



Zoological  
Society of  
Florida

Friends of Metrozoo

# TOUCAN TALK

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

Vol 14, No. 5

September/October 1988

## Zoological Society Has a New Home



Bill Wallace

Over the past years the Zoological Society of Florida has experienced record growth. This growth may be largely attributed to you, our members and supporters. We have come a long way since our founding at the Crandon Park Zoo in 1956 and for every step we've taken we must say thank you!

The Zoological Society of Florida is a not for profit organization that provides significant funding to Metrozoo. Last year alone the Society raised more than \$1 million for special projects at our world class zoo.

The Society also embraces the broader mission of Metrozoo: to educate, to conduct research and to preserve endangered species. The Society has successfully reached out to our

community and asked for financial support for Metrozoo. Your response has been great and generous and the evidence is clear.

The list of our recent contributions to our zoo include:

- The Christopher A. Weeks Animal Hospital for which the Society raised more than \$1 million.
- Wings of Asia, the 1.5 acre free-flight aviary for which the Society contributed more than \$100,000.
- The 2,000 square foot brooder hatchery building was constructed at a cost of \$75,000 utilizing donations from the Society.
- The Educational Picnic Facility that is used by 250,000 children annually was built at a cost of \$8,500 completely

funded by the Society.

- The Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Foundation Koala Exhibit which was funded by the Society at a cost of \$500,000.

- Currently under construction is the new children's contact area for which the Society is raising significant funds.

The Zoological Society has certainly taken great strides in aiding Metrozoo; and yet, until recently the Society was without a permanent home on zoo grounds. Since Metrozoo opened in 1980, the Society had been operating out of three trailers at the rear of the zoo's administration building. In the beginning when our membership and staff were small, these trailers were adequate; however, through your phenomenal

# Construction Update



Bill Wallace

support, the incredible growth of our membership and the corresponding staff increase, we outgrew the cramped trailers a long time ago.

Fortunately, through the generous donations of two Zoological Society members, The Austin Weeks Family and the Harvey Abramson Family, the plans for a new Membership/Administration Building became a reality without diverting funds from zoo support. The new 7,000 square foot building was completely funded through their contributions and the Society was able to take up residence in the new facility this June.

Our new building was designed with future growth in mind. It features large, open offices capable of housing two to three staff members. Several work stations are located in key areas throughout the building. The volunteer area is spacious and equipped with a shower and changing area not only for hot, summer days but also to prepare for special events

after spending the day putting special events together.

A large conference room was included in the plans and we have already held meetings there for our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.

An unique feature of the building is the front lobby. It is very large and at the present time, winning photographs from the recent Photo Contest are on display for public viewing. This is a capability we have never had before and we welcome any member who wishes to view the wonderful photographs that were submitted.

Most importantly, the new building is located right outside the zoo's entrance which affords us the opportunity to serve you, our members, more promptly and efficiently. We invite you to share in our excitement as Metrozoo's development continues. Our members have played an important role in all of our achievements and we look forward to better serving you.

The Zoological Society of Florida thanks its Benefactors, Sponsors and Construction Committee who made the Membership Services/Administration Building possible and provided the Zoological Society with a permanent home:

#### Benefactors

The Harvey Abramson Family  
The Austin Weeks Family  
Southern Bell

#### Sponsors

Ackerly Communications  
Bug Busters  
Carpet Gallery  
F&H Painting  
Firedoor Corporation  
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Alhadeff & Sitterson

#### Construction Committee

Sanford B. Miot, Chairman  
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Bill Boyette  
Allen Farrington  
George Fortner  
DeWayne Little  
Joe Novotny

The Zoological Society also thanks the fine technical team of Denis Arden Architects, Inc., Babcock Company and Matrix Construction who were responsible for undertaking the design and construction of this tremendous project making it a reality.

A visit to any world class zoo is not complete without a stop at the children's contact area, one of the fundamental ingredients in the overall zoo experience. A petting area often provides children with their first "hands on" encounter with animals, common and exotic alike.

After the closing of Sulawesi Village in 1986, because of structural damage caused by the Florida climate, zoo and Society staff members attended various symposiums on children's zoos. They also visited many contact facilities across the country in order to choose a design suitable for Metrozoo.

If the weather cooperates, indications are that we can expect the grand opening of an all new, innovative facility late this



fall. The new concept is very exciting and incorporates unique themes as well as areas specifically designed to create an unparalleled experience with both educational and entertainment value for the entire family.

Construction is currently in full swing and the Zoological Society and Metrozoo look forward to bringing you a world class children's contact area late this fall. Upcoming issues of Toucan Talk will keep you posted.

The Zoological Society of Florida thanks the following major sponsors of the children's contact area: L. Luria & Son, The Grad Family, Texaco, and the Knight Foundation.

Also under construction are the "mini exhibits" adjacent to the new koala barn. These will feature Australian animals including red kangaroo and wallabies. These additions are very exciting as they mark the expansion of Metrozoo's Australian lobe.

Mini exhibits are very unique because they give the zoo visitor an opportunity to view the animals close up. They are designed to house smaller species of animals which would not be visible on the larger, moated exhibits.

The Zoological Society would like to thank American Express Company for their support of our two new exhibits which are slated to open this September.



Bill Wallace

## Adopt An Animal

Stand at the Gibbon/Siamang exhibit and the most common phrase heard from young and old is "look at the monkeys!" How can you tell the difference between a monkey and an ape? The most popular guess is size. Not so ... apes do not have tails. The white-handed gibbons are the smallest of the apes and stand only 2½' tall, weighing about 15 pounds. An average group consists of four gibbons - an adult male and female, one juvenile and an infant.

Metrozoo's family of gibbons include Fang, born in 1954, presumably wild caught and received from San Francisco Zoo on April 17, 1963. Fang is the oldest mammal in Metrozoo's collection. He was housed at the old Crandon Park Zoo from 1963-1981. Prisilla or Prissy, estimated to have been born in 1970, arrived on loan May 13, 1981 from the Mannheimer Primatological Foundation. Ko Chang, juvenile male member of the family was born on August 17, 1985 at Metrozoo. Our newest addition, No Name, was born on June 13, 1988. Fang and Prissy have produced three offspring at Metrozoo.

Our featured parent this issue is Porter McClean, Manager of the Sears, Roebuck store located at the Cutler Ridge mall. The Zoological Society has two "Adopt" wishing wells. The pennies, dimes and quarters from the wells go to the Adopt-an-Animal program. Mr. McClean has placed one of the wishing wells outside the Sears store and to date, the project has earned \$5,500. Mr. McClean and his lovely wife Juanita attended the Feast With the Beasts (he was kind enough to provide "Winnie the Pooh and Tigger, Too") and the Mother's Day Adopt-an-Animal breakfast. He is really a super Adopt-an-Animal parent!

If you are interested in adopting one of our gibbons, or any of the other animals at Metrozoo, call Elizabeth Steigerwald at 255-5551. Remember, your contribution is tax deductible and you will be part of something very special.



## The Falls Fashion Center A Zoo?

This September, The Falls Fashion Center will be a zoo! The Zoological Society of Florida and the Falls have joined hands to present exciting entertainment, Safari fun and wildlife art.

Saturday, September 17 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, September 18 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. a mini art show will display creative wildlife art and lithographs. All proceeds from the sale of this beautiful art work will go directly to the Zoological Society of Florida's Adopt-an-Animal program to support Miami Metrozoo.

In addition, some very special guests have been invited: Zoo animals will be present at various intervals throughout both days. It's a chance for you to see some of Metrozoo's residents up close! Family activities during the art show include clowns, jugglers, face painting and food carts.

Throughout September, all Zoological Society of Florida members can enjoy a 10% discount at participating stores in the Falls Fashion Center simply by showing their membership cards. For more information on this special Zoo Month at the Falls call the Special Events desk at 255-5551.



Debbie Gouttens

## Thank You Heritage House

The Education Department would like to thank Heritage House men's clothing store for their help with our summer programs. Their generous donation made our summer t-shirts possible. Thanks from all of us to Heritage House.

## Metrozoo's Magnet Attracts Young Scientists

One hundred seventh and eighth grade students will have the opportunity to attend school at the zoo this fall as participants in the new Science-Zoo Magnet Program at Metrozoo. Through the cooperative efforts of the Dade County Public Schools, Metrozoo, and the Zoological Society of Florida, a magnet program, serving the south and central county areas will be established at Richmond Heights Junior High School and Metrozoo.

Magnet schools provide unique educational programs which cultivate academic excellence and intensive educational experiences in a particular discipline. The magnet school serves more than one area, attracting students with similar interests and diverse ethnic and language backgrounds.

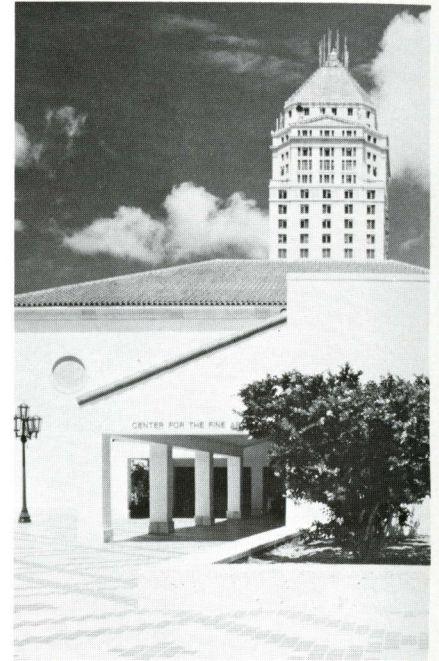
Although magnet programs have been established in other fields, such as international studies, the performing and visual arts, intensive language study, and computer technology, the Richmond Heights/Metrozoo program will be the county's first science magnet program, teaching accelerated classes in biology, zoology, ecology, and wildlife conservation principles in addition to the normal science curriculum.



Students have been selected for the program on the basis of their interest and strength in science and mathematics, test scores, and the recommendations of their teachers and counselors. They will attend two hours of class every other day at Metrozoo. A renovated trailer (former Zoological Society offices) will serve as a classroom, and the zoo's 280 acres of plants and animals will function as a living laboratory. Classroom lessons will come alive through contact with the curators, veterinarians, zookeepers, and the animals themselves.

At the Richmond Heights site, teachers specially trained in science education will lead the students through experimental work in a newly renovated laboratory.

The staff of both Richmond Heights and Metrozoo look forward to participating in this challenging new program to train the scientists of the future, and enhance the quality of education in our south Florida community.



## Center for the Fine Arts

Contrary to popular belief, the Center for the Fine Arts is not a museum. The Center, created to become a magnet with the power to attract the best art from anywhere to Miami, is the first cultural facility in the United States dedicated exclusively to originating and hosting large scale art exhibitions. By Dade County ordinance, the Center for the Fine Arts does not have a permanent collection.

Built with public funds through the Decade of Progress Bond Program, the Center is operated by Metro-Dade County. Its exhibitions, however, are funded by the Center for the Fine Arts Association through its Board of Trustees.

As a member of the Zoological Society of Florida, you can visit the Center for the Fine Arts at a 20% discount. The Center for the Fine Arts is just one of eight attractions that are offering our members a discount on admission. The other organizations include: Miami Seaquarium, Museum of Science and Space Planetarium, Discovery Center, Historical Museum, 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 discounts apply to regular admission only, and may not be used in combination with any other discounts or for special engagements.

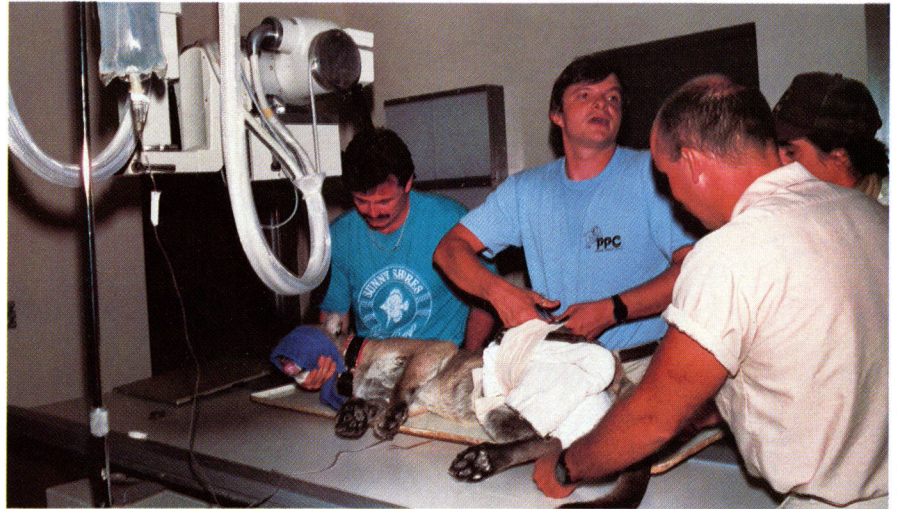
Located at 1010 West Flagler Street, The Center for the Fine Arts is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Center at 375-1700.

# Injured Florida Panther Treated at Metrozoo

July 23 marked another tragedy for Florida's vanishing state animal, the Florida Panther. One of the few remaining panthers was a victim of a hit and run motorist in Southeast Dade county.

The Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission was notified of the accident and the search for the injured cat began. The panther was finally located via a radio collar that had been placed on her 18 months ago by wildlife officials. She was rushed to Metrozoo for immediate treatment.

Dr. Scott Citino, Metrozoo veterinarian diagnosed the panther as needing immediate surgery for an injured hind leg. Noted veterinarian, Dr. Melodie Roke of the Florida Rescue Team in Gainesville confirmed Dr. Citino's diagnosis and the panther was airlifted to the University of Florida's Veterinary School. The prognosis for the panther is good; however, officials say it will be at least six months to a year



*Metrozoo Staff diligently works to save the life of an injured Florida panther.*

before it can be determined if the panther should be released.

Metrozoo's willingness to support the Florida panther was illustrated through the emergency measures taken by zoo staff to treat the injured panther; however, to give adequate treatment to these rare animals additional funding is necessary.

Two members of the Zoological Society's Board of Trustees Lee Bynum and Betty Miller realize the gravity of the panther's plight and recently established the Florida Endangered Wildlife Fund

through a \$100,000 endowment to the Zoological Society. The fund, established specifically to help protect Florida wildlife, places special emphasis on the endangered Florida panther, a symbol of our vanishing wilderness.

The interest on the gift will be used to offset the cost of treating injured panthers at Metrozoo but additional funds are needed. For more information on the Florida Endangered Wildlife Fund call the Development Department at 255-5551.

## If You Want Higher Income From Your Assets, We Suggest You Give Them Away

To the Zoological Society, of course. You and your family will profit mightily, too. Please read on.

If you're like most of our members, you're probably interested in one or more of these financial planning goals:

- Increase current or retirement income
- Schedule income for education funds
- Obtain tax deductions
- Eliminate capital gains taxation
- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes
- Increase estate value

As a result of recent tax legislation, a properly structured charitable investment program can offer you all of these financial benefits - and provide a substantial contribution to the Society.

### How Does It Work?

A member enters into a charitable remainder trust agreement by placing a specific asset or sum of money in trust to be gifted to the Society at some time in

the future. The terms of the trust - how long the agreement will be in effect - are quite flexible and may be for the member's lifetime or even his or her children's or grandchildren's lifetime.

Although the principal eventually goes to the Society, the trust distributes a fixed percentage (as high as 12%) of its assets as income back to the member or his or her family. The member naturally gets attractive tax deductions for this transaction.

### What Assets Work Best?

Many different kinds of assets can be contributed. Often, it is an appreciated asset such as a block of securities or a closely-held business, but it could also be real estate or cash. An appreciated asset - that is, an asset that has grown in value beyond its original purchase price - is especially well-suited to a charitable investment program because the IRS allows the asset to be placed into the trust at its full market value, thus bypassing any capital gains taxation.

For example, those members who have highly appreciated stock that they have wanted to sell (perhaps to diversify their portfolio or to convert to income-producing vehicles) but were reluctant to do so because of the heavy tax bite, now have a very attractive alternative. This theory also applies to the small

business owner nearing retirement who wants to sell the business but does not want to lose nearly one-third its value (30% tax bracket) in taxes.

### Are All Programs Alike?

Because each member's financial situation is different, there are a variety of charitable investment programs available. Some are designed to provide income now, others provide income for retirement, and some structure income for specific planning objectives such as funding a grandchild's college education. The charitable investment program may also be designed with a "wealth replacement" option - so called because it actually returns the full value of the original asset to the family.

In the next several issues of *Toucan Talk*, we'll examine the different plans that some Society members are currently considering. Meanwhile, for more information, please contact the Development Department at 255-5551.



Grand Prize Winner - by Karen Baskin

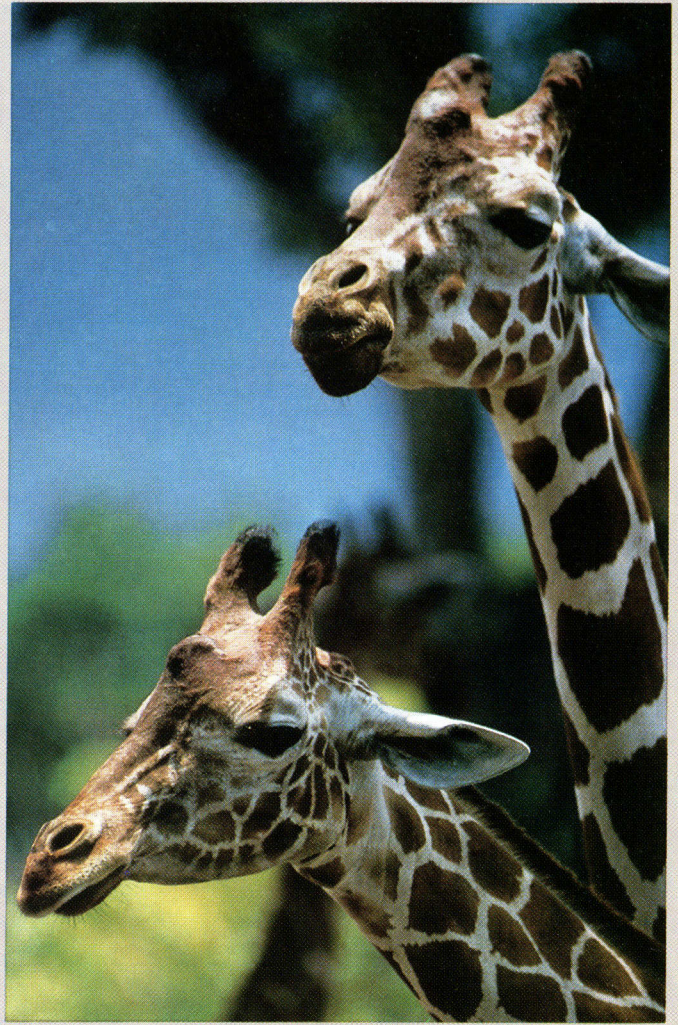
The Zoological Society of Florida is proud to commend the winners of the Third Annual Photo Contest. The Grand Prize winner of two Lufthansa round trip tickets to Germany went to Karen Baskin. First place in the color category was awarded to Steven Murphy and first place in the black and white category was captured by Warren E. Conway. Congratulations to these winners and their incredible feats of photography!

We thank all participants for making the contest a huge success and compliment each and every entry we received.

Many thanks to the panel of professional judges: Hank Walker, former LIFE photographer and managing editor for the SATURDAY EVENING POST and Lyn Pelham, former LIFE photographer and owner of Great Image Photo Labs. They generously gave their time and were extremely selective in choosing our winners.

A very special thanks to all sponsors of and donors to the Photo Contest. Their generosity and support made this event possible. SPONSORS: Kenya Photo Mural, Tishman Speyer Properties, and Eastman Kodak. DONORS: American Express Vacations, Lufthansa German Airlines, Borders, The Falls, Mileo Photo, Pitman Photo, The Photo Factory, Sea Escape, Sunset Photo, Thompson Photo Lab, and World Wide Foto.

As always, many thanks to our special volunteers for their valuable time and support.

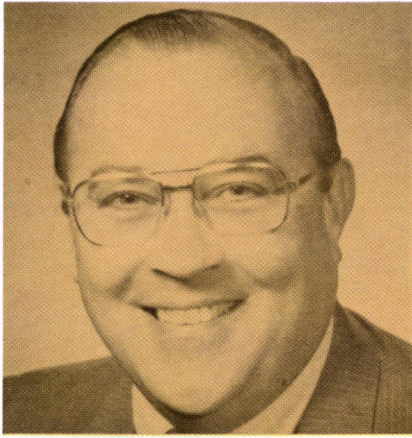


First Place, Color - by Steven Murphy

## *And the Winner is ...*



First Place, Black and White - by Warren E. Conway



information booths and gift shops. The dollar value of this time would be staggering, but more importantly this time is spent out of love for Metrozoo. These folks are the true good will ambassadors for the zoo.

Of course it takes money for the Society to function, and you provide it through your membership fees. You can help us do more by re-enlisting when the time comes, and by inviting friends to join.

Finally, hats off to superb staff. From Joe Ferrer at the top to the part-time employee at the other end of the organization, each is dedicated and committed. We are proud of their accomplishments.

I know you will enjoy working with our incoming President, Larry Turner. Please commit your support to him as I have, and our march toward excellence will go on uninterrupted.

## President's Message

With a strong professional staff and an army of committed volunteers, serving as President of your Society is a pleasure. Time flies, and it is difficult for me to realize that this is my final note to you as President. By fall, your leader will be Larry Turner, an exceptional community leader and businessman.

Your Board of Trustees and Board of Directors represent every facet of our community. They are leaders who love Metrozoo and are determined that it be a world-class facility. That same commitment is shared by our colleagues in government who have direct responsibility for running the zoo - the County Commission and Manager, Park Director Bill Bird, and Metrozoo Director, Bob Yokel.

We share a public-private partnership with the goal of completing Metrozoo. Your Board has this matter before it on a continuing basis, and will produce a financing plan in the future that will accomplish the goal.

In the meantime, our work goes on. This year, Robert Paul has been the Board's budget and finance leader; Sanford Miot has been the overseer of capital projects; Larry Turner has chaired our development campaign; Ralph Morera has worked with staff as education Chairman; and Ron Esserman has monitored the very successful gift shop. Other key chairmen include Merrett Stierheim in Long Range Planning; Bill Barkell in Marketing; Rey Lopez in Membership; Monroe Scheiner for Special Events; Howard Tendrich leading the Docent Volunteers. Each person's contribution has been very special, and I use this form to sincerely thank them.

Earlier I mentioned an army of volunteers. To give you an example, over 36,000 man hours have been volunteered this year in such tasks as station interpreters, lab caretakers, outreach,



The Staff of the Zoological Society of Florida presented Executive Vice President, Joseph E. Ferrer with a special plaque honoring him for his service to the Society for the past 6 years. Mr. Ferrer is a great inspiration to all those who work with him.

Bill Zeigler

### Executive Committee

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*Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim*

*Robert L. Yokel, Metrozoo Director*

*Joseph E. Ferrer, Executive  
Vice President*

*Editor: Lisa Amaro*

*Design: Lee Kline*

## From the Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee of the Zoological Society of Florida is constantly working to introduce new and creative events. Our objective is to present fun, unique activities that everyone can participate in.

Over the past year our repertoire has grown and we want to make sure that you, as a member of the Society are aware of the event in advance so you can plan on participating in those that strike your fancy.

Consult the list following, circle the ones you're interested in and look in your

## Membership Has its Privileges



Pat Meacham

Toucan Trader Assistant Manager, Jeanette Pineda and Sales Associate, Mike Lowe model the exclusive "Members Only" shirt.

Because you are so special, we have designed a shirt exclusively for our members.

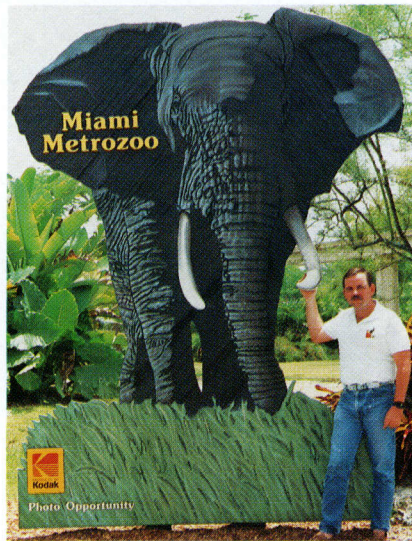
It is available for men and women in lemon yellow, with the Society logo and "MEMBER" embroidered below.

The shirt is \$27.50 and can be found at the gift shop (just show your membership card) or by telephone, 232-6807.

Remember, all proceeds from the gift shops support Metrozoo. As a Society member you receive a 10% discount with any purchase of \$10.00 or more.

future issues of Toucan Talk for the details. Remember when you participate in a Society function you're not only treated to a great time but you're also helping us develop our world class zoo!

- Wildlife Art Weekend - November 26 and 27. Several wildlife artists, including the renowned Charles Frace, will come to the zoo and display their works. The artists are present to personalize any art that is purchased and to explain the motives behind their creations.
- Jungle Jog - Scheduled for Sunday, January 15. The Jungle Jog is the state sanctioned championship 5 mile run that takes place through the zoo. Because of the popularity of this event we've added a race walk and a fitness walk so that



Cindy Zeigler

Bill Tuttle, Supervisor of Metrozoo's Graphic and Design Department stands in front of one of his latest creations, an elephant photo opportunity display. With the assistance of the County Parks and Recreation Sign Department, Tuttle also designed a gorilla, giraffe and koala display. Many thanks to Eastman Kodak who funded the unique signs. So, bring your cameras and plenty of film and make a memory at Metrozoo!

everyone can participate - competitors and "just for funners" alike. We urge you all to come out and walk or run for your zoo.

- The Fourth Annual Photo Contest - All you photo buffs out there start taking pictures of your favorite Metrozoo animals so that you'll be ready for the Photo Contest slated for February. There is a black & white and color category and the contest is open to both professionals and amateurs. Look for an update in your future issues of Toucan Talk.

- The Feast With The Beasts - Mark your calendars for April 14 because we know you won't want to miss this extravaganza. "The Feast" was rated among the best parties in South Florida by Miami Herald Social Writer Jane Wooldridge!

The above are our tried and true events, the old faithful that you have supported wholeheartedly. We thank you for your participation and look forward to the challenge of bringing you new, exciting "zoo happenings" in the future.

## Membership Passes

Those members who have joined the Zoological Society in the Supporting, Contributing, Patron, Sustaining and Benefactor categories are familiar with the "Introductory Passes" given as part of their benefits with the membership card. Although these passes are still valid, we are asking that when they are going to be used, the person presenting them for admission to the zoo do so at the Zoological Society Membership Booth located at the front entrance. These introductory passes are no longer being accepted for admission to the zoo, but can be exchanged for the new passes currently in use.

In an upcoming issue we will elaborate on the new benefit package being offered for various membership categories that will take effect in the winter.

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

## Zoological Society of Florida

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