

Toucan Talk

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

Volume 17, #2

March/April 1991

ZOOBAM **Zoos Helping Each Other**

By Bill Zeigler, General Curator

uring May and June of 1990, I participated in an exciting program called ZOOBAM, Zoo Biology and Management Training Program. Its primary goal is to train zoo personnel from developing countries to improve the management and care of wild animals in captivity.

The class was held at the Kebun Binatang Raguman Zoo in Jakarta, Indonesia. Overall, 13 zoos and private institutions from Indonesia participated, sending 31 students. During my 51/2 weeks there, I had the opportunity to work with each student on a variety of projects. Each project was designed to demonstrate various principles of zoo management and philosophy that the students would be able to apply at their own facilities.

As part of our class, the instructors also developed a report to the Indonesian government regarding the importance of each institution and what areas of conservation we felt they could impact.

One of the primary goals of the Zoo **Biology Training Program is to improve** the management and care of wild animals in captivity. For better or worse, the zoos of bio-diversity countries are the recipients of large numbers of confiscated wildlife, some of which are endangered species. Some species, like the Javan gibbon, the Sumatran rhino, or the Jalak Bali are on the verge of extinc-



Zoobam Indonesia.

tion in the wild, and every means including captive propagation - must be used to insure their survival. Proper captive management is essential.

A second goal of our program is to reinforce the importance of public education. Few Indonesian zoo visitors go home with a better understanding of wildlife, or an appreciation of the importance of preserving wilderness. In this regard, Indonesian "zoo goers" are no different from zoo visitors anywhere in the world. The educational role of the modern zoo is to give the visitor a message as well as an enjoyable recreational experience."

Another part of the program was, as stated earlier, to outline certain areas

that we felt the zoos of Indonesia could contribute to wildlife conservation. We began by identifying what we called Mission Species. They were the black palm cockatoo; bornbills in general; the maleo (a species of bird that builds its nest by forming a large earth mound); Komodo monitor; the anoa (smallest of all the wild cattle group; babirusa (a type of wild pig from the island of Sulawesi); and two types of gibbons - the molock from the island of Java and the Kloss', or dwarf gibbon. The Mission Species are slated for studbook development by Indonesian zoo personnel and for cooperative breeding programs between their zoos, much like our Species Survival Programs.

Aside from the Mission Species, we also set up programs for a host of other species such as elephant, masked palm civet, otter civet, false ghavials (a rare crocodile that has bred only at Metrozoo and the Bronx Zoo), and the Batagur baska (a large fresh water turtle that is declining rapidly in the wild).

We also assisted in outlining educational programs for each zoo to include the development of zoo signage, educational demonstrations, keeper interpreters, nature clubs, and classroom presentations.

Finally, we outlined areas of possible future collaboration among our institutions. These included:

- Continue training in laparoscopy, or the surgical sexing of birds.
- Outline a program to study kidney stone development in small clawed otters. Kidney stones have been a constant problem regarding captive small clawed otters. In North America the SSP group, of which Metrozoo is a part, has initiated a diet study to try and identify the causative agent. In Indonesia, this species is donated to zoos, so they have an opportunity to begin studies with animals who do not have kidney stone development.
- Continue cooperative workshops to promote selected aspects of zoo work, such as classes on studbook development, genetic master planning, and establishment of zoological societies.
- Sister city zoo relationships such relationships between Indonesian and North American zoos are an excellent means of promoting zoo development.

All in all, the class was quite successful and provided me with a better understanding of the unique problems faced by zoos in a developing country. Of course, it also provided for a better relationship between zoo professionals in the country of Indonesia. It is sometimes very difficult for them to communicate with each other, let alone the rest of the world.

ZOOBAM is an ongoing program and, over the next few years, we hope to assist other countries in their zoological development. Thus far, new requests for the class have come from Venezuela, Madagascar, Poland, Guatemala, and I am sure there will be many more as the program expands.

This is just one example of Metrozoo's involvement with world wide conservation efforts. As the saying goes, "times, they are a-changin" and zoos today must change with them. We can no longer sit back passively, content to deal only with our own collections and the people who visit our zoos. Our patrons are vitally important to us, but our justification for continued existence can no longer be defined on a one dimensional plane. To continue to serve man and his environment, zoos must actively reach out and participate with other zoos and organizations. We cannot confine our activities to simply breeding wildlife. We must join forces with others to protect sensitive environments and ecosystems. We must strive harder to educate people about the unchecked destruction of the lands around us and what that means to the survival of wildlife, and our own survival as well.

This can only be done through your support and understanding. Metrozoo belongs to all of us, and together we can assure that Metrozoo fulfills its obligations to our community, our precious wildlife, and our fragile environment.

An Opportunity to Participate

The focus of the 1991 development campaign is to make Metrozoo more comfortable for you, the patrons who visit our zoo. We are calling on local businesses, corporations, and individuals to help support this amenities program.

Becoming a permanent sponsor at Metrozoo is easy! Two types of benches are being designed. A contribution of \$1,000 entitles you to sponsor a wooden bench which recalls the European tradition of sitting under a shade tree. A graphically designed bench representing the different continents' cultural motifs/designs is available for a donation of \$2,500. These will be made out of poured colored concrete to add to the already beautiful landscaping of our zoo. These specialty benches will hopefully be placed in viewing areas of the animal exhibits.

The Society is planning to add at least 60 fully grown shade trees throughout Metrozoo. You can call a tree your own with a \$1,000 donation. Shade zones are also planned along the pathways. Why not dedicate a part of Metrozoo's comfort zones to your family or business? More than 750,000 people visit Metrozoo annually and this is a great way to get recognition or remember a loved one while providing a valuable service.

Call the development department to find out how you can sponsor a portion of the amenities program today. Your contribution will last a life time!

Life At the Asian River Exhibit

by Walter DuPree and Linda Evans, Zookeepers

Since its opening in early August, 1990, the Asian River Life exhibit has become very popular with Metrozoo visitors. Zoo patrons talk to us about the landscaping, the natural sounds, the rock work, clouded leopards and the water monitor. The most preferred aspect of the exhibit, by far, has to be the otters. These playful animals have become the favorites of visitors and staff alike.

Otters are part of the Mustelidae, or weasel family. The family includes a wide variety of animals such as skunks, weasels, wolverines and otters. These animals are largely carnivores and are well suited to their role as small predators. They share a common body shape, long and muscular, and they are very intelligent – a potent combination in a small package!

At the present time, Metrozoo is exhibiting one species, the Asian smallclawed otter, *Aonyx cinerea*. The range of these Asian natives is a large one, extending from northwest India, across southern China and throughout southeast Asia.

These river otters are small animals with a maximum weight of about 12 pounds (most individuals are smaller). Small-clawed otters differ from other otter species in that they have less webbing between their toes and their claws are much smaller. The shorter claws have allowed these otters to develop an excellent sense of touch. This explains why our otters may often be seen running their "hands" over an object but not looking at it. Their sense of touch also helps the otters catch their favorite prey - crabs and mollusks - under water. Our animals also like to catch and eat fish, but fish are not an important part of the diet of wild otters.

Asian small-clawed otters may be found in any type of terrain from rain forest to coastal plain, but they are never far from water. In the wild, they are most

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active at night when they have been known to travel some distance over land. Wild otters have a life expectancy of ten years or less and usually produce two litters of young per year. The young, called pups, open their eyes about forty days after birth and do not learn to swim until they are about nine weeks old. The United States Department of the Interior considers Asian small-clawed otters a "threatened" species.

Metrozoo has seven otters at this time, two males and five females in two groups. One group consists of three sisters who came to us from the Bronx Zoo. They were born in March of 1988 and arrived at Metrozoo in July of 1990. When the exhibit first opened, the sisters were only on display for half of each day, as both groups were given time to become accustomed to their new home. Since November, the girls have been on exhibit full time and they have become very active, sometimes a little more than we would like! They have explored every nook and cranny in the exhibit, including a few we did not know about.

Despite escapades which have forced us to modify their exhibit, we really enjoy the girls, particularly when they pick up coins dropped into their pool and roll them out the door to us. (Perhaps the intelligent otters sense that coins can be fatal to animals if they are swallowed.)

Two other otters were installed in the exhibit in time for the opening. A two year old female, born at the Tucson Zoo, and a male from the Minnesota Zoo. The male is approximately 14 years old and was caught in the wild in Malaysia about 12 years ago. In the years he was at the Minnesota Zoo, he had not sired any pups, so it was important to give him another chance at breeding.

The male and the single female were introduced to each other in early August and were obviously compatible. By the first week of October, it was evident that the female was pregnant and the pair were watched carefully for signs of the impending birth. On the evening of October 30, 1990 the female gave birth to two healthy pups, a male and female.

This was the first litter for them and both otters have proven to be excellent parents. They are very protective and seem to share responsibility for teaching the pups all the necessary otter skills. The pups are now learning to eat the solid food their parents enjoy. They are fed natural foods such as fish, crayfish and crickets and a prepared diet which consists of meat, shredded carrots, hard boiled egg, and vitamins.

All of the otters seem to enjoy the live food and you may have an opportunity to see us feed them on exhibit. There is no set schedule for the feeding because we want to keep things as natural as possible. You may also see the otters playing with "toys" on exhibit. We give them pieces of bamboo, coconuts and other natural objects which they explore completely. Exploring these objects keeps them busy for a while, then it's back to otter "mischief" which really keeps us on our toes!

By the time you read this, the pups should be on display. Please be sure to stop by the exhibit and check on our charges and if you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them for you.

The "Girls"

Global Awareness, 1991

"Think Globally, Act Locally" is a slogan we are seeing with increasing frequency in this county. In those four words are two important messages. "Think Globally," and recognize the fact that the earth is one ecosystem and the destruction, pollution and degradation inflicted on one part of the system have an adverse effect on the whole planet. "Act Locally" even though we may think saving water and recycling our trash are insignificant efforts in the face of global warming or ocean pollution, these small efforts can make a difference if everyone cooperates.

In an effort to promote "Global Thinking" and "Local action," the Citizens For

Education Outlook March-April 1991



SUMMER CAMP! Everyone bas a good time at Zoo Camp. Sessions are being planned for children age 4 through bigh school. For more information, please call the education department at 255-5551.

Spring is coming – what a great time to visit the zoo! The weather is great, the animals are active, and many births occur in the spring months. Bring the family out for one of our programs and enjoy an educational experience that will lift your mind as well as your spirits.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN (Please observe

age limits) Vacation Mini Camp

Grades K-4

Spring Break! School is out for a week and the kids want to do something FUN. You want them to have fun, but you're worried about what they might come up with on their own. This three-day mini camp is the perfect solution to your problem. Campers will investigate a different topic related to animals and the environment each day. Films, games, stories, craft projects, walking tours and visits with real live animals make the mini camp fun and educational. Register early because space is limited.

Dates: April 9, 10, 11 Hours: 8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M. Fee: Members \$25.00 per day OR \$60.00 for all three days. Non-members \$30.00 per day OR \$75.00 for all three days. Children must bring a lunch. Snacks are provided.

A.I.R. Scouting Program Grades K-12

This program is designed to help scouts and their leaders learn about modern zoos, wildlife conservation, and the animals at Metrozoo. Participants earn 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: 9:00-11:30 A.M.

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

A Better South Florida and the Explorers Club are sponsoring an *Environmental Expo for the Americas* on March 1, 2, and 3, 1991 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami. The Zoological Society of Florida is proud to participate in this important conference and we urge our members to support and attend. For more information, please call Jenifer Levenson at the Citizens office, (305) 8585959.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES Breakfast With Jim Fowler

You've watched him on "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" for years, now meet Jim Fowler in person and learn about his "wild" life adventures. **Date:** Sunday, March 3, 1991 **Hours:** 9:00-11:00 A.M. **Fee:** Members \$15.00 Non-members

\$20.00

(Children 5 and under half price)

Weekend Adventure Series

(Age 10 to adult)

This once a month program for nature lovers gives participants an opportunity to learn about animals and meet them up close. Films, slides, and talks by experts make the live animal experience more meaningful. What a great opportunity for parents and children to learn about animals together.

Weekend Adventure Series: Elephants: Endangered Giants

Elephants, the largest land mammals, are intelligent, graceful, engaging creatures, but their ivory tusks and enormous appetites may doom them to extinction. Come and meet some of these giants and learn more about the ivory trade and the effort to save the elephants in their native habitat.

Date: Saturday, March 2, 1991 Hours: 8:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. Fee: Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00

Weekend Adventure Series:

Reptiles

Tired of feeding and cleaning up after your dog, cat or bird every day? Maybe

you should consider a different kind of pet. How about a snake, a turtle, or a skink? Come out for this Weekend Adventure and we will introduce you to a variety of reptiles and fill you in on how to care for them.

Date: Saturday, April 20, 1991 Hours: 9:30 A. M.-Noon Fee: Members \$5.00 Non-members \$8.00

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS ONLY (No children, please)

Wildlife Conservation Seminars (WCS)

This is the "Green Decade" of environmental awareness but many people are confused by the great masses of information, warnings and predictions coming at them from all sides. The WCS series is designed to reduce the confusion by presenting speakers who communicate in plain language and offer opportunities for public involvement. Each hour and a half program includes a presentation by an expert which is followed by a question/discussion period and light refreshments – all in the comfort of our zoo classrooms.

"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, skins and shells. Their nests and nesting sites have been destroyed by pollution and

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 is contingent upon payment. Fees may be paid by check, money order, cash, or Visa/Mastercard/American Express. A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of payment.

Cancellations: All fees are nonrefundable. Cancellation notices must be received at least 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. unchecked human development. As a result, many species of sea turtles are now critically endangered. In our March WCS, rangers from Cape Florida State Park will show us how the turtles nest and explain what is being done, and what you can do, to protect these South Florida natives.

Date: Saturday, March 23, 1991 Hours: 6:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M. Fee: Members \$10.00 Non-members \$15.00

"The Three Rs Revised: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

Will future residents of Dade County find themselves living in "Mt. Trashmore Estates" or "East Landfill Gardens?" If we continue to generate 10,000 pounds of refuse *EACH MINUTE* and reclaim only 225 tons per day through recycling, we may indeed cover the county with trash. Unlike the hole in the ozone and the spread of deserts in Africa, this is a problem right here at home and one we can do something about. In the April WCS, Susie Collins of the Miami Recycling Center will show us how each of us can help to solve the trash problem.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 1991 Hours: 6:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M. Fee: Members \$10.00 Non-members \$15.00

Baskets and More Baskets

Our first basket-weaving class in December was a great success, so we are going to do it again. "Graduates" of the first session and beginners are welcome to come and weave a basket from natural materials. Space is limited, so call early.

Date: Saturday, March 23, 1991 Hours: 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Fee: Members \$10.00 Non-members \$15.00

Slumber Party at the Zoo – Adults Only

Bring your sleeping bag and toothbrush and come on out to the zoo for a pizza party, a nighttime walk around the zoo, and an early morning visit with our Bengal tigers. Sleep in our mosquitofree classrooms. A great chance to be a kid again!

Date: Saturday, March 16 Hours: 6:30 PM.-8:30 A.M. Fee: Members \$30.00 Non-members \$35.00

A VERY SPECIAL ADULT LECTURE...

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas has devoted much of her adult life to her crusade to save South Florida's unique natural habitat – the Everglades. Long before anyone else was interested, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas recognized the importance of the "River of Grass" and the problems posed by development in South Florida. In March, the Zoological Society of Florida proudly presents Marjorie Stoneman Douglas and Dr. Sharyn Richardson of Barry University for a special lecture on the Everglades and the fight to save this natural treasure.

Date: Saturday, March 9, 1991 Hours: 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. Fee: Members \$20.00 Non-members \$25.00

REGISTER HERE – send registration form and a check or money order

along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Education Department

Zoological Society of Florida 12400 S. W. 152 Street Miami, Florida 331774499 (305) 255-5551

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| For children's programs, complete the | following: |
| Parent's name 🔟 | |
| Student's age | Grade in school (as of Sept. 1990) |

Feast With the Beasts[™]... Tickets are Available Now – Quit "Dragon" Your Feet!

Tickets are going fast to one of the "wildest" events on the South Florida social calendar. The fourth annual *FEAST WITH THE BEASTS*" on Friday, April 19, promises to live up to its name in more ways than one. This year's event will raise funds for an endowment to support the proposed Komodo Dragon exhibit.

Jacki Gran, Chairman of Feast says "Metrozoo is beautiful and this year's Komodo Dragon theme has given us plenty of exciting ideas. We plan to turn the zoo into a mythical place where, for one magical night, you might expect to see King Arthur and Lady Guinevere sampling the same wonderful food and drink as our guests." Since October, Jacki and Co-Chairman *Elena Cabrera* have overseen the six committees that are preparing to make this an evening to remember.

We have lined up music of every kind to entertain throughout the evening. You'll dance to *Sol Varon* at the big chickee and two headline acts will fill the amphitheater with a wall of sound. *The New York City Swing Band* will swing, doo-wop, rock and jazz the crowd and set the stage for *Harold Melvin and the Bluenotes*.

American Express[®] sponsors the event and the Society could not undertake this major production without their assistance. They purchase many tickets for the evening and their representatives procure the premier restaurants from Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties.

The Zoological Society's largest fund raiser, *FEAST WITH THE BEASTS*[™] is really a community affair for which almost everything is donated. Over 50 companies contribute goods and services and 150 volunteers supply the ideas and muscle to pull it together.

Each restaurant makes a major investment by providing 1,000 tastes of its special delicacy. Every year many of the participating establishments make an investment in attractive decor to match the theme of the evening. In addition to stunning decorations, a lot of restaurants bring along their own musicians.

General admission tickets are \$150 per person. The special "Beastkeeper" patron level at \$500 per person, entitles the holder to special privileges. Beastkeeper tickets are hand delivered and each Beastkeeper receives an exclusive gift. Beastkeepers' names are listed on the program and their special party kicks off the night's festivities. This year's party, held from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., will feature the best from *Joe's Stone Crab, Andre Chauveron at the Jockey Club, and Creative Tastes.*

If you've read this far and still haven't called to purchase your tickets, perhaps the following list of fine restaurants will whet your appetite:

Andre Chauveron The Atlantic's Edge at Cheeca Lodge Barnie's Coffee and Tea Company Bijan's Restaurant and Raw Bar Captain's Tavern Carlyle Grill Casa Juancho Christy's Restaurant Copenhagen Danish & Scottish Bakery Creative Tastes Didier's El Cenador de la Villa El Cid El Picoteo Tasca Restaurant **Firehouse Four** The Fish Market at the Omni International Hotel

Fontainebleau Hilton's Dining Galleries French Connection Grand Cafe at the Grand Bay Hotel Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Hooligan's Pub and Oyster Bar I Paparrazzi JJ's American Diners Joe's Stone Crab JohnMartin's Ristorante L Bussola La Cavalleria Rusticana Ristorante Los Ranchos Restaurant Mayfair Grill at the Mayfair House The Miami Airport Hilton & Marina The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant Parrot Jungle and Gardens Pi's Place Ramiro's Regine's at the Grand Bay Hotel Restaurant St. Michel San Marco Italian Restaurant Stuart's at the Cardozo Sundays on the bay Sundays on the bay at Haulover Turnberry Isle Resort and Club Valenti's Restaurant Victor's Cafe

You'll sip spirits of all kinds provided by the following fine companies:

Beverage Canners House of Seagrams Island Oasis Silver Eagle Southern Wine and Spirits W. A. Taylor Cordials

Tickets are limited to the first 1,000 people. Quit "dragon" your feet and call 255-5551 now! Use your American Express[®] card to reserve your *FEAST WITH THE BEASTS*[™] tickets and get set to have the time of your life!

SPECIAL NOTE: Mel and Irene Kessler, owners of gingiss formalwear in Cutler Ridge, Dadeland and Coral Gables, have offered to give a "Buck a Tux" back to the Zoological Society for each tuxedo rented during 1991.



9th Annual Jungle Jog

Despite early morning rain and cool temperatures, the 9th Annual Jungle Jog at Metrozoo was a huge success. On Sunday, January 13, 1991 more than 1,000 runners, racewalkers, wheelchair racers and fitness walkers left the starting line and followed a five-mile or two-mile course to the finish line. Hector Porras of Caracas, Venezuela, crossed the finish line in 24 minutes, 52 seconds, followed by a parade of determined competitors.

Cash prizes and framed art were awarded to top finishers in Open, Masters, Wheelchair, and Racewalk divisions. Top finishers in each age category received stuffed animals and ribbons from Society Executive Vice President Joseph Ferrer, Board member William

Gallwey, and the education department's own Dr. Gator.

We would like to thank the generous sponsors of Jungle Jog – *Baptist Hospital of Miami, Silver Eagle Distributors* (Bud Light), and Lufthansa German Airlines. Additional thanks to Del Monte Tropical Fruit, Crystal Water, Sports Marketing Team (10-K drink) and the Bagel Emporium for their donations.



Left to right: Jungle Jog Winner Hector Porras, William Gallwey, Dr. Gator

Baby Zebra Named by Sponsors

The law firm of Shutts and Bowen, sponsors of the Grevy zebra exhibit, recently held an in-house contest to name the baby zebra born at Metrozoo late last summer. To add excitement to the contest, partner Bill Gallwey, who serves on our Board of Directors, designed a special zebra t-shirt which was sold to employees. T-shirt sales raised an additional \$1,000 for the Zoological Society.

The Society thanks all the employees at Shutts and Bowen for their enthusiasm and support in sponsoring this exhibit for the past three years.



Pictured left to right are Bill Gallwey, Partner, Shutts and Bowen; "Name the Baby Zebra" contest winner, Francine C. Greenberg; Society Executive Vice President, Joseph E. Ferrer.

Travelogue 1991 - See The Wilds of The World!

The Zoological Society has designed an ambitious travel schedule for our members this year. Each trip is fully escorted by trained naturalists familiar with the flora and fauna of each region. In addition to experiencing nature, each expedition also schedules time in some of the world's great cities, allowing you to take in theaters, museums, and organized cultural tours wherever possible. Each tour is priced to include air fare from Miami.

July 12-July 23

Our safari to Kenya takes you to its four major parks to view the most impressive gatherings of wildlife on earth. An optional 8-day extension to Tanzania completes this experience of a lifetime. The 12-day Kenya safari is \$3,550 per person; the Tanzanian extension is \$1,650.

September 28-October 10

Explore the Amazon River basin, the largest rain forest on earth. The 8-day nature expedition is a photographer's paradise. A 5-day optional extension to Macchu Picchu lets you experience one of the most mystical places known to man. The Amazon expedition is \$1,495 and the Macchu Picchu extension is \$698 per person.

November 17-November 26

A very special 10-day adventure to Ecuador and the Galapagos lets you experience age-old Indian culture in the Capital of Ecuador and the 10,000 square mile watery domain of the Galapagos. Your island tour will take you cruising, hiking, and swimming

among the islands' fearless wildlife. Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands is \$2,895 per person from Miami.

Please call the Travel Coordinator at 255-5551 for more information and a complete itinerary.

Zoo Classic Golf Tournament

Join us for the Third Annual Zoo Golf Classic Tournament, scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 1991. The tournament is held at the beautiful Key Biscayne Golf Links and is limited to the first 100 players. Cost is \$150 per person, \$600 per team, and \$250 for a hole sponsor. All proceeds will benefit the Zoological Society. Unique prizes, food, and fun follow a 12:30 shotgun start. Call Tricia Borsch at 386-4073 for details.

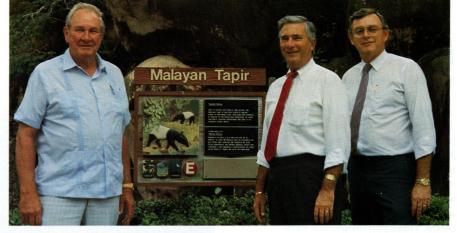
The Rewards of Volunteering

Zoological Society docent Meryl Rivett presented a \$500 gift to the Society for her volunteer work at the zoo. Meryl works for Eckerd Drugs which maintains a recognition program for employees that volunteer in their communities. Jack Eckerd, founder of the company, awarded the check in December on Meryl's behalf.

Since she began two years ago, Meryl has become an integral part of the volunteer program. She has contributed over 200 hours as an interpretive guide at PAWS, in the aviary and elsewhere at the zoo, as well as working special events. Meryl is a great example of Metrozoo's volunteer spirit – she is willing to try anything and her enjoyment is reflected in the good feelings she spreads to zoo visitors.



Left to right: Linda Ingram, Development Coordinator Meryl Rivett, and Ruth Hamilton, Director of Volunteer Services



Pictured left to right are George Kunde, Loy Crumbley and Robert Sprecher, proud new patrons of the Malayan tapir and sponsors of the Third Annual Zoo Golf Classic Tournament.

Toucan Trader's Choice

The Toucan Trader gift shop is hatching great ideas for your Easter basket!

Authentic ostrich eggs (only infertile ones are used) will delight the seeker of the unusual. These stand about 6" tall and creative Easter bunnies will love to decorate these eggs. Paint them, dye them, fill them with jelly beans, whatever your imagination dictates. We also have a great variety of display stands for the finished work of art.

For the health conscious who have forsaken chocolate and jelly beans – toucans, gators, owls, flamingoes, turtles, parrots, ostriches and pelicans are breaking out of their shells in a celebration of spring! These make wonderful gifts and your 10% member discount on purchases of \$10.00 and more make shopping at our gift shops easy and practical while you support Metrozoo.



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Become a volunteer at Metrozoo!

Call 255-5551 for details.