TOUCAN

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



TALK

MAY/JUNE , 1987 VOL. 13, NO. 3

"What's for Dinner?"



What do you feed a 400 pound gorilla?

Certainly not "anything he wants!"
The diets of all of Metrozoo's animals are nutritionally complete and carefully controlled.

All diets are prepared in the zoo's spacious kitchen, which is located adjacent to a huge hay barn behind the exhibit areas. Everything is immaculate; the kitchen is inspected regularly by the Department of Agriculture. Four keepers work full time in the kitchen, in three shifts. The early shift begins at 6 AM, getting the grains ready for the morning feedings. The final shift will be busiest throughout the afternoon, preparing the evening meals.

Working within a budget of \$250,000 a year, only the best food is fed to the animals. Contrary to popular belief, zoo animals do not get spoiled meat and week-old produce. With the room-sized walk-in freezer, meats can be ordered up to three months in advance. The refrigerator, equally as large, houses only the freshest produce which is ordered two or three times a week. In addition to the obvious requirements of grains, hay, and produce, the kitchen must also order about 1000 chicks a week, as well as horsemeat, mealworms, crickets, and other assorted delicacies. Commercially prepared "chows" are available, specially formulated for almost any kind of animal imaginable. Metrozoo, in its efforts to control both quality and price, has these prepared foodstuffs tested at independent laboratories at regular intervals to assure that the chow contains exactly what the label claims. "Bargain brands" are not acceptable if the quality is lacking.

Each animal at the zoo has its own diet card. Food is carefully measured, weighed, or counted. If the diet, which is determined by the curatorial staff and the veterinarian, requires seven grapes, then the animals get seven grapes, not six or eight. Many animals, especially birds in the aviary, require that their food be specially prepared. Soaking commercially prepared "chows", mixing them with peeled, chopped, hard-boiled eggs, fruit cocktail (water packed), and artificial nectar is a daily task.

The food must be presented in a manner suitable for the animal. This can



Area Supervisor, Mike Gerlach, carefully prepares animal diets in the Zoo kitchen.

mean a lot of chopping, shredding, and slicing. Hay racks for giraffes must be at giraffe eye level; it is very difficult for a giraffe to bend over and feed from the ground. Some animals like to carry food to secluded places. It is important to offer them food that is small enough to be carried easily. Animals also get used to certain foods, and to the way they are presented. Changing brands of chow, for example, must be done gradually. Morris the cat is not the only finicky eater around. Animals used to getting quartered apples may refuse to eat them if they appear cut in half instead.

In determining the diet of the animals, the curators and veterinarian must take both the nutritional and behavioral needs of the animal into account. For example, in the wild, tigers are not successful on every hunt. They tend to gorge themselves when they do make a kill, and then often must fast for up to a week or more until they are able to find food again. The zoo strikes a balance with the natural way of life of the tiger by feeding

it about 7 or 8 pounds of "feline diet" six days a week, and fasting it once a week. An animal's social status, activity level, and age are also important in determining a diet. Animals which are growing or very active require a diet higher in calories than their older, less active counterparts.

Animals at Metrozoo are generally fed 'off exhibit", in their night holding areas. This is done for reasons of sanitation, as well as to make it easier for the keepers to monitor what each animal is eating. Animals can be separated during feeding times, if necessary. As a matter of fact, feeding them in their holding areas of nighthouse makes it much easier to bring the animals in every evening. (Now you know why everyone hangs out around the back of the exhibit in the late hours of the day.) Some animals are offered supplemental food on their exhibit. Keepers often cut fresh browse from the zoo's groves of trees to offer to their animals. This helps to avert boredom in the animals, because in the wild they would spend much of the day eating. Or, it may be to encourage the animal out into the public view. The bears and giant tortoises are fed on their paddocks during regular zoo hours for the enjoyment of the public.

Keeping the animals healthy is a major concern of all the zoo staff. Gone are the days of Frank Buck, when zoos replaced animals that died with ones from the wild. The emphasis on conservation means that every effort is made to keep animals alive, healthy, and reproducing, for as long as possible. For this reason, it is necessary to enforce a "no feeding' policy for zoo visitors. Animals, like people, will fill up on goodies, and then will refuse to eat their required diets. In addition, there are some diseases which are transmitted from people to zoo animals. A cold sore, minor for a human, can prove fatal to a gorilla or chimpanzee. We hope you enjoy watching the animals while you are visiting the zoo, but, please, don't feed them!



Only the best for our animals: fresh produce is ordered in abundance from the same wholesale markets that supply supermarkets.



Director's Choice ...

As a special feature in Toucan Talk, I will be highlighting unique gift ideas available for purchase from our gift shops.

This month, the Director's Choice is the hand etched rhea eggs by Rosina. The artist uses eggs produced by her own rhea, a South American bird similar to an ostrich. After the eggs are cleaned, they are dyed and the etching process begins. This is done by hand, scratching the dyed surface with a needle. The curved surface of the egg tends to create distortion in the design and the artist must compensate to achieve the desired results. Some eggs take as long as three months to complete. The intricate details make these eggs a truly original, one-of-a-kind, work of art.

The eggs are now on sale in the gift shops for \$200 each. On your next visit to the zoo, stop by and take a look at this unusual art form. Better yet, purchase one for your home! Remember, all proceeds from the gift shops support Metrozoo.



Angolan Colobus

First of their kind ... in the U.S.

One of the newest and most interesting exhibits at Metrozoo is the colobus monkey exhibit. Characterized by its strikingly handsome black coat, feathered white face and long epaulettes of silky white hair, the Angolan colobus, Colobus angolensis palliatus, is exhibited nowhere else in the United States.

The subfamily of primates, Colobinae, consists of some 30 different species of leaf-eating monkeys from Africa and Asia. These predominantly arboreal monkeys are different from all others in several ways. First, they are without, or have greatly reduced, thumbs. This feature is responsible for their Greek nomenclature, "kolobus", which means

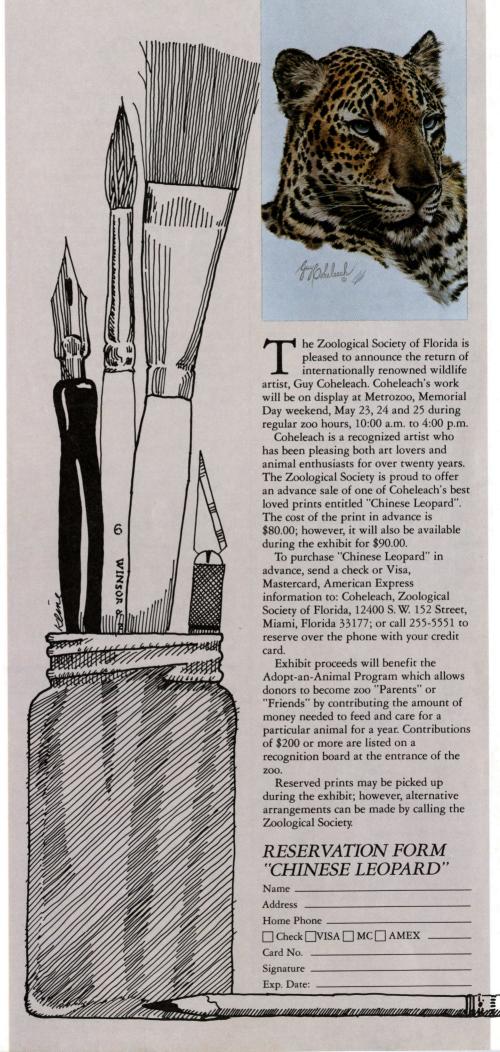


mutilated, as early zoologists believed that local people actually cut the thumbs off!

Their complex sacculated stomach is also unique and is adapted for digesting the two to four pounds of leaves they consume each day. As a result of their specialized dietary requirements, colobus monkeys have been somewhat difficult to maintain and breed in captivity. When they do reproduce, the newborns are completely white and gradually acquire the adult coloration during the next four months of life. Demonstrating a behavior unusual among primates, colobus infants are handled by several adults in the group. Biologists think that this white natal coat communicates "handle with care" to the older monkeys.

The specific subspecies of colobus we exhibit are found only in the savannah woodlands of northeastern Tanzania and southeastern Kenya. They live in cohesive groups of between 3 and 15 individuals, with usually one adult male and 3 to 4 adult females. Metrozoo currently has three males and ten females that are divided into three separate breeding groups which alternate time on exhibit.

Now that our colobus have been successfully acclimated to captivity, we expect to be seeing some snowy-white additions in the near future.





Metrozoo's new Education-Picnic Facility

Citicorp Children's Play Area



Metrozoo has acquired a new exhibit. Not your normal rare animal exhibit; but, one where children can run free.

On March 18, Metrozoo opened its Citicorp Childrens' Play Area, completely funded through a generous donation from Citicorp Savings and Loan. The play area is another example of the progress that can be made when the private, public and community sectors work together.

The play area has met with rave reviews. Its success can largely be attributed to the many small children who use it to take a break from animal watching. Many of these children have a short attention span so the play area provides them with a place where they can rejuvenate.

Children are not the only ones who are thrilled with the play area. It provides parents with a respite before continuing their tour of the zoo.

Metrozoo is building another play area which will be located across from the African elephant paddock. Zoo officials are confident that the play areas will enhance Metrozoo by providing its visitors with yet another convenience.

Another new addition to Metrozoo is an Education-Picnic Facility which was sponsored by the Zoological Society.

The Education-Picnic site is located near the Zoological gift shop and the zoo exit. The area will serve as a place where the quarter of a million children who pass through our educational programs can enjoy interesting classes and lunch in the great outdoors.

The Zoological Society is dedicated to

making projects such as these realities. With the generous support of our community and local corporations, Metrozoo will continue to develop to its potential.

Travel Preview



Do you find yourself day dreaming about the movie "Out of Africa"? Is 1987 the year that you will discover Africa? Is your sense of adventure and curiosity peaking?

If you answered "yes" to at least one of these questions, you should give us a call (255-5551) and join us on May 13 at 7:00 p.m. for an exciting preview of what you can look forward to on an African Safari with other members of the Zoological Society of Florida.

July 11-24 (for \$2,595 per person) we are offering a photographic safari through Kenya; August 29 - September 14 (for \$2,995) per person) a new itinerary will provide photo opportunities through Kenya and Tanzania. Stop dreaming and start packing!

E duca Notes

Programs for Families:

Family Night at Metrozoo

The Education Department will host an evening of family adventure and entertainment to celebrate Father's Day. Parents, grandparents, and children will be treated to a peek behind the scenes and a special animal show.

Saturday, June 20 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Members: Adults-\$5.00 Children-\$2.50 Fathers-FREE Nonmembers: Adults-\$8.00 Children-\$4.00 Fathers-FREE

Mother's Day Breakfast with the Beasts

Celebrate Mother's Day with an early morning breakfast at the zoo. A continental breakfast will be followed by a visit with some of our off-exhibit reptiles and other special animal guests.

Sunday, May 15 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Members: \$10.00/Nonmembers: \$15

Programs for Adults: Supper Safari

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

Saturday, May 30 Saturday, June 27 — program in Spanish 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Members: \$20/Nonmembers: \$30

Adult Zoo-Inn

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

Friday, May 15

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

Summer is just around the corner, and it's not too early to begin planning for summer camp. New animals and new "behind the scenes" experiences add up to the most exciting summer adventure yet. Give your child a memorable vacationsummer camp at Metrozoo!

Summer Programs



AGE: 3, 4, 5 year olds

This is a seeing, doing, touching, learning experience for the little ones. Children 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 22 through 26 closed; June 29 through July 3 closed; July 20 through 24 closed; August 3 through 7 closed; August 10 through 14 closed July 27-31 program in Spanish — Open HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to noon \$65-Members / \$75-Nonmembers

Jungle Juniors

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 6 through 10 July 27 through 31 HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to noon

\$75-Members / \$85-Nonmembers

Zoocamp

GRADES: 4-6

Zoocampers will enjoy learning about zoo animals while gaining an appreciation for the functions 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 13 through 17 HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$95-Members / \$105-Nonmembers

Art Camp

GRADES: 5 and up

Students will explore a variety of media and techniques in creating animal art projects. They will learn to use their own observations and sketches of animals on zoo grounds as the basis for their work. This class is designed for students with a serious interest in art. Class size is limited to 20.

DATES:

July 6 through 10 HOURS: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\$65-Members / \$75-Nonmembers

Summer Safari

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 zoo staff.

DATES:

August 17 through 21 HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to noon

\$75-Members / \$85-Nonmembers

Toucan Team

GRADES: 9-12

A special 1-week session of this popular program for teens will be offered again this summer. Students study biology, animal behavior, and management of exotic animals with teachers from the Education Department and Curatorial staff. After completing the course, participants will be eligible to serve as junior counselors for our summer programs.

DATES:

June 29 through July 3 HOURS: 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

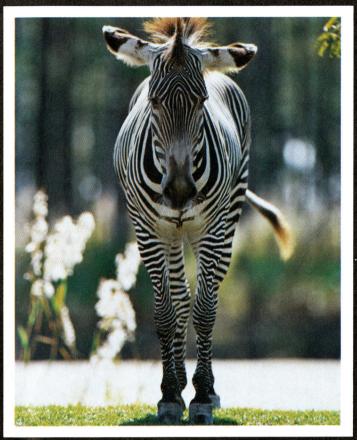
\$75-Members / \$85-Nonmembers

Register Here

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

Participant's Name		. //-
Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Bus. Phone	
Program(s):	Date:	Fee \$
	Date:	Fee \$
Member Membership #	Nonmember	Fee \$
Mastercard Visa Amer. Exp	o. Expirate Date	TOTAL
Card #	Signature	
	-	
For Camp and Children's Programs,	please complete the following:	
Parent's Name		
Student's Age	Grade in school (as of Sept. '87)	

Registration Policy: Advance registration is required for all programs. Registration 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 one week before the program date. A \$5 processing fee will be retained in the event of a cancellation. \$10 will be retained for all camp programs.



Grand Prize Winner — by Steven Murphy

The Zoological Society is happy to report that the Second Annual Photo Contest was a great success!

The Grand Prize, two Lufthansa round trip tickets to Germany, was awarded to Steven Murphy. First prize in the Color Film category went to Barbara Sandhouse, and first prize in the Black and White Category was won by Jonathon Lewis.

The Zoological Society would like to recognize the generous support received from our sponsors:

Lufthansa Airlines **Pitman Photo Thompson Photo Lab** Sea Escape Phil's Camera **Worldwide Photo** Kenya Photo Mural **Tishman Speyer Properties Great Image Photo Lab** Eastman Kodak The Falls

Kiwi Northern Mercantile

A special thanks must also be extended to our judges; professional photographers John Dominis, former picture editor for People magazine;and Lynn Pelham and Hank Walker, former TIME/LIFE photographers, who generously gave of their time.

The Society would also like to acknowledge our staff of dedicated volunteers who are always here to give us their valuable support.

First Prize, Color — Barbara Sandhouse

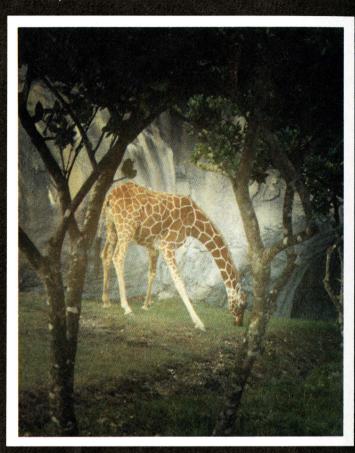
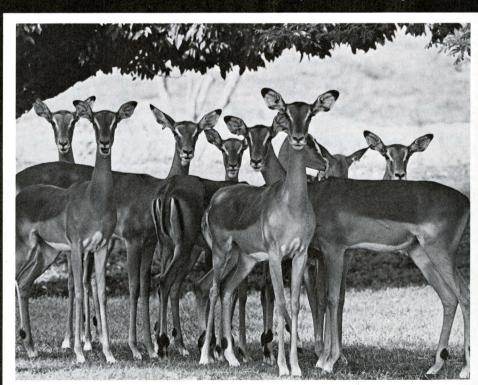


Photo Contest Winners

First Prize, Black and White — Jonathon Lewis



President's Message



Roger Carlton, President

It is with feelings of both pleasure and regret that I look back over the first half of my Presidency. I regret that the time is going so quickly, but thanks to the tremendous efforts of Board members and staff, I feel that the year is half full, not half empty. The positive image of the Society continues to escalate. Metrozoo and the Zoological Society are being mentioned more and more frequently by the media. Membership numbers continue to grow, thanks to the imaginative campaigns of the Membership Committee..Our long term goal of integrating our functions with those of the zoo is being realized.

The acceleration of work on projects, both small and large scale, seems to be culminating after four or five years of continuing efforts. Over 21,000 people have participated in our education programs already this year. We are now in charge of the Souvenir and Novelty Concession, and are seeing improvements in the gift shops. This, in turn, has improved the image of Metrozoo.

All of these achievements are the result of the dedicated efforts of our Board members, our Committees, and everyone's willingness to give of his or her valuable time. Although I feel gratified that so much as been accomplished, it is even more rewarding to receive the recognition of our efforts from the zoo staff. I am proud to be President of this great organization.

With six more months to go, I am cracking the whip to have the Membership/Administration building and the koala project completed. I am also looking forward to many more exciting projects. Thank you all for your help.



Participating in the Koala exhibit groundbreaking are left to right: Denis Arden, Architect; Roger Carlton, Zoological Society President; Lester Goldstein, Board of Trustees Chairman; Sam Getz, Mayors Jewelers; Jennifer Boin; Dr. Herbert Wertheim; Nicole Wertheim; Robert Ross, Lord & Taylor; Robert Yokel, Metrozoo Director; and Dick Montalbano, American Express.

Koala Project gets Underway

February 19 marked the groundbreaking for the Zoological Society of Florida's project, the Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Koala Exhibit. The \$150,000 exhibit is expected to be completed in approximately six months.

This exciting project will make Metrozoo the fourth zoo in the country and the first outside of California to host a permanent display of koalas. The exhibit, which will be totally self contained, includes areas for food preparation, storage, and an isolation/sick ward. Four koalas will call this new exhibit home; however, it will be able to house up to thirteen animals.

Plans also included the planting of seven acres of eucalyptus trees because koalas use these leaves as their sole source of nourishment. They need a fresh supply of leaves daily and each animal will require one acre of eucalyptus trees.

Public viewing areas will include one outside display, two indoor displays and a video monitor for koala close-ups. The outside area will be surrounded by a raised walkway which will allow visitors to view the animals from as little as ten feet away. Separate mini exhibits featuring Australian animals are planned for each side of the koala exhibit.

The koala exhibit is an important one for the Zoological Society and Metrozoo. It will aid Metrozoo in taking its place among the world's great zoos.

Beside the major support of the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Foundation, other contributors include: Mayor's Jewelers, Lord & Taylor, American Express, Eastern Airlines, WLVE Radio and Ackerly Communications.

"I.D. Please!"

Please remember, you will be asked to show proof of identification along with your valid membership card for entrance to the zoo.

If you lend your card to someone else, it will be confiscated at the gate.

You are a valued member of the Society and we want you to enjoy your visits. In order to avoid problems at the gate, take a moment now to check your card and make sure the information (name and address) is up to date. If you have moved, please contact the membership office with your new address.

The discount programs and free entrance to the zoo have made our card very valuable. We are privileged that the zoo allows our members free entrance. If the zoo feels that the membership card is being abused, it will cancel our privileges. Thank you for your cooperation.

Executive Committee:

Roger Carlton, President R. Ray Goode, President Elect Lawrence O. Turner, Jr.,

Vice President Robert Paul, Secretary Sanford B. Miot, Treasurer Lester Goldstein, Past President Board of Directors:

Frank C. Baiamonte William Barkell Gordon J. Bingham Beverly R. Carter Ronald Esserman B.B. Goldstein
Rick Hensler
Sherrill W. Hudson
Laura Jack
Charles Kantor
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Monroe Scheiner, M.D. Richard Shack Paul Singer Merrett R. Stierheim Howard J. Tendrich Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim Robert L. Yokel

Toucan Talk:

Editor: Diane A. Ledder Asst. Editor: Terry Odell Design: Lee Kline

Beyond the Rainbow ...

We have a dream... This is not fiction. It began with a vision to build Metrozoo, a home for rare and beautiful animals. It has continued with the conservation and breeding of endangered species at the zoo. Now the administrative staff, curators, veterinary staff and zookeepers are hard at work continuing to create and expand this space for the enjoyment of you, your children and grandchildren.

The dream is not without cost, nor is it without the opportunity for you, as a member, to participate fully if you share the dream.

The Zoological Society has initiated a program in which members can take an active part to help in providing for the future of the zoo. This program envisions an endowment of funds to bring these dreams into reality through special bequests in your will or through gifts of life insurance.

Helen B. Wolfenstein, Charter Life Underwriter, Charter Financial Planner, and Fellow Life Management Institute member; and Philippa J. Roxburgh, C.L.U. of The Prudential, have volunteered to work with members in this new life insurance gift program. Together we can go BEYOND THE RAINBOW and fulfill our dream.

We are planning two seminars to give you an exclusive insider's view of the future of the zoo and tell you more about our new program. BEYOND THE RAINBOW.

Make your reservation now for the seminar on May 16th at 10:30 A.M. or May 21st at 6:30 P.M. The program is free of charge; just fill in and return the application below.

I can attend the seminar on

May 16th at 10:30 A.M.

May 21st at 6:30 P.M.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Daytime Telephone

Check Special Interests:

Endowment Gift of Insurance Policy

Gift of Appreciated Property

Gift of Annuity Tax Shelter Information

Matching Gift Corporate Gift

Other

Something Trivial

The same zany committee that brought you "The Hunt" is at it again. This time it's "Trivial Challenge," (a form of Trivial Pursuit) on May 16, 8-11 p.m. at Metrozoo. Come and discover just how trivial minded you really are!

Twenty-five teams (coordinated by either individuals or the Society) consisting of four couples each, will be asked questions within ten categories. At the end of the evening, the three teams that have accumulated the most correct answers will win great prizes.

Space is limited, so reservations are a must. The cost for this trivia-filled event is \$34 per couple for members and \$44 per couple for nonmembers. Included in the cost is a dessert bar which has been generously sponsored by Haagen-Dazs ice cream.

We anticipate this to be a challenging, enjoyable evening that will turn into an annual event. For more information call the Special Events Department at 255-5551.

We'd love to attend:

Miami, Florida, 33177.

Name .

Name
We'd like to be with:
Name
Name
We'd love to attend but we need some bright people to sit with.
Make checks payable to: Zoological
Society of Florida, 12400 S.W. 152 Street

Calendar of Events

May 3

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

May 16

Trivial Challenge Night 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

May 17

Concert — Tommy James and the Shondells Members \$3

May 20

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

May 23, 24, & 25

Guy Coheleach Wildlife Art Exhibit

June 7

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

June 17

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

June 20

Family Night at the Zoo 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

June 22-July 25

Volunteer Training 7:00-9:00 p.m. Classroom #1

REMEMBER: Do not leave home without your membership card

Zoological Society of Florida

12400 S. W. 152nd Street Miami, Florida 33177 (305) 255-5551 Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Permit No. 4358 Miami, Florida



Summer Programs
At Metrozoo

Summer is just around the corner, and it's not too early to begin planning for summer camp. New animals and new "behind the scenes" experiences add up to the most exciting summer adventure yet. Give your child memorable vacation-summer camp at Metrozoo!

NOTE: Students who are registered by April 15th will receive \$10 discount on program fees.



Kindercamp

AGE: 3, 4, 5 year olds

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DATES:

June 29 through July 3 HOURS: 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FEE:

\$75-Members / \$85-Nonmembers

CAMP REGISTRATION...

Participant's Name		
Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Bus. Phone	
FOR STUDENTS UNDER TO Parent's Name		
Home Phone	Bus. Phone	
Students Age (as of Sept. 1):	Grade in scho	ool (as of Sept.):
Camp		Fee \$
		Fee \$
Member □ Membership #	Nonm	nember 🗆 s
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amer. Exp. Exp.	oiration Date	TOTAL \$
Cord #	Signature	

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 \$10. processing fee will be retained in the event of a cancellation.