



Zoological  
Society of  
Florida

Friends of Metrozoo

# Toucan Talk

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

Volume 15, No. 3

May/June 1989

## Babies, Babies, Everywhere

by Bill Zeigler, General Curator

Babies, babies, babies - that's what makes the zoo go around! Yes, it's that time of year again, Metrozoo is gearing up for the spring and summer baby boom. It's the time of year that we work for at Metrozoo, the fulfillment of long hours of care and planned mixing and matching of animals for sound genetic breeding through SSP programs as well as our own internal breeding programs. From tiny geckos to elephants, the staff has watched, cared for, and maneuvered the collection towards its goal of propagation.

There are times, of course, that births may catch us by surprise, but only by occurring before expected or long after we had calculated the birth date. Although every year more advances are being made in the management of exotic animals, it is still not an exact science and many breedings may take place between animals before conception occurs, just as in humans. However, in exotics, sometimes the first signs of pregnancy occur just weeks before birth.

Aside from the first miscalculations, Metrozoo is on its way to one of its best years. Already this year we have seen births in our red kangaroos, slender horned gazelles, sable antelope, addax, nyala, chimpanzee, giraffe, Colobus monkeys, sun bears, leopard tortoise, fat tail gecko, leopard gecko, serval, Baird's tapir, yellow billed storks, wattle cranes, white collared mynah, greater coucal, and the list will continue to grow.

This year's remaining hopefuls will include koala, Bennett's wallaby, saddle billed storks, another Baird's tapir, kudu, springbok, gerenuk, white backed vulture, maribou stork, chinese water deer, Maxwell's duiker, dama gazelle, European stork, crowned crane, and of course, our crocodiles. By far the most prolific group of animals in the zoo are the birds, with 163 successful hatchings last year including 7 "first" breedings in the United States since the opening of the aviary.

The birth of our Baird's tapir this year was very significant. At present, there are only four institutions in the United States breeding this endangered species: Los Angeles Zoo, San Diego Zoo, Riverbanks Zoo of Columbia, South Carolina, and



yellow-billed Stork

Metrozoo. This last birth was our fifth.

The hatching of yellow bill storks represents, once again, the only breeding of this species in the United States by a zoo. This year will be the fourth year that we have hatched the species.

With such an explosion in our population, what happens to all of these animals?

Most of the animals born or hatched at Metrozoo are traded, sold or sent out to other zoos on breeding loans. Some species are part of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) Species Survival Program (SSP) and their transfers are part of the overall master program for the species. Some animals are part of our own internal programs or consortiums, such as the Baird's tapir, where the institutions housing the animals agree to manage the species together, though not as an SSP.

As an example, the black rhino Maku was sent to the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas as part of the Black Rhino SSP program last year. This year, we will be sending the last male rhino born, Tatoo, who is a year old now, to an institution recommended by the SSP program.

white banded gibbons



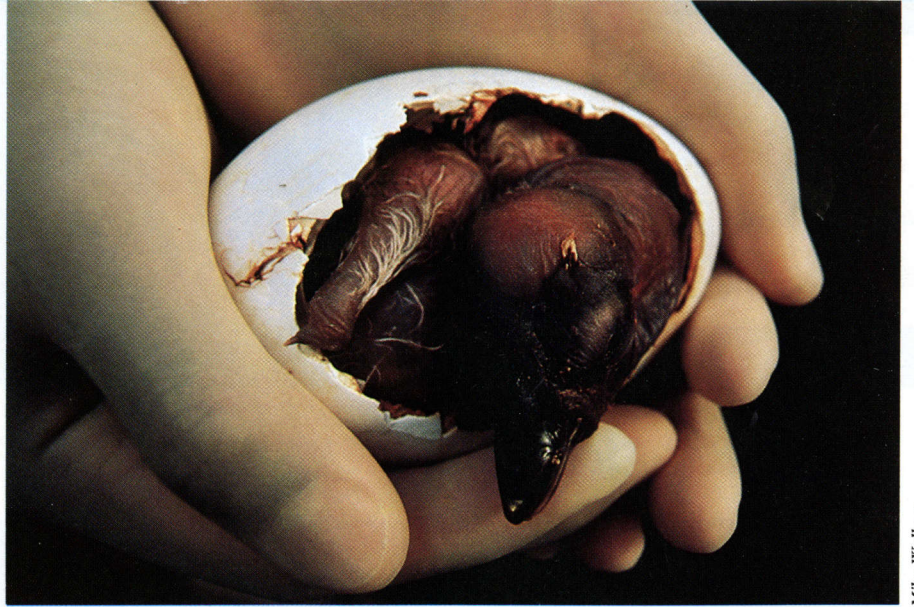
Austin Weeks

Perhaps the most significant thing about our work at Metrozoo is the fact that many of the species we deal with are on the verge of extinction in the wild. Some are actually considered extinct already, and it is through the efforts of Metrozoo and other zoological institutions that they have a chance to survive at all.

An example of this involves our slender horned gazelles, which are the rarest of the gazelles today and may be extinct in the wild. In March of this year, we had twin slender horned gazelles born, bringing the total number of births at Metrozoo to 12. Only two other institutions house this species in the United States and without our help, they may not survive into the 21st century.

It is this type of predicament that we are being faced with on an ever increasing scale. Hopefully, with the support of the society and the Dade County community, Metrozoo will be able to fulfill its obligations as a center for reproduction and conservation.

If you want to see how we are doing in this endeavor, come on out and visit us. This spring and summer, keep a close eye on the displays for new additions; you never know when babies are going to pop up and of course, we like to keep you on your toes!



Mike Wallace

## Metrozoo's Andean Condors

Metrozoo's breeding pair of endangered Andean condors are involved in a program to help save the California condor from extinction. There are only 28 California condors in the world and all of them are in captivity.

In a special program sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Government of Colombia, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the Los Angeles Zoo, San Diego Zoo, Metrozoo, as well as other United States zoos, Andean condors are being used as a surrogate species. By using Andean condors, researchers are learning and understanding the technical aspects of releasing captive raised condors into the wild. Six pair of California condors have laid eggs this year, three of which are fertile. It is hoped that eventually, future generations of California condors will later be released back into the wild with the information gained from working with the Andean condors. All Andean condors released in California will be caught and translocated to South America before any California condors are released.

An Andean condor egg that was laid at Metrozoo on March 20, 1989 was flown to Los Angeles via Pan American World Airways, Inc. When hatched (estimated to be around May 13, 1989) it will be puppet reared. The puppet rearing technique includes using hand puppets created to look like mom and pop condors. This prevents imprinting on humans and ensures a behaviorally normal chick which can adapt to the wild when released. If it is a female, it will be released in California and if it is a male, it will be sent to Colombia, South America, where a research program is also in progress.

The Andean condor, with a wingspan of 10 feet, weighing about 23 pounds, is larger than its cousin, the California condor which has a wingspan of about 9½ feet and weighs approximately 20 pounds. There are only a few thousand Andean condors left in the wild. (There is no official count, due to the large home range and inaccessible areas in which they live.)

Through Metrozoo's breeding efforts, two male Andean condors have been released in Peru and another male is about to be released in Colombia. All of the released condors are tagged and their movements and behavior are monitored in an attempt to better understand the needs of condors both in South America and the United States.

If all is successful, once again California condors will sail the skies of southern California and Metrozoo will have played a vital role in this accomplishment.

The commitment to conservation has taken on a new meaning in zoos today and Metrozoo's involvement in that commitment is undeniable, from the keeper staff to the Director of the zoo, from the volunteers in the Society to its Board of Directors. With your continued support as Society members, Metrozoo will continue to be one of the world's great zoo.



Mike Wallace

# Thank You J.C. Penney

For the past few years, **J.C. Penney Company, Inc.** has been a dedicated \$1,000 annual contributor to the Zoological Society of Florida. **Howard Martin**, Store Manager at the Cutler Ridge Mall, pictured above presenting a \$5,000 check to **Tricia Serodino**, Development Director, has been an active member of our Board of Trustees.

Mr. Martin wanted J.C. Penney to receive more recognition for their contribution so he asked their Board of Directors to increase Penney's donation to \$5,000. J.C. Penney Company, Inc., is now the proud sponsor of the Himalayan black bear paddock, seen by more than 850,000 annual visitors to Metrozoo. The J.C. Penney name will appear on the official zoo map which all visitors receive and their name will also be prominently

displayed in our corporate brochure which is used throughout the year to interest others in our fund raising efforts. In addition to these benefits, all J.C. Penney employees will become members of our Safari Club, entitling them to discounts on admission and on zoo grounds. We welcome and thank J.C.

Penney Company, Inc. for becoming the newest member of our corporate family and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with them.

If you would like more information regarding corporate membership to the Zoological Society of Florida, please call Tricia Serodino at 255-5551.



Deborah Courtenay

## Some Startling Facts to Consider ...

### U.S. Wildlife Importations (Annual Averages from 1980-1985)

It is estimated that the value of legal wildlife importations into the United States is \$3.5 billion annually. It is also estimated that nearly \$1.5 billion worth of wildlife is illegally imported annually; thus, both legal and illegal wildlife importations into the United States are valued at \$5 billion annually.

**PRIMATES** An average of 12,000 to 14,000 live primates are imported annually. The overwhelming majority (more than 99.5%) are destined for biomedical research. THE DECLARED VALUE OF THOSE IMPORTATIONS AVERAGES \$1.2 MILLION ANNUALLY.

**BIRDS** More than 800,000 live birds are legally imported in an average year. Of that number, it is estimated that approximately 250,000 are parrots and other psittacines. THE DECLARED VALUE OF BIRD IMPORTATIONS IS \$15 MILLION ANNUALLY.

**REPTILES** Between 300,000 and 500,000 live reptiles are imported in an average year. Additionally, between 2 and 4 million reptile skins and another 15 to 20 million manufactured products from reptile skins are imported annually. THE

ESTIMATED VALUE OF LIVE REPTILE AND REPTILE PRODUCTS IS BETWEEN \$200 AND \$250 MILLION ANNUALLY.

**FURS** Importation records reflect that the United States imports between 4 and 6 million raw fur skins annually and another 500,000 to 1,000,000 fur skin manufactured products. THE DECLARED VALUE IS APPROXIMATELY \$800 MILLION ANNUALLY.

**IVORY** The United States is the leading importer of ivory. We import between \$20 and \$30 million of ivory products annually. Included in that amount are approximately 5,000 raw tusks and between 4 and 6 million carved products or other pieces of worked ivory.

**ORNAMENTAL FISH** The United States imports an average of 125 million ornamental fish annually. THE DECLARED VALUE OF SUCH IMPORTS IS BETWEEN \$25 AND \$30 MILLION.

**MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTATIONS** The United States imports between 12 and 15 million raw shells; 1,000 to 1,500 tons of raw corals; 1 to 2 million whole cactus plants and between 300 and 500 thousand whole orchid plants. While there are no estimates of the declared value of cacti and orchids, the estimated value of shells and corals is approximately \$20 million annually.

There were 16,310 USDA/APHIS inspections conducted during 1987; 351 reports of violations were filed; 145 cases were referred to the Office of General Counsel and 180 violators were sent official notices of warning.

Frightening, isn't it?

## Education - Our Goals and Objectives

**T**hroughout history man has kept captive wild animals. The earliest reasons were simply for food and clothing. As man evolved, he began keeping them as pets, as symbols of power and for religious purposes. One of the simplest and most enduring reasons was simple curiosity - a desire to know. Today, satisfying that desire survives as one of the primary objectives of zoos and the Zoological Society's education department focuses on highlighting Metrozoo as a unique resource - a living classroom.

Although we use a traditional classroom, our unconventional teaching methods include contact with animals and biofacts to create an awareness and respect for wildlife and conservation. The zoo's animals provide wonderful insights into animal behavior and man's dependence and inter-relationships with his environment.

This school year, the Society's classroom teacher and Outreach Program reached over 40,000 students, grades K-12 at the zoo and in the community. Their presentations are designed for all grade levels and also for children with special needs such as gifted, learning disabilities, handicaps, or impairments.

This spring, 1,000 Chapter One students from five Dade County schools were able to visit the zoo through a \$10,000 grant from the Dade Community Foundation and Deloitte, Hawkins and Sells. These students were targeted as

economically disadvantaged and, on standardized tests, scored in the lower 25% in reading and math compared nationally to other students in their grade. The funding provided for the development of a special curriculum and classroom materials, each student's transportation, admission to the zoo, and a box lunch. The materials packet provided to each class included pre- and post-visit components to prepare and reinforce the concepts learned at the zoo. This was the first zoo experience for many of the children and the schools took advantage of walking tours provided by volunteers or toured the zoo grounds on their own during their visit. The Chapter One program, thirteen months in the making, was enthusiastically received by the students and teachers involved and we look forward to its expansion in the next school year.

Another educational success story is completing its pilot year at the zoo. The Science/Zoo Magnet School based at Metrozoo and Richmond Heights Middle School has provided 100 select seventh and eighth graders with a unique opportunity to use Metrozoo as a living laboratory. While at the zoo, students attended accelerated classes in biology, zoology, ecology and wildlife conservation principles in addition to their normal science and computer literacy curriculum.

Metrozoo and Zoological Society personnel served as resources by teaching classes and conducting tours. Students met curators, zookeepers and the zoo's veterinarian who provided some insight into the "inner workings" of the zoo and a first-hand look at animal-related careers.

The first year's success has encouraged the educators involved in the pilot program to develop a program for ninth graders next year. Some of the topics under consideration include internships in zoology, botany, ecology, independent research, and applied genetics. With the support and encouragement of the Zoological Society, the prospect of a Science/Zoo Magnet High School may be more than an exciting dream.

The Zoological Society education staff is gearing up for another activity-filled summer camp series. This year's expanded program centers on "Animal Assets" and children will explore animal adaptations in the classroom and throughout the zoo. We are offering more Kindercamps, our most popular program for 3-5 year olds and more Jungle Juniors for grades 1-3.

Zoo education is not just for children. It is estimated that 55-70% of zoo visitors are adults and the education department takes the responsibility of adult education very seriously. We offer three popular courses on a continuing basis through Florida International University. "F.I.U. at Metrozoo" is offered through the school of continuing education. "Metrozoo as a

Classroom" is a popular ten hour inservice program through the Teachers Education Center; the "Biology of Captive Wildlife" is offered through the department of biology. We also offer classes through the University of Miami's school of continuing education.

Our adult lectures, Supper Safaris and Breakfast With the Beasts give adults the chance during the year to learn more about the behind-the-scenes activities at Metrozoo and to hear from guest speakers.

The opportunity to see and learn

## Education Outlook

### A Summer to Remember at Metrozoo

#### Programs for

#### Children

#### Zoo After School

Grades: 1-4

Animal adventures abound for kids at the zoo. Teachers and animals introduce children to a variety of new topics:

**May:** Animals in our Backyard

**June:** Respectable Reptiles and Amazing Amphibians

**Dates:** May 3, 17, and 31  
June 14

**Hours:** 3:30-5:00 p.m.

**Fee:** \$12.00 Members  
\$15.00 Nonmembers

#### Programs for

#### Families

#### Two For The Zoo

This popular program provides entertaining and educational activities for parents and pre-schoolers (age 3 and up) together. Arts and crafts projects, visits with some of our smaller animals, and an electric cart "safari" on zoo grounds are included.

**May:** Animals in our Backyard

**June:** Respectable Reptiles and Amazing Amphibians

**Dates:** May 3, 17 and 31  
June 14

**Hours:** 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Fee:** \$12.00 Members  
\$15.00 Non-Members  
(\$5.00 per extra child)

directly from a living collection of wild animals is Metrozoo's special educational offering. Our efforts focus on direct visual contact with animals which, like nothing else, can stimulate the imagination, sharpen observation, and enrich the thinking of our program participants. The ultimate goal of our educational programs must be to stimulate an interest in nature, create informed concern for wildlife and its future, emphasize the inter-relationship of all nature, and stress the importance of maintaining our planet as a living, viable system.

#### Breakfast With The Beasts

What a way to start the day! Enjoy the beauty of the zoo in the early morning while having your continental breakfast, then enjoy the special animal "encounters" we have planned for you.

**May:** Young Creatures Great and Small

**June:** Trunks and Tusks: Our Popular Pachyderms

**July:** Reptiles: Fears, Facts, Fascination

**Dates:** May 14  
June 25  
July 23

**Hours:** 8:00-10:00 a.m.

**Fee:** \$12.00 Members  
\$15.00 Non-members

#### Family Overnight

Families will have the opportunity to "camp out" at the zoo for an exciting animal evening. Bring your sleeping bags and comfortable clothes; we'll supply everything else.

**Dates:** May 27  
June 24  
July 22

**Hours:** 6:30 p.m., Saturday-8:30 a.m.  
Sunday

**Fee:** \$20.00 per person, children 5 yrs. of age and older, please.  
\$30.00 per person for non-members.

#### Programs for

#### Adults

#### Supper Safari

Join us for a "Safari Under the Stars" with the Southern Cross Astronomical Society. Enjoy an interpretive program, slides, videos and an evening of viewing the heavens. See nebulae, animal constellations, the moon and planets, and we'll serve you a box dinner under the stars.

**Date:** June 10

**Hours:** 8:00-10:30 p.m.

**Fee:** \$15.00 Members  
\$18.00 Non-members

**Sex with the Animals - A Wild Night Out at Metrozoo:** Back by popular demand, join zoo personality Ron Magill for his hilarious slide lecture on the animals' mating behavior - laugh and learn!

**Date:** July 15  
**Time:** 6:00-9:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$15.00 Members  
 \$18.00 Non-Members

**T.E.C. Weekend Teacher Workshop**

Part of a series of workshops offered through the Teacher Education Center. This popular 10-hour program trains teachers to utilize the zoo as an educational resource and help them to interpret the zoo to their students.

**Dates:** May 13-20  
**Hours:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** No fee, register through T.E.C. at 887-2002

**Adult Overnight**

Discover the secrets of the zoo after dark. We'll serve you dinner and treat you to the sights and sounds of a zoo that belongs to the animals. Sunday morning you'll learn what some of our residents eat and enjoy a continental breakfast as the sun rises.

**Dates:** May 13  
 June 17  
 July 29  
**Hours:** 6:00 p.m Saturday-8:30 a.m. Sunday  
**Fee:** \$20.00 per Member  
 \$30.00 per Non-member

**Summer Camp**

This summer's activities will be devoted to "Animal Assets", a theme centering on animals and how they have adapted to their environments. **New this year,** your

Kindercamper or Jungle Junior will have a choice of two different summer sessions to give them twice the opportunity to experience the zoo.

**Kindercamp**

This is a first-hand experience for our campers. Through direct observation and contact, children will learn the characteristics of different types of animals as well as participate in animal-oriented crafts, games, and songs.  
 Age: 3-5 years old (children must be 3 years of age by April 1.)

**Animal Assets I**

**Dates:** June 19-June 23  
 June 26-June 30  
 July 10-July 14  
 July 24-July 28

**Animal Assets II**

**Dates:** July 31-August 4  
 August 7-August 11  
 August 14-August 18  
**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. to noon  
**Fees:** \$65.00 Members  
 \$75.00 Non-members

**Jungle Juniors**

Grades: 1-3

Jungle Juniors will spend their afternoons discovering the zoo and how it works. They will observe zookeepers on the job, and learn how our animals are fed and cared for.

**Animal Assets I**

**Dates:** June 24-June 30  
 July 10-July 14  
 July 24-July 28

**Animal Assets II**

**Dates:** July 31-August 4  
 August 14-August 18  
**Hours:** 1:30-4:30 p.m.  
**Fees:** \$75.00 Members  
 \$85.00 Non-members

**Zoocamp**

Grades: 4-6

Zoocampers will become amateur zoologists while gaining an appreciation for the functions of a modern zoo. They will learn from the Educational Staff as well as zookeepers and the animals themselves. Campers should bring a brown bag lunch Monday through Thursday; Friday we will provide lunch with the zookeepers.

**Dates:** July 17-July 21  
**Hours:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$95.00 Members  
 \$105.00 Non-members

**Summer Safari**

Grades: 7-8

This is a summer version of our Junior Zoologist program: it is for young teens interested in careers in zoology or veterinary medicine. The week-long program gives the student an introduction to the care of captive wildlife and animal-related careers.

**Dates:** August 7-August 11  
**Hours:** 1:30-4:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$80.00 Members  
 \$90.00 Non-members

**Toucan Team**

Grades: 9-12

This is a special 1 week session of our teen volunteer training program. After completing the course, participants will be eligible to serve as junior counselors for our summer programs.

**Dates:** June 19-June 23  
**Hours:** 1:30-4:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$80.00 Members  
 \$90.00 Non-members

**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. Expiration 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. '89) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Policy:** Advance registration is required for all programs. Registration is by mail or phone reservations by 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.

**Cancellations:** All fees are non-refundable, however, they may be transferred to another program.



Steve Murphy

## Photo Contest

**READY - FOCUS - SHOOT!!!** Take the lens cap off your camera and get your imagination to work. The Fourth Annual Photo Contest, sponsored by **Kenya Photo Mural** will be held in the month of August.

The grand prize will be tickets to Germany, provided by **Lufthansa German Airlines**. Registration is August 5th through August 11th. Photos will not be accepted after 4 p.m. on August 11th. The winners will be announced at a

reception on August 29th.

Eligible photos must be those depicting "Animals in the Wild" and are limited to photos taken at Metrozoo, featuring animals on public display between April, 1988 and the present. Entry photographs must be taken from the public viewing areas at Metrozoo, without the assistance of zoo or Society personnel. All photos must be **FIRST TIME ENTRIES**.

For registration forms and a complete list of photo contest rules and regulations, contact the special events office at 255-5551

## Mall of the Americas Grand Opening

This spring, Mall of the Americas held its grand opening. The 10 day festivities included the Zoological Society of Florida's Petting Zoo animals, hundreds of daily prize giveaways and promotions. All the proceeds were contributed to the Zoological Society of Florida. We would like to thank Mr. Jim Schlesinger, Balcor Development Company and Mall of the Americas.



Cynthia Zeitler

## Toucan Trader's Choice

**D**id you know our koala exhibit is celebrating its first birthday? Toucan Trader is celebrating also by offering you, our members, special savings. One of our koala birthday promotions includes a plush baby kiwi, an exclusive David Schor matted koala print, an educational koala book, and a koala print poster, all for only \$25.00, a \$35.00 value.

In addition, we have assorted values on koala merchandise for \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$25.00.



Trying to find an extra special gift for a child or a birthday? Remember, you can come shop in our Toucan Trader gift shops at any time without going through a zoo adventure. We have a wonderful assortment of children's toys and cuddly plush animals for the young and young at heart. As a member, you receive a 10% discount on all your gift shop purchases over \$10.00. More importantly, all proceeds from the gift shop go directly to the support of Metrozoo.



## Executive Vice President's Message.....

In past issues of Toucan Talk, we have discussed the Society's role in relation to Metrozoo. With capital projects being accelerated, we feel it is time to repeat the message of what the Society is, exactly what we do, and why your support is so important.

Founded in 1958 to support the Crandon Park Zoo, the Zoological Society of Florida continues today as a private, non-profit membership organization, providing important support to Metrozoo. At present, over 30,000 memberships, representing 70,000 individuals, make up the Society, which is governed by a Board of Directors serving three year terms.

Dade County provides funds to Metrozoo for operational and maintenance dollars only. It is the Society's responsibility to provide the zoo with funds for capital improvements such as new exhibits and animal purchases; educational programs to disseminate educational information relating to natural history and the zoological sciences; travel and training dollars to encourage comprehensive zoological studies and expeditions; advertising and promotional dollars to heighten the public's awareness of Metrozoo and the Society; Adopt-an-Animal funds to assist in the care, feeding and maintenance of animals and existing facilities. Obviously, your Society has grown into an entity of vast scope. We are independent and generate our own operating revenue. The major capital improvements we have accomplished in the past few years were possible only through the generosity of you, our members.

The purpose behind this bit of history is to let you know that once again, we need your help. In January of 1989, we finished construction of PAWS, the new children's contact area. We are now ready to embark on another ambitious project, construction of an Asian small clawed otter exhibit, to be completed by November, 1989 at a cost of \$750,000.

This will be the first underwater exhibit at Metrozoo and initial design plans are very innovative and very exciting. The goal



Miami Metrozoo · Otter Exhibit

Designed by The McBride Co.

of the designer is to create an environment for both animals and patrons that is healthy, pleasant, stimulating, entertaining, and educational. The exhibit will provide the opportunity for the otters to perform as they would in the wild, not only entertaining the audience, but providing the habitat necessary for the well being of the captive animals.

A natural river environment will be created for this playful member of the mustelidae family. Patrons will be able to immerse themselves in this exhibit because they will see the otters not only from ground level, but by descending a rampway, a view of the underwater antics of these frisky creatures will also be possible.

As excited as we are about the otter exhibit, we cannot digress from the

Society's basic role in the project -funding! The Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Foundation has issued a challenge grant which we hope will be matched by our members and corporate sponsors. The special events department has done their part with "Feast With the Beasts" proceeds earmarked for the otter project. Can you help? Will you help? Large or small, every gift is important. Every gift will be returned with a sense of personal enrichment and accomplishment for a job well done. The Asian small clawed otter is endangered. By providing a fun and attractive setting in which a large number of people can appreciate this animal, we hope to contribute to conservation awareness and to the restoration of wild animal species and habitats around the world.

### Executive Committee

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*Sanford B. Miot, President Elect*  
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# Student News at Metrozoo - Arbor Week Activities

by Dr. Meri Cummings,

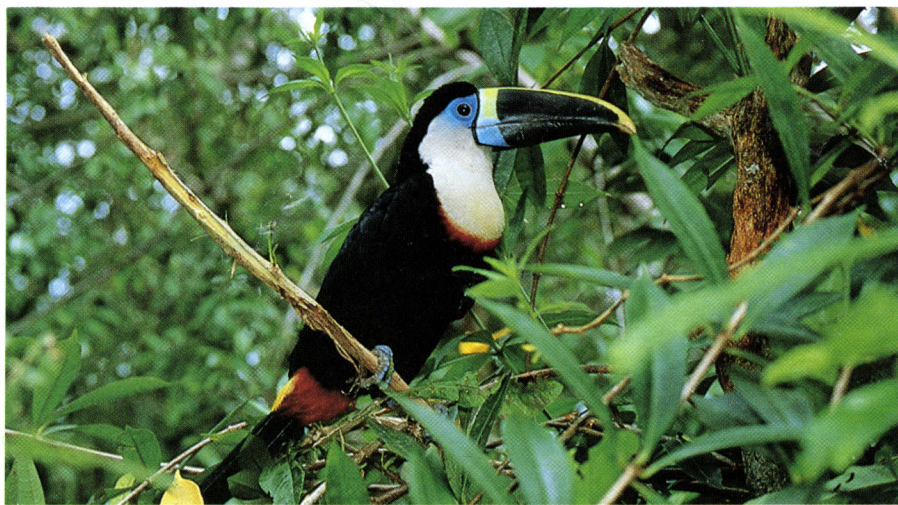
Science Zoo/Magnet Teacher

Students in Richmond Heights Middle School's Science/Zoo Magnet Program will be participating in several Arbor Week activities, supporting the international Children's Rainforest in Costa Rica. The acquisition of land for this forest was started by a group of children in Sweden. Zoo Magnet students are collecting papers and aluminum cans for recycling, the proceeds from which will be donated to the fund to purchase additional land in the rainforest. Students are also designing t-shirts and 'stationary' to help their cause.

Another activity on zoo grounds during Arbor Week (April 22-29) will be the planting of a series of butterfly gardens, which will hopefully attract both butterflies and hummingbirds to places where zoo visitors can admire them. The plantings are being done to express the students' awareness of their individual responsibility to replenish the oxygen they breathe, and the threatened ozone layer that protects our planet. These activities are being conducted in conjunction with those of Florida International University (F.I.U.) and many schools in Dade County.

If you are interested in participating in similar events, or in having a free rainforest slide show presented to your class or group, call Jack Parker at F.I.U. (554-3083) or the Florida Rainforest Alliance (246-2775).

The Science/Zoo Magnet Program is a Dade County Public School Program for students with an interest in animals and science. Richmond Heights Middle School is accepting applications for seventh and eighth graders for the 1989-1990 school year. For further information, contact Mrs. Shirley James at 238-2316.



## Travelogue 1989 - South American Adventure

Occupying over 2.5 million square miles, the lush rain forests of the Amazon support the largest array of plant and animal life in the world. With over 25,000 species of plants, one third of the world's species of birds, the richest butterfly fauna in the world and more species of fish than in the entire Atlantic Ocean, there is little question that the Amazon is nature's greatest expression. However, man's destruction of this vast wilderness is causing the irreparable loss of species - millions of plants and animals - and threatens to affect climate conditions globally in our lifetime. Join us and discover some of the hidden secrets the jungle holds.

High in the Peruvian Andes, the spectacular ruins of Macchu Picchu, the "lost city" of the Incas, is a place of mystery even today. Lost for 400 years

beneath semi-tropical jungle, this archeological wonder of empty places, stone ruins, fantastic carvings and elaborate pottery is one of the most magical places on earth.

Combine the joy of the primeval forest and the magnificent Andes to create an unforgettable natural history experience. Eleven days, August 12 through 22, 1989, \$1,698, per person, from Miami.

Are you intrigued but not sure? Want to know more? We invite you to join us for a close-up look at this fascinating destination, June 3, 1989 at the zoo, 9-10:30 a.m. We'll provide you with a slide lecture and time for questions of staff members who have taken this wonderful trip. For more information and reservations, contact the Travel Coordinator at 255-5551.

### Zoological Society of Florida

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