



Zoological
Society of
Florida

Friends of Metrozoo

Toucan Talk

Volume 16, No. 5
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The newsletter of the Zoological Society of Florida
a non-profit organization supporting Miami Metrozoo

Wings of Asia — A Success Story!

by Ron Johnson, Curator of Birds

On December 28, 1989, Wings of Asia celebrated its fifth anniversary, giving recognition to the many individuals and organizations that have helped make it one of the most innovative aviaries in the world. Community support with direct people involvement have contributed invaluable assistance in the evolution of the aviary. The success of Wings of Asia is a direct result of this support along with the commitment of the staff and volunteers.

Many goals and objectives were established five years ago as Wings of Asia opened its doors to the public. Two imperative objectives were to have birds visible for the public and have those birds breeding while on display. Have we been successful? Has the aviary lived up to expectations?

Over 3.5 million visitors have walked along the pathways, over the bridges and past the cascading waterfalls since 1984. Wings of Asia has received seven "AVY" awards for captive first breedings and two others are pending. Currently, we approach 90 species and over 300 individuals, making it one of the largest collections of Asian birds in North America. At least 5 species are displayed in Wings of Asia and nowhere else in any North American zoo. This, along with the New Guinea Expedition species, makes it one of the rarest collections as well.

The real measure of success came recently while I listened to a father explain to his two small children the importance of rain forests in the world. He pointed to the argus pheasant walking in front of him and informed his children that birds like these would not be around much longer if we did not stop destroying their homes. That father paid us great respect in recognizing Wings of Asia as a planted rain forest and by using it as an educational tool for his children. Yes, that is a great measure of success!

Wings of Asia is Metrozoo's first immersion exhibit where the public walks through the habitat along with the

animals. It is not the same exhibit that was designed and planted five years ago. It has evolved and continues to evolve ... maturing, changing, never static. The community of plants and birds has grown, some prolific, others fading. Light gaps have been created by fallen trees only to be filled with other, more tolerant or aggressive species, like bam-

boo. Dead trees become homes for woodpeckers and mynahs to raise their young. As the canopy layer fills in and shades out the flower beds, ferns move in and fill the void. The waterfalls have changed, too. No longer is there only stark rock channeling the water's flow. Moss, algae and ferns have grown along the sharp edges, softening and brightening the landscape. Epiphytes such as orchids and bromeliads are starting to appear, thanks to friends such as **Bullis Bromeliads** and **Eastern Airlines Orchid Society**. Yes, this evolution is guided and sometimes arranged within the aviary. The many understory palms that are suddenly appearing among the

Wattled brush turkey.



ground cover are again thanks to the **South Florida Chapter of the International Palm Society** and **Fairchild Tropical Garden**. The diversity of life which makes up the rain forest is rapidly unfolding in the Wings of Asia exhibit.

Each breeding season brings new and rewarding challenges. As more species and individuals are added to the aviary, competition for space, nesting material and territories increases. Through management and keen observations by staff, we manipulate eggs and chicks to increase productivity. If a species has not been successful in rearing young, the next time they lay we send eggs or chicks to the brooder/hatchery for hand rearing. Indian blue rollers, Edwards fig parrots, and greater argus pheasant have been raised by this method.

The writhe-billed hornbill female is also walled up in the nest cavity again this year. This pair raised two young last year for a world's first breeding!

One of the most difficult group of birds to breed in captivity is the megapodes, or mound builders. Wings of Asia displays the wattled brush turkey from



Waterfall in Wings of Asia.

New Guinea. One male is building a nest under the monorail tunnel in full view of the walkway. This unique and rare species uses decaying vegetation to incubate the eggs. The male builds the mound and when it is the right size and temperature, the female lays her eggs inside the mound. The male will continue to check the mound and add or subtract material to maintain the right temperature. When the chicks hatch, they dig their way up to the surface and are independent from the time of hatching. Although we do not believe the female has produced any eggs as yet, we are waiting with great expectations!

In the next few months we will again add several new species. Be on the lookout for wooly-necked storks, Java hill partridges, yellow-breasted fruit doves, cinnamon-headed pigeon, and magpie geese. These are all rare species from



Blue bearded bee eater.

Southeast Asia and New Guinea. The introductions will take longer with a mature exhibit than the original introductions five years ago – but the wait will be worth the effort.

The complexity and inter-relationships between plants, birds, visitors and staff make this aviary unique and special. Wings of Asia successes, however measured, must serve as a reminder to the plight of rain forests world wide. In

the five years our forest exhibit has been maturing, over 130 million acres of rain forest has been destroyed! The true measure of success will be in acres saved by having Wings of Asia compel us into action that will slow this rate of destruction and educate us in the wise use of natural resources.

The Eagles Have Landed

The strength, pride, and freedom of our country have always been symbolized by the eagle. How apropos that on July 4, 1990 Metrozoo staff made public the fact that two wild **SOUTHERN BALD EAGLES**, *Haliaeetus leuccephalus* had decided to make Metrozoo their home. They are presently roosting in an off exhibit area, away from public view. Zoo officials have made the area off limits to all non-essential personnel due to the sensitive nature of the situation and the desire to give the pair as much privacy as possible. Lucky zoo visitors may catch a glimpse of one of the birds soaring over the zoo in search of food. The silhouette is unmistakable!

Through the efforts of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission, and the Audubon Society, this majestic bird is once again being seen in various areas throughout the state. There are approximately 400 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the state of Florida, 60 of which are found south of the Tamiami Trail. We at Metrozoo hope that the number will soon be 61!

Metrozoo, along with the Audubon Society, is participating in a captive breeding program using eagles which

have permanent injuries and can no longer be released into the wild. It is hoped that these birds will bond and reproduce so their offspring can be used to fortify wild populations.

Metrozoo's wild southern bald eagles.



Photo by Glenn Everett

Flying Leopards

Time was of the essence. With little over a month to go before the new Asian Ever Life exhibit opened, two of its star attractions were still missing. Staff was notified that Metrozoo had obtained the animals, but we only had two days to pick them up. Due to high summer temperatures up north that showed no signs of easing, Metrozoo's new pair of clouded leopards could not be transported to Miami by conventional means.

At the request of Metrozoo Director Bob Yokel, Zoological Society volunteers and staff pulled together to charter a private jet, the only possible way to transport the new cats from the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center at Front Royal, Virginia.

Society President Sanford B. Miot personally donated the funds to charter the jet. Michael Feland, a professional pilot and husband of volunteer Marianne, secured the Jetstar turboprop and donated his time to make the ten hour flight.

With time running out, Mr. Feland, General Curator Bill Zeigler, and Zoological Supervisor Alice Gilley set out at 4:00 on a Monday morning to retrieve

their precious cargo. The flight and pick up went without a hitch and ten hours later, sign toting volunteers and staff crowded Miami's Tamiami Airport to welcome the zoo's newest felines.

The Zoological Society works to support Metrozoo in many ways, often doing "whatever it takes" to get the job done. It is because of dedicated individuals working in harmony that this organization succeeds. Once again our volunteers have proven, by their efforts above and beyond the call of duty, that they are truly the "Heart and Soul of Metrozoo."

Curator Bill Zeigler, Captain Michael Feland and Zookeeper Dave Marshall offload the clouded leopards.



The Zoological Society Volunteer welcoming committee.



You Are Always in Our Hearts.....

It is with deepest sorrow that we announce the passing of two very good friends, volunteers that served the Zoological Society of Florida with love and devotion for many years.

Anyone associated with the volunteer council during the past ten years will immediately recognize the name **John Roberts**. John served as Wednesday day captain and until health problems overcame him in recent years, he was known as Mr. Dependable, Mr. Reliable, and Mr. Wednesday. John made a commitment, he gave his word, and you knew that as sure as the sun shines in Florida, he would be there to keep his promises. On the days when he came to fulfill his duties as a volunteer, he did so with cheerfulness and the bright, upbeat personality that was so much a part of him. We miss him, but somehow on a Wednesday you can almost hear that soft, southern drawl saying "Hey, how are you?"

Margaret Binney was also a member of the volunteer council. She was a strong, independent spirit, as full of vim and vinegar as a retired school teacher can be. Margaret spent most of her volunteer time as station interpreter in the zoo's aviary, a place she loved. She could name every bird and tell you what each was doing on a particular day in the avian haven. Margaret was a world traveler and shared many of her experiences with us. The world was her oyster and she lived her life to the fullest. Margaret died suddenly, peacefully in her sleep while visiting her son in Seattle.

Rest in peace dear friends – you will always remain in our hearts and our fondest memories.

Zoofari!

The operation of a zoological park is a complex, day by day cooperative effort between all members of the zoo staff. From exhibit design and graphics, animal diets, veterinary skills, zookeeping, to training animals for Metrozoo's wild-life shows, there is an interdependency that exists in no other chosen career.

Bill Bird, Director of the Dade County Park and Recreation Department, recently commissioned the staff of Metro Dade Television to produce a program that would convey that message and take the viewer on safari through areas of the zoo that are not seen by the general public.

The show is hosted by Ron Magill, Metrozoo's Assistant Curator and renowned spokesperson and Lauren

Gail, spokesperson for the Park and Recreation Department. Filmed entirely on location at Metrozoo, the seven part documentary takes the viewer on an educational safari from a day in the life of a zookeeper through the reasons for exhibit design and construction. Several stops along the way include the zoo kitchen with its infinite variety of animal diets, the Christopher A. Weeks animal clinic and a visit with the veterinary staff, and the whys and wherefores of the animal shows at the zoo. It is a well done and informative show, one that all animal lovers will enjoy.

ZOOFARI is seen on Metro-Dade television Cable 34 and airs each week day at 9 A.M. and 7 P.M. as well as 7 P.M. every Saturday and Sunday. We urge

members of the Zoological Society to tune in and turn on to life behind-the-scenes at Metrozoo!

Lauren Gail and Ron Magill, Hosts of ZOOFARI.



Thank You for a Successful Development Campaign

The development committee is proud to announce another successful year of fund raising under the leadership of **Robert Paul, Chairman**. Committee members Nancy Ansley, Frank Baia-monte, Ray Dunleavy, Michael Greif, Frank Hawkins, DeWayne Little, Jack Lowell, Hank Luria, Leslie Pantin, Paul Singer, Georgia Wright, and Andrew Weinstein worked dilligently to ensure that we would exceed our goal of \$850,000. Through their efforts and the support of many generous contributors, monies raised this year helped to defray the cost of the new Asian River Life exhibit, funded capital equipment and operational needs, and resulted in the construction of two new rest areas at Metrozoo.

As we come to the close of another fiscal year, we thank the following corporate contributors and benefactors who continue to make the Society's goals a reality with their financial and philosophical support:

American Bankers Insurance
American Express
Aurafin
Baptist Hospital
Blockbuster Video
CitiBank
City National Bank
Citizens & Southern National Bank
Coopers & Lybrand
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Eastman Kodak Company
Esserman International Acura
Evelyn Greer, Attorney
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Happy Balloons
J. C. Penney
Kelley Drye & Warren
Kloster Cruise Limited
Knight-Ridder, Inc.
Kunde, Sprecher, Yaskin & Associates
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Racal Milgo
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Ryder System, Inc.
Shutts & Bowen
Silver Eagle Distributors
Southern Bell
SunBank/Miami, N.A.
Tishman Speyer Properties
Vernon Construction
Windmere Corporation
Wometco Enterprises

We would also like to thank the fol-

lowing individuals and foundations who so generously contributed to our 1990 development campaign:

*Lee Bynum
*Beatrice Goodman
*Jerrold & Jane Goodman
*Molle & Ed Grad
*Niki Kominik
*William Lane
*DeWayne Little
*Betty Miller
*Dora and Sayde Miller
*Mitch Mitchell
*Sanford B. Miot
*R.W. Payne
*Mr. and Mrs. Ed Soto
*Mrs. Robert Woodruff
Allstate Foundation
Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation
Knight Foundation
South Florida Veterinary Association
* Indicates that the individuals are members of the Society's elite group of "Wildliflers."



Jason Madab-Amiri with Ginger, the bronze elephant donated by Mel Kessler, gingiss formalwear. Thanks to all of our special contributors.

Education Outlook Fall, 1990

Programs For Children

A.I.R. Scouting Program

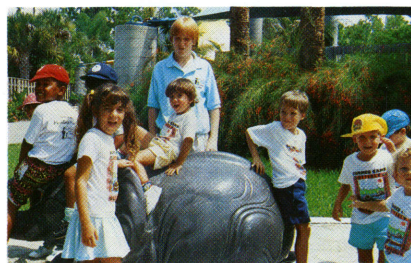
Grades K-12

This program is especially designed for scout groups and their leaders. Scouts learn about a variety of subjects including the purposes of modern zoos, the animals at Metrozoo, and what can be done to protect animals and their habitats. Participants receive the A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest, Respect) patch. Scout leaders, contact the education department to reserve space for your group.

Dates: Saturday mornings, September through June.

Hours: 9:00-11:00 A.M.

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



ZooInn

This special overnight program is for scout groups and special-interest school groups (not recommended for primary-age groups). Participants and their adult leaders enjoy a "pizza party" and a hike

through the zoo after dark, then bed down in our air conditioned classroom. In the morning, a light breakfast and another short hike to see animals and keepers in their morning routine, round out the ZooInn program.

Hours: 6:30 P.M.-8:00 A.M.

Fee: \$25.00 per person.

Note: Space limit, 25

PLEASE CALL THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONALIZED PROGRAM.

Programs For Families

NEW - NEW - NEW - NEW - NEW -
NEW - NEW

"For the Birds" (Age 10 to adult)

Do you have a pet bird or are you considering a feathered pet? If so, our new bird workshop is for you!!! In this program, you will have an opportunity to meet some of the birds we use in educational programs and learn about their care. We will cover such topics as which birds actually make good pets; the best way to acquire a bird; how to house your pet; what to feed it; how to handle it; and the health problems common to birds.

Date: Saturday, September 15

Hours: 8:30-11:00 A.M.

Fee: \$8.00 members \$12.00 non members

"Wildlife Tees"

Come out to our zoo classrooms and meet some exotic birds, fascinating reptiles, and marvelous mammals. Then, use our animal friends for inspiration as you design your own "wearable art." We will supply white t-shirts, decorating materials, and some advice - you supply the imagination to create a masterpiece! (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Date: Sunday, October 7

Hours: 9:00-11:30 A.M.

Fee: Members:
Adults \$10.00 Children \$ 8.00
Non-members:
Adults \$12.00 Children \$10.00



Programs For Adults

Wildlife Conservation Seminars (WCS)

The decade of the nineties is the "Green Decade" of environmental awareness, and the Zoological Society of Florida is proud to promote conservation and global awareness through Miami Metrozoo. Our WCS programs focus on various wildlife and conservation topics to promote public awareness of problems and opportunities for action and involvement. The 1 1/2 hour programs include a presentation followed by a question and answer session and light refreshments. Each month a differ-

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

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/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.

ent topic and speaker(s) will be featured in the comfort of our air conditioned classrooms.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1990

"Saving the Turtles"

The oceans were once home to millions of sea turtles of many species, but over the last century these reptiles have been killed for their meat and their shells. Their nests and nesting sites have been destroyed by pollution and unchecked human development. As a result, many species of sea turtles are now critically endangered. In our September WCS, rangers from Cape Florida State Park will show us how sea turtles nest and explain what is being done, and what can be done, to protect these south Florida natives.

OCTOBER 20, 1990

"Along the Great Zambezi"

The Zambezi is one of two great rivers in the southern portion of Africa. In this century, the lands on either side of this river have been the site of almost constant turmoil and political change. Once part of "colonial Africa," the nations of Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe are struggling to attain a place in the modern world. In their struggle, they face the problems of all Third World countries, plus an added responsibility. Within their borders live some of the world's most visibly endangered animals. Despite scarce resources, these nations must try to protect and preserve elephants, kudu, and other species which may otherwise become extinct. Join our very own Africa experts, Rosemarie and Doug Twinam, in a photographic journey through this volatile and beautiful part of the "Dark Continent."

Hours: 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Fee: \$15.00 members,
\$20.00 non members.

FIU at Metrozoo

This popular course for teachers is

open to undergraduate and graduate students through FIU's College of Education. The course introduces educators to Metrozoo and assists them in developing a multidisciplinary curriculum to be used in the classroom and at the zoo. "In field credit" is awarded in six disciplines for recertification. **Registration is through FIU.** For information call the Zoological Society education department (255-5551) or Dr. Ed Reichbach (348-2561).

Dates: September 6 through December 6
(no class November 22)

Hours: Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Fee: For materials \$35.00 members, \$45.00 non members.
TUITION PAID TO FIU.

T.E.C. Weekend Teacher Workshop

One of a series of workshops offered through the Teacher Education Center, this popular program trains teachers to utilize the zoo as an educational resource.

Dates: October 13 and 14

Hours: 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Fee: No fee, register through T.E.C. at 887-2002.

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

Thursday, September 20 and Friday, October 19 are Teacher Planning Days for Dade County Schools. On those days, the Zoological Society will offer one day mini camps for children enrolled in grades 1 through 4. Campers will investigate a topic (such as habitats) through tours of zoo areas, films, stories, craft projects and live animals. Each camper should bring a non-perishable bag lunch. Snacks will be provided. Pre-registration is required. For information and registration call the education department at 255-5551.

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) _____

In Search of Giant Elephant, Spotted Zebra, and Albino Giraffe

Rosemarie Twinam has been a dedicated volunteer at the Zoological Society of Florida for the past ten years. Her chosen career, from which she has since retired, was flight attendant.

A lovely, soft spoken woman, Rosemarie has talents the depth of which we are just beginning to plumb. The elephant photographs recently on display in the membership building lobby were taken by Rosemarie and Doug Twinam during their many trips to Africa.

This is the story of what kindled that interest and kept them coming back for more fascinating adventure.

In 1969, Rosemarie bought a simple automatic camera for her husband Doug. This gift changed both their lives, for it kindled a mutual interest in photography and led to many exciting travels to the wild, exotic places of the world.

In the early days of their marriage, they discovered that each of them had a lifelong interest in wildlife. They grew up reading adventure stories written by explorers to Africa and India. From an early age, both Doug and Rosemarie dreamed of visiting these thrilling destinations.

By the fall of 1970, manual cameras and telephoto lenses had replaced the automatic. After much practice and many disappointing results, the Twinams felt proficient with the new equipment. At last the time had come for the first safari!

In the early 1970's, East Africa still retained much of its sense of wildness. Large game was plentiful outside the national parks. Elephant wandered on the outskirts of towns, leopard roamed at night through city gardens. That first safari was similar to ones taken today. It included the major national parks of Kenya and Tanzania. While on safari, guides told tantalizing stories of a giant elephant with enormous tusks. His name was Ahmed and he was a national monument. The authorities had closed the area to tourists for many years but Doug and Rosemarie were determined to return the following year to photograph this legendary treasure.

In 1971 and 1972, the Twinams returned to Kenya and photographed Ahmed, a difficult task for he spent much of his time in the wilderness, far



Rosemarie Twinam in specially modified safari vehicle.

from roads. It was necessary to walk to where he was browsing or resting in the shade. Askaris (armed guards) were escorts on these foot safaris. Ahmed had his own askaris, elephants that sometimes traveled with him. On the rare occasions when the elephants threatened or charged, all the Twinams raised against them was a camera.

Flying to Kenya in 1974 for their fourth safari, Rosemarie and Doug learned that Ahmed had died of natural causes. After a brief visit to Kenya, they planned a trip through Tanzania. There was little information on the central and southern parts of the country. That made the Twinams more curious so they were off in search of spotted zebra and albino giraffe.

Some species from the area near the Ruaha River and Lake Rukwa produced genetic mutations. Regrettably, the spotted zebra had been shot and its skin was on display in the warden's office. The albino giraffe had been seen, but not for several seasons.

Hearing of immense lakes and breathtaking waterfalls, the Twinams headed south to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). What they discovered has kept them going back to Zimbabwe for the past 16 years.

Along the great Zambezi River are some of the most spectacular sights on earth. The majesty and power of Victoria Falls and the vastness of Lake Kariba are overwhelming. Some of the largest concentrations of wildlife left on earth are in Botswana and Zimbabwe. Herds of elephant and cape buffalo numbering in the hundreds are still common.

Over the years, it became clear that renting the perfect safari vehicle was not possible so Doug purchased a Suzuki to modify for photography. He reinforced the doors, constructed special camera supports and removed the back for extra storage. Brush guards and lights were added and a trailer with tent, sleeping bags and kitchen was a necessity.

In 1986, after a year of work, the vehicle was shipped to Africa. It remains there awaiting the Twinam's "annual migration." They have driven 10,000 miles across southern Africa.

Rosemarie and Doug have traveled back to Kenya and onward to India in search of that perfect photograph. This year they hope to drive north into Zambia. Perhaps that albino giraffe is waiting.

Speakers Bureau

Metrozoo's Asian River Life is one of the most exciting and innovative animal exhibits in zoos today. As a member of the Society, you can enjoy the antics of the otters as often as you like during the year. Now, our Speakers Bureau can bring the exhibit to your organization or facility!

Presented by trained volunteers, our slide presentations are tailored to last twenty minutes to an hour. Our newest program covers Asian River Life's resi-

dents as well as the fascinating construction and design of the exhibit.

Other Speakers Bureau presentations include *INTRODUCTION TO METROZOO* giving a history of the zoo, its design and purpose; *AN ARMCHAIR TOUR OF METROZOO* takes you on safari through the entire zoo; and *METROZOO'S ENDANGERED SPECIES* which discusses the plight of the world's endangered species and Metrozoo's accomplishments.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, please call the volunteer coordinator at 255-5551.



President's Message

by Sanford B. Miot

As our world's precious wildlife continues to become endangered or vanish altogether, those of us associated with Metrozoo recognize the increasing importance of our facility as one of the last bastions for preservation. Conservation, education, research and recreation are the ideals to which the Zoological Society is committed. However, in the cold light of day, the realization sets in that operating and maintaining a zoological park must be governed by prudent economic practices. Park maintenance, feeding of and caring for the animal collection, salaries for management, curatorial, veterinary and zookeeping staff are all part of Metrozoo's operational budget, a budget

severely strained by escalating costs. Marketing and advertising dollars must be expended to generate public awareness of this facility and to keep attendance at a viable, revenue producing level.

Our Society is committed to making Metrozoo the world class zoo it was intended to be. This can only be accomplished by a partnership, with the community assuming a more involved role. We must set our priorities with regard to funding new construction and making capital improvements.

A Patron Amenities Committee chaired by Bob Paul was formed this year to deal with eye appeal, comfort and convenience at the zoo. This committee commissioned a study to see what the Society could do to make Metrozoo more user friendly. Planning processes such as this will enable us to invest wisely in the future of our zoo.

This past year saw the completion of the Asian River Life Experience, a wonderful new prototype mixed species exhibit which allows the zoo visitor to feel close to the animals while being immersed into the habitat. The most successful Feast With the Beasts (sm) ever generated substantial dollars for the completion of this exhibit.

In the area of conservation, the Florida Panther Project was formulated this past year to include Metrozoo. It was determined that the long term survival of the Florida panther is in serious jeopardy and plans include the establishment of a captive breeding population to provide a source for wild re-introduction. The Florida Panther Endowment Fund, sponsored by Trustees Lee Bynum and

Betty Miller, is being utilized to fund this important project.

A new Metrozoo/Zoological Society Advisory Committee has been formed composed of members of our Board of Directors, Park and Recreation officials, and members of the County Manager's office. This Committee will be the basis for ongoing dialogue to expand the Society's operational role at the zoo.

As I pass the gavel to Bob Paul, I have many people to thank for making this an exciting, fulfilling year. To the hard working Executive Committee for their direction and guidance and a very supportive Board of Directors and Trustees, I extend my deepest gratitude. I acknowledge the committee Chairmen and committee members for their clear and concise reports. The harmony generated by all the committees working together has created a sensitivity to the needs of our members and sponsors. As a result, the Community Relations Committee has been formed with a staff liaison to deal with all aspects of the multi-ethnic, multi-economic sectors in this diverse city we call home.

I salute the Society's volunteer organization and commend them for the many hours they give in love and support of Metrozoo. I thank the County Manager and County Commissioners, Bill Bird, Director of the Park and Recreation Department, and Metrozoo management for their cooperative efforts.

Many thanks to Joseph E. Ferrer, Executive Vice President of the Society and Robert L. Yokel, Metrozoo Director and their respective support staffs. Working together, they are responsible for the great zoo we presently have.

Most of all, I thank our members, a knowledgeable and committed group of individuals who carry our important messages of education and conservation throughout the tri-county area. Our development campaign has been successful once again because of the financial support of corporations and individuals who recognize the economic and philosophic importance of the zoo.

Many exciting projects are on the drawing board for the near future. I know that you will continue to share in the adventure and lend your undaunted support to our new President, Mr. Bob Paul.

Toucan Trader's Choice

The Toucan Trader gift shop is expanding its horizons to the banks of the Asian River Life exhibit. The open air shop will offer an exotic assortment of related merchandise.

The rich t-shirt graphics are a grouping of the Asian river animals on cool, 100% cotton. Soft and cuddly plush otters are begging to be hugged and squeezed. Take home a bumper sticker for your car and tell the rest of Miami about this exciting, new experience. Browse through our cards and educational children's books or select a ceramic clouded leopard coffee mug.

Did you forget your camera? Capture the entire photo opportunity with our convenient Kodak fling camera.

Come and immerse yourself in our new exhibit and take home part of the experience. The Toucan Trader gift shop can make it last. Remember, there is a 10% members' discount for purchases



\$10.00 and over. All sales from the gift shop go to the care and feeding of Metrozoo's animals.

TOUCAN TALK is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Zoological Society of Florida, a non-profit organization supporting Miami Metrozoo.

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Miami, Florida 33177
(305) 255-5551

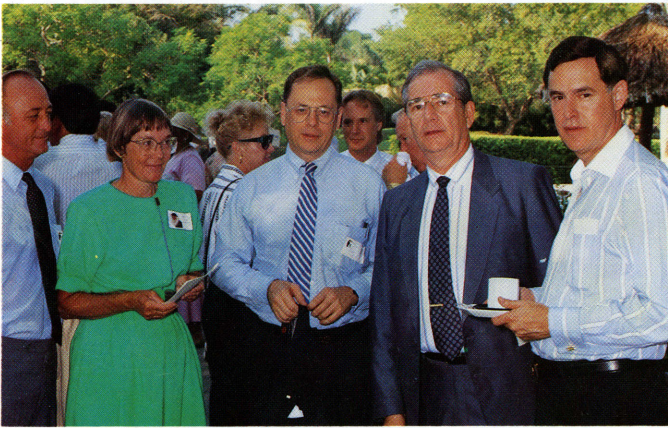
Editor: Sally Liddell
Design: Lindy Leftwich

They're Here! Asian River Life Exhibit Dedicated in August

Left to right, incoming President Robert Paul, Commissioner Barbara Carey, Joseph Ferrer, Commissioner Larry Hawkins, Park and Recreation Department Director Bill Bird, President Sanford Miot.



Barbara Knight Toomey of the Knight Foundation cuts the ribbon, officially opening the Asian River Life Exhibit.



Left to right: Reed Toomey, Barbara Knight Toomey of the Knight Foundation, Frank Hawkins of Knight Ridder, Ron Esserman, Board of Directors, Senator Paul Steinberg, Board of Trustees.



Zoological Society Capital Projects Committee: Left to right Sanford B. Miot, Allen Farrington of Phoenix Construction, William Gallwey, John Little, Bill Boyette Construction Foreman, Dr. Monroe Scheiner, William Carter of Red Dot Construction.



Joseph Ferrer with Pat McBride and Terry Guilbeau of the McBride Group, Architects and Designers of Asian River Life.

Zoological Society of Florida

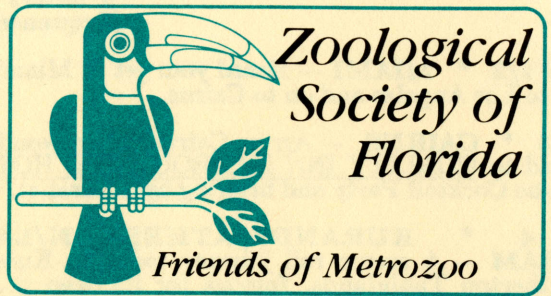
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DATE _____

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Thrill to 16 Exciting Days in **AUSTRALIA**

\$3,995 Per Person

Fully Escorted from Miami

DEPART: MARCH 9, 1991

RETURN: MARCH 24, 1991

With an Optional 7-Day Extension to

NEW ZEALAND

\$1,695 Per Person Additional

Dear Members and Friends,

In response to the rave reviews from last year's travel participants to Australia, The Zoological Society of Florida invites you to join us on our second exciting journey to the "land down under" for an adventure a lifetime.

We'll fly to Cairns to begin our odyssey through Australia and we'll visit the Great Barrier Reef, the largest structure ever built by living organisms, to view a stunning array of fish and invertebrates, and Kuranda to view one of the world's most elusive animals, the platypus. From there we'll fly to Brisbane and continue on to Lamington National Park, where a naturalist will personally guide you through the magnificent rainforests and waterfalls while pointing out the abundant plant and animal life.

Journey to cosmopolitan Sydney to view its magnificent Opera House and wonderful sights. Our last stop in the land of koalas and kangaroos is Melbourne from where we'll visit Healesville Sanctuary, French Island, and Phillip Island, site of the famous Penguin Parade.

For those of you who wish to see more, we've added an extension to New Zealand, a land of green rolling grasslands, soaring mountains, icy blue glaciers, mysterious fjords, swift rivers and tranquil lakes. Visit the South Island's Christchurch, the alpine resort of Queenstown, and spectacular Mt. Cook. Take part in the farm activities of your host at Te Awamutu and enjoy a hearty farm dinner. And see the North Island's Auckland, home to the rare Kiwi and the Glow-Worm Grotto.

Space is limited, so "hop to it mate" and reserve your place now!

Cordially,

Joseph E. Ferrer
Executive Vice-President

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND TOUR INCLUDES:

- * Roundtrip air transportation from Miami, plus flights within Australia and New Zealand.
- * First class accommodations throughout.
- * American breakfast daily, 4 Lunches and 8 Dinners, plus Welcome Cocktail Party and dinner in Cairns.
- * Comprehensive sightseeing by private motorcoach, including visits to National Parks and Reserves and the Great Barrier Reef.
- * Visit to the Taronga Zoo in Sydney.
- * Special "Hangi" feast and traditional "Maori" entertainment in Rotorua on the extension.
- * Dinner at Larnach Castle on the extension.
- * Local guides throughout tour.
- * All transfers, gratuities for baggage handling, hotel tips and taxes, and entrance fees to all game reserves.
- * Flight bag, passport wallet, baggage tags.
- * A \$200 tax deductible donation to the Zoological Society of Florida.

ACT FAST AND SAVE! Send your deposit before December 1st and pay \$3,995. After January 1st, the price increases to \$4,195.

Limited space is still available on our East Africa safari to **Kenya** and **Tanzania** departing on October 30, 1990. Don't miss our other travel opportunities in 1991. Sneak Preview: July 12 - **Kenya/Tanzania**; October 11 - **India/Nepal**; November 17 - **Ecuador/Galapagos**. Call us for more information and detailed itineraries.

YOUR ITINERARY

(Sequence is Subject to Change)

DAYS 1/2 * MIAMI -- Board your jet in Miami for flight to Los Angeles and on to Cairns.

DAY 3 * CAIRNS -- Arrive Cairns, where you'll be escorted to QUALITY INN HARBOURSIDE HOTEL. Welcome Cocktail Party and briefing by naturalist.

DAY 4 * KURANDA/ATHERTON/LAKE EACHAM -- A scenic rail journey today to Kuranda and Atherton Tablelands, famous for its deep gorges, waterfalls and crater lakes. Cruise on a jungle lake, and see the legendary Curtin Fig Tree at Lake Eacham. Tonight, a buffet dinner and spotlighting for nocturnal marsupials. LAKE EACHAM HOTEL.

DAY 5 * LAKE EACHAM/CAIRNS -- Early morning departure for Maroochi Creek to see the duckbill platypus in the wild. Drive back to Cairns in the afternoon. QUALITY INN HARBOURSIDE HOTEL.

DAY 6 * GREAT BARRIER REEF/CAIRNS -- By boat depart for Michaelmas Cay in the Great Barrier Reef. Your glass-bottomed underwater vessel affords you thrilling close-ups of marine life. Buffet lunch on board and a discussion by a marine naturalist. At Green Island visit the Underwater Observatory, Barrier Reef Theater and aquariums. Return to Cairns. QUALITY INN HARBOURSIDE HOTEL.

DAYS 7/8 * LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK -- Fly to Brisbane and motorcoach to Lamington National Park. A local naturalist will guide your nature walks. Enjoy old-fashioned hospitality, spectacular sunsets, and feedings of the ring-tailed and brush-tailed possums. O'REILLY'S GUEST HOUSE.

DAY 9 * BRISBANE/SYDNEY -- A sightseeing tour of Brisbane, host city of "Expo'88." MAYFAIR CREST.

DAYS 10/11 * SYDNEY -- Fly to Sydney, Australia's oldest city. Tour the North Shore suburban towns, historic Rocks area, and the Sydney Opera House -- an architectural masterpiece. Enjoy a guided tour of Taronga Zoo, featuring a reversed daylight house, in which small and rare nocturnal Australian animals may be seen during the day. HOLIDAY INN MENZIES.

DAYS 12/13/14 * MELBOURNE/HEALESVILLE/FRENCH/PHILLIP ISLAND -- Fly to Melbourne. Tour Fitzroy Gardens to see Captain Cook's cottage and the Victorian Arts Center. Visit French Island, abundant with wildlife. At Phillip Island see the nightly ritual of the Penguin Parade. Also, visit the cool, green, exotic world of the Sir Colin Mac-Kenzie Wildlife Sanctuary in Healesville. Walk among the kangaroos and cuddly koalas. Enjoy a lobster dinner before returning to Melbourne. SOUTHERN CROSS HOTEL.

DAY 15 * MELBOURNE/LOS ANGELES -- You'll be escorted to the airport for your flight home. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, proceed to your hotel for overnight. HYATT at LOS ANGELES AIRPORT.

DAY 16 * LOS ANGELES/MIAMI -- Return to airport for your flight to Miami. Early evening arrival.

OPTIONAL 7-DAY NEW ZEALAND EXTENSION

DAY 15 * MELBOURNE/CHRISTCHURCH -- Day at leisure. QUALITY INN.

DAY 16 * CHRISTCHURCH/MT. COOK -- Morning sightseeing tour. In the afternoon, continue to Mt. Cook National Park, renowned for its craggy scenery, alpine beauty, and wildlife. GLENCOE LODGE.

DAY 17 * MT. COOK/DUNEDIN -- Take an optional skiplane flight (weather permitting), including a dramatic landing in Tasman Glacier. Then, on to Dunedin with its robust Scottish heritage. Evening banquet at Larnach Castle. SOUTHERN CROSS HOTEL.

DAY 18 * OTAGO PENINSULA/QUEENSTOWN -- A morning sightseeing tour displays much of Dunedin's history. Visit the historic Oveston Mansion. At Taiaroa Head, see the rare Royal Albatrosses, the world's largest birds of flight. Continue to the world-famous resort of Queenstown. HOLIDAY INN.

DAY 19 * TE ANAU/ MILFORD SOUND/ QUEENSTOWN -- Drive to Te Anau and enjoy breathtaking views as you descend to Mitre Peak and Milford Sound. Return to Queenstown in the late afternoon. HOLIDAY INN.

DAY 20 * QUEENSTOWN/ROTORUA -- Fly to Rotorua to visit the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, a wonderland of geysers, crystal springs of hot mineral water, and richly colored craters. Explore New Zealand's Polynesian heritage at a model Maori village. Tonight enjoy a "Hangi" feast. QUALITY INN.

DAY 21 * WAITOMO CAVES/FARM -- Drive to the Waitomo Caves, renowned for their dramatic formations. See Glowworm Grotto with its radiant blue-green lights of a thousand tiny glowworms. At Te Awamutu, visit a farm where you'll enjoy a hearty dinner and interesting stories from your host. FARM.

DAY 22 * AUCKLAND -- Arrive Auckland early afternoon. Day at leisure to explore this "City of Sails." AUCKLAND TRAVELODGE.

DAY 23 * AUCKLAND/LOS ANGELES/MIAMI -- Return to the USA and Miami with marvelous memories of scenic New Zealand.

Zoological Society of Florida - Tour to Australia/New Zealand -- March 9, 1991

Send and Make Checks Payable To: PARK EAST TOURS, 1841 Broadway, Suite 900, New York, NY 10023
For Further Information Call: Travel Coordinator - (305) 255-5551 OR Park East Tours - (800) 223-6078

() Enclosed is my deposit check for U.S. _____ (\$400 deposit per person, plus \$100 for New Zealand extension.)

Check Applicable Optionals:

- () Request Roommate, if Possible
() Single Room Supplement, if Available
(\$599 Australia, \$399 New Zealand)
() 7-Day Optional New Zealand Extension
(\$1,695 additional - \$100 Deposit Required)
() Smoking () Non-Smoking

Name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ (Home) _____ (Office)

Signature(s): _____

Information concerning passport and visas as well as all necessary forms and instructions will be forwarded on receipt of your deposit.