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

NIGHTTIME IS THE RIGHT TIME:



THE ZOO AFTER DARK

by Night Keeper, Cathy Hudson

How would you like to:

- feed a black-naped fruit dove baby who's about the size of a quarter?
- watch the frisky nighttime cavorting of a Grevy's zebra filly, so full of life she seems about to burst?
- take out a Bengal tiger cub to "rough-house" under the stars?
- discover the small gray lump with enormous feet that makes up a newborn rhinoceros?
- watch Malayan sun bear cubs (much more endearing than any store-bought teddy) as they sleep entangled in the cozy warmth of their mom's embrace?
- separate animals who, for one reason or another, are exhibiting aggressive behavior towards one another?

- put together animals who look as if they've got romance on their minds?
- assist in watching over an endangered Florida panther as she recuperates from surgery?
- talk with daytime zookeepers about special concerns they have regarding their charges?
- check on the progress of a wattled crane chick pipping out of its shell?
- search for the black and white ruffed lemurs on their island? (an exercise reminiscent of a child's coloring book: "Can you find the lemurs in this picture?")
- throw smelt to a drop-in wood stork in the hopes he'll like the room service here and take up residence? Continued on Page 2

NIGHTTIME IS THE RIGHT TIME:

THE ZOO AFTER DARK



Well, nighttime is the right time, for these and many other wonderful experiences!

Metrozoo's night keeper position came into being last August when a greater kudu was discovered early one morning having difficulty with the delivery of her baby. Happily, both dam and offspring are alive and thriving today, but their dilemma helped to illustrate the need for round-the-clock coverage of the animals in our care. As a new position, night care offers the keeper an exciting sense of personal growth, interesting experiences, and added responsibilities. Each night is unique and each session will offer different challenges.

The first task of a night keeper is to learn what's normal so we'll be able to recognize what's not. This is accomplished by gradual night-to-night comparisons of group and individual behavior of the animals so we'll notice when something's out of kilter.

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Initially, we were concerned with getting the animals used to our nighttime presence. We've learned there is a delicate balance between approaching an animal too noisily or so quietly that it's startled. By standardizing our movements around the animals, they've quickly become accustomed to the routine of night checks. Some seem oblivious to us now: the bears and Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs rarely raise an eyelid. Others seem to look forward to our visits: we're cheerfully greeted by the chirping and purring of the female cougar as she brushes against her enclosure

Some animals are very active at night: no wonder the kangaroos lounge all day: they're busy all night. Others take close inspection to tell if they're really alive: a sleeping armadillo can look deader than a doornail. Most of the hoofed mammals remain alert, and it's fascinating to compare the different glow of eyes as they're reflected by the flashlight. Red sheep eyes are so w-i-d-e-l-y spaced one can barely get both in a head-on view. Yellow-backed duikers' eyes glow with a reddish, almost demonic light. It's fun to imagine oneself on safari identifying various animals by

the size, color, height, and placement of their reflected eyes.

There are the wonderful sounds of the night. The unison calling of cranes, the whistling of mating tapirs, the terrifyingly prehistoric squawk of a great blue heron (sounding, and looking, for all the world like a pterodactyl as it swoops low through the trees), the soft hooting of a great horned owl, the roar of a Bengal tiger male over an in-season female, the trumpeting of elephants - can all be distinguished from any point in the zoo.

Ås night keepers, we've had the opportunity to participate in a number of adventures. Two examples come to mind immediately. Our veterinarian, Dr. Scott Citino, wanted to have chemical analyses run on the milk of the black rhino female, Lulu. Before the birth of her calf, Thika, on December 31 of last year, Lulu was uncomfortable, and therefore, difficult to approach during the day. But at night, by talking to her softly and stroking her, we found she cooperated with apparent pleasure. She's partial to hearing about how people will be coming from **miles** around to see her and her beautiful baby. Over the weeks, the prideful thought has occurred more than once, "Bet I'm the only person on the face of the earth milking a black rhino at 2:00 a.m."

Then, there was the exciting chance to watch a chimpanzee birth. Samantha's labor was short-lived and merry to see. Her antics included pacing about making terrific faces and bending over in a near headstand while the other chimps watched on inquisitively. She even presented her rear-end to the nighthouse bars, simultaneously pointing to the crucial spot and looking around as if to say, "There it is, dodo. Pull it out!" When the baby popped out with ease, she immediately scooped her up to her breast and held her with one arm as she began making a thick nest of burlap. In the process, she confiscated the burlap belonging to each member of the troop, and got no argument from anyone.

Great work, if you can get it, huh?!

S.S.P.ANIMAL

Grevy's Zebra

One of the most memorable sights of an East African safari is that of a Grevy's zebra on the arid plains of Samburu, Kenya. As the heat rises off the sun baked earth, the air oscillates, causing the distant stripes of the zebra to vibrate gently with an aura of surrealism.

The Grevy's zebra, Equus grevyi, is the largest of all eight wild equine species (horses, asses and zebras). Designated an endangered species, the Grevy's zebra's dwindling home range is confined to the semi-arid regions of Ethiopia, Somalia, and North-

ern Kenya.

Named in honor of Francois P.J. Grevy, a former president of the French Republic, it is so remarkably different from all other African zebra species that is is classified in its own subgenus. Standing 60 inches at the shoulder and weighing 800 to 1000 pounds, it is quite a bit larger than the more common "broad striped" Grant's zebra. The Grevy's very narrow stripes, erect mane, and large fuzzy ears that can rotate almost 180°,

qualify it as one of the handsomest members of the horse family.

The Miami Metrozoo is one of 30 zoological institutions participating in the North American S.S.P. (Species Survival Plan) for the Grevy's zebra. The program, which began about three years ago, determines husbandry, genetic, and research guidelines for the zebra over the next several decades. The main objective of this S.S.P. masterplan is to preserve in captivity as much as possible of the Grevy's zebra's wild gene pool. Presently, there are about 240 Grevy's zebras involved in this S.S.P. program.

Number 240 happens to be a female born on December 8, 1986 at Metrozoo. Although the future for the several thousand wild Grevy's zebras appears bleak due to poaching, competition with domestic livestock, and severe droughts, there is still hope for captive breeding programs. Then, maybe... just maybe, we can once again make the future for this species secure enough so future generations can witness a Grevy's zebra shimmering in the African sun.





BankingOn Bears

Sun Bank of Miami, supporters of the Malayan sun bear exhibit, had reason to celebrate last fall when five baby sun bears were born at the zoo. When the veterinary staff noticed that one of the baby bears was being neglected by its mother, it was pulled for hand rearing. The baby, named "Billy Bear" by the keeper staff, makes public appearances during the wildlife show three times a day in the amphitheatre. Metrozoo has produced more Malayan sun bears in 1986 than all other U.S. zoos combined.

Sun Bank of Miami is just one of many corporations that supports entire animal exhibits. The next time you are at the zoo, take a moment to observe the animal signs in front of each exhibit. Corporate sponsors are listed on many of the animal paddock signs. For information on corporate sponsorship contact Cynthia Zeigler, Development Director, at 255-5551.



John Pennekamp, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Sun Bank of Miami (holding the baby sun bear), and Joseph Ferrer, Executive Director of the Zoological Society.

TOUCAN TIDBITS

by Diane Ledder, Associa



On your mark... get set...

Jungle Jog 1987

The Fifth Annual Jungle Jog at Metrozoo, sanctioned as the State of Florida Five Mile Championship Run, proved to be a great success, with 1,407 runners crossing the finish line.

Winners triumphed over their competitors in five categories. In the open categories, the Men's winner was Ron Shetina, with a time of 24:53.3. Toni Gariano captured the women's open division with a time of 30:33.9.

In the team categories, the open division was won by the Goldcoast Racing Team. St. Ambrose captured the title for school teams. In the corporate team category, the Motorola Running Club triumphed, followed closely by Eastern Airlines in the second and third spots.

Of special note were the efforts of our oldest and youngest finishers. Special awards were given to Ms. Ruth Rothfarb, 84 years young, who finished the race with a time of one hour and nine minutes; and to Paul Maloney, 7, who finished in one hour and six

minutes. Our celebrated and much publicized Peruvian marathoner, Felix Flores Pacheco, finished 15th overall with a time of 27:02.

The Zoological Society would like to acknowledge the generous support received from our sponsors and donors:

Baptist Hospital of Miami
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Racal Milgo
Del Monte Fresh Fruit
Gatorade/Quaker Oats
Ovens of France
Pumpernik's
Publix
Burger King
Kendall Lakes Sporting Goods
Coral Reef Hospital
The Walter Torres Family

We would also like to thank our staff of dedicated volunteers, board members, and representatives from Miami Runners who contributed their time and efforts to make this a most successful event!



L to R: Mens Open Winner, Ron Shetina; Womens Open Winner, Toni Gariano, with Board of Directors member Dr. Monroe Scheiner, and Board President, Roger Carlton.

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For Children

After School Adventure

This program for 1st through 4th graders will explore the world of BEARS. Come meet a keeper and learn about the different kinds of bears at Metrozoo, their habits, and how they are cared for.

Wednesday, March 18 OR April 8 1st thru 4th graders 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. \$10-Members / \$15 Nonmembers

For Teens

Toucan Team

Designed for students interested in careers in veterinary medicine, wild-life biology, and zoology, this course provides a unique introduction to the life sciences. Participants will be eligible to join the society's teen volunteer organization upon completion of the course, and will be able to assist in our summer programs. Students must be in grades 9 through 12.

5 Consecutive Saturdays March 14 - April 11 1 to 4 p.m. \$75 Members / \$85 Nonmembers

For Families

Two for the Zoo

Share a special time at the zoo with your 3 to 5 year old.* Animal lessons are highlighted with craft activities and animal demonstrations. The topic for this edition of the program is "I Get Around." Come learn more about how animals move.

Wednesday, March 25 OR April 22 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

\$10 Members / \$16 Nonmembers *Children must be three years old by March 1st. No one under three will be admitted.

Breakfast with the Beasts

Take advantage of this opportunity to enter the zoo in the early morning hours. The program includes a continental breakfast, animal guests and a chance to talk to a zookeeper. Meet some of our most personable residents up close.

Sunday, March 22 OR April 26 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. \$10-Members / \$15-Nonmembers



For Adults

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 F.I.U. at 554-2561 or the Education Department at 255-5551.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, May 5 thru June 11 ● 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
March 21 & 28 ● 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
NO FEE - Registration through
T.E.C. only

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 dinner "al fresco" and a behind the scenes tour.

Saturday, March 28 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. \$20-Members / \$30-Nonmembers



Photo Credit: Rod Brindamour

SPECIAL LECTURE DR. BIRUTE GALDIKAS

Dr. Galdikas, world famous primatologist, will be at Metrozoo for a special speaking engagement. She has spent most of the last 15 years in the jungles of Indonesia studying wild orangutans and re-introducing hand-reared animals to their natural habitat. Her lecture, titled "Asia's Arboreal Red Ape - the Orangutan", promises to be entertaining and informative. A reception will follow the lecture, giving guests the opportunity to meet Dr. Galdikas.

Sunday, March 15 • 7:00 p.m. Lecture: \$8-Members / \$10-Nonmembers Lecture & Reception: \$10-Members / \$15-Nonmembers



TICTD ATTOM

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 A S5. processing fee will be retained in the event of a cancellation.

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Students Age (as of Sept. 1)	:Grade in	school (as of Sep) S.W. 152nd Street
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Metrozoo Design Team: left to right, Sally Timberlake, Laura Wiegert, and William Tuttle.

The Metrozoo Design Team

Metrozoo's paddock areas are wonderful examples of engineering design, offering our animals freedom and comfort. One of the most important aspects of any exhibit is the signage. A good graphic display not only identifies the animals, but profiles their lifestyles as well. We are very proud of the quality of work produced by the Design Department at Metrozoo.

The paddock sign is the first educational tool available to the zoo visitor. Metrozoo's design department, headed by William Tuttle, produces all of the signs you see on zoo grounds. Tuttle and his two able co-workers, Sally Timberlake and Laura Wiegert, work as a team to make sure that the signs are attractive as well as informative.

The process of creating a paddock sign begins with a study of the animal. Using photographs and observations of the animals themselves, a preliminary sketch is created. The final drawing will depict the animal as it would look in its natural habitat, showing behaviors unique to that animal. Additional consideration is given to the appearance of the young animals, and the number of animals living together in the wild, when composing the drawing.

After the drawing is finalized, a clay slab is rolled out and the sculpture work begins. Upon completion, a plaster mold of the sculpture is made so that the work could be recreated in case of damage. Next, the work is bisque fired, glazed, and fired again. The smaller ceramic pictographs showing diet, activity times, habitat, and status are also prepared. All parts of the signs are standardized so that individual

components can be replaced or changed as needed.

The board identifying the animal is sandblasted. The descriptive passages, written by the curatorial staff, are engraved onto plates. Major donors are also recognized with engraved plaques.

Once all the components of the sign are ready, the ceramic pieces are mounted in a wooden frame, the animal's name is attached to the top, and the sign is ready to be placed on the paddock.

The responsibilities of the Design Department go far beyond paddock signs. Anyone who has been through the aviary has certainly admired the delightful watercolors of all the birds. These creations are also works of our Design Department. In addition, the department also manufactures the sandblasted signs you see from the moment you enter the driveway to the zoo, keeping visitors informed as to where they are, where to eat, when the shows are, and just about anything else the public needs to know in order to find its way around the zoo.

The Design Department is often called upon to create the temporary signs announcing concerts, corporate picnics, and other special, one-time events. Virtually all the work is done right here at Metrozoo, from airbrushing to watercolors. The team is also responsible for creating conceptual drawings for potential projects to help administration visualize the project. In addition to all the demands on their already-busy schedules, the Design Department always manages to find time to help the Zoological Society with signs for its special needs.

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Tortuguero Place of the Turtles

A rare opportunity to participate in an on-going turtle conservation/investigation/tagging project in the Caribbean has been made available to the Zoological Society of Florida. A team of eight individuals is needed for 14 days (July 20 - August 2, 1987) to participate with a resident scientist in cooperation with the Caribbean Conservation Corporation on the island of Tortuguero,

Costa Rica.

These team members need to be adventurous, dedicated, and flexible. Accomodations during the turtle tagging "expeditions' are spartan, but the experience and personal rewards are without measure. Space is limited for this unique opportunity to be a researcher for 14 days, but each member of the team has an important role to play. The 22-mile beach is the largest remaining nesting ground of the Caribbean green turtle. The turtles are observed while digging their nests, depositing their 100 eggs, and hiding the nests once their mission is accomplished. At just the right moment, a tag is attached to the turtle's front flipper before she journeys back to the ocean.

At the end of the 14 day experience, team members will have participated in a 30 year old research project. They will have assisted in an important step in the development of conservation and preservation measures needed to save a species from extinction.

Reservations for this experience will be accepted on firstcome basis pending completion of the application and "approval" as required by a physician. The price is pending (but will be around \$1,300) and will include air fare from Miami, lodging, and food while in Tortuguero. For those who prefer not to "rough it", the Tortuga Lodge is located a short distance from the field station. Accommodations, which include private bath and meals, will cost an additional fee of approximately \$1,600. For more information or an application please call 255-5551.



The Zoological Society of Florida offers a variety of programs to its members which increase awareness and understanding of wildlife and conservation. No class, lecture, or printed page, however, can recreate the experience of viewing animals in their natural habitats. In order to make this possible for a greater number of Society members, we have developed a varied and exciting travel program for 1987. If you've ever considered a trip to the following destinations, 1987 may be the year to realize that dream:

- On Wednesday, March 11, the Zoological Society will host a complimentary reception and introduction to the Galapagos Islands, presented by a representative of the Galapagos Reservation Center. The presentation will highlight the diversity of animal life on the islands, and travel options available to Zoological Society members.
- For the adventurous traveller, we will offer a chance to participate in a turtle tagging program in a 2 week research trip to Tortugero, beginning July 20 (see details in this issue).
- Park East Tours, Inc. has put together 2 fabulous wildlife safaris for the Zoological Society. The first will introduce Society members to the wilds of Kenya from July 11-24. The second tour will include both Kenya and Tanzania in its August 29 - September 14 itinerary.
- A new tour location will be realized for the Society in 1987: China! The itinerary will include trips to see the giant pandas and the Shanghai Zoo, from November 4-18.

Prior to each of the above tours, a special complimentary preview program will be scheduled at the zoo to introduce the tour and let prospective travellers know what to expect from their journey. Watch for each travel program to be highlighted in the newsletter and special mailings, then plan to join us for each presentation.

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Toucan Talk:

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

The Director's Choice

In December of 1986, the Zoological Society of Florida officially acquired the gift and novelty concession at Metrozoo, with the result that all gift shop profits now directly benefit the zoo. This also means that members will further benefit from their memberships by receiving a 10% discount with any purchase of \$10 or more

The staff of the gift shop is working very hard to offer quality merchandise at reasonable prices. Our new selection includes collector's plates by Villeroy and Boch, featuring a seal, an orangutan, and a tiger; all threatened species. The artistic quality of these plates is outstanding, and they would make a beautiful display in any animal lover's home. The plates were commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund, recognized as one of the world's foremost conservation organizations. World Wildlife will receive a \$5.00 contribution for each purchase. There are a limited number of plates available, and the sale price is \$40.00 each.

As a further convenience to you, we accept Mastercard, Visa, and American Express charge

cards.

The next time you are at Metrozoo, please stop by the Zoofari Trading Post, near the exit, or the Sulawesi gift shop. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the changes.

A Tribute To John L. Hickey

John L. Hickey, a member of the Zoological Society of Florida's original Board of Governors, passed away in May of 1986, leaving the Society a legacy of precious documents that he maintained during his tenure as Society Treasurer. These include the very first newsletter published in November of 1956.

Mr. Hickey was well known throughout Miami as the President and Business Agent of the District Council of the Carpenters Union, and for his many efforts in community affairs.

The Society is indebted to this dedicated and meticulous man, and to Mrs. Hickey for recognizing the value of her husband's collection.

The Railroad Comes to the Historical Museum

Few people have had as much impact on any region as Henry Flagler had on the southeast coast of Florida. From the purchase of his first railroad in 1885, to his train's arrival in Key West in 1912, Flagler and the FEC changed the face of south Florida. "RAILS, TYCOONS AND GALES: THE HISTORY OF THE FLORI-DA EAST COAST RAILWAY," is an artifact-rich exhibition that will explore the history of Flagler's system as well as its impact on South Florida. The exhibition will be on display from March 19 through June 6, 1987 in the Historical Museum's Special Exhibition Gallery at 101 West Flagler.

As a member of the Zoological Society, you can visit the Historical Museum and this fantastic exhibit at a 20% discount. The Historical Museum is just one of the six organizations that are offering our members a discount

on admission.

The other organizations include: the Center for the Fine Arts, the Discovery Center, the Miami Seaquarium, the Museum of Science & Space Transit Planetarium, and Vizcaya. 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.

Trivial Challenge Night

The same zany committee that formulated "The Hunt" is at it again. The evening of May 16th is slated as "Trivial Challenge Night" (a form of "Trivial Pursuit" played in groups of couples). Call the Special Events Department at 255-5551 for more information and to reserve your ticket for this exciting event.



The Zoo In Comfort

Are you entertaining visiting snowbirds? Are you looking for something special to do? Why not take advantage of our new Cart Tours? Our specially trained docents will provide a narrated, two hour tour of the entire zoo, and it's all done from the comfort of an eight passenger golf cart. These personalized tours allow you and a few special friends to see everything at the zoo while learning all about our animal collection.

These special tours are given on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from 10 A.M. until noon. The charge is \$10 per person for members, and \$15 for nonmembers. Tours are given by reservation only. Reservations should be made at least three weeks in advance. To reserve a place for your special tour, call Kate at 255-1128, then relax and enjoy the zoo.

Calendar of Events

March 1 Greater Miami Avicultural Society Meeting 3:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

March 3
Volunteer training begins
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Classroom #1

March 11
"Introduction to the Galapagos"
7:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

March 15
Birute Galdikas lecture:
Asia's Arboreal Red Ape The Orangutan
7:00 p.m. / Amphitheatre

March 18 Zootography Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

April 5
Greater Miami
Avicultural Society Meeting
3:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

April 15 Zootography Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. / Classroom #2

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REMEMBER: Do not leave home without your membership card

Zoological Society of Florida

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