

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

November/December 1987

Vol. 13, No. 6

A Walk On The Wild Side

The Gift shops at Miami Metrozoo have changed. What was once a common souvenir store has been transformed into a visually exciting environment and a home for the most unusual assortment of merchandise available.

The main gift shop has been changed into several small exciting shops, each with its own unique theme and visual presentation. The collection of merchandise available truly reflects a gift shop comparable to "one of the world's great zoos"!

It is with great pride that we now invite you to join us on a preview tour of the gift shop.

Our first shop features COLLECTIBLES. Here, you will experience the Master Series sculptures by Rick Cain, ceramic birds and flowers by Charles Sadek, extinct birds Aldon, wooden artifacts from Africana,

/x and ironwood animals, and hand painted plates by Heinreich. We will always attempt to make available the most unusual and fascinating gifts in a variety of price ranges.

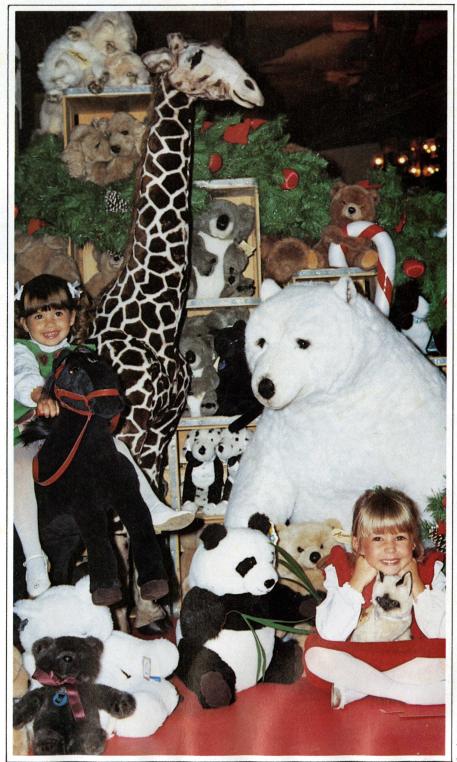
The next stop is the PAPER NOOK. Here you can choose from a variety of postal cards of animals and birds photographed at our zoo. In addition, you will find a complete assortment of note cards, boxed stationery, sketches of animals, posters, matted prints and more from Wildcards and Portal Publications. Our 1988 calendars include the photographic works of Austin Weeks, and wonderful animal themes from Daydream and Landmark.

The children's book area includes both hard and soft bound books (each with animal themes), and the award winning *Georgie the Jovial Giraffe*, by Grandma Marion.

The next fun stop is the KID'S ZOO an area set apart for children of all ages to rummage through baskets of small toys, wooden and flocked animals, little fuzzy clip-ons, rubber snakes, bug boxes, the Small World Toys educational collection, inflatable animals and more. There's Lots of plush: soft Avanti collections, Furskins and Raikes, bears, animal puppets, hug-

g animals, cuddly animals - big and ..all - from Dakin, Applause and Russ Berrie.

We even have a trellis area complete with bird mobiles, beautifully crafted leather birds on perches plus ceramic birds in hoops.





From here we turn to the JUNGLE FURNISHINGS area, featuring the most interesting and colorful animal-related home decorations: brightly hand painted napkin rings, plant sticks, assorted tropical fish, and ceramic tableware from Norcrest and Vandor including flamingo mugs, vases, candlesticks, frames and napkin holders. Ceramic animal lamps, flamingo and palmtree motif bath accessories,

animal jungle hooks and barware with animal designs are also showcased.

Our NOVEL-TEE shop has many exclusive shirts including the famous Ken Done koala shirts designed for the Miami Metrozoo. Also displayed are collections from Harlequin and Diamond Dust, individual animal educational shirts, whimsical animal shirts; the Raul del Rio bird print shirts and the zoo logo embroidered

ware with Sn

Also available are customized animal beach towels plus a vast hat and headwear assortment for the entire family.

The JUNGLE JEWELRY shop exhibits handpainted wooden animal and shell necklaces, wooden bangles and earrings and goldtone and enameled animal jewelry.

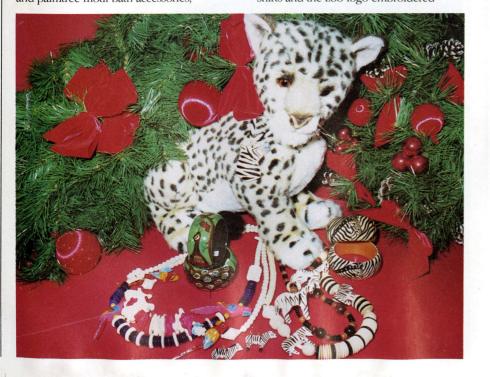
Other little goodies available throughout the gift shop include Kodak film and batteries, Metrozoo and other Florida attractions videos, Hawaiian Tropic sun care products, and sunglasses for every member of the family.

Throughout the year, the Miami Metrozoo is planning to offer a number of attractions to which you will be invited.

From time to time, artists will display their work at the zoo. Beautiful sculptures, original paintings, jewelry and other handmade items are just some of the pieces which will be exhibited and offered for sale. You will be able to meet many of the artists and watch them work.

You, as a member, are very special to us and the gifts you purchase should be the same. When you shop at the Zoological Society's gift shops, remember that proceeds from your purchase offset operational costs, including the care and keeping of the animals. Your membership entitles you to receive a 10% discount on any purchases over \$10.

Your gift truly does "mean so much more"; please take the time to join us in the grand opening of your new gift shop.



WE'VE GOT THE WILDEST HOLIDAY GIFTS IN TOWN

Are you looking for a one-of-a-kind gift for that special friend, the one who has everything? Stop worrying! This year, do your holiday shopping at the Miami Met rozoo gift shops.

We have two gift shops full of many unique items you won't find anywhere in Miami. There's even a new kids zoo corner filled with special gifts just for children. For a present that will please everyone on your list, nothing works better than a gift shop gift certificate or a Zoological Society membership.

Don't forget that all members are entitled to a 10% discount on all gift shop purchases totaling \$10 or more. As an added bonus, with any purchase of \$30 from November 1 through the 30th you wil receive free of charge, an original Austin Weeks 1988 calendar featuring our own Metrozoo animals. Just bring in the coupon below; but hurry, this offer is on a first come, first served basis and supplies are limited.

Remember, since the Zoological Society is a not for profit organization your purchases go directly toward the support of the zoo.

If you're looking for holiday gifts with a special touch, do your shopping at the ildest place in town, the Miami Metrozoo gift shops!



GRAND EFFECTS MUGS The perfect gift for any coffee or tea drinker. Available in assorted animal prints. \$7.95 each.



Our own animal inspired **NECKLACES** \$15.00.



ANDREA BY SADEK - Porcelain bird and animal figurines that rival the finest art studio sculpture made anywhere in the world. Shown from the collection: pink cockatoo - \$62.00; deer family - \$62.00; mountain lion with cub - \$62.00.

T-SHIRTS FROM OUR COLLECTION

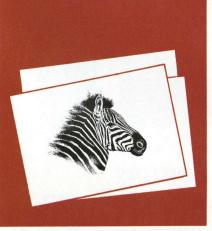
We offer a great variety of T-shirts to please everyone on your shopping list.



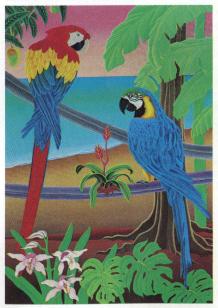
ADORABLE PLUSH ANIMALS We've got an entire shop full of these warm, cuddly friends! (shown): teddy bear - \$35.00; koala with bamboo and eucalyptus leaves - \$50.00; slinky cat - \$60.00; and majestic lion - \$70.00.



THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND PLATES a series of ceramic plates by Hienrich, Villeroy and Boch featuring the threatened animals of the world. For each plate purchased a donation is made to the World Wildlife Fund. \$40.00 each.



WILD CARDS Wildlife notecards and stationery bring attention to the world's rapidly dwindling wildlife population. A portion of the proceeds of the sales is donated to the various wildlife organizations world wide. \$6.50 each.

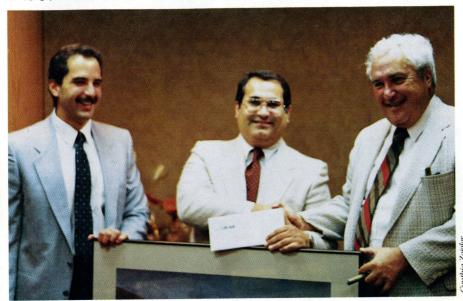


RAUL del RIO JUNGLE OF BIRDS VER-TICAL POSTER 24" x 76" \$15.00 each.

coupon

Redeem this coupon for a beautiful Austin Weeks wildlife calendar featuring Metrozoo animals with any \$30 purchase. Good only at the Metrozoo gift shops. Offer good November 1-30, 1987 or while supplies last!

Thanks To Old Friends And New



Executive Director, Joseph E. Ferrer (center) accepts a donation from Miami Jai Alai's Vice President, Paul Rico (left) and Assistant General Manager, Daniel Lecciardi (right).

Metrozoo is a wonderful example of what a community can do when it seeks a common goal. It is visible evidence that we in Miami and Dade County are concerned about the environment, about education, and about the quality of life. It is a concrete illustration that gives credence to the phrase that this community cares.

Miami Jai Alai has been a viable part of the South Florida community for over sixty years and has always taken great pride in lending their support to worthy organizations through annual allocations derived from their Charity Days. As they have done for the past four years, Mr. H. Paul Rico, Vice-President of Miami Jai Alai again presented a check for \$15,000 to the Zoological Society in support of the Wings of Asia Aviary. We thank our old and dear friends for their continued support.

A newcomer to our illustrious list of corporate contributors, one that we are delighted to welcome, is Jordan Marsh. A name familiar to all South Florida residents that is synonymous with quality in the retail industry, Jordan Marsh has become the proud sponsor of the Colobus monkey exhibit with a contribution of \$10,000. To the members of the Jordan Marsh family of fine stores, we say "thank you, and welcome aboard"!

Working together, we are making Metrozoo one of the finest zoos in the country.



Executive Director, Joseph E. Ferrer (center) with R.I. Rodriguez (right) and Jeannie Nicole (left) of Jordan Marsh while the WCIX camera man catches the moment on film.

Endangered Plant Found On Zoo Grounds



The Zoological Society of Florida had quite a surprise when an unexpected endangered species turned up on zoo grounds. This endangered species had no antlers or horns; it had green leaves.

The endangered plant, euphorbia del toidea commonly known as wedge spurge was found on the construction site of the future koala exhibit. The Society, dedicated to the preservation of wildlife, immediately realized the need to protect the threatened plant.

Society Director, Joseph E. Ferrer, called in environmentalist George Gann-Matzen, president of Echo Horizons, Inc. to transplant the wedge spurge to safe grounds. The transplant was a success and construction of the koala exhibit has returned to normal.

The Zoological Society is proud to have participated in this program dedicated to the preservation of endangered plants. The protection of wildlife, regardless of its form, is of utmost importance to our Society and future generations.



What's Cooking At The Zoo?

All you chefs get ready, because the Zoological Society of Florida is putting together a cook book consisting of the favorite recipes of zookeepers, zoo staff, and Society members.

If you have a favorite recipe that you're willing to share, send it to: Editor, Toucan Talk, 12400 S.W. 152 Street, Miami, Florida 33177.

Congratulations

The Zoological Society is proud of the high caliber staff supporting Metrozoo. The contributions of this dedicated staff are a primary reason for the distinguished reputation that Metrozoo has achieved on an international level; therefore, it is necessary to acknowledge those gifted individuals who stand out in their field.

The editorial board of Animal Keepers' Forum, the professional journal for those in the captive animal husbandry field, have

awarded Metrozoo keeper, Rachel Rogers an honorable mention award in the Outstanding Mammal Category published from July 1986 June 1987 for her article, "The Socialization of Sumatran Orangutan at Miami Metrozoo".

Through this distinctive honor, Rachel has brought national recognition to Metrozoo, the Zoological Society and the programs we support. Congratulations Rachel!







Happy Holidays from the Zoological Society of Florida!

The Votes Are In..

The Zoological Society of Florida has elected a new slate of officers for the 1987-88 term.

Replacing Roger Carlton as president is R. Ray Goode, president of the Babcock Company and former Dade County manager.

Other members of the Zoological Society Executive Committee include: Lawrence O. Turner Jr., president-elect and chairman of Atico Financial Corp.; Sanford B. Miot vice president and former president of Arvida Southern Corp.; Robert Paul, treasurer and founding partner of Paul, Landy, Bailey and Harper law firm; and Sherrill W. Hudson, secretary and partner-in-charge of Deloittee, Haskins and Sells in Miami.

The board members elected to the class of 1990 are: Harvey Abramson, B.B. Goldstein, Gordon Bingham, Donald Burgess, Rick Hensler, Beverly Carter, Aristides Sastre, Paul Singer, Bobbi Litt and Sharon Watson.

The Zoological Society looks forward to a prosperous year under the leadership of this distinguished Board of Directors.

Bird Department Wins High Honors

by Ron Johnson, Curator of Birds

When the Wings of Asia exhibit opened to the public in December, 1984, two objectives were established. The first objective was to provide, in a naturalistic surrounding, Asian birds on view to the public. The second goal was to manage the collection in a manner which encourages breeding of the species and the propagation of young. In most zoo aviaries, those objectives oppose each other and only one or the other is achieved. Wings of Asia has accomplished both objectives with a relative degree of success.

On August 15, 1987, Metrozoo was presented with three AVY Awards for Captive First Breedings by the American Federation of Aviculture at its annual meeting in Seattle, Washington. The awards recognized the first U.S. captive breedings of the yellow-billed stork, hatched March 16, 1986; the black-naped oriole, hatched April 15, 1986; and the greater coucal, hatched April 18, 1986. Metrozoo also won an AVY Award for the First Captive Hatching of the grosbeak starling.

In 1987, Wings of Asia has continued to set milestones with the first hatchings of red wattled plovers, orange-bellied leaf birds and red-rump green woodpeckers. The birds have continued breeding with all those species raising young for the first time in 1986, successful again in 1987.

The accomplishments of Wings of Asia reflect the hard work and diligent efforts of the keeper staff. Their observations and daily checks of individual specimens allows the management of the aviary to succeed.

Greater Kudu

by Rick Barongi, Curator of Mammals

frica is famous for the vast array of hoofed stock that roam its timeless landscape. No other place on earth can support such a large and diverse group of ungulates. In Africa, south of the Sahara, we find over seventy-four species of antelope ranging in size from the seven pound pygmy antelope to the almost one ton giant eland.

If antelopes were named for their beauty and grace, the greater kudu is most certainly the epitome of the antelope world. The four foot long, open spiral horns of the adult male kudu are the most magnificent adorument found in any living

horned animal. Combined with their ability to clear eight foot high fences in a seemingly effortless bound, this is one of the most impressive animals exhibited at

Miami Metrozoo.

Only the males possess horns, which do not reach their maximum spiral of two-and-a-half twists until the animal reaches nearly five years of age. The six hundred pound males also possess a shaggy mane up the neck and a tasselated dewlap. Both sexes have large round ears, a distinctive white chevron between the eyes, six to, twelve vertical stripes along their sides and a large, bushy tail which reveals a pure white underside when fleeing from danger.

The greater kudu is a shy creature of the semi-dry savannahs of East and South Africa. Unlike most antelope, they are not territorial but regulate their group size depending on the seasons and food availability. The large males are usually solitary while the females are seen in small family groups of five to eight animals. They are leaf browsers as opposed to grass grazers and therefore, are found in open woodland and acacia bush country. Their long legs and necks are adapted for reaching the most tender green shoots.

The kudu are visually keen animals relying more on sight and sound than most other antelopes. Their lack of facial scent glands may be correlated to their nonterritorial system. Slender, and not built for physical endurance, they are not capable of running great distances. Instead, they usually freeze when faced with danger and slip off quietly. Their tremendous leaping ability makes them a real challenge to manage on Metrozoo's moated exhibits. They can easily jump across most of our twelve foot exhibit moats, as they have demonstrated in the past.

On opening day of their new exhibit some six years ago, they were not accustomed to the noisy visitors and the entire frightened herd leaped out of the exhibit and ran back to the security of their off-

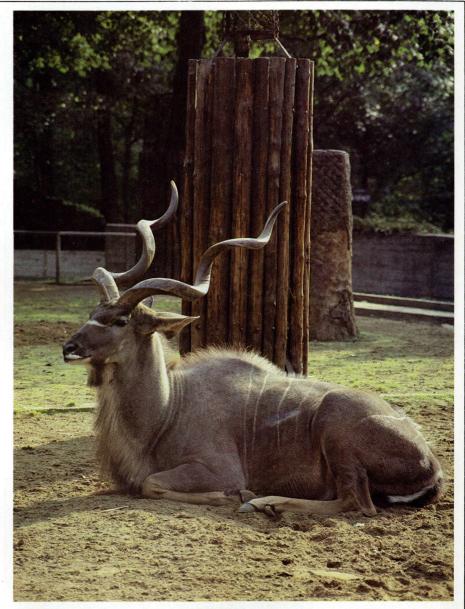


exhibit holding pens. Being such a valuable animal, we did not want this dangerous practice to continue. We now keep the breeding groups off-exhibit and only display a young trio of kudu along with a group of Angolan springbok and East African crowned cranes. The two females were born at Metrozoo and were handraised by zookeepers. The unrelated male was purchased from another zoo when he was eight months old. After just a few weeks with the calm females, he settled down and all three were transferred to the exhibit. These young animals have accepted this exhibit as their new home and it is unlikely we will experience any more escapes.

A question often asked is: Why do male kudus have such large horns? Most people seem to think that they are for protection. Actually, they are more important to the animal to a greater extent in their social behavior than defense against predators. The males with the largest horns are the most dominant and attract and breed the most females. Unfortunately, their large horns have also made them a prized trophy which decorate the walls of many a "great white hunter". Yet the kudu face other dangers.

An even greater threat to their survival is the high mortality brought on by the rinderpest virus which is transmitted by domestic cattle. Disease and habitat loss have made the greater kudu an extremely rare sight on the shrinking African

Metrozoo presently maintains three groups of greater kudu and so far, has had two healthy offspring born during 1987.

President's Message



It has been my pleasure to watch our community grow over the past 25 years and a particular pleasure to help shape its growth during my tenure as Dade County Manager and in a variety of voluntary roles.

Looking back just a few years to the mid-70's, Metrozoo was moving from Crandon Park to the new site and the Zoological Society was a small, weak organization without a full-time staff. What a remarkable change in just over a decade! The zoo is now nationally known and has become one of South Florida's premier attractions. The Zoological Society is now 70,000 members strong, run by a strong Board of Directors and top professional staff, and it pumps hundreds of thousands of dollars back into the programs and facilities of Metrozoo each year.

The phenomenal success record has come about through the mixing of just a few key ingredients; a strong public private sector partnership, committed volunteers and staff and a sense of mission that directs the effort to protect our wildlife and to showcase that wildlife in a humane, attractive environment at the zoo.

All of us can take great pride in the accomplishments of the past decade and the Society momentum that has developed under Roger Carlton's strong leadership in 1986-87 and the presidents who preceded him. My job is to maintain this momentum and to move the Society to new heights of membership, involvement and resource contributions to the zoo. Let's do it together!

R. Ray Goode









The Zoological Society of Florida is pleased to announce the return of renowned wildlife artist, Charles Frace. Mr. Frace will exhibit his works on Saturday. November 28 and Sunday, November 29 under the trellis area during regular zoo hours (10-4).

Also appearing with Mr. Frace will be popular animal sculptors Todd Warner. and Melanie Tyrrell. All artists will be present to personalize the works which are purchased during the exhibit. Remember, all proceeds from sales will benefit the Zoological Society of Florida.

This year, the Society is offering an

advanced sale of Mr. Frace's small animal heads. The heads may be purchased in advance, as a group of four for \$120.00 or individually for \$35.00 each.

To receive your prints please send a check, Visa, Mastercard or American Express information with the coupon below to: Frace, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 S.W. 152 Street, Miami, Florida 33177 or call 255-5551 and reserve over the phone with your credit card.

Reserved prints may be picked up during the exhibit (alternate arrangements can be made by calling the Society office).

Reservation Form

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Card No.	
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Frace; Zoological Society of Florida 12400 S.W. 152 St., Miami 33177

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Lawrence O. Turner, Jr., President Elect

Sanford H. Miot, Vice President

Robert Paul, Treasurer

Sherrill W. Hudson, Secretary

Roger M. Carlton, Past President

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Robert L. Yokel, Metrozoo Director

Joseph E. Ferrer, Executive Director

Editor: Lisa Amaro Design: Lee Kline



Service Team member Heather Richardson belps with the Society's Summer Camps.

Thanks Service Team

During the summer months or on any weekend throughout the year, a talented group of teenagers can be found hard at work donating their time to the Zoological Society of Florida and Metrozoo in a variety of ways.

This group of young people is the Zoological Society of Florida's Service Team. Under the guidance of their advisor, zookeeper Linda Owen, the Service Team's 34 members donate their weekends, holidays and summer vacations in order to assist the Zoological Society. In a day and age when we hear so many negative things about our youth, it is with pride that we pay tribute to this dedicated group of volunteers.

The Service Team is comprised of 9-12 graders who go through an in depth, fifteen hour training class called the Toucan Team. Many of the members of the Service Team have career plans of entering the field of zoology/animal management so the experience they obtain at Metrozoo is valuable to them in their pursuit of higher education.

The Zoological Society is fortunate to have the assistance of this exceptional group of youngsters. It is with gratitude that we extend our thanks to them for a job well done!

If you, or anyone you know is interested in becoming a member of the Service Team, please contact Debbie Gouwens, the Education Secretary at 255-5551.

Answer The Call Of The Wild

This fall, the Zoological Society will be inviting 100,000 strangers to become "friends of the zoo".

Please tell your family and friends about the many benefits you receive as a Zoological Society member. Let them also know how important their support is to the continued growth of your zoo.

Calendar Of Events

November 1

Avicultural Society Presents Natures Work of Art - a display of wild birds 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Bakery Center

November 1

Juice Newton/Eddie Rabbitt in concert 2:30 p.m./Concert Meadow Special Members Ticket Price \$7.50 only good the day of the show

November 18

Zootography Club Meeting 3 p.m./Classroom 2 Subject: Giraffes December 6
Avicultural Society Meeting
3 p.m./Classroom 2
Holiday party for members and prospec-

tive members

December 16

Zootography Club Meeting 3 p.m./Classroom 2 Subject: The Aviary

January 17, 1988 The 6th Annual Jungle Jog 8 a.m. Metrozoo

Every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas

Have your picture taken with Santa 10 a.m. - 2 p.m./Main gift shop

November 28, 29 Grandma Marion, children's author 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m./Main gift shop

Run Wild At The Zoo!

The 6th Annual Jungle Jog is coming to the zoo. On Sunday, January 17, 1988 at 8 a.m. approximately 2,000 runners and walkers will be racing through the zoo to benefit the animals. Once again, the Jungle Jog has been slated as the State Sanctioned 5 Mile Championship Run sponsored by: Baptist Hospital, Racal Milgo, and Bud Lite.

This year we've even added a new category, The One Mile Reebok Walk for all of you walkers.

Put on your running shoes and join us for a day of fun at the zoo.

Please mail me Jungle Jog application forms.

Address			7.072 0
City	State	Zip	
Number of applications			

REMEMBER: Do not leave home without your membership card

Zoological Society of Florida

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