



Toucan Talk

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

Asian River Life Comes to Metrozoo

Otters, water monitors, muntjacs, stunning graphics, morning fog, a prayer wheel, sounds of the jungle, all are coming together to create the wonderful ambience of life on an Asian river. The construction team is working on the final details, preparing the exhibit for its debut on Friday, April 6, 1990 at our third annual Feast With the Beasts.

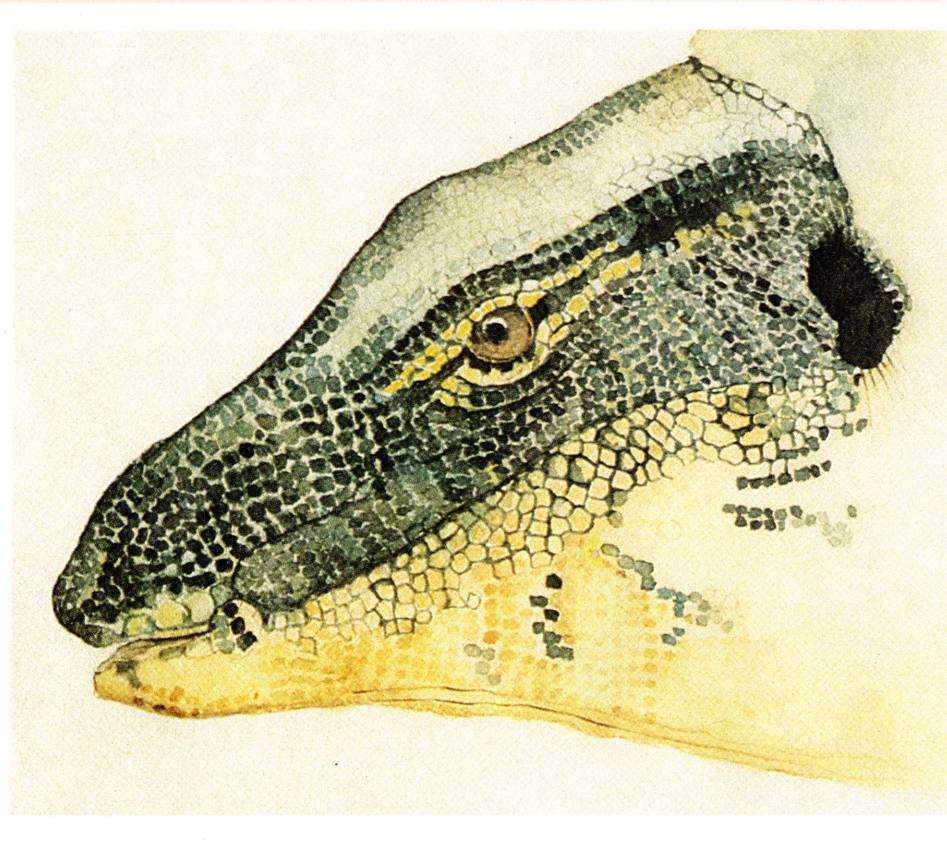
This exhibit would not have been possible without the support of several major contributors. The Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Foundation, the Knight Foundation, American Express, Sportservices, the Dade County Park and Recreation Department, and proceeds from Feast With the Beasts were committed to bring the first underwater exhibit to Metrozoo.

A good exhibit considers the interaction between animals, plants, and people. It makes people feel good about the animal; understand the animal/plant/people relationship; and educates the zoo visitor about conservation. The Asian River Life exhibit fulfills every requirement. It offers a true replica of Asian river life and provides the viewer with an experience that is ecologically and visually as authentic as possible. The zoo visitor will no longer be in a park looking into a naturalistic exhibit but will be totally immersed in the recreated landscape.

The Asian River Life exhibit will feature the Asian small clawed otter, the muntjac deer, and the Malayan water monitor on three separate paddocks immersed into one habitat.

The Asian small clawed otter (Oriental short clawed otter) *Aonyx cinerea* occurs in a large region in southern Asia. It is grayish brown to dark brown, with a lighter underside and a white throat. The fingers and toes have only small claws

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that do not project beyond the edges. There are no swimming membranes between the fingers. These small otters live on rivers, lakes and seashores, where they feed mainly on freshwater clams, snails, crayfish, sometimes fish. They live in groups of four to twelve animals. They have a special technique for catching clams. They use their fingers, which are highly sensitive, and dig in the bottom of shallow waters. When they find a clam, it is brought ashore and they immediately start to search for others. The otters then feed on them only after they have opened in the sun.

The behavior of these animals in captivity gives a good indication of the sensitivity of their hands. They carry their food into water, immerse it, then feel it without looking at it. This "washing" behavior is also found with raccoons.

In captivity, this otter likes to climb and rest in elevated places. Females cycle for three days approximately every twenty eight days. A litter consists of one,

two, sometimes five young. They start to swim at about nine weeks. The male stays with the family and helps to raise the offspring, bringing food for the mother and her whelps.

Muntjacs *Muntiacus muntjak* or *M. reevesi* live as bush huggers usually in dense undergrowth in the forests of Southeast Asia. They are omnivorous,

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with a diet ranging from bamboo shoots to foliage, bark, fruits and carrion. They are skilled hunters and occasionally plunder the nests of ground nesting birds and capture small warm blooded animals, killing them with powerful blows from their forelegs and bites with their tusk-like upper canines.

Asian hunters regard these little deer as important messengers of danger. If a tiger or other predator is approaching, the muntjacs utter warnings in the form of a series of short, hard notes similar to the barking of a dog. This is done at a volume which one would not suspect from such a small animal. It is for this reason that muntjacs are also called barking deer.

The small deer frequently prefers a solitary existence and fights with others of its species. Although the short antlers of the bucks can be used in fighting for territory or females, the long canines in the upper jaw are much more dangerous weapons. Fighting is part of life for muntjacs since their habitat forces them to live in small individual territories which they must defend against rivals. Food is available throughout the undergrowth of the tropical forests almost year round, but the supply is not very large. Since muntjacs are not runners capable of covering large distances, a simple strategy provides the best use of the ever present but not abundant food supply. In order to avoid difficult changes of location, the animals always live in the same place, with low population achieved by solitary habits. Using scent markers from the preorbital glands, the animals indicate to rivals whether or not a territory is occupied.

Adult male and female muntjacs live as solitary animals. Only during the rut do their individual territories overlap for a short time. Even the young, born



individually or as twins after a gestation of just under six months, must leave the mother's territory when they are six months old. By this time, they are adults, and must try to win a territory of their own.

The Malayan water monitor *Varanus salvator* is the second largest lizard in the world, reaching a length of almost 9½' and a weight of 75 pounds. The head is tapered, and ear openings are evident. The neck is long and slender. The eyes have eyelids and round pupils. The nasal openings are either round and at the front tip of the head or oval or slit-shaped and near the eyes. The exact position is of systematic importance. The jaws bear powerful, laterally flattened teeth that curve slightly rearward. The body is usually fairly massive, with four powerful legs, each bearing five clawed toes.

The tail is thick and long and functions as a rudder when swimming, as a prehensile organ, and as a potent weapon. The tail is usually twice as long as the body. They attempt to deter any attack by violently lashing the tail like a whip. The body is covered with various small, non-overlapping scales that form a granular pattern.

All monitors are diurnal, reaching their full activity level when the sun is up and their habitat has warmed up. Their powerful legs enable them to run quickly.

Since most species have long, sharp claws, they are also good climbers. Their best weapons are their sharp teeth and the dagger-sharp claws, which can inflict dangerous wounds. In male rivalry fights, the combatants are more restrained and generally do not use their teeth, claws, or tail. Each male stands on its hind legs and they face each other. Each then attempts to push its opponent over, either to the side or backward. The goal here is subordination of the opponent, but not his death. Competition over food is another matter and fights here can result in bloody injuries.

Monitors often impress laymen as particularly primitive "dragonlike" animals. Actually, they are by no means relict dinosaurs but an extraordinarily versatile, hardy, modern lizard family. Their anatomy and behavior enable them to live in any habitat, as long as they find sufficient warmth. They are superbly equipped for all sorts of living conditions. Monitors are good runners, diggers, climbers, and swimmers, and as carnivorous tree dwellers and cave-dwellers, they have few enemies with which to contend.

Most monitors suffer at the hands of man in their native habitat. Their meat and eggs are eaten, and the animals are often used to produce various "medicaments" and amulets. The skin of larger monitors is processed into leather. This commercial exploitation has greatly endangered monitors. The only other enemies of monitors are large carnivores, raptorial birds, and crocodiles.

Now that you know all about our newest residents at Metrozoo, we invite you to come and have a first hand look at them. On Saturday, April 7, 1990, the Asian River Life exhibit will be open to the public.

Hope for Survival

Robert L. Yokel, Director of Metrozoo, recently announced that at a meeting of the Florida Panther Interagency Committee in November, 1989, a decision was made to take founder stock of Florida panthers from the wild. A captive

breeding program was formulated to include Metrozoo, Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Jacksonville Zoo, and White Oaks Plantation in Ocala. It was determined that the long term survival of the Florida panther is in serious jeopardy and only through drastic measures can population numbers be increased.

Plans include intensive management of the wild population, re-establishment of new wild populations, and establishment of a captive breeding population to save genetic material and provide a source for

wild re-introduction. The program will become part of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums Species Survival Plan. Metrozoo's General Curator Bill Zeigler has been named Coordinator and Studbook Keeper for the captive breeding project. The program will begin with the winter's capture season, late February through March of 1990, and Metrozoo will receive a male and female from the Big Cypress Swamp during this time.

Over the past three years, Lee Bynum and Betty Miller, members of the Board of Trustees, have contributed \$110,000 to establish an endowment fund for Florida's Endangered Species. If you would like to contribute to this fund and become part of Metrozoo's efforts to save the Florida panther from extinction, please contact the development department at 255-5551.



Remember

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sanford B. Miot

For the past few months, members of the President's Advisory Committee and I have been meeting with County Manager Joaquin Avino and Park and Recreation Director Bill Bird. Members of our Board of Directors felt that the role and function of the Zoological Society of Florida at Metrozoo needed to be clearly defined, perhaps expanded. We need to make a greater commitment and increase our fund raising efforts. Animal conservation and species survival is a global issue and every community must do its part to help in this effort.

We are facing a situation in Dade County of increasing social needs and decreasing tax dollars. The County subsidy, which is used to fund operations at the zoo, has remained at the same level for the past five years. If this trend continues, our beautiful zoological park will suffer, specifically in the area of day to day maintenance. Our Zoological Society,

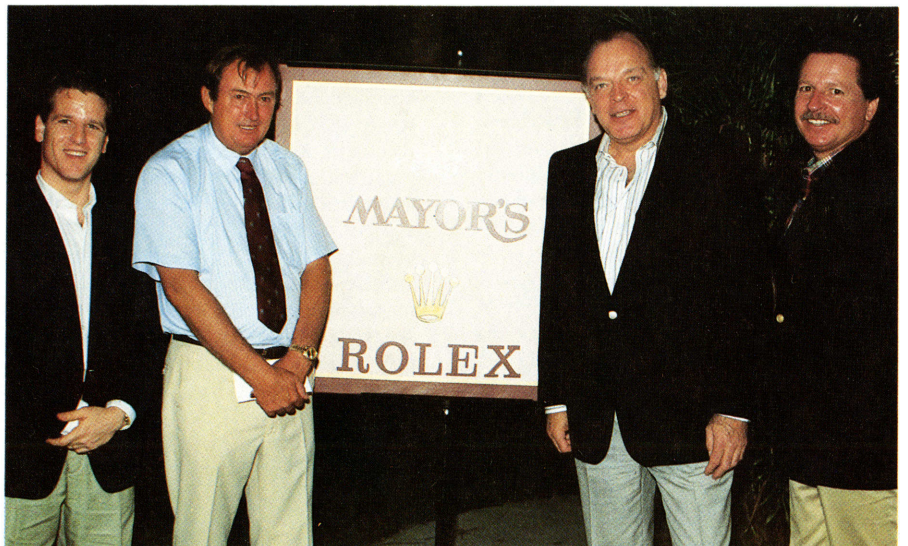
which has supported the zoo at the level of \$1,500,000 per year in the areas of capital projects, specialized equipment, education programs, and travel and training for the zoo staff, looks to a future in which we will be asked to contribute more just to maintain the status quo - more still to fund the new exhibits, special programs, the updating and revamping that keep the zoo vital and people coming back.

Metrozoo is an important tourist attraction in South Florida. It has a vital impact on the local economy each year. It contributes significantly to the quality of life here and now. We need a change in attitude, a re-assessment of our values so that through research, education, and preservation, the zoo can enlarge its scope of influence to the world and generations to come. Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida must form a partnership and identify creative options which will keep pace with the continued growth of this institution.

From an historical perspective, every

major zoo in the country has stood at this crossroad. The New York, Philadelphia, and San Diego Zoos have all worked in close harmony with their respective Zoological Societies to achieve the world class status these facilities enjoy. Public and private sectors must work hand in hand for Metrozoo to take its place among the world's great zoos. Our support must face the challenge of implementing cost saving programs for the zoo; have a more meaningful operating role by taking on added responsibilities; and implementing additional funding sources via community assessments and major donations.

A look into the future of the world's wildlife causes great concern. Zoos will become, more and more, centers for species survival. More operating resources will have to be found to cope with the challenges ahead. I remind all of you that Metrozoo is a very special place. A walk through this beautiful park reminds us of the incredible diversity and fragile nature of life which all of us have committed to preserve.



From left to right: Sam Getz, President of Mayor's Jewelers, Richard Leakey, Society President Sanford Miot and Board Member William Gallwey, III pause for a photo at the recent Richard Leakey lecture.

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Toucan Talk

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Helping to Educate Our Community

Special events come and go, new exhibits are constructed and delight audiences, renowned speakers say their piece and are off to their next destination, but there is one thing that remains constant: Key benefactors who continuously and graciously support these projects. They donate the necessary dollars that make these events, exhibits, and lectures possible.

Recently, Richard Leakey, newly appointed Director of Wildlife Services in Kenya, spoke at Miami Metrozoo. This highly controversial and much publicized gentleman spearheaded the drive to save the African elephant from extinction.

Mayor's Jewelers and Rolex Watch U.S.A., through their financial commitments, have made an investment in the conservation and preservation of the world's wildlife. Their contributions provide a unique cultural and educational experience to this community. It should be noted that this is not the first time Mayor's Jewelers, a Miami based organization, made an important commitment to the Zoological Society of Florida.

A few years ago, Mayor's Jewelers generosity enabled one thousand visitors to Metrozoo to get a glimpse of Sweeney, a nine pound female koala on loan from the San Diego Zoo. Sweeney needed a temporary, climate controlled, glass enclosed exhibit and Mayor's Jewelers provided the funds for its construction, to the benefit of Metrozoo.

Rolex Watch, U.S.A., not a Miami based organization, generously contributed to the Richard Leakey Lecture. If not for the dedication of corporations such as Rolex Watch, U.S.A., quality events such as the Leakey Lecture would not take place.

Without the beneficent support of these corporate sponsors, Richard Leakey would not have lectured at Metrozoo and the African elephant would have suffered. It is only through education that the public becomes aware of atrocities such as the killing of the African elephant. It is with this acquired knowledge that the community may band together and help save this majestic creature.

Education Outlook

Programs for Children

Zoo After School

Grades 1-4

Exciting animal adventures abound for children after school. New topics are explored each month through a variety of games, crafts and slide presentations, as well as hands on live animal interactions.

March: *Animal Locomotion* Leaping, crawling, galloping and soaring are just some of the ways animals move. "Run" over here to explore this fascinating topic!

April: *Our Earth* In celebration of this month's "Earth Day," this program will focus on conservation of endangered species around the world as well as our own backyard. Take home activities to continue the important message of conservation will be included. Find out that helping "Our Earth" is not only very important, but can be lots of fun!

May: *River Experience* Discover the creatures of the river as we explore your new "Asian River Experience" exhibit. Animals like the otter, water monitor and muntjac will be included as well as other river creatures. Come aboard for a truly fascinating experience.

Dates: March 7 or 21
April 11 or 25
May 9 or 23

Hours: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Fee: \$12.00 Members
\$17.00 Non-members



Richard Leakey with County Commissioner Charles Dusseau and his wife Silvina.

A.I.R. Scouting Program

Grades K - 12

This scouting program continues, allowing both girl and boy scout troops the opportunity to learn about Metrozoo's animal collection and the zoo's role in wildlife conservation. Come earn an A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest, Respect) patch while enjoying the zoo.

Dates: Saturday Mornings, January 6 through June 9

Hours: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Fee: \$12.00 (1 chaperone per 8 scouts is free)

Programs for Families

Family Zooventure

Parents and pre-schoolers (ages 3-5)

Discover new animal adventures, together with your pre-schooler (ages 3-5), as you complete exciting arts and crafts projects, explore different zoo areas, see a variety of slide presentations, and have hands-on interaction with some of our exotic smaller creatures. Each month a unique topic is offered. Don't miss this chance to explore the animal kingdom with your children.

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

April: *Animal Neighbors* During the month which features "Earth Day," we will focus on different endangered animals that make up our worldly neighborhood. The concept of conservation will be presented to allow children of this age group to understand that *everyone* makes a difference. Exciting arts and crafts, live animal interactions, zoo exploration and take home activities are included. Don't miss this zooventure!

May: *Otterly Outrageous* Please join us as we explore the new Asian River Experience and observe the clownish antics of the Asian small-clawed otter as well as the other animals that make up this truly unique exhibit. Games and arts and crafts will highlight these fascinating river creatures.

Dates: March 4 or 25
April 1 or 29
May 6 or 20

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

RISE AND SHINE! Our early morning family program continues with a continental breakfast and new animal topics to explore.

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.

April: *Awesome Avians.* In the month that symbolizes spring, what better time to visit the beautiful birds in the aviary (and possibly see some new additions). Our world-class aviary boasts of many first captive hatchings. Bring your binoculars and cameras and come prepared for some feathery fun!

May: *Maternal Marvels.* On this special Mother's Day, please join us in celebrating with some unique animal mothers as well as honoring those of the human kind. This program will feature exotic Metrozoo moms and focus on their individual maternal behaviors. Don't miss this "simply marvelous" event!

Dates: March 18
April 22
May 13

Hours: March - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
April and May - 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Fee: \$15.00 Members;
\$20.00 Non-members
(Children 5 and under are half price)

Family Overnight

This unique overnight program enables participants to enjoy the sights and sound of the zoo after dark. "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: March 10 or 31
April 21 or 28
May 12

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

Fee: \$25.00 Members (Children 5 years and over, please)
\$35.00 Non-members

Programs for Adults

Supper Safari

This popular evening program continues with new topics and after hour suppers.

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 backyard. Marjorie Stoneham Douglas, who will be turning 100 on April 7, has spent over 25 years dedicated to the understanding and preservation of the 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

April: *Celebration - Earth Day!* April 22 is officially Earth Day - a day when we recognize that we all share one planet - EARTH. We are responsible for all of our actions that affect its environment. Jill Jarboe, Conservationist at Pine Jog Environmental Center in Palm Beach County, has devoted her life teaching people to respect and help nurture nature's beauty. Also an accomplished singer and song writer, she has written many environmental songs. Please join us for a musical night of song and enlightenment as we celebrate Earth Day! (Families are welcome!)

Date: April 14
Hours: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Fee: \$25.00 Members;
\$35.00 Non-Members

Adult Overnight

This program, similar to "Family Overnights," is for adults only. Those of you who are adventurous and would like to explore the zoo after hours will love this program. An old-fashioned pizza party, zoo night hike, continental breakfast, and

behind the scenes tour are just some of the excitement that is waiting for you.

Dates: March 3 or 24
April 7
May 5 or 26
Hours: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
8:30 a.m. Sunday
Fee: \$25.00 Members
\$35.00 Non-members

Zootography

The Zootography Club for "beastly" shutterbugs continues to offer monthly meetings on a variety of photographic issues as well as exciting early morning "zoo shoots." The perfect picture awaits ...

Dates: March 21 and 25
-Springbok/Kudu/Crane
April 18 and 22 - Aviary
May 16 and 20 - Asian River Experience
Hours: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Annual
Fee: \$20.00 Members
\$30.00 Non-members

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 by check, money order, cash or Visa/Mastercard/American Express. A confirmation letter will be issued upon receipt of payment.

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. 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.

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:

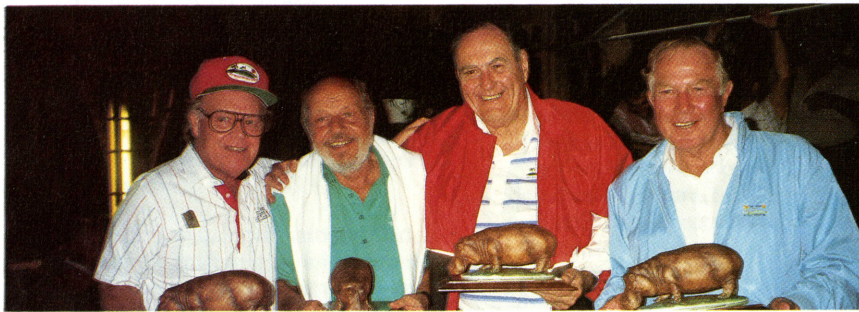
Parent's Name _____
Student's Age _____ Grade in school (as of Sept. '89) _____

Zoo Classic Golf Tournament

The Third Annual Zoo Classic Golf Tournament was held at Key Biscayne Golf Links on Wednesday, January 17. Eighty two golfers enjoyed a beautiful day of golf while raising more than \$14,000 for a mini-exhibit on zoo grounds. We thank Tournament Chairman, George Kunde and his great committee for making the day the success it was.



A happy team enjoying a great day of golf are, left to right, catering executive, Jerry Pendergast, Mayor Steve Clark, Executive Director of the Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, Merrett Stierheim, and attorney, Ed Russo.



Zoo Classic Winning Team - Pictured left to right are Bus Bench Company President, Steve Martin, Metrozoo Director, Bob Yokel, Director of Dade County Park and Recreation Department, Bill Bird, and Port of Miami Executive, Pete Ferguson.

Toucan Trader



If you have not recently visited the gift shops at Metrozoo and Parrot Jungle and Gardens, you are in for a big surprise! The gift shops are overflowing with exciting new merchandise.

Hand painted rain forest designs offer a gamut of decorative ideas from aerobic zebras to coffee table bases. A menagerie of hand carved air plants abound from toucans, hippos, rhinos, gators and more. This artistically crafted merchandise is available in both shops.

In addition, the plight of the African elephant will continue to be part of our zoo gift shop merchandising focus. Remember, you receive a 10% member discount on all purchases over \$10.00.

Ackerley Communications 11th Annual Larger Than Life Competition Winners

Ackerley Communications of Florida, Inc. is proud to announce the winners of its 11th annual "Larger Than Life" contest featuring the theme "Metrozoo - It's Wild."

First prize at the elementary level went to Shaun Diaz of Sylvania Heights Elementary School, age 11; at the middle school level the winner was Dorothy Kerr from Norland Middle School, age 15; at the senior high level the winner was Vivian Andres, Miami Sunset Senior, age 15. Congratulations to these fine young artists whose work will be displayed on a billboard which will start at 13th and Biscayne and rotate throughout the community and their school areas.

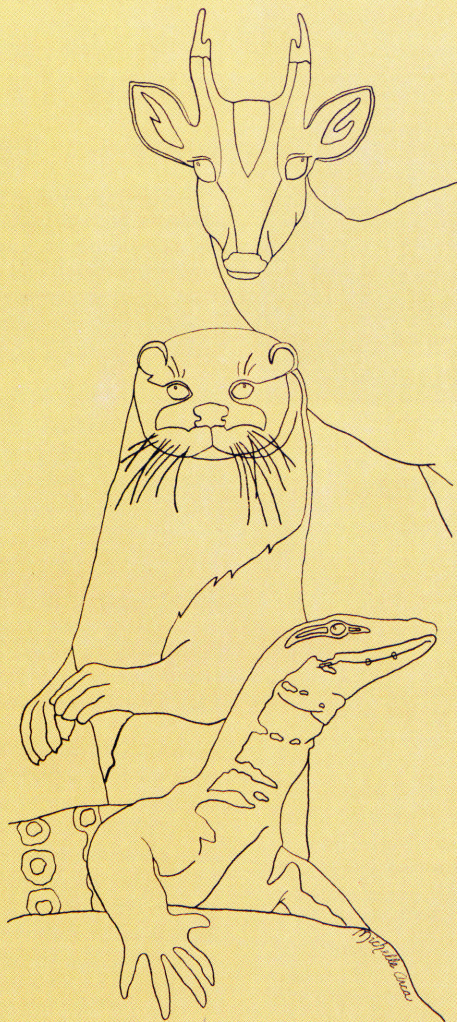


Bill Barkell, President of Ackerley Communications and sponsor of the "Larger Than Life" contest with judges John Cosgrove, State Representative; Ron Laffin, Art Director Channel 6; Barry Kenney, Marketing Director Metrozoo; Lilia Garcia, Supervisor Art Education Dade County Schools; Joyce Beber, Beber, Silverstein and Partners; Philip Brooker, Art Director Herald Tropic Magazine; Mel Sarbey, Artist, The Bakehouse; Robert L. Yokel, Director, Metrozoo.

All art work entered in the competition will be on display in the Miracle Center Mall in Coral Gables from February 1st through February 28th.

First lady Barbara Bush reviews the work of the young contest artists on her recent visit to Miami.





Feast with the Beasts 1990

There are still a few tickets left for the most talked about event of the year ... the Third Annual Feast With the Beasts. If you have not attended this wonderful party, please read on and we will try to whet your appetite!

Over forty of the finest restaurants in Dade, Broward, Monroe and Palm Beach counties present their choice dish to an exclusive group of only 1,000 guests at Metrozoo. The black tie affair takes place on Friday, April 6, 1990. An area of the zoo is transformed into a fantasyland of lights and decorations.

"The party this year is taking on a definite Oriental flair. Proceeds from the event will support the Asian River Life Exhibit which will debut the night of Feast," said Leslie Cohen, Chairman of the event. According to Mrs. Cohen, the committees have been hard at work since November preparing to make this celebration the best ever.

American Express is the sponsor of Feast With the Beasts and the Society could not present an event of such magnitude without their assistance. In addition to a major donation to the

exhibit, they secure the restaurants and purchase many tickets for the evening.

Almost everything is donated for the affair. Each restaurant also makes a major investment toward the success of the event. They supply 1,000 tastes of their special delicacy and must decorate their booths. In the past, some of the restaurants have really produced some elaborate decor to coincide with the party theme.

General admission is \$150 per person. There is a special category called "Beastkeeper" at \$500 per person. Beastkeepers receive special gifts and recognition the evening of the event. In addition, their names are listed in the program and their special party kicks off the evening. The Beastkeeper party is held from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Then, the Beastkeepers proceed to the main event thirty minutes before the other guests arrive for the privilege of visiting their favorite restaurants first.

Entertainment is ongoing throughout the entire evening culminating with the headline act - this year, none other than Chubby Checker!

If you haven't called to reserve your tickets yet, maybe the following list of restaurants will be the clincher.

Barnie's Coffee & Tea Company
Beverage Canners
Cafe Chauveron
Caffe Baci
Caffe Abbracci
Capriccios
Captain's Tavern
Cheeca Lodge
Chef Allen's
Christy's
Creative Tastes
Discovery Cruises
Fairmont Gardens
Fontainebleau Hilton Dining Galleries
Fish Market - Omni International Hotel
Grand Cafe at the Grand Bay Hotel
The Grill at Mayfair House
Haagen Dazs
Havana Clipper
Hot Cookies
House of Seagrams
Island Oasis
Joe's Stone Crab
JohnMartin's
Las Tapas Bayside
Los Ranchos
Mike Gordon's Seafood
Monty's Bayshore
Monty's Downtown
Monty's Raw Bar
Monty's Stone Crab
Monty's Village Inn
Old Cutler Oyster Company & Raw Bar
The Olive Garden
Peacock Cafe
Raffaello's
Regine's
Restaurant St. Michel in the Hotel
Place St. Michel
Savannah Moon
Silver Eagle Distributors Ltd.
Sinclairs at the Jupiter Beach Hilton
Southern Wine & Spirits
Stuarts at the Cardozo
The Depot
Valenti's
W.A. Taylor Cordials
Westin Cypress Creek Hotel -
Cypress Room
Yuca Restaurant

Don't wait another minute. Call the Society office now at 255-5551, use The American Express® Card and reserve your tickets for the best event of the year!!!

***REMINDER:** Mel Kessler, owner of gingiss formalwear is offering a 15% discount to anyone who rents a tuxedo for Feast With the Beasts at his Cutler Ridge, Coral Gables, and Plantation stores.



Captivating Curiosities

DID YOU KNOW...

- the gestation of the Asian or Oriental small-clawed otter is approximately two months, after which a litter of one to six cubs are born.
- the Indian muntjac is also known as the "barking" deer because of the dog-like sound they make when they are alarmed.
- the antlers of the male muntjac do not have branches, like other deer. They appear more like spikes. Females do not have antlers.
- most of the otter's day appears to be spent in play. Behaviorists believe that this "play" is actually in response to instinctive drives and has survival value in sharpening reflexes and building muscles, basically fine-tuning the ability to maneuver.
- the water monitor is the second largest lizard in the world, reaching a length of almost 9½ feet and a weight of about 75 pounds.
- the lifespan of muntjac is approximately 10 years in the wild; usually longer in captivity.
- the muntjac's tongue is so long it can clean its own eyes with it.
- the Asian small-clawed otter is the smallest species of otter reaching about 39" in length and an approximate weight of 11 pounds.
- that humans are one of the water monitors chief enemies, killing them for food, body fat (from which a medicinal oil is produced), and their skins, which are processed into leather.
- the Asian small-clawed otter is one of the most "finger oriented" of all otters, always using its forelimbs to procure food.
- the small-clawed otter gets its name from the very small claws which do not extend beyond the tips of its webbed toes.
- the water monitor's forked tongue picks up particles in the air and transfers them to the Jacobson's organ in the roof of the mouth. This highly specialized organ analyzes these particles, enabling this large lizard to learn more about its environment and food that may be present.

The Bus Stops Here!

The bright pink bus with the animals painted on it is back in service seven days a week. The bus can be boarded at the Dadeland North Metrorail Station in the mornings at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. The bus also stops at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum for the convenience of all railroad buffs.

Afternoon departures from Metrozoo are 2:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m., and 4:45 p.m. Travel time between the Dadeland north station and Metrozoo is approximately 25 minutes.

Be Part of Metrozoo - Volunteer!

If the zoo is one of your favorite places and you would like to be part of the action here, 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. Classes are held at the zoo and will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., April 16 through May 30. For more information and an application, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 255-5551.

Zoological Society of Florida

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

8th Annual Jungle Jog

The 8th Annual Jungle Jog was a huge success. Over 1700 runners and walkers participated in the event which saw record breaking times due to the cool temperature.

It would not have been possible without our generous sponsors - Baptist Hospital, Bud Light, and Lufthansa German Airlines. Our donors also played a big part in the success of the run, supplying everything from water and bananas to frozen yogurt. We thank Crystal Water, Del Monte, 10K, and TCBY for their participation.

The overall winner this year was Scott Fry of Madison, Wisconsin for the men, finishing the 5 mile course in 23:50. In the women's category, the winner was Ann Henderson of Boca Raton with a time of 27:32.

Gary Donohue was the winner in the wheelchair division with a time of 27:21. The oldest runner was Ruth Rothfarb, age 88, who finished with a time of 1:35:00 - congratulations! The youngest runner was Daisy Torres, age 7, with a good time of 56:40.

All pre-registered runners were eligible to win a trip to Germany courtesy of Lufthansa German Airlines. The lucky winner of this added attraction was Melodie Bynette of Lighthouse Point, Florida.

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