



Toucan Talk

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The newsletter of the Zoological Society of Florida
a non-profit organization supporting Miami Metrozoo



Photo by Doug Twynam/Long Lens, Ltd.

On the Bloody Trail to Extinction

Normally on the front page of Toucan Talk, we introduce you to one of Metrozoo's beautiful animals with biological facts, figures and status in the wild. There comes a time, however, when an issue surfaces that is so cruel and inhumane that a stand must be taken. We dedicate this issue to the plight of the

African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*, with the hope that we can somehow, in some small way, help stem the tide of vicious slaughter that is taking place in many African countries every day.

Of all the creatures on this earth, none is more awe-inspiring than the elephant. Its sheer size - an average adult male is 20 to 24 feet in length from the tip of the trunk to the tip of the tail and can weigh up to 13,200 pounds - makes the African elephant the largest living land mammal and is unique not only because of its trunk and formidable tusks, but also because of its longevity and intelligence. The massive body is supported by pillar-like legs with thick, heavy bones. The bone structure of the foot is intermediate between man (plantigrade, where the heel rests on the ground) and the horse (digitigrade, where the heel is raised off the ground). The phalanges, (fingers and toes) are embedded in a soft cushion of white elastic fibers enclosed within a fatty matrix. This enables the elephant to steal silently through the bush. The large surface area of the sole spreads the weight of their huge bulk over such a

wide area that on firm ground, they leave hardly any tracks.

Body size, the most conspicuous feature of elephants, continues to increase throughout life. The skull, jaws, and teeth form a specialized system for crushing coarse plant material. The skull is disproportionately large compared with the size of the brain and has evolved to support the trunk and heavy dentition. The upper lip and nose are elongated in elephants to form a trunk. Unlike other herbivores (plant eating animals), the elephant cannot reach the ground with its mouth because its neck is too short. The trunk enables the elephant to feed from the ground. It is also used for feeding from trees and shrubs, for breaking off branches and picking leaves. Though powerful enough to pick up trees, the trunk, with its nostrils at its tip, is also an acutely sensitive organ of smell and touch. Further uses of the trunk include drinking, greeting, caressing, threatening, squirting water, throwing dust over its owner, forming and amplifying vocalizations.



The tusks are elongated upper incisor teeth. They first appear at the age of about two years and they grow throughout life so that by the age of 60, the bull's tusks may average 132 pounds each and a cow's 20 pounds each. Elephant ivory is a unique mixture of dentine, cartilaginous material and calcium salts, not seen in the tusks of any other mammal. The tusks are mainly used in feeding, for such purposes as stripping the bark off trees or digging for roots, and in social encounters as an instrument of display, or a weapon.

Elephants are herd animals and display complex social behavior. Recent studies in East Africa have shown that bull and cow African elephants tend to live apart. Female elephants live in family units which are groups of closely related adult cows and their immature offspring, led by the oldest female, the matriarch. Social bonds between members of the family unit are very strong. Cooperative behavior, particularly in the protection and guidance of the young, is frequently shown.

Most elephant populations show an annual reproductive cycle which corresponds with the seasonal availability of food and water. Bulls (males) exhibit a condition during rutting (a period of sexual excitement) called "musth," a time of high male hormone levels, aggressive behavior, pronounced secretions from the temporal gland, and an increase in sexual activity. During the mating season, each female may be in heat for a few days only so the distribution of sexually receptive cows is constantly changing. Having found a receptive female, a male will have to compete with other bulls for mating opportunities. Usually it is the largest bull who is successful.

After a gestation period of 22 months, a single calf is born; thus begins a long period of juvenile dependency. The infant suckles (with its mouth, not its trunk) from the paired teats between the mother's forelegs for three to four years. During the birth, other cows often collect around the newborn elephant and so-called "mid-wives" may assist at the birth by removing the fetal membrane. Others may help the infant to its feet and this marks the beginning of joint family responsibility for the young of the group.

Elephants are highly intelligent, social,

and emotional animals. Babies spend their long childhood developing distinct personalities. Families express great joy when meeting each other; they also grieve for their dead. With no natural enemies, how does such an animal become extinct?

Enter man with his wit, cunning and insatiable greed and the answer is day by day, one by one, with great suffering.

Picture the following scene: A family of elephants lumbers to a watering hole in the late afternoon on the African savannah. The stately matriarch stands silently while the others fill their trunks for drinking and bathing. Suddenly the tranquility is shattered in a burst of machine gun fire. The huge animals bellow in terror. One by one the elephants fall, cut down by a literal storm of bullets. Ivory poachers move in to collect their loot. With machetes and saws, they hack apart the faces to collect the ivory tusks. Their brutal work done, the killers depart, leaving a tangled mass of once majestic elephants bleeding into the parched earth.

Who is to blame for this destruction? Is it the villager in Africa who is paid to gather ivory? Is it the wealthy Asian trader who imports raw ivory and exports carved trinkets to the rest of the world? The guilty party is, as usual, the consumer at the end of the line - you and I.

The basic rule of economics applies here. When people stop buying ivory, there will be no market for it and the killing of elephants for ivory will stop. Do not support the ivory market. If you are not sure what a piece of jewelry or an object of art is made of, ask. If it is made of ivory, don't buy it. Making your statement is that simple. Read the column in this newsletter "We Need Your Help" to find more ways to fight this barbaric, illegal trade. Remember - people can live without ivory, elephants cannot.

In closing, we join Elspeth Huxley in her prayer of hope:

"So goodbye, Manyara elephants. Another day is over, those big bellies filled with tasty fruit, with bark and branches, grass and seedpods, herbs and leaves, such a variety to choose from and to relish; mud baths have been taken, children suckled, a drowsy siesta in the shade enjoyed, sunrise to sunset passed without alarms and excursions. May it so continue until the little calf we saw getting in the way of her elders, rolling under their bellies with her legs in the air, grows to be a matriarch with her grandchildren and great grandchildren around her. May she live to lay her bones in peace when old age comes. May hunters with guns and poisoned arrows, may accident and mishap, may starvation as the woodlands shrink and wither, pass her by. May the hungry generations pressing in upon her sanctuary never tread her down."

Richard Leakey

On February 10, 1990, Mayors Jewelers and Rolex Watches present Richard Leakey, recently named Director of Wildlife Services in Kenya, to address the issue "Conservation - Save the Elephants." A 44-year-old native of Kenya, Leakey is the son of Louis and Mary Leakey, celebrated paleontologists and pioneers in the study of human origins, who discovered the fossils that placed the origins of man in Africa.

As the new Director of Wildlife Services, Leakey has taken a stand against the useless killing of African Elephants. He has his own firm set of ideas on the future of wildlife. His idea of fencing in the National Parks to keep poachers out, causes great debate. Leakey realizes that doing this is far removed from the romantic notion of wildlife roaming free, yet Kenya has developed the world's fastest growing population which results in fierce competition for space between man and beast. Leakey's adversaries argue

The Zoological Society the Ultimate African

Once, an African safari conjured up images of a trek through unknown, exotic territory. Led by the obligatory great white hunter, the party, its trackers, porters and gun-bearers, moved across the endless savannahs, always in search of the animals. Today's modern safari bears little resemblance to the colonial version. Fortunately, the camera has replaced the gun as the equipment of choice and more people than ever are visiting Africa to see the longest-term inhabitants on earth.

Join us February 18 through March 4, 1990 on a 15 day safari to KENYA. Your fully escorted expedition will take you to the game reserves at Masai Mara, Samburu, and Amboseli. You'll enjoy fine accommodations such as the luxurious Mt. Kenya Safari Club, and sample the fine cuisine and shopping in Nairobi. An optional 6 day extension to Tanzania will take you to the Ngorongoro Crater and the Olduvai Gorge. Cost of the 15 day safari to Kenya is \$3,695 per person and the extension to Tanzania, \$1,395 additional.

Thrill to 15 exciting days in AUSTRALIA. Our trip will take you to Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Melbourne, and Lamington National Park. You'll experience rainforests, reefs, islands, terrain formed by ancient volcanoes as well as the sights of Australia's two largest cities. An optional 10 day extension to New Zealand will visit Rotorua, Christchurch, Auckland and the alpine resort of Queenstown.

strongly that fencing in the land would only reduce Africa's National Parks into large zoos. Dr. Leakey sees the fencing as "the best way to preserve the species from the steady encroachment of agriculture and domestic herds, as well as from poacher's automatic rifles."

"Elephants are highly intelligent: their society is complex and rich. Each year we learn more about their behavior, but each year Africa's herds are decimated for their tusks. As 50-year-old bonds are shattered, as families fragment, and as orphans mill helplessly around, the time has come to view the elephant as something other than so many pounds of ivory." (Discovery Channel Magazine, September 1989)

Dr. Leakey will bring us together, for one night, so we can hear first hand exactly what is happening to the African elephant. The event, will take place in Metrozoo's Amphitheater at 7:00 p.m. Fees are \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members.

Society Presents Safari

Departing May 5 - May 18, 1990, the all-inclusive cost for Australia is \$3,395 per person. Reserve now! After February 1, this trip will increase to \$3,595. The 10-day New Zealand extension is \$1,595 per person.

The spirit of Glasnost has come to the Zoological Society of Florida! Join us on one of the nation's first zoo-sponsored tours to **RUSSIA**. This 14 day excursion will visit Moscow, Leningrad and the Leningrad Zoo, the breathtaking 27,000 acre game reserve at Askaniya Nova, and the "living museum" of Russian history at Suzdal. A 3-day cruise of the Baltic to Helsinki is optional. Departing June 25, 1990, all inclusive cost per person from Miami is \$3,435 and the extension is \$525.

BELIZE - lush, tropical rainforests, subtropical pine savannahs, mangrove swamps and the world's second largest barrier reef. Teeming with wildlife, Belize is home to over 500 species of exotic birds, 250 varieties of orchids and is one of the last homes of the elusive jaguar. In addition to the abundant wildlife, Belize is also the ancient homeland of the Maya, the most sophisticated pre-Columbian civilization. Our 7 day tour of this virtually unexplored country combines both natural history and archeological experiences. Departing October 20 - October 27, 1990, the all inclusive cost from Miami is \$1,698 per person.

For more information and complete itineraries on any of our trips, please call Ruth Hamilton, Travel Coordinator at 255-5551.

Annual Board/Installation Dinner



Past President Larry Turner congratulates incoming President Sanford B. Miot at the Society's annual Board/Installation Dinner held at Metrozoo on November 11.



Niki Kominick generously contributed the funds for a much needed rest area at Metrozoo - located across from the sable antelope exhibit. Shown here with Niki Kominick are Past President Larry Turner and Executive Vice President Joseph Ferrer.



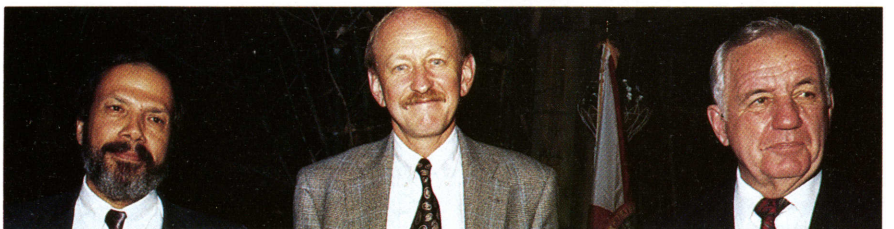
Pictured left to right are Bob Yokel, Metrozoo Director; Congressman Dante Fascell, and President Sanford B. Miot. Congressman Fascell, who was instrumental in acquiring the Richmond Naval Air Base for the zoo's new location, was the keynote speaker at the Board dinner and he highlighted the importance and progress of Metrozoo.



A special presentation was made to Lee Bynum and Betty Miller for their \$25,000 contribution to the Florida Endangered Species Fund. Left to right: Betty Miller, Joseph E. Ferrer, Lee Bynum, and Bob Yokel.



Dora and Sayde Miller were recognized at the Board dinner for their \$50,000 gift to support the golden lion tamarin mini-exhibit located in the lobby of the Society membership building. Pictured are Joseph Ferrer, Dora and Sayde Miller, and attorney Paul Steinberg.



Outgoing Board members were recognized for their commitment to the Zoological Society at the Board dinner. Pictured left to right: Dr. Bern Levine, owner of Parrot Jungle and Gardens, Dr. Monroe Scheiner, and John Pennekamp, Senior Vice President at Sun Bank.

Toucan Trader

There are many ways we can increase the awareness of the plight of the African elephant. Through our merchandising efforts, the Toucan Trader gift shop is supporting this worthwhile cause. We are committed to you, our Society members and zoo patrons, to present a quality assortment of elephant merchandise which will educate, commemorate, and appreciate this endangered species.

Save the African elephant t-shirts are not only beautiful, but deliver a clear message. Our elephant zoo books are very informative and easily read by all age groups. For the more serious reader, **Among the Elephants** by Iain and Oma

Douglas-Hamilton is available. These authors are the foremost authorities in their field and the book is extremely informative and interesting. In addition, the assortment of soft plush toys and beautiful Kissi stone carvings are just a few of the items available to you. Perhaps a limited edition Rick Cain sculpture or porcelain Sadek elephant figurine would be your choice. The signed and limited Mat Jonasson crystal sculpture is strictly for the collector with a refined appreciation of art and nature conservation.

On the evening of Dr. Leakey's personal appearance, a select assortment of merchandise will be on sale after the lecture, with a portion of the sales going to his efforts to save the African elephant.

Education Outlook

January, February, March - 1990

Programs For Children

Zoo After School Grades 1-4

The new year begins with exciting animal adventures for kids after school. Each month focuses on a new, interesting topic. The children explore each one through various games, crafts and slide presentations as well as direct contact with some of our smaller exotic creatures.

January: Rainforests and Their Inhabitants

Come learn about this beautiful endangered habitat and the creatures that depend on it for survival.

February: (E) for Elephant
Find out about this majestic and noble creature and why it faces an uncertain future.

March: Animal Locomotion
Leaping, crawling, galloping, soaring and peddling are just some of the ways animals get around. Explore this fascinating topic by walking, running, or motoring here!

Dates: January 10 and 24 / February 7 and 21 / March 7 and 21
Hours: 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.
Fee: \$12.00 members; \$17.00 non-members.

A.I.R. Scouting Program

Grades K-12

Both girl and boy scout troops can spend a Saturday learning about Metrozoo's animal collection and the

zoo's role in wildlife conservation. This program includes a classroom presentation, behind the scenes tour, and a live animal presentation. Scouts will receive the Metrozoo A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest, and Respect) patch upon completion of the program.

Dates: Saturday mornings, January 6 through May 26
Hours: 9:00 to 11:30 A.M.
Fee: \$12.00 (1 chaperone for 8 scouts is free)

Programs For Teens

Toucan Team Grades 9-12

This four Sunday program introduces teens to all aspects of "zoo life" including diet, zoology, animal behavior and animal management as well as animal related careers. Behind the scenes tours and exposure to animal management personnel highlight this learning experience. Upon completion of this course, participants will be eligible to join the "Service Team" (our teen volunteer organization) and will be able to assist in our summer programs.

Dates: January 7 through 28
Hours: 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Fee: \$65.00 members, \$75.00 non-members.

Programs For Families

Family Zoventure

Parents and pre-schoolers (ages 3-5)

This popular program provides educational and entertaining activities for parents and pre-schoolers (ages 3 and up). A variety of arts and crafts projects, games, slides presentations, stories and hands-on interaction with some of our smaller exotic animals are featured. Please join us for each unique monthly program and enjoy exploring the animal kingdom with your children.

January: Jungle Creatures
Come learn about the animals that live in this special place and why many of them are endangered.

February: ELEPHANTS!!!
These animals are the largest found on land. Explore some fascinating facts and features about this majestic endangered animal.

March: "I Get Around" - How?
This month features all the different types of animal movement. We will compare our best athletic tries with those in the animal kingdom. Hop over here for a fun time!

Dates: January 7 and 28 / February 11 and 25 / March 4 and 25

Hours: 9:00 - 11:30 A.M.
Fee: \$12.00 adult members; \$3.00 Child (must be 3-5 years)
\$15.00 Adult non members;
\$6.00 Child (must be 3-5 years)

Breakfast With the Beasts

GOOD MORNING! Enjoy this very special time at the zoo while we provide a continental breakfast, and many new animal experiences for you to enjoy.

January: Beastly Culinary Delights. Learn what and how zoo animals are fed and meet some of Metrozoo's most personable residents up close.

February: ELEPHANTS. In our month featuring this most massive creature, learn about their behavior and life styles, as well as why it is all so threatened.

March: The Novel Neck. What's the first animal that comes to mind when you hear the word "neck?" The giraffe of course, and this program will focus on this beautiful and graceful creature.

Dates: January 21 / February 4 / March 18
Hours: 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
Fee: \$15.00 Members; \$20.00 Non members (Children 5 and under are half price)

Family Overnight

This exciting Program enables participants to enjoy a night out at the zoo. "Camp out" in the classrooms and be prepared to start your evening with a pizza party followed by a behind the scenes night hike through the zoo. Bring your sleeping bags and comfortable clothes; we'll supply everything else.

Dates: January 20 / February 3 and 24 / March 10 and 31
Hours: 6:30 P.M. Saturday - 8:30 A.M. Sunday
Fees: \$25.00 Members (children 5 years and over, please) \$35.00 Non members

Programs For Adults

Supper Safari

Start off the new year by spending an intriguing night at the zoo with our after hours suppers.

January: Tropical Treasures - The Amazon Rainforest
Spend a night under the stars as you learn about a beautiful tropical paradise that is in peril. Dr. Paul Beaver has studied this habitat extensively and would like to share his experiences. His wife, Milly Sangamen, is a native of the Peruvian Amazon and will be present to answer questions. Come explore the jungle's fragile beauty and learn how you can help to preserve it.

Dates: January 27, 1990
Hours: 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.
Fee: \$25.00 Members;
\$35.00 Non members

March: Conservation Efforts in the Everglades
In a time when environmental awareness is becoming more and more prevalent, learn about an endangered habitat right in our back yard. Marjorie Stoneham Douglas, who will be turning 100 on April 7, has spent over 25 years dedicated to the understanding and preservation of ecology of the Everglades. Dr. Sharon Richardson, Academic Coordinator for Environmental Sciences at Barry University and Administrative Assistant to Ms. Douglas, will enlighten us all on the flora and fauna of the Everglades and fundamental issues surrounding its future. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to meet Marjorie Stoneham Douglas and learn about our forgotten treasure.

Date: March 10
Hours: 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.
Fee: \$25.00 Members;
\$35.00 Non members

REMINDER: Summer is just around the corner and it's not too early to begin planning for Summer Zoo Camp. This summer promises to be the most memorable yet. Our zoo is growing and getting more exciting each year with new exhibits and animals. Give your child a memorable summer: Zoo Camp at Metrozoo!

Registration Policy: Advance registration is required for all programs. Registration is by mail or telephone, 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.

Adult Overnight

The dark beckons you to explore it, at the zoo where exciting adventures await. You will be led through an unforgettable evening which includes an old fashioned pizza party. Don't forget to bring your sleeping bags as you will "camp out" in our air conditioned classrooms and awake to the sound of flamingos and a continental breakfast.

Dates: January 6 / February 17 / March 3 and 24
Hours: 6:30 P.M. Saturday -
8:30 A.M. Sunday
Fee: \$25.00 Members;
\$35.00 Non members

T.E.C. Weekend Teacher Workshop

During this two weekend program, teachers are trained to utilize the zoo as an educational resource and are then able to interpret the zoo to their students. Don't miss this popular workshop. It is offered through the Teacher Education Center at F.I.U.

Dates: January 13 & 20 / February 17 & 24 / March 24 & 31
Fees: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
No Fee - Register through T.E.C. at 887-2002

F.I.U. at Metrozoo

Our popular workshop for teachers will be offered again this spring. Open to both graduate and undergraduate students, this comprehensive workshop introduces teachers to Metrozoo and assists them in developing

Cancellations: All fees are non-refundable. Cancellation notifications must be received at least 72 hours (3 business days) prior to the actual program date in order for credit to be accrued.

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 # _____ Non Member Fee \$ _____
 Mastercard Visa Amer. Exp. Expiration Date _____ TOTAL _____
Card # _____ Signature _____

For Children's Programs, please complete the following:

Parent's Name _____
Student's Age _____ Grade in school (as of Sept. '89) _____

interdisciplinary materials to be used in the classroom and at the zoo. "In field credit" is awarded in six disciplines for recertification. Registration is through F.I.U. or during the first class period. For details call the Education Department at 255-5551

Dates: January 11 / April 19
Hours: 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. - Thursdays
Fee: \$35.00 Members;
\$45.00 Non members plus F.I.U. tuition

Zootography Club

The Zootography Club continues to offer monthly evening meetings on a variety of photographic issues as well as interesting and entertaining early morning "zoo shoots." If you are not yet a member of this ever growing and enjoyable club, now is the time to join. Don't miss getting that "perfect" picture.

Dates: January 17 and 21 - Koalas & Aussie Creatures
February 21 and 25 - Asian (African) elephants
March 21 and 25 - Springbok/Kudu/Crane
Hours: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. Wednesdays
8:00 - 10:00 A.M. Sundays
Annual Fee: \$20.00 Members;
\$20.00 Members;
\$30.00 Non members



SPECIAL LECTURE - DR. RICHARD E. LEAKEY

Conservation: Save the Elephants

Dates: Saturday, February 10, 1990
Hour: 7:00 P.M.
Fee: \$15.00 Members;
\$20.00 Non members

Fees then may be transferred to another program. You may transfer to another program only once without losing your payment and the transfer must occur within 2 months.

Metrozoo's Mammoths

Three African elephants reside at Miami Metrozoo under the watchful eye of senior elephant keeper, Bill Doss. He says that the trio co-existed as a family unit...squabbling, playing, and at times, displaying behaviors of jealousy. The two females have been together for 16 years. The male came to Metrozoo when it first



Asian Elephant



Photo by Rosemarie Twinam

Interconnections... A Chain Reaction

By Rosemarie Twinam

In the not too distant future, in a game park in Africa, an elephant will be poached for his ivory tusks. He will be a very special elephant, for his death will mean that the species will contain too few individuals for it to survive.

Acacia trees are one of the elephant's primary sources of food. When these trees are small, they are also eaten by the black rhino. The black rhino is a browser. It does not eat grass. Other animals also feed on the thorn trees. The giraffe crops the crown; the kudu browses on the bottom.

When elephant meets acacia, it is a devastating experience for the acacia. It is pushed over. The branches are torn away. It is uprooted. But if this did not happen, then the grasslands of Africa would become tall acacia forests. The vast herds of zebra, wildebeest, cape buffalo, and other plains game that depend on the grass would vanish.

As the trees are pushed over by the elephant, other browsers can reach the tender shoots and foliage. New life is born as the elephant swallows the seed pods and disperses the undigested seeds over hundreds of square miles, insuring their even distribution across the plain.

But the elephant is no longer there. The thorn trees grow tall and the black rhino can no longer reach even the lowest limbs. The grass disappears as the forests slowly advance.

With the dwindling of the once plentiful herd animals, other animals that depended on them also vanish. The "tick birds," the yellow and red billed oxpeckers, that made their living removing parasites from the buck and the buffalo will be gone. Their valuable services will not be available. When the giraffe wanders through and picks up the

ravenous ticks that have no other host to attack, the birds will not be there to help. Being wonderfully adapted, but not for the removal of ticks, the giraffe will sicken and die.

As the number of herbivores declines, so will the number of carnivores. Lion cubs, the last to be allowed to eat at a kill, will slowly starve. The hyena and hunting dog pups in their dens will beg for food that isn't there. The cheetah will no longer race across the plains.

More and more species will disappear.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The elephants's plight is grim, but it is not hopeless. Please get involved and help this embattled species by doing the following:

Don't buy ivory products!!! Help reduce the demand and you help reduce the incentive for poachers and smugglers. A worldwide boycott of ivory products will give the elephant some badly needed breathing room to improve its chances of survival as a species.

Join and support your local zoo! Help us at the Zoological Society of Florida in our support of Metrozoo's elephant conservation and breeding program and let others know of our efforts.

Join and support a conservation group that works on behalf of the elephant.

Write your Congressional representatives and let them know of your concern. Urge them to support the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife and Fauna.

Interdependency never guessed at will become apparent as the balance is further upset. Life on the planet may be threatened. All because an elephant will be shot for his ivory tusks.

Or.....maybe it happened today.

Urge stronger protection for endangered species.

Write to the editor of your local paper, describe the plight of the elephant, and urge him to take a stand in favor of protecting the elephant and other wildlife.

Check the merchandise in your local department stores. If ivory is for sale, let the store management know you oppose the sale of elephant ivory.

Learn all you can about elephants. You can begin by attending RICHARD LEAKEY'S LECTURE on February 10 and enrolling in our various educational programs on elephants. Stay informed and watch for news about these majestic creatures. Tell others what you have learned. Take an informed stand.

Suggested reading:

Elephant Memories
(1988) by Cynthia Moss
Portraits in the Wild
(1975) by Cynthia Moss

opened in December of 1981. There have been no offspring born. The nine year old male has yet to reach full sexual maturity, which usually occurs between the ages 22-25 (The male could become sexually mature as early as 12 years of age.)

Notice the ivory tusks on our African elephants. Ivory is a resilient mixture of dentine and cartilage coated with calcium. Because of its durability, elephants are hunted and killed, which has caused the African elephant population to decrease - by half - in only ten years. Elephant's tusks grow throughout their life but wear and damage prevent them from reaching their potential length.

The tusks are more noticeable in the African species because they grow to a large size visible in both sexes. In the Asian species, it is only the males whose tusks are readily visible and even these are much smaller than those of their African relatives. Tusks do chip and break as a result of wear and tear including fighting and digging, but in general, the tusks survive intact.

Both the Asian and the African elephants conform to the same codes of social behavior. They live in herds of individuals who are, in all probability, related to each other genetically. The main unit, numbering from 10 to 50 animals,



African Elephant

consists of overlapping generations, spanning up to 60 or 70 years. Gatherings of hundreds of elephants are temporary and brought on by food and water availability at critical times of the year.

The female elephant is crucial to the welfare of the group. The normal state is of carefully age-structured groups living peacefully under the dominance of a single, experienced female known as the matriarch. Most elephants live to be approximately 60, with some living well into their 70's.

Metrozoo offers you the chance to see first hand the differences between the African and Asian elephant. Notice the larger ears on the African elephant, the different head shape and for the more

daring, the number of toe nails. The African bull will reach heights over 11 feet while the Asian elephant rarely exceeds 10 feet. The small-eared Asian elephant is a forest dweller occupying a region with fairly well defined seasonal climates, somewhere north of the equator. The large-eared African elephant, by contrast, lives on the equator over part of its range and occupies open, sun-drenched savannah country.

Elephants require a colossal intake of food and water each day. Their foodstuff contains only small amounts of proteins and vital life sustaining chemicals, therefore the food is consumed at a constant rate. When the useful elements have been extracted from it, the undigested waste must be eliminated quickly for the next load. So, elephants eat virtually non-stop up to 16 hours per day.

For those of you who may never have the chance to see a thundering herd of elephants on an African plain, Metrozoo offers the unique opportunity to see elephants, in their natural habitats, existing as they would in the wilds of Africa or the forests of Asia. We would like to take this opportunity to thank American Bankers Insurance Group for their sponsorship of the African elephants and Southern Bell, sponsors of our Asian elephants.

Third Annual Feast With The Beasts

There is still time to purchase your tickets to the third annual Feast With the Beasts, sponsored by American Express. Tickets are limited to the first 1,000 people for the April 6, 1990 event.

Feast With the Beasts is the largest special event undertaken by the Zoological Society. Proceeds this year will benefit the new Asian River Life Exhibit.

Under the direction of Chairman Leslie Cohen, the Committees are hard at work preparing for the extravaganza. Almost everything is donated for this event.

For those of you who haven't attended Feast, you are missing the best black tie affair of the season. The zoo is bathed in lights and lavishly decorated as forty of South Florida's finest restaurants present their best dishes.

At the time of printing this newsletter, the following restaurants and spirit providers will be at Feast:

Barney's Coffee and Tea Company
Beverage Cannery
Bobby Rubino's Place for Ribs
Cafe Chauveron
Captain's Tavern
Carlisle

Cheeca Lodge
Chef Allen's
Christy's
Creative Tastes
Fish Market - Omni Hotel
Fountainbleau Hilton Dining Galleries
Grand Cafe at the Grand Bay Hotel
Haagen Daz
Hawks Cay Resort
Hot Cookies
House of Seagrams
Island Oasis
L & N Seafood
Los Ranchos
Mayfair Grill
Old Cutler Oyster Company
Olive Garden
Red Lobster
Restaurant St. Michel
Southern Wine & Spirits
Stuarts and the Cardoza
The Depot
Valentis
W. A. Taylor Cordials

Entertainment is non-stop during the evening, climaxing with Chubby Checker as the headline act.

There are two categories of tickets: General admission at \$150 per person and the Beastkeeper Patron ticket at \$500 per person. As a Beastkeeper you will be wined and dined at a special "Beastkeeper Only" party starting at 7:00 P.M. the evening of the event. The Beastkeeper Party this year will be held in the just completed Asian River Life

exhibit and will mark the debut of this very exciting project. In addition to special gifts and recognition, Beastkeepers will be the first permitted in the main event. General admission guests will enter at 8:30 P.M. so Beastkeepers can visit the restaurants first. Congressman Dante Fascell is the Honorary Chairman of the Beastkeeper Party.

Don't wait any longer - call and order your tickets now at 255-5551!

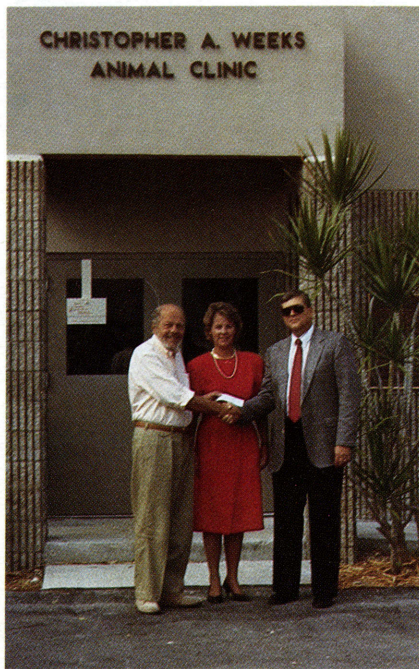
Save the Date

* PLEASE NOTE: Mel Kessler, owner of Gingiss Formalwear in Cutler Ridge, has offered a 10% discount to anyone who rents a tuxedo for Feast With the Beasts.



April 6

*The South Florida
Veterinary
Foundation
Looks To The Future*



Presenting a check in front of the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Hospital from right to left are Dr. Ron Todd, President of the South Florida Veterinary Foundation, Tricia Serodino, Development Director of the Zoological Society of Florida, and Robert Yokel, Metrozoo Director.

For the past two years, the South Florida Veterinary foundation has donated \$10,400 to provide stipends for the students participating in the Veterinary Preceptor Program at Miami Metrozoo.

This program is designed to give third and fourth year veterinary students specialized training in all aspects of zoological medicine. Six to eight preceptors are selected each year to guarantee a personalized one-on-one learning experience which lasts from six to nine weeks. The Christopher A. Weeks Animal Hospital has sleeping quarters available for the students, so they can live right on zoo grounds while attending the program. Because of the generosity of the South Florida Veterinary foundation, each student is given a stipend of \$100 per week to help defray their expenses while in Miami.

In the past, we have had students from as far away as England and as near as the University of Florida participating in this program. To date, this year's students have been from the University of Guelph in Canada, Tufts University, Texas A.& M University, and the University of Florida.

*Captivating
Curiosities:
Magnificent
Marvels!*

Did you know.....

- Contrary to legend, elephants are NOT afraid of mice.
- An elephant digests only half of the food it eats, so it must consume twice the amount of food its body needs.
- There are approximately 40,000 muscles and tendons (and no bones) in an elephant's trunk.
- In the course of a year, an elephant drinks over 15,000 gallons of water.
- The elephant has six sequential sets of teeth (molars) and after the last set is worn down, it starves to death (that is, if it is lucky enough to survive that long in the wild).
- The typical elephant tail weighs 22 pounds.
- An elephant can outrun even the fastest human.
- Elephants are excellent snorkelers, swimming totally submerged with only their trunks held out of the water.
- Elephants become right or left "handed," using one tusk more than the other.
- Elephants occupy at least 16 hours each day foraging for food.

Zoological Society of Florida

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

*Be a Part of The
Spirit Of Metrozoo -
Volunteer!*

If the zoo is one of your favorite places and you would like to be a part of the action, maybe you should become a volunteer. Zoo volunteers give special presentations, provide patron information, work on special events, and care for their own collection of classroom animals. Volunteer training includes zoo history, zoology, zoo management, animal handling and public speaking techniques. Applications are now being accepted for the spring volunteer training class. For more information and an application, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 255-5551

**ANNUAL ZOO
CLASSIC GOLF
TOURNAMENT
RETURNS**

Wednesday, January 17, 1990 marks the return of the Annual Zoo Classic which will be held at the beautiful Key Biscayne Golf Links, home of the PGS Seniors Tournament.

There will be a 12:30 shotgun start followed by an awards banquet at the clubhouse. Prizes will be awarded for low net and low gross teams, individual players, closest to the pin, longest drive, and best dressed golfer.

"Wild" animals will be on hand and lots of goodies will be available for all players.

For a tax deductible donation of \$150, payable to the Zoological Society of Florida, you can join us for a wonderful day of golf and fun. Please call the development office at 255-5551 for more information.

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID
Permit No. 4358
Miami, Florida



December, 1989

Dear Members:

I am pleased to announce that the \$1.00 monorail surcharge to our members has been withdrawn, thanks to our efforts during the month of December. Through the office of the County Manager, the County has agreed to enter into a dialogue in order to evaluate the possibility of the Zoological Society having a more direct role and involvement in Metrozoo.

I want to thank those who wrote and called the Commissioners and the County Park Department to convey the message that, while we want what is best for Metrozoo, there are many ways to generate support other than a \$1.00 surcharge.

Without you, our negotiations would not have succeeded. Like the shareholders of a company, Society members are "shareholders" who are very interested in seeing Metrozoo completed. The support and commitment you provide is essential to the development and expansion of the zoo. The County subsidy to Metrozoo has been at a standstill for the past five years and represents a substantial decrease in "real" dollars. It is time for the Society to assume a larger role.

There has never been a time of greater need to be involved, through the Zoological Society, in the important and valuable work of the Zoo. Through your memberships, your Adopt-an-Animal gifts, and your individual contributions, you help us in our quest to ensure that Metrozoo becomes the pre-eminent facility it is destined to be.

We wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Sanford B. Miot, President