juniors

"Jungle Juniors" 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".

July 21 through 25,
August 4 through 8
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon • Grades 1-3
\$70-Members / \$80-Nonmembers

Summer Safari

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.

August 18 through 22
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon • Grades 7-8
\$70-Members / \$80-Nonmembers

Classes For Teens

Toucan Team

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.

July 7 through 11
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon • Grades 9-12
\$70-Members / \$80-Nonmembers



Classes For Families

Breakfast With The Beasts

During the long, hot summer, the coolest time to "do the zoo" is in the early morning. Join us for a light breakfast, followed by a lesson in animal nutrition. Learn what and how our zoo animals are fed, and meet some of our most personable residents up close.

July 20 and August 17
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
\$8-Members / \$10-Nonmembers

Classes For Adults

Adult Zoo-Inn

We are bringing back three summer sessions of this very popular program. Spend an entire night at the zoo: dinner and a presentation by the veterinarian begin the evening; after dark tour and evening with a zookeeper follow. Bring your sleeping bag and prepare for an unforgettable experience.

July 18 and 25, and August 5
6:00 p.m. Friday to
9:00 a.m. Saturday
\$20-Members / \$25-Nonmembers

F.I.U. at Metrozoo

This popular workshop will begin again in September; however registration for the course will be held at F.I.U. during August. The class is open to both graduate and undergraduate students. Teachers will be introduced to Metrozoo, and will learn to develop interdisciplinary materials to be used in the classroom and at the zoo. "In-field credit" is awarded in six disciplines for certification. For details, call the Education Department at 255-5551.

Thursdays, September 11 through
November 20 • 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
\$35 lab fee payable to the Zoological Society plus F.I.U. tuition
Registration through F.I.U.

For Shutterbugs...

The Zootography club meets the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. in classroom #1 at Metrozoo. Members enjoy lectures by accomplished amateur and professional photographers, and participate in workshops, competitions, and exclusive "zoo shoots". Interested persons should call the Education Department at 255-5551 for further details.

CLASS REGISTRATION

Participant's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

FOR STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18:

Parent's Name _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

Students Age (as of June 1): _____ Grade in school (as of Sept.): _____

Program(s): _____ Dates: _____ Fee \$ _____

_____ Dates: _____ Fee \$ _____

Membership Fees Included (Family \$40 / Dual \$30 / Individual \$20) \$ _____

Mastercard Visa Expiration Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Card # _____ Signature _____

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

Do You Belong In The Zoo?



Volunteer opportunities are numerous and varied at Metro-zoo. Volunteer duties may vary from the care of the animals used in educational programs to dispensing information and assistance at the Toucan Perch; or leading tours and interpreting exhibits to the public. Volunteers also teach lessons in wildlife biology and conservation to children and adults through the "Outreach" Program and classes on zoo grounds.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and professions. They are young and old and in between. Most importantly, they all care for animals and enjoy learning while contributing to the care and preservation of wildlife.

Volunteers must be members of the Zoological Society of Florida, and must be at least 21

years of age. They are also required to undergo 8 weeks of specialized training which familiarizes them with the philosophy, management, and animal collection of Metrozoo. Upon completion of the training course, volunteers are required to give 6 hours of service per month to the zoo.

If you are interested in becoming a Zoological Society Volunteer, please fill out the following application and send it to the Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida. We will call you to arrange an interview and fill you in on the details. We're looking forward to hearing from you!!

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

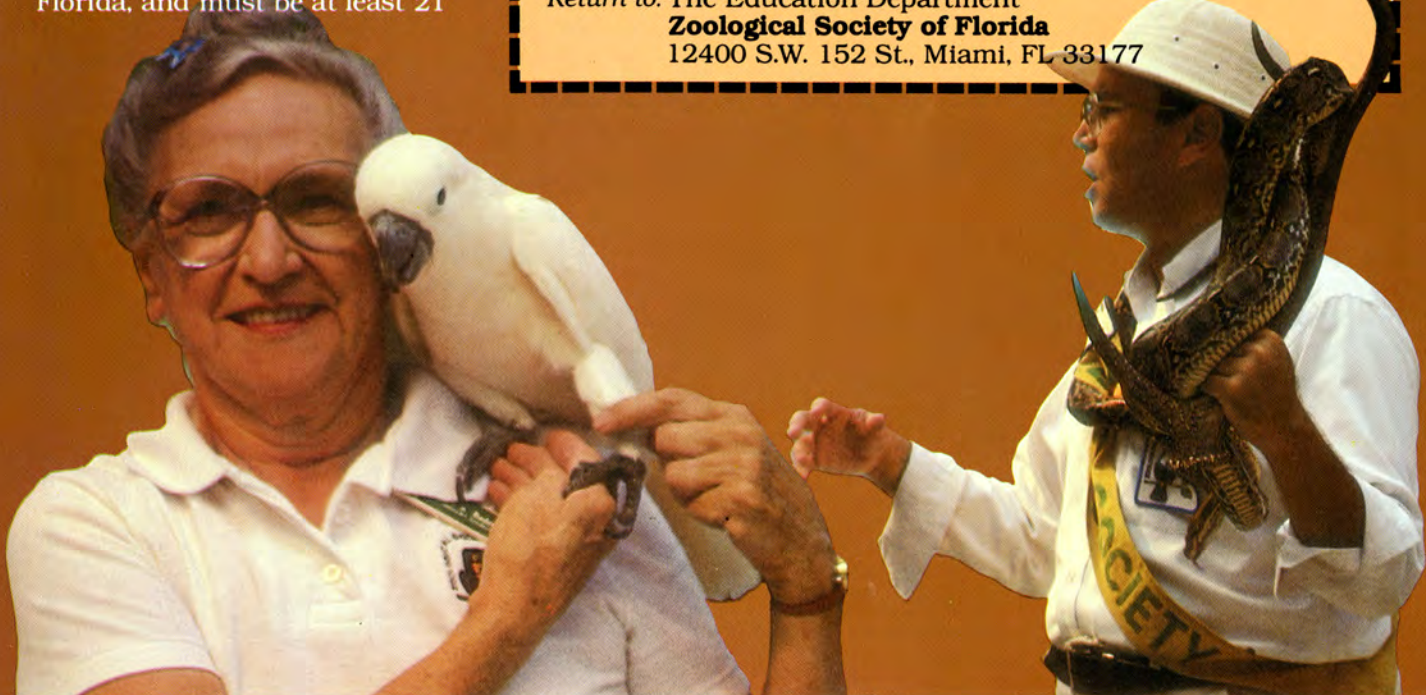
Phone _____ Home _____ Business _____

When may we reach you at the above numbers? _____

_____ Home _____ Business _____

Do you prefer a day _____ or evening _____ class?

Return to: The Education Department
Zoological Society of Florida
12400 S.W. 152 St., Miami, FL 33177





Lester Goldstein

President's Message

The dedication of the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic on June 11th further confirms Metrozoo's place in the ranks of world class zoological parks. Conservation, research and education are three of the most important reasons for having zoos in this decade. This new, state-of-the-art medical facility will enable Metrozoo to further its contributions in these areas. I am very proud of the part that the Zoological Society of Florida and the community that it represents have played in this rewarding project.

With the completion of the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic, every animal at Metrozoo will receive the finest medical care, from prevention to diagnosis to treatment. Because of your concern and support of this project, a living memorial has been erected that will aid in the propagation of species and ensure Metrozoo's status as a world class zoological park. A perusal of this newsletter will give you a more detailed history of the Animal Clinic, from its inception to the construction, completion and dedication.

There are so many people to thank... a strong Board of Directors, knowledgeable community leaders who have assisted and supported our work throughout my term as President of the Society.

Thanks also, to our expanding Board of Trustees, the men and women who are responsible for electing tomorrow's Directors.

Most of all, thanks to our membership, now 54,000 people and growing, who have supported the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic as well as other Society projects wholeheartedly. There seems to be an awareness among our Society members that Metrozoo is not only the most positive attraction in South Florida, but that it may well be one of the last frontiers for our vanishing wildlife.

In order to complete the master plan of Metrozoo, we need continued leadership, vision and commitment. Projects such as the koala exhibit, the remodeling of the Sulawesi contact area, and the 10,000 tree eucalyptus grove can only be realized by total community commitment and continued support.

Through your financial participation with the Zoological Society of Florida, you help to generate preservation, assure tomorrow, and educate today. Please continue your valued support.

Lester Goldstein, President
Zoological Society of Florida

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- R. Ray Goode,
Second Vice President
- Jeb Bush, Secretary
- Lawrence O. Turner, Jr.,
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- Howard J. Tendrich
- Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim
- Robert L. Yokel

Toucan Talk:

- Editor: Diane Ledder
- Design: Janice McDougall

Insurance For The Future

Finding a new use for something that no longer serves its original purpose can lead to unexpected benefits... take life insurance, for example.

Do you have a policy purchased to protect a child who is now independent, or a loved one who is now deceased? Perhaps, in light of the other plans you have made for your financial security, you have more insurance coverage than you really need.

If so, consider recycling your "old" life insurance as a gift to the Zoological Society of Florida. With little or no out-of-pocket expense, you can make a substantial gift in support of the Society's efforts to assist Metrozoo. Not only will you be helping to protect the world's wildlife through conservation programs, you can earn generous tax benefits for yourself.

For a FREE booklet on the many ways that life insurance can help continue valuable educational and conservation programs at Metrozoo and earn you surprising tax savings, contact the Development Office, 255-5551.

With A Little Help From Our Friends...

A special "thanks" goes to the people of Porschtek Inc. of Miami who have helped both the Zoological Society and the South Florida community. A generous donation to the Education Department has allowed us to establish a scholarship fund for underprivileged children. Porschtek's gift will allow 10 children who would otherwise be unable to participate, to attend summer camp at Metrozoo this summer. The benefits to these children will be immeasurable. Thank you, Porschtek!!

Note: If you or your place of business would like to contribute to the Zoological Society Scholarship Fund, call the Education Department at 255-5551.

A word of thanks also goes to Inter-American Labs for their donation of \$200 worth of lab work for our veterinary hospital. We appreciate their services and their support!

Sweeney Oversees Eucalyptus Planting

Under the watchful eye of Sweeney, our visiting koala, Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim planted the first of 10,000 eucalyptus trees. The Wertheims, representing the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Foundation, then presented a check as part of their pledge in support of the koala project.

Eucalyptus is the only food koalas eat. Seven acres of trees are being planted at the zoo in preparation for the koalas we will

be housing in our permanent koala exhibit.

The trees are being planted in a specially prepared grove in an off-public display area.

If you would like to help support the koala project by a donation to plant a eucalyptus tree, please send \$2.00 to the Zoological Society Koala Tree Fund. For your donation, you will receive an "I Took a Koala to Lunch" bumper sticker.

Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim present their check in support of the koala project to Cindy Zeigler, Development Director. Sweeney and her keeper, Valerie Thompson, look on.



You TOUCAN Have A Good Time At Metrozoo

Metrozoo is a one-of-a-kind adventure. Can you think of a better place to hold your next corporate picnic? The zoo has over 250 sprawling, lush acres with more than 1500 wild animals roaming in open air enclosures.

If you are a corporate contributor to the Society and plan a picnic at the zoo, not only are you entitled to special discounts, but you are also eligible for unique benefits at no extra charge that will make your picnic very special.

As a corporate sponsor, the Society staff works with you on a schedule of events that covers the entire day. One of the most popular items on the schedule is the special "Zoo Close-ups"... volunteers bring a variety of small zoo animals to your private picnic area. This is a great opportunity to get an up close and personal look at animals you will not see on the zoo grounds. Seeing an owl, touching a snake, feeling a hedgehog, can really be an exciting and memorable experience!

The staff will also work with your picnic committee to give you ideas on games for both adults and children and help to coordinate them. A favorite with all ages is the "elephant dung chip toss".

In the past few months, Mayor's Jewelers, Johnson and Higgins, and Coral Reef Hospital have held their company picnics at the zoo. Each time it has been an event to remember.

For more information, call the Zoological Society's Development Office at 255-5551... the fun never tapers off at Metrozoo!!!

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

Nonprofit
Organization
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Permit No. 4358
Miami, Florida

REMINDER:

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