

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

NEW AMPHITHEATER SHOWS

Several times a day the "oohs and aahs" of zoo visitors can be heard above the calls of the gibbons and siamangs. The exclamations originate at Metrozoo's amphitheater which now houses an entirely new collection of animals. During the last several months, Metrozoo's staff has been busy putting together some very special, all new shows. The new shows will expose the public to a wide variety of animals never seen before at Metrozoo.

Although educational, the new shows also provide an enjoyable experience for the visitors. The blend of humor, excitement and informa-

tion will keep everyone entertained while they learn more about some intriguing creatures. It is not the zoo's intent to teach animals to "jump through flaming hoops", but rather to demonstrate behaviors that are natural to them in the wild.

Anyone who visited the zoo in November or December probably saw a preliminary version of the new demonstrations. Although the earlier versions of the shows featured reptiles, the new shows will include birds and mammals as well. The reptile segment features venomous cobras and rattlesnakes handled in front of the audience, along with a very close look at several large constrictors. "Stretch", the 15 foot python, has already become quite a celebrity.

The birds used in the show will include the familiar cockatoos and parrots, as well as some magnificent birds of prey. A bateleur eagle, native to Africa, is awaiting his debut.

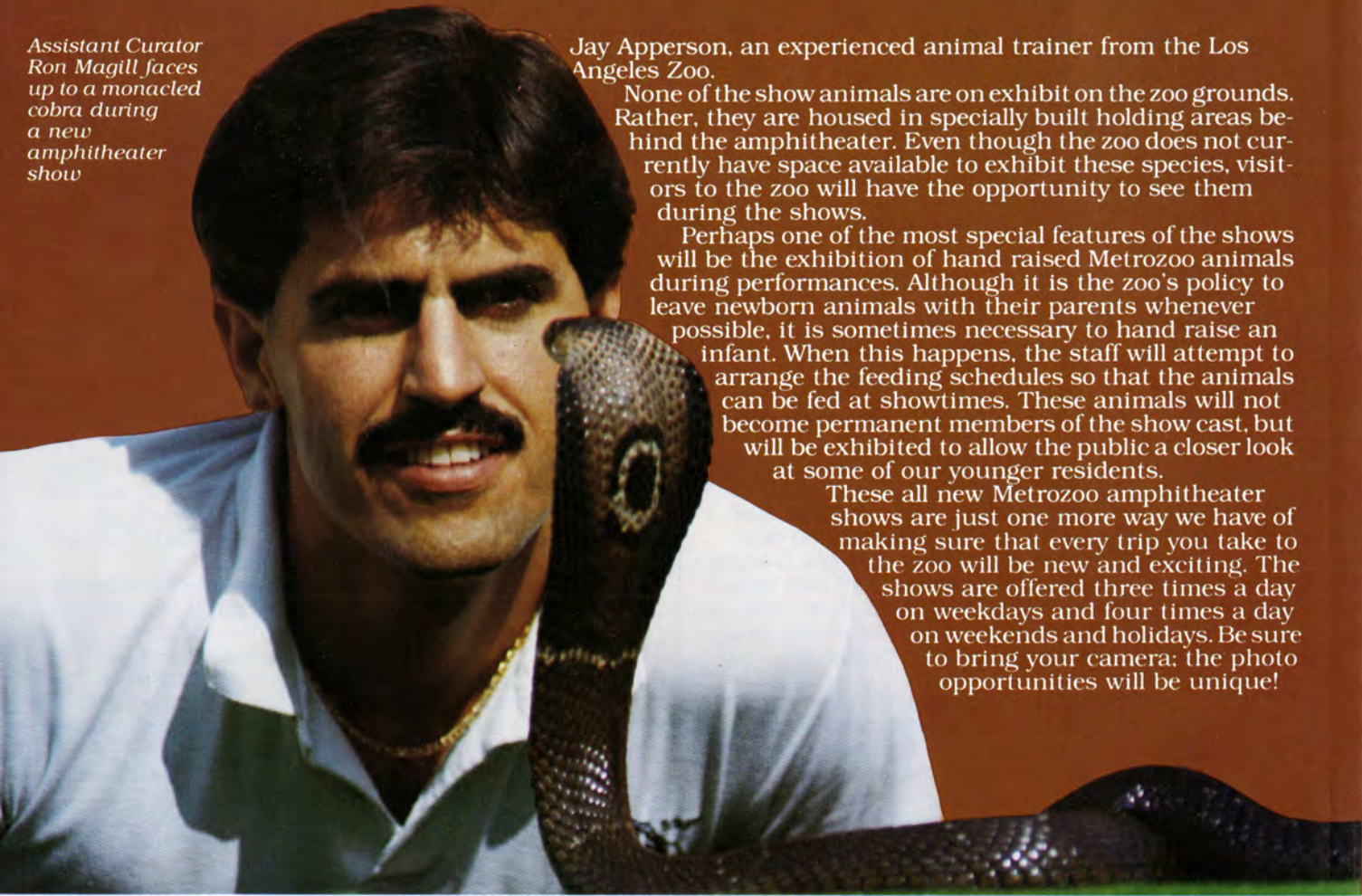
In addition to Indi, our baby white tiger, the zoo has several other large cats for the show, including a cougar and a clouded leopard. Plans to acquire a cheetah are underway, and there is a possibility of obtaining a wolf as well.

The show staff, headed by Ron Magill, Assistant Curator, is rapidly acquiring and training animals. In addition to Ron, the staff includes Mike Cotter, a former killer whale trainer; John Atchinson, who many will remember from the original bird shows; and

Continued on Page 2



Assistant Curator Ron Magill faces up to a monacled cobra during a new amphitheater show



Jay Apperson, an experienced animal trainer from the Los Angeles Zoo.

None of the show animals are on exhibit on the zoo grounds. Rather, they are housed in specially built holding areas behind the amphitheater. Even though the zoo does not currently have space available to exhibit these species, visitors to the zoo will have the opportunity to see them during the shows.

Perhaps one of the most special features of the shows will be the exhibition of hand raised Metrozoo animals during performances. Although it is the zoo's policy to leave newborn animals with their parents whenever possible, it is sometimes necessary to hand raise an infant. When this happens, the staff will attempt to arrange the feeding schedules so that the animals can be fed at showtimes. These animals will not become permanent members of the show cast, but will be exhibited to allow the public a closer look at some of our younger residents.

These all new Metrozoo amphitheater shows are just one more way we have of making sure that every trip you take to the zoo will be new and exciting. The shows are offered three times a day on weekdays and four times a day on weekends and holidays. Be sure to bring your camera; the photo opportunities will be unique!

The Artist's Touch

The Zoological Society takes great pride in introducing the latest addition to our creative and artistic resources, artist Jim Boyle. Mr. Boyle has used his talents to paint everything from famous athletes to Metrozoo animals.

His background in fine art began at the Flint Institute of Art in Flint, Michigan, and continued in Cleveland, Ohio, where he studied under well known artist, C.E. Vanduzer. Mr. Boyle has spent the last 25 years painting in the South Florida area.

Nine months ago, he visited the Society offices with an offer to draw a series of zoo animals to be used in the Society's fundraising efforts. Mr. Boyle's latest work is a poster entitled "Miami Metrozoo-A Place Where A Child's Mind Can Run Wild", designed to raise money for the Sulawesi renovation project. Members received a

special mailing highlighting the poster.

He is most noted for the series of sailing ships he was commissioned to paint for Scandinavian World Cruise Lines. Many of those fine works of art hang in the cruise lines main office in the Port of Miami.

Mr. Boyle is also known for his sports illustrations in newspapers throughout the United States, including the Miami Herald.

The Society is delighted to have Mr. Boyle involved, and members will be seeing more of his work in the months to come.



TOUCAN TIDBITS

S.S.P. Animal The Orangutan



The orangutan or Asian "man of the forest", is the only species of great ape surviving outside the African continent. These large reddish-brown apes occur only on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. The two populations have been separate for many thousands of years and are divided into two subspecies, the Bornean and Sumatran races. Both subspecies are severely endangered due to the continuing elimination or alteration of their habitat by the logging industry and agricultural development.

Orangutans in the wild are almost totally arboreal, spending most of their lives high above the ground, in the enormous hardwood trees of the tropical rainforests. They are the least social of all the great apes, with the average group consisting of one adult female and one or two of her offspring. The adult male is the patriarch of a territorial domain that overlays the ranges of several females. Male orangutans don't become sexually mature until about 12 years of age. By this time they are twice the size of the adult females and possess very large, exaggerated cheek pads.

Metrozoo exhibits and propa-

gates the Sumatran subspecies, *Pongo pygmaeus abelii*, which is slightly smaller and shaggier than the Bornean subspecies. Our orangutan group consists of 6 individuals: a 25 year old male, three adult females, and two juveniles. The youngest member, "Talu", is a two year old female that was the first orangutan born at Metrozoo. We were extremely fortunate to acquire this breeding group from the Wassenaar Zoo in Holland in 1983.

Records of all orangutans held in captivity are maintained in an international orangutan studbook. Presently, there are 282 "orangs" in U.S. zoos. The taking of animals from the wild has lessened due to total protection by law in Indonesia and East Malaysia. Without being able to acquire wild-born orangutans, zoos have become more committed to cooperative self-sustaining captive breeding programs.

While prospects for survival in their natural habitat are declining, the increase in captive born orangutans assures that these highly intelligent animals are not destined to be seen only as museum displays.

Photocontest

It's not too late to register for the Second Annual Photo Contest at Metrozoo, sponsored by the Zoological Society of Florida. The deadline for late registration and submission of entries is January 17th at 4 p.m.

Judging will be conducted by professional photographers John Dominis, former picture editor for PEOPLE magazine; and Lynn Pelham and Hank Walker, former TIME/LIFE photographers.

All winning photographs will be on display in the lobby of One Brickell Square Building; 801 Brickell Ave.; Miami beginning January 29, 1987. All contestants are invited to attend the reception.

Grand Prize Winner

will receive

Two Roundtrip Tickets to Germany

courtesy Lufthansa Airlines

Snappy Underwater Camera

courtesy Pitman Photo

\$100 Gift Certificate

courtesy Thompson Photo Lab

First Place Winners

in each category

(Black & White/Color)

will receive

\$300 Cash

One Day Cruise

courtesy of Sea Escape

Second Place Winners

will receive

\$100 and a Tripod

courtesy of Phils Camera and Worldwide Foto, respectively

Third Place Winners

will receive

\$50 plus a Tamrac Vest
color category

\$50 plus a designer photobag

black & white category
vest and photobag are
courtesy of Worldwide Foto

Other Sponsors Include

Kenya Photo Mural

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Great Image Photo Lab

Eastman Kodak

The Falls

Kiwi Northern Mercantile



Robert Creekmore, Vice President of American Express Sales and Marketing, Southeast Region, presents Robert Yokel, Director of Metrozoo, with a contribution in support of the Zoological Society's efforts to build an Australian mini exhibit. Also pictured are Robert Perkins, Assistant Director of Support Services for Dade County; Linda Holbrook, Account Executive for American Express; and Joseph Ferrer, Executive Director of the Zoological Society of Florida.

Gifts to Begin the New Year

Without the support of corporations, foundations and individual contributions, the Zoological Society would not be able to fund projects such as the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic, the Wings of Asia Aviary, and the Education Programs at the zoo.

This year alone the Zoological Society has committed funds for: the Koala Project, including two

Australian animal exhibits; a picnic grove for visiting school children; and three mini exhibits. In addition, we are helping to renovate the Sulawesi Village.

If you are interested in our "GIVING" program and the benefits associated with it, please contact Cynthia Zeigler in the Development Office at 255-5551 for a free brochure.

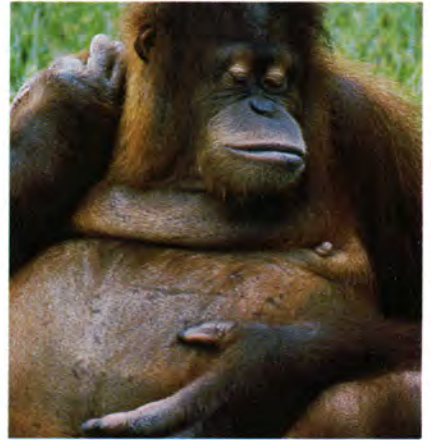


Don Mulligan, Senior Vice President of Chase Federal Savings and Loan and member of the Zoological Society's Board of Trustees presents Frank Batamonte, Executive Vice President of American Bankers Insurance Group with a check to kick off our 1987 Corporate fundraising campaign. Chase Federal Savings and Loan has supported the Zoological Society and Metrozoo with major contributions for the past four years.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

by Diane Ledder, Associate

Bored?... Take There



Classes For Children

After School Adventure

The program topic for January - February will be "ELEPHANTS". Children will visit both the African and Asian elephants at the zoo, and learn about their behavior, training, nutrition and management.

Wednesdays,

January 14 and February 11
1st thru 4th graders • 3:30-5:00 p.m.
\$10-Members / \$15-Nonmembers

Daisy-Tiger Cub Program

This is a special after school version of the A.I.R. program for younger scouts. A special patch will be awarded for participation in the program. The class will emphasize the diversity of animal life and the characteristics of reptiles, birds, and mammals. Register by calling 255-5551.

Wednesdays, January 7 thru May 20
3:30-5:00 p.m. • \$5 per scout

Classes For Families

Two For The Zoo

The popular program for preschoolers and parents will continue this spring on Wednesday mornings. Animal lessons are highlighted with craft activities and animal demonstrations. The topic for January and February will be "Animal Wrappers". Feathers, furs, quills, and scales - come learn how birds, mammals and reptiles dress for survival in the wild.

Wednesdays,

January 7 and February 18
9:30-11:00 a.m.

3, 4, 5 year olds and parent
\$10-Members (parent and 1 child,
second child - \$5)
\$16-Nonmembers (second child - \$8)

**a class at the zoo!
e's something for everyone.**

and chocolate set the mood for the evening's lecture on "Courtship Behavior in the Animal World" at our special supper safari on Valentine's Day.

Saturday, February 14
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
\$25-Members / \$35-Nonmembers

Adult Zoo-Inn

Spend an evening camping out at the zoo. Dinner, an unforgettable after-dark tour, a peek behind the scenes, and an evening with a zookeeper are all a part of this popular program. Bring your sleeping bag and prepare to relax and enjoy.

February 27
6:00 p.m. Friday - 8:30 a.m. Saturday
\$25-Members / \$35-Nonmembers

F.I.U. At Metrozoo

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

Thursdays • January 8 - April 2
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
\$35-Members / \$45-Nonmembers
plus F.I.U. tuition

T.E.C. Workshop

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

Two consecutive Saturdays
January 24 & January 31
NO FEE - Registration through
T.E.C. only

Volunteer Training

Volunteer opportunities are numerous and varied at Metrozoo. Volunteer duties may range from the care of the animals used in educational programs to dispensing information and assistance at the information booths; 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. Volunteers must be members of the Zoological Society, 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. If you are interested in becoming a Zoological Society volunteer, please fill out the following application and send it to the Volunteer Coordinator, Zoological Society of Florida by January 15th. We will call you to arrange an interview and fill you in on the details.

Tuesdays and Thursdays,
February 3 thru April 2
9:30-11:30 a.m.
\$40-Members only

Breakfast With The Beasts

Take advantage of this opportunity to enter the zoo in the early morning hours. A new format includes a continental breakfast with new animal guests and zookeepers. Meet some of our most personable residents up close.

Sundays,
January 25 and February 22
8:00-10:00 a.m.
\$10-Members / \$15-Nonmembers

COMING SOON!

Family Night At The Zoo

A brand new program where the whole family can enjoy the beauty and excitement of an evening at the zoo is being planned. Watch your March-April newsletter for further information.

Classes For Adults

Supper Safari

For adults who would like to experience the zoo at night, we offer this popular program. Wine, cheese, and a presentation by a member of the professional staff are followed by a dinner "al fresco" and a behind the scenes tour.

Saturday, January 24
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
\$20-Members / \$30-Nonmembers

Sweetheart Supper Safari

Dinner under the stars, champagne,

Volunteer Application

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
HOME PHONE _____
BUSINESS PHONE _____

When may we reach you at the above numbers:
HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

Do you prefer a day _____
or evening _____ class?

Return to: Volunteer Coordinator
Zoological Society of Florida
12400 S.W. 152 St., Miami, FL 33177

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/American Express. A confirmation letter will be issued upon receipt of payment. Fees are refundable up to 1 week before the program date.

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 Sept. 1): _____ Grade in school (as of Sept.): _____
Program(s): _____ Fee \$ _____
_____ Fee \$ _____
Member Membership # _____ Nonmember \$ _____
 Mastercard Visa Amer. Exp. Expiration Date _____ **TOTAL** \$ _____
Card # _____ Signature _____

A non-refundable \$5 processing fee will be retained in the event of a cancellation.

Mail to:
Education Department
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF FLORIDA
12400 S.W. 152nd Street
Miami, Florida 33177
(305) 255-5551

Metrozoo-London Keeper Exchange

In the true spirit of cooperation among zoos, Metrozoo and the London Zoo shared a wealth of information and expertise with a recent exchange of elephant keepers. The London Zoo is an older, very traditional zoo, with an emphasis on research. The elephants were exhibited, but zoo philosophy did not include training them. A recent decision to offer the public a display of a Malaysian village complete with working elephants presented a new challenge to the London Zoo. Faced with a young and inexperienced elephant department, Curator of Mammals for the London Zoo, Dr. Brian Bertram, asked Metrozoo's visiting Director Robert Yokel and Curator of Mammals Rick Barongi if they could offer any assistance. After numerous telephone conversations, the London Zoo sent one of its elephant keepers, Lee Sambrook, to Miami to work at Metrozoo for three weeks in April under the supervision of our elephant department.

In exchange, Metrozoo sent our head elephant keeper, Bill Doss, to the London Zoo for three weeks in September. Working in conjunction with the London zookeepers, Bill helped to develop their elephant handling and training program.

The London Zoo had acquired two young elephants, a two year old from Sri Lanka and a six year old from Malaysia. Although he is

an extremely experienced elephant trainer, Bill was faced with a few new challenges. First, the elephants understood only Ceylonese, their native language. Since the exhibit was to be authentic, the commands were to be given in that language rather than English. In addition, the elephants were conditioned to be worked from the right side rather than the left, just the opposite of what Bill was used to. However, these obstacles were easily overcome, and during his brief stay, Bill established an effective training program.

Both the London Zoo and Metrozoo are extremely happy with the results of this exchange. It is hoped that this was only the first of many cooperative efforts between the zoos. Exchange programs between these two zoos are simplified because there is no language barrier. Future visits by elephant keepers are in the planning stages, and there is hope that eventually keepers from other departments will be able to share their expertise. Not only do these programs offer different perspectives in the field of zookeeping, but the keepers share many other cultural and social experiences as well. For Bill Doss, training elephants was not that different in London, but the chance to see the country and share a different lifestyle was an experience he will long remember.



Photo Credit: Rod Birtndamour, National Geographic Society

Dr. Birute Galdikas

A Very Special Preview

The Education Department is pleased to announce a very special guest lecture by world renowned primatologist, Birute Galdikas. Dr. Galdikas, regarded by many as the world's foremost authority on orangutans, spends six months of the year conducting research on wild orangutans, and re-introducing hand-reared animals to natural habitat. The remaining six months of the year, she spends teaching at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Dr. Galdikas has devoted the last 15 years of her life to the study of orangutans. She has published numerous articles in both the scientific and lay press, and has received national as well as international recognition for her work.

Her lecture at Metrozoo is scheduled with the cooperation of the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, for Sunday, March 15. The lecture, titled "Asia's Arboreal Red Ape - the Orangutan", is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. Participants will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Galdikas at a reception following her talk.

The fee for this unique program will be \$8-Members/\$12-Nonmembers for the lecture alone; and \$10-Members/\$15-Nonmembers for the lecture plus reception. Reservations may be made using the registration form in "Education Outlook", or by telephoning a Master Card, Visa, or American Express card number to the Education Department.



Bill Doss, center with London elephant keepers.



Executive Director's Message

The past few months have been busy ones for the Zoological Society. We have concluded the 1985-1986 fiscal year with a number of accomplishments to our credit: our development department has succeeded in raising funds for the construction of the first koala exhibit outside the state of California, we have sponsored international travel and research for our Curatorial staff, and we have reached over 57,000 people through our educational programs. Most significantly, we have given Metrozoo the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic for the continuing care of its animal collection. All of this is possible only through the support and participation of over 64,000 Society members.

With the new year, we look forward to new challenges and new accomplishments. Groundbreaking for the koala exhibit will take place early in 1987, along with the renovation of the Sulawesi Village. In addition, we are in the process of constructing picnic facilities for visiting school groups, which will make zoo visits more enjoyable and comfortable for students and teachers alike.

The new year will offer additional benefits to our members as well. You will receive discounts to other recreational and cultural facilities in Miami through a reciprocal agreement with the Miami Seaquarium, Vizcaya, the Museum of Science, the Historical Museum, and the Center for the Fine Arts. As a result of negotiations between the Zoological Society Board of Directors and the Dade County Park Department, the Zoological Society will be operating the gift shops on zoo grounds. Society members will receive a 10% discount on purchases amounting to \$10 or more. In addition, all purchases made in the shops will now help to support capital and operational projects at Metrozoo.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support during the past year, and I look forward to realizing, with your help, our goals for 1987.

1986 Director's Safari

by Executive Director Joe Ferrer

In October, Board of Directors members Roger Carlton, Lester Goldstein, and Dr. Herbert Wertheim, along with Board of Trustees members Ray Lopez, Martha Williams, and I, experienced an unforgettable safari to Kenya with Joan Embry as our tour guide. Observing the incredible diversity of wildlife in its natural habitat strengthened our

commitment to Metrozoo's role in wildlife conservation and education. It is sad to note that the black rhino, cheetah, and so many other species are almost at the point of extinction. We, as members of the Zoological Society, can have an impact on the future of these animals by our continued support of Metrozoo and its programs.



Kenya Safari participants included: left to right seated: Martha J. Williams, Board of Trustees; Masai child; Joseph E. Ferrer, Executive Director. Second row (standing): Florence and Donald Broudy; Sonya Zuckerman; Debbie Lopez. Third row: Bella Goldstein, Board of Trustees; Joan Embry, San Diego Zoo; Ray Lopez; Dr. Herbert Wertheim, Board of Directors; Nicole Wertheim. Fourth row: Roger Carlton, President, Zoological Society of Florida; Lester Goldstein, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

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Toucan Talk:

Editor: Diane A. Ledder
Asst. Editor: Terry Odell
Design: Janice McDougall

Museum of Science & Space Transit Planetarium



"Tyrannosaurus"
from the Museum of Science

DINOSAURS ARE BACK... at the Miami Museum of Science. Eight fierce creatures will move and growl in a primordial forest setting from February 4-April 30 in a glimpse of life 150 million years ago. A life-sized baby Apatosaurus joins its mother this year, along with the dinosaur king, the Tyrannosaurus, as well as a Pachycephalosaurus, Triceratops, Pterandon, Dimetrodon and Stegosaurus. Discover different theories of what may have caused the dinosaurs' extinction at the planetarium show.

As a member of the Zoological Society, you can visit the Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium at a 20% discount. The Museum - Planetarium is just one of the five organizations that are offering our members a discount on admission.

The other organizations include: the Historical Museum, Vizcaya, Seaquarium, and the Center for the Fine Arts. To receive the 20% discount on admission, you must show your valid Zoological Society membership card with proof of identification. The discounts apply to regular admission only, and may not be used in combination with any other discounts or for special engagements.

Take a trip back in time. Visit the dinosaurs at the Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium, located at 3280 South Miami Avenue. The dinosaur exhibit is open daily from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Jungle Jog

Dust off those running shoes! You won't want to miss the 5th annual Jungle Jog at Metrozoo, named this year as the State of Florida Five Mile Championship Run!

Early registrations (\$8) will be accepted through January 3rd. Late registrations (\$10) will be accepted through the morning of the race, January 18th at 8 a.m.

Jungle Jog is sponsored by the Zoological Society of Florida in conjunction with Baptist Hospital of Miami, Bud Lite and Racal Milgo.

Zoobus Expands Service

The zoo will be a little easier to reach with a new holiday schedule for Zoobus. The bus began operating 7 days a week on December 20, and will continue on the daily schedule through April.

For further information call 251-0403.

Zoobus makes the zoo accessible to those who do not drive. This valuable service has been made available through a grant from the state of Florida to the Dade County Department of Transportation.

Calendar of Events

December 7 to January 17

Late registration for
Second Annual
Zoological Society of Florida
Photo Contest
Metrozoo Giftshop
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

January 4

Greater Miami
Avicultural Society Meeting
3:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

January 4 to January 18

Late registration for
Jungle Jog

January 18

Jungle Jog
State of Florida
Championship 5 mile run
at Metrozoo

January 21

Zootography Club Meeting
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Classroom #2

February 1

Greater Miami
Avicultural Society Meeting
3:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

February 14

Sweetheart Supper & Safari
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

February 18

Zootography Club Meeting
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Classroom #2

REMEMBER: Do not leave home without your membership card

Zoological Society of Florida

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Miami, Florida 33177
(305) 255-5551

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