



Zoological  
Society of  
Florida

Friends of Metrozoo

# TOUCAN TALK

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

July/August

Vol. 14, No. 4

## GERENUK

By: Bill Zeigler, General Curator

Shy, retiring, demure, timid, graceful, beautiful, elegant, strange, odd, and "E.T.-like" have been just a few of the adjectives used to describe the gerenuk. Comprising the only species of the genus *Litocranius* the gerenuk *Litocranius ualleri* is perhaps the most unusual of all the gazelles. The name gerenuk is Somali for "giraffe necked" describing its elongated neck, which combined with its long, thin legs give the gerenuk a delicate look. A surprise when you consider the harsh, semi-arid brush country that these creatures come from. Found in the east, northeast part of Africa, in the countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and northeastern Tanzania, the gerenuk once ranged as far north as Egypt, occupying the land between the Nile and the Red Sea.

Our gerenuk now occupy a paddock in the African section of the zoo across from the impalas, which are very similar in color pattern.

Gerenuk average between 80 and 115 pounds and stand about 3½ feet at the shoulder. Only the male has horns which are quite heavy when compared to the rest of the body. Males are very defensive of a territory that averages about 1½ to 3 square miles or 3-6 sq. km., and mark their boundaries with secretions from an antorbital gland located just in front of the eye and with urine and feces.

Unlike the impala which usually travels in large herds, the gerenuk maintains itself in small groups consisting of the male, one or two females, and offspring. Groups of up to 30 have been observed; however, these gatherings usually last no more than a few days and show no real organizational structure.

Females are reproductive throughout the year. This is probably due to the amount of food available to the animals year round. Gestation is between 6½ to 7



Cynthia Zeigler

months. Usually there is a single offspring; however, twinning is not uncommon. Females can mate again within one month after birth also accounting for their success as a species. Sexual maturity occurs at about 1 year of age for females and slightly longer for males.

The elongated neck and legs of the gerenuk are a result of adaptations the animal has made to acquire its food. As stated earlier, the gerenuk lives in semi arid brush country. They are strict browsers yet unlike the giraffe, who uses his tongue to wrap around branches and strip it of leaves, the gerenuk browses leaf by leaf, using its lips and tongue to pluck single morsels of food. Preferring young leaves and branch shoots, their diet is very high in protein and available to them most of the year where greenery can be hard to find. As mentioned earlier, this may account for their year around breeding capability.

The long neck allows the animal to reach higher into the bushes and trees and its narrow muzzle helps it reach through the thick thorns. The length of the neck is the result of elongated vertebrae, however during the development of this adaptation, the neck and shoulder muscles have been reduced. This makes the neck unsuitable in strength to deliver heavy blows of the head and horns to an adversary. Instead, the male will lower its head very close to the ground and thrust upwards in a quick, nodding movement while keeping the neck low. The lyre shaped horns of the male are strongly hooked at the ends and well suited to thwart the blows of another male. The nape skin just behind the head has thickened, as has the cranium to protect the brain.

Besides the long neck, the gerenuk has developed another adaptation to acquire



Austin Weeks

its food - one that has made the animal famous in photographs and folklore and one that we hope you will witness here at the zoo. To help further eliminate food competition and to reach the choicest of food bits, the gerenuk stands fully erect on its hind legs in a bipedal position and can do so for a long period of time on its own without outside support. This is possible due to modifications in the lumbar vertebral spines allowing for an

exaggerated forward curvature of the spine in the small of the back called lordosis. Combined with its long neck, the gerenuk can reach over the tops of many of the bushes it browses from to get the leaves most animals cannot reach.

Our gerenuk are on loan to us from two different zoos. The two females come from the Los Angeles Zoo and the male comes from the North Carolina State Zoo located in Ashboro, North Carolina.

By the time you receive this issue of Toucan Talk, the zoo will have completely redone the gerenuk paddock with new sod, new trees, and redesigned holding facilities.

Of all the gazelles and antelopes maintained in zoological parks, the gerenuk has had one of the shortest histories of successful management. Until the late 1970's, animals imported for collections suffered high losses during the importation process, even after they had reached their final destination. Once the proper conditioning technique was worked out, the gerenuk still suffered from high infant mortality. Over the last five years, the few housing zoos have developed a better understanding of the animal's needs and the numbers are slowly rising.

One of the management problems first worked out was not overcrowding the animals. Because of the limited space at zoos, collection managers kept the animals together and as the group grew, so did the problems, from over-grooming each other to fighting.

Metrozoo is ideally suited to keep gerenuk. With its many different paddocks, we can continually separate and introduce new animals to different displays away from each other. This reduces the amount of aggression and stress that would otherwise occur.

With the introduction of our male to the females this June, we hope the new year will see the addition of offspring to the display. We hope you will be there to watch and enjoy them as they grow.

## Spring is Bird Breeding Season

By: Ron Johnson, Curator of Birds

Miami, with its sub-tropical climate, does not experience the large phenological changes associated with more temperate regions. We encounter enough change that even the tropical birds in Wings of Asia consolidate their breeding activity during the spring months. 1988 has started out slow, however, breeding season is now in full swing.

Wings of Asia continues to produce offspring from such significant species as; yellow-billed stork, black-nape oriole, red wattled lapwing, greater coucal, and white-collared mynah. These species were first bred in U.S. zoos in the Wings of Asia exhibit; showing our commitment to having birds breeding and raising young.

Bird Breeding Season is an excellent time to view and listen to all of the activities associated with nesting. Birds are in their best plumage and most active cycle



Mandarin Duck

Austin Weeks

during this time. Breeding displays and territorial calls change some of the most insignificant species into spectacles of the animal world. The repertoire of songs from the straw-crowned bulbul,

penetrating call of the argus pheasant and full frontal display of the Bulwer's pheasant are examples of these wonders. The old standbys continue to breed. Birds such as Mandarin and Java tree ducks, sacred ibis, and coledo mynahs all have raised young this year.

New challenges still exist. The wretched-billed hornbill female muddled up the nest cavity and hatched one young, but did not raise it. This is the first recorded time this hornbill has even attempted to nest in captivity. As we go to print the Steere's babbler and rufous treepies have hatched young! Bring your scorecard and ask the staff to assist you in locating those nests visible from the walkway.

The success of breeding in the aviary has been greatly enhanced by the off exhibit brooder/hatchery complex built and donated through funds raised by the Zoological Society of Florida.

Visit, view and experience the rites of spring we call bird breeding season.

# Feast With The Beasts

*"Fantastic! Outstanding! A thoroughly enjoyable evening."* Gerald Cope, Greer, Homer, Cope and Bonner.

*"Too much fun to be a charitable function! I suspect next year it will be the hottest ticket in town. It was an outstanding event in every respect."* Bill Pruitt, Arthur Andersen.

*"It was the dinner party of the year. The restaurants were excellent. I'm looking forward to next year's Feast With the Beasts."* Sam Jaffee, Prudential Bache.

The statements above attest to the fact that our first culinary extravaganza, FEAST WITH THE BEASTS, was a resounding success. After months of planning, days of implementing the plans, and hours of physical labor, Co-Chairmen Sharon Watson and Kathie Schlesinger, and their committees transformed our zoo into a glamorous, glittering fairyland. From giant lollipops, balloon arches, iridescent animal cut-outs, and stuffed animals, the theme of the children's zoo was in evidence everywhere.

The festivities began with a "Beastkeeper" cocktail party for contributors of \$500.00. The participants were attired in zebra striped cummerbunds and bow ties for the men, and original ceramic toucan necklaces for the women to denote their very special status.

The stars of the event were, of course, the participating restaurants. Not only did they outdo themselves to please the palate with their specialty dishes, but each area was presented to dazzle the eye. Strolling through the various mini dining galleries, guests were treated to a gourmet fantasy.

We thank American Express, co-sponsor of this event, especially Robert V. Creekmore, Vice President Sales and Marketing, William E. Jamison, John D. Pankratz, Kenneth P. Gaumer, Janet Mercede, Linda Holbrook, Sally Nystrom, Maria Berrera and Roberta Weinstein.

Co Chairmen:

Maggie McClellan, Decorations  
Leslie Cohen, Food and Beverage  
Bobbie Litt, Entertainment

Roberta Backus, Public Relations  
Beverly Assmar, Adele Berger, Patricia Bowker, Peggy Brin, Joanne Coleman, Paula Cooney, Jane Fleitman, Robin Garfield, Jacki Gran, Laura Jack, Joy Jaffee,

Glenn Watson



Susan Kafka, Madeleine Kreitman, Marcia Lantinberg, Buff March, Mary Jean Risi, Debra Schmidt, Elaine Spear, Rachel Spear, Betzy Sune, and Trudy Weitzer.

From paper plates to art supplies, the following donors made invaluable contributions to the event: ABC Costume Shop, Alliance Paper Products, Inc., American Express, Atlantic Pump, Athene Costume, All Clean Paper & Janitor Supply, All About Balloons, A&M Designs, Bacardi, Beverage Canners, Bud Light, Burdine's, Channel 7 WSVN, Dade Paper and Bag, Dixie Catering, Costume Collection, Curbside Florist, Eli Witt, Fabulous Diamonds, F.W. Woolworth, General Plastics, GKI Decorative Lighting, Happy Balloons, Henry Lee, Heritage House, Joy Silkscreen, K Mart, Terry Kaplan, Lee Kline Designs, LOVE 94 WLVE Radio, LTP Enterprises, Main Event, Master School of Bartending, Miami Marriott Dadeland, Maggie McClellan, Miami Welding Supply, Inc., Frank Price Architect, PharMor, Photo Factory, Publix, Rex Art, Ross Printing, Ryder Truck Rental, Sabrina Rentals, Seagram, Sears Roebuck, Signature Gardens, Sidney Package, Smith Terminal, Southern Wine and Spirits, Table Supply, Tech Aero Foam, The WAVE 95.7 Radio, Walgreens, Glenn Watson, Dave Wilingham, Winn Dixie, Wilson Textile.

Our sincere gratitude to the following restaurants for their participation, their enthusiasm, and their wonderful viands: Bobby Rubino's Place for Ribs, Brooks Restaurant, Buccione Ristorante Italiano, Caribbean Room at Hawk's Cay, Cafe Chauveron, Cafe Flamingo, Crabhouse Restaurant, Captain's Tavern, Christy's, The Depot, Dining Galleries, French Connection, Grand Cafe at the Grand Bay Hotel, Grove Isle Yacht and Tennis Club, Haagen Dazs, Joe's Stone Crab, Las Tapas Restaurant and Tavern, Les Violins Supper Club, Tropicana, Los Ranchos, Mayfair Grill at the Mayfair House, Mr. Chu's, Mr. Laff's, Monty's Stone Crab at the Mayfair, Old Cutler Oyster Company, Olive Garden, Peacock Cafe, Pier House at the Pier House Hotel, P.J. Jones Riverside Restaurant at the Riverparc Hotel, Raimondo's, Red Lobster, Samurai Japanese Steakhouse, Valenti's.

Spirit Sponsors were House of Seagram, Bud Light, Bacardi and Beverage Canners. Desserts were provided by Baskin Robbins Ice Cream and Haagen Dazs.

Last, but certainly not least, all of you who attended Feast With the Beasts - your support of this worthwhile event generated in excess of \$67,000 for the children's zoo. Thank you!

Glenn Watson



Co-Chairmen, Kathie Schlesinger (left) with Sharon Watson (right)



Ginny Silva, (left), Elizabeth Steigerwald, (right)

## GINNY SILVA

Teacher

HABITAT: Society's Classrooms

NATURAL HISTORY: Previously a zookeeper trainee at Crandon Park zoo and a zookeeper at Metrozoo from 1978-80. Responsibilities include teaching South Florida children ages 5-17, working with scouting programs, assisting with Docent classes and instructing FIU at Metrozoo and TEC workshops.

SOCIAL ORDER: Married. Can be found frequenting the many fine eating establishments of South Florida. Enjoys reading, cooking and travel.

DISTRIBUTION: Homestead, FL

NOTEWORTHY: Delighted to be back at Metrozoo and is looking forward to projects involving the updating of the current curriculum and the Education Departments programs.

## ELIZABETH STEIGERWALD

Development Coordinator

HABITAT: Development Office

NATURAL HISTORY: Previously a volunteer with the Society since 1984 and has served as Development Coordinator since October, 1987. Responsibilities include implementing the Adopt-an-Animal Program and working closely with the Society's individual donors.

SOCIAL ORDER: Family unit includes three female offspring ages 20, 17, 15. Can be frequently found participating in outdoor activities such as fishing.

DISTRIBUTION: Miami, FL

NOTEWORTHY: Feels the satisfaction of being part of a team which is dedicated to enhancing the Zoo for the public. Is excited about developing existing programs so that participants feel they have a partnership in Metrozoo.

## Rare Audubon Prints on Display at the Historical Museum

The Historical Museum of South Florida will showcase approximately 100 prints from John James Audubon's *THE BIRDS OF AMERICA*. June 3 - September 25, 1988. The Museum owns an entire set of 435 plates, and it is the only permanent display in the Southeast.

*THE BIRDS OF AMERICA* portrays 1,065 birds in detailed, life size renditions. Thirty-five plates depict birds painted by Audubon in Florida as a result of his Florida travels. Some images also provide invaluable information about historic landscapes and provide historians with accurate depictions of specific locations. Created between 1826 and 1838, the images are copperplate engravings, printed on hand made drawing paper. Each plate was hand-colored with watercolors under Audubon's supervision. The folios were issued in sets of five prints, each plate measuring approximately 29½ by 39½ inches. The size of the paper, known as double elephant, allowed even the largest of birds to be rendered in life size. Approximately 200 sets were completed, though fewer than 150 complete sets exist today. The Historical Museum's set was acquired through a generous donation by Mitchell Wolfson, Jr.

As a member of the Zoological Society of Florida, you can visit the Historical Museum of South Florida at a 20% discount. The Historical Museum is just one of eight attractions that are offering our members a discount on admission. The others include: Miami Seaquarium, Museum of Science and Space Planetarium, Discovery Center, Center for the Fine Arts, Vizcaya, Gold Coast Railroad, and the Weeks Air Museum.

To receive the 20% discount on admission, you must show your valid Zoological Society membership card with proof of identification. The discount applies to regular admission only, and may not be used in combination with any other discounts or for special engagements.

The Historical Museum is located at 101 W. Flagler St. on the Metro-Dade Cultural Center Plaza in downtown Miami. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. For more information call the museum at 375-1492.

Cynthia Zeigler



Associate Director of the Zoological Society, Cynthia W. Zeigler, (left) accepts a \$5,000 check from Barnett Bank's Carmen M. Esquenazi, Relationship Banking Officer. Barnett is the sponsor of Metrozoo's Forest Buffalo.

Elizabeth Steigerwald



# Education Outlook

## Programs for Families

### Breakfast with the Beasts



## Adopt an Animal

The featured animal for adoption in this issue of Toucan Talk is the *Equus burchelli boebmi* or Grant's zebra, the most common zebra found in zoos. Its usual habitat is the savannas of east and southeast Africa. There are about 300,000 of these "plains" zebras living in the wild.

At approximately 6 a.m. on May 6, 1988 a colt was born at Miami Metrozoo - just in time for Mother's Day! The gestation period for a zebra is 12 months and foals weigh between 75-100 pounds at birth. The dam is Shadow born January 1, 1976 and the sire is Hector, acquired in September of 1984. We have another female, Sofia. Both Shadow and Sofia were moved here from Crandon Park Zoo. The corporate sponsor of the Grant's zebra exhibit is H.C.A. Grant Center Hospital - a perfect match.

As promised in the last issue of Toucan Talk, we are proud to profile some of our very special parents. In this initial article, we want to thank all those who attended our Adopt-an-Animal breakfast on Mother's Day. The program currently has 300 active participants and 180 parents attended, illustrating how truly involved our adoptors are.

The weather was perfect and the morning began with mimosas under the trellis area. A leisurely "animal walk" to the Lakeside patio area followed, where breakfast was served. After dining and socializing, everyone proceeded to the chimpanzee exhibit to listen to our special guest, Jane Goodall.

The most heartwarming result of the breakfast was that some of our parents adopted additional animals. The breakfast also generated many new adoptive parents.

We are planning more "Adopt Only" events in the future. If you are interested in joining this special program, call Elizabeth Steigerwald at 255-5551. Remember, your contribution is tax-deductible and you are participating in the Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo's growth in a very personal way.

supply the sleeping bags, we supply the dinner, breakfast and fun!

**DATES:** July 22 or August 19  
**HOURS:** 6:00 p.m. Friday - 8:30 a.m. Saturday  
**FEE:** \$20-Members/\$30-Non-Members

## Programs for Adults

### Adult Overnight

For a very different "camping experience", spend the night exploring the zoo under the stars. A zookeeper will wine and dine you (casually) and lead you through an unforgettable animal evening.

**DATES:** July 15  
**HOURS:** 6:00 p.m. Friday - 8:30 a.m. Saturday  
**FEE:** \$25-Member/\$35-Non-Members

### F.I.U. at Metrozoo

The ever popular teacher workshop begins again on September 1st. Lectures by curatorial, education department staff, and keepers, compliment behind the scenes tours in this 3-credit graduate workshop. The course will qualify teachers for re-accreditation in elementary education. Enrollment is limited; registration is through F.I.U. For further information, contact Dr. Ed Reichbach at 554-2561.

**DATES:** Thursdays, September 1 through December 1  
**HOURS:** 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
**FEE:** \$35-Members/\$45-Non-Members *plus* F.I.U. registration

**REGISTRATION IN AUGUST THROUGH F.I.U. ONLY**

What a way to start the day! Enjoy the beauty of the zoo in the early morning while having your breakfast, then learn what some of our animals eat, and why. You'll also meet one or two of our smaller "critters."

**DATES:** July 17 or August 21  
**HOURS:** 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
**FEE:** \$10-Members/\$15-Non-members

### Family Overnight

Scheduled by popular demand, this program will allow several families to spend the night exploring the zoo. You

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. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

# Metrozoo Welcomes Jane Goodall

Sunday, May 8th ended with a magical evening at Metrozoo. As the sun slipped beneath the horizon, Dr. Jane Goodall stepped before an expectant audience of 1,450 in the zoo's amphitheater. Greeted by a standing ovation, Dr. Goodall proceeded to deliver a presentation that moved her audience from laughter to tears to awe. Slides complimented her experiences of the last



Jane Goodall, (left) signs book for Board of Trustee member Pat Kelly, (right).

29 years in the tropical rainforests of the Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Research conducted by Goodall and her assistants over the last quarter century

has revealed or confirmed much of what we know about wild chimpanzees.

Dr. Goodall expressed her approval of the Metrozoo chimpanzee exhibit, noting that the large amount of space and the creative climbing structures provided an excellent environment for the animals. She reminded her audience how fortunate they were to have a zoo in their community which provides so well for its chimpanzee residents.

Many people attending the lecture had the opportunity to chat with Dr. Goodall while she signed books, posters, and t-shirts. Of all her recent speaking engagements, Dr. Goodall felt that the Miami audience was the most responsive. She was truly impressed with the reception she received. The evening was a very special one for all concerned.



Joseph E. Ferrer, Executive Vice President of the Zoological Society, (far left), Bill Zeigler, General Curator of Metrozoo, and primatologist, Jane Goodall are pictured with Ryder Executives Gordon Bingham, (center) Penny Bingham and Ross Roadman, Ryder System, Inc. are sponsors of the Metrozoo chimpanzee exhibit.

## Volunteer of the Year

Volunteers are very often the backbone of an organization. Within the Zoological Society of Florida's structure, the volunteers are by far the most visible members. At Metrozoo, visitors are not likely to see the zoo director, curators, keepers or Society staff members, but will see the well trained volunteers. Last year, the Zoological Society of Florida's docents contributed over 27,000 hours of support to Metrozoo performing such services as manning the information booth, staffing the gift shop branches, interpreting paddock exhibits for the public and providing tours. Quite literally, we could not do an effective job without the dedication and commitment of over 200 volunteers.

On May 21, The Board of Directors of the Zoological Society recognized all of our volunteers, as well as the staff of Metrozoo, at the annual Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Party. Lillian Aversa,

Jean Caputa, Barbara Desch, Sara Ellenburg, Fran Garner, Ed Grad, Mollie Grad, Susan Kurtz, Bee Malinoski, Frank Martin, John Roberts, Dave Schneider, Sandy Seidenman, Maggie Smith, Judy



Lester Golstein, member of the Executive Committee (left) and Roger Carlton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (right) present Jim Lemon, Volunteer of the Year with a special award recognizing him for his service.

Spandorf, Caroline Sterns, Dot Sullivan, Shirley Taxay, Art Valla, Pat Van Busch and Martha Williams were awarded their 5 year pins. Eighty-five volunteers received pins for contributing from 250 to over 4,000 career hours of service and Jim Lemon was recognized as the "Volunteer of the Year."

Jim has contributed almost 2,000 hours

in the eighteen months he has volunteered with the Zoological Society. Last year, he was instrumental in developing a well-trained, dedicated group of volunteers who staff the Sulawesi and Koala outpost gift shops full-time. He, along with a co-captain, makes sure that each shift is filled, seven days a week, as well as assuring that the volunteers who work in the gift shops are properly trained. Jim also serves as a vice president on the Volunteer Advisory Board and as such, is responsible for overseeing the activities of the thirty day captains, the volunteers who fill approximately 700 job shifts each month. As a member of the volunteer's Education Committee, Jim helps plan and implement volunteer educational programs and serves as a "mentor" to docent trainees.

Jim, and all of the volunteers, serve as the ambassadors for the Zoological Society and Metrozoo. The volunteers are well-trained and provide friendly information and services which would not be possible without their many hours of dedication, hard work and commitment to "one of the world's great zoos".



## President's Message...

This issue of Toucan Talk recaps some of the recent successes of the Zoological Society. From "Feast With the Beasts" and the Jane Goodall lecture to the \$100,000 donation from Lee Bynum and Betty Miller for the Florida Endangered Species endowment, we are riding the crest of a wave of wholehearted support from both the public and private sectors.

This is the perfect time to sit back and assess our current situation and remind all of you that we cannot rest on our laurels. There is still much to be done.

A large and growing zoological park is a greater asset to a community than many people realize. In an average year, some eighty eight million persons visit the 130 zoos and aquariums accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums within the United States. That is almost twenty million more people than the attendance at professional

football and baseball games combined. Our own Miami Metrozoo now has an annual attendance in excess of 850,000 and this number of visitors is steadily increasing as new exhibits are added.

The importance of a living, developing zoo can scarcely be overemphasized. A zoo is one of the cultural organizations which makes a community a pleasant place to live and raise a family. A zoo fits into an important niche in all educational programs for elementary, high school, and university students. A zoo is a place for relaxation, wonderment, enjoyment and education.

While Miami Metrozoo earns much of its budget through admissions and concessions, it must also be subsidized by funds derived from taxes and apportioned by the County Budgeting Office in agreement with the County Commissioners. In such a rapidly growing area as South Florida, there just isn't enough tax money to meet all the demands for schools, hospitals, transportation, construction and the myriad other necessary things which must be done. As generous as our County Commissioners are, they are only able to provide operational funds and very limited

capital construction dollars; therefore, your Society must play a major role in providing financial assistance to expand and improve the facilities.

Your financial and community support is imperative if we are to continue to fund capital projects (such as the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic and the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim koala exhibit). Take a moment in your busy day and personally write the County Commissioners. Thank them for the assistance they provide. Tell them why the zoo is important to you and your family. As a member of the Zoological Society of Florida, your support in this endeavor is paramount. The address is

Commissioner  
Metro Dade Center, Second Floor  
111 N.W. First Street  
Miami, Florida 33128  
(305) 375-5123

Take the opportunity as often as possible to be an ambassador for the zoo and the Society. Your efforts will greatly enhance the future growth and development of Metrozoo.

Thank you.

## \$100,000 Donation to Aid the Florida Endangered Wildlife Fund



Lee Bynum (left) Waylon Flowers with Madame and Betty Miller (right) celebrate Betty's 69th birthday.

The Feast With the Beasts extravaganza at Metrozoo on April 15 had the making of a fairy tale evening. The Society was graced with perfect weather, the finest food in South Florida, spectacular entertainment, and a very generous gift from two members of the Society's Board of Trustees. Lee Bynum, 64 and Betty

Miller, 69 presented the Zoological Society of Florida with a check for \$100,000 to form The Florida Endangered Wildlife Fund. The fund, established specifically to help protect Florida wildlife will place special emphasis on aiding the endangered Florida panther.

The Florida panther is the symbol of our vanishing wilderness. This project,

which is the Society's first involvement in an endangered species effort, could be the difference in saving the large cat. The interest on the \$100,000 gift will amount to approximately \$12,000 a year and will be used to offset the cost of treating injured panthers here at Metrozoo.

Betty Miller, and Lee Bynum have been involved with the Society since 1977. They are staunch supporters of Society philosophies and programs and continually give both time and dollars to aid wildlife and the zoo. In honor of Betty's 69th birthday, Lee hosted a fundraising party at Metrozoo to further benefit the endowment fund. In lieu of gifts, they asked that contributions be made to aid the panthers. Substantial funds were generated from the celebration which was attended by more than 60 guests.

Lee and Betty have continuously displayed their commitment to wildlife through their generosity to the Society. The plants and animals that live in the wild are vital in many ways to human existence to our food supplies, to our health, and to the quality of our lives. Much of the earth's wildlife has already been lost; if we do not act to conserve what is left, we will lose something of great value - something of ourselves.

Cynthia Zeigler



## Toucan Trader's Choice...

This summer you can take the zoo to the beach with you! We are introducing the sand and water toy collection from Small World Toys. These playthings represent a fun selection of items that can be used individually or in conjunction with one

another. All beach toys are made of durable, safe, non-toxic plastic.

Shown from the collection:

Beach boat set	.....	\$8.00
Bear sand molds	.....	\$1.50
Soapy soap fingerpaint	.....	\$3.25
Assorted animal molds	.....	\$2.75
Magie towels	.....	\$3.75 and \$6.25

Remember, since the Zoological Society is a non-profit organization, your purchases go toward the support of the zoo. Members are entitled to a 10% discount on all gift shop purchases totaling \$10.00 or more.

Have a fun zoo summer!

### Executive Committee

R. Ray Goode, President  
Lawrence O. Turner, Jr.,  
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Sanford H. Miot, Vice President  
Robert Paul, Treasurer  
Sherrill W. Hudson, Secretary  
Roger M. Carlton, Past President

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Sharon Watson  
Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim  
Robert L. Yokel, Metrozoo Director  
Joseph E. Ferrer, Executive  
Vice President

Editor: Lisa Amaro  
Design: Lee Kline

## Calendar of Events

### July 2-9

Register for the Photo Contest  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Society Membership/Administration  
Building

### July 17

Michael Bolton in concert  
1 p.m. Concert Meadow  
\$10 (including zoo admission)  
\$4 for Society members

### August 7

Rascals Reunion Tour  
with guest artist Mitch Ryder  
1 p.m. Concert Meadow  
\$10 (including zoo admission)  
\$4 for Society members

### October 8

The Hunt at Metrozoo

### January 15

The 7th Annual Jungle Jog

Look to your Education Outlook for all of the Education Departments great summer programs!

**REMEMBER: Do not leave home without your membership card**

### Zoological Society of Florida

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

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### More Recipes, Please!

Hurry, hurry, all you chefs! The zoo's cookbook is nearing completion but we are still recipes short. The cook book, consisting of the favorite recipes of zookeepers, zoo staff and Society members is a great way to expand your home menus while helping the Society raise funds.

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.

**Become a volunteer at Metrozoo!**

**Call 255-5551 for details.**