



Zoological
Society of
Florida

Friends of Metrozoo

Toucan Talk

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

Volume 17, #4
July/August, 1991

On Friday, April 19, 1991 at the Fourth Annual **Feast With the Beasts**, a very important announcement was made. Through the generosity of the Batchelor Foundation, the Society has received half the \$2,700,000 funding required to build a rain forest exhibit. This is the largest gift the Society has ever received, and construction of this exhibit presents an extraordinary opportunity for Metrozoo and the Zoological Society to educate our visitors to the critical global importance of a rain forest. This will be the first outdoor rain forest exhibit in the country, and Florida's tropical climate will enable us to reproduce an environment that is richer in flora and fauna than any other habitat in the world.

A deep concern for endangered species motivated the Batchelor family to fund Metrozoo's rain forest exhibit. They believed such an exhibit was the perfect

vehicle for our visitors to see and perhaps begin to understand the intrinsic value of the rain forest to our planet. The most obvious thing that will happen when these forests are gone is that all the animals and plants that live in them will disappear, forever. This is not simply a matter of trees and animals vanishing on the other side of the world; this is an issue that affects all of us. Come with us on a journey of discovery through this complicated, fragile, and majestic place and learn why it is of utmost importance that we all do our part to protect and conserve it.

Rain Forests! Everyday in newspapers, magazines, or on television we hear or see something about rain forests. Dire warnings, morbid predictions and a growing list of terms that seem to confuse rather than enlighten, as experts from a variety of fields talk about rain

The Tropical Rain Forest

an Introduction...

forests. Some of the terms being discussed are familiar like **ecology**; some, like **photosynthesis** we vaguely recall from high school science courses. A few terms like the **greenhouse effect** have been repeated so often that we are familiar with them even if we are not certain what they mean. There are a lot

1956 - 1991
35
YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



Photo by R. Ryel, courtesy International Expeditions

Please turn to Page two



Photo by William Boehm, courtesy International Expeditions

of other words like **biomass**, **genetic diversity**, and **endemism** that leave most of us totally in the dark. From scientists to celebrities, everyone is talking about how horrible it is that the rain forests are being destroyed. Humans have been clearing forests for centuries – what is so different about tropical rain forests, why are they so important to us, and what causes scientists to be so concerned about them?

In the coming months, your Zoological Society will provide information that will hopefully lessen some of the confusion. *Toucan Talk* articles, adult lectures, camp activities and family programs will offer you the opportunity to learn about, and develop an appreciation for the incredible global resource known as the tropical rain forest.

What is a rain forest?

The term “rain forest” is used to describe a forest area that receives an annual rainfall of more than 80 inches spread fairly evenly throughout the year. The rain forest trees grow very tall and form a canopy with few gaps to allow sunlight through to the forest floor. The canopy also traps the moisture necessary for growth. It is an enormously complicated ecosystem formed from many elements, all working together. A gap anywhere in the system can cause a breakdown of the entire structure. Though rain forests can be found in temperate climates, the largest and most important are the tropical rain forests that are found along the equator.

Early explorers found the rain forests were places with drenching rains, high humidity that prompted the instant growth of molds, and a seemingly endless variety of plants and insects that could chew through anything. No equipment existed to clear these forests and their only inhabitants were primitive tribesmen who lived in close harmony with their steamy, jungle environment. As a result, the rain forests were left alone for centuries.

What happened to change that attitude?

Two major changes in the last half century have resulted in assaults on the rain forests. The first change was the development of heavy equipment capable of cutting down a 100 foot tree in minutes, making roads through the forest, and clearing vast tracts of the land. Roads cut by logging and mining companies made the forest accessible to thousands of others seeking land for agriculture and mining. This brings us to the second change: Population growth.

According to the Population Institute, world population reached the 1 billion mark about 1830. It took another century to reach the 2 billion level. By 1960, only 30 years later, the 3 billion mark had been passed. In the next 15 years, the number grew to 4 billion. By 1986, only 11 years later, the world's population was 5 billion. At this rate, there will be 6 billion people living on the earth by 1995!

Such incredible growth in population exerts an enormous amount of pressure on the earth's resources, including land. This is particularly true of developing nations which have the fastest population growth. It is in these very same developing nations that most of the planet's rain forests are located. In an effort to relieve the overcrowding and poverty in their cities, governments of many of these nations have encouraged people to move into the vast unsettled areas and cut down the forests. In many cases, they did so on the advice of industrialized nations to whom they owe billions of dollars. Thus, thousands and thousands of acres of irreplaceable rain forests were destroyed through the nineteen seventies and eighties. It has only been in the last decade that some people have come to realize that the rain forests of the Amazon region, Equatorial Africa, and Southeast Asia are not like the forests that once covered North America and Europe.

How are rain forests different?

The deciduous forests of the temperate zones are made up of several species of trees and other plants that grow in fairly fertile soil. Settlers moving westward in North America cleared sections of this temperate forest in much the same way that settlers are now clearing tracts of the Amazon rain forest. Most of the virgin forest has been removed from North America and the land has been turned to productive agriculture, mining and industry. Why then, are people so outraged when the same methods are used in rain forests?

Northern forests tend to be valuable primarily in terms of the timber they produce. Tropical rain forests are made up of thousands (perhaps hundreds of thousands) of species of trees and other plants. We are learning that rain forests are more valuable for things like medicine, latex from rubber trees, atmosphere pollutant filtration, and food. Many other products, from rattan to pharmaceuticals and exotic hardwoods can be *harvested* from the forest for many years – if the forest is left intact.

Another difference between rain forests and deciduous forests is the soil in which they grow. Once the northern forests were cleared, the land was planted and continued to produce crops year after year. The soil of the rain forest is not fertile. Nearly all of the nutrients in the rain forest are held in the plants themselves; almost nothing is held in the very thin layer of soil. When the trees are cut down and hauled away, and the land is turned to agriculture, the yield is so poor that farmers can barely survive. If the forest is burned and the ash is worked into the soil, the land will produce one or two crops before the nutrients from the ash are used up. Even cattle ranching cannot survive on cleared rain forest land because the soil is so poor and chemical fertilizers are too expensive. To make matters worse, without plants to hold it, the heavy rains of the tropical forest wash away much of the soil. In Costa Rica for example, for each 2.2 pounds of beef that is produced for export, 2.5 tons of soil is lost through erosion. Soil erosion creates another problem as the silt is washed away by the rains and fills the streams and rivers, choking out much of the life in the water.

The more we learn about rain forests, the more we realize that the tropical rain forest is very different and requires different strategies for use. In our next issue, we will explore the various economic approaches to rain forest use and the problem of the greenhouse effect.

A Preview of Coming Rain Forest Attractions

Neotropical Primates (*New World Monkeys*)

Primatologists, scientists who study monkeys, apes and their relatives, disagree on several points when it comes to New World primates. However, they seem to agree on a few important points. First, all New World primates are arboreal – they live in the trees. There are no marmosets, tamarins, or other monkeys that are adapted for life in grasslands or open woodlands. The second point of agreement is that no one knows enough about the primates of the neotropics. The rain forests of Central and South America are so dense and biologically diverse that it is impossible to know every species that lives there and equally impossible to follow and observe the ones that are known. If we destroy the rain forests, we will lose these beautiful animals.

Several neotropical primates will be included in the rain forest exhibit and we would like to introduce you to some of the species being considered.

Tamarins – among the smallest of the primates found in the neotropics are the tamarins. These tiny, furry creatures live in the middle layers of the forest to avoid the predators that hunt in both the upper and lower levels. They are most adapted to the denser parts of the forest where the larger monkeys find it more difficult to move about. Tamarin diets are made up primarily of fruits and insects, but they also feed on buds, leaves and flower nectar, and occasionally small animals such as frogs and rodents. They live in small groups, and though there may be several adults in the group capable of mating, usually only one pair reproduce. Tamarins scurry along tree limbs in a squirrel-like fashion and look cute and cuddly, but they are equipped with sharp claws for climbing and long canine teeth that are useful for eating and fighting if necessary. Their natural range is from the Amazon basin north to the Isthmus of Panama.



Emperor Tamarin (*Saguinus imperator*)

This very distinctive creature weighs about 400 grams, or less than a pound. Its body is about 12 inches long and it has a 14 inch tail that is not prehensile,

but does help balance the tamarin as it travels through the trees. Most of its body is grey, with rusty orange on the chest and tail. The most notable feature of the species, and probably the source of its name, is the long, white drooping mustache that hangs below the chin.

The emperors are diurnal (active during the day) and often live in mixed groups with other tamarins. They spend their days feeding, sometimes venturing into the upper layers of the canopy in search of food, and resting in the vegetation. At night, they nest in large trees.

These shy, quiet animals are considered threatened and are only found in a few isolated areas of the Amazon forest east of the Andes.



Cotton Top Tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*)

This rare species is found only in Colombia. Its body is smaller than the emperor tamarin, but it also has a tail that is about 14 inches long. Like the emperor, the cotton-top tamarin gets its name from a physical feature – a plume of white hair on the top of its head.

These little animals are also diurnal. They usually do not leave their nests until an hour after sunrise and make new nests well before dark. Like the emperors, they prefer dense vegetation which helps to hide them from predators.

The cotton-top tamarin is seriously endangered due to the destruction of its forest habitat and because thousands of them have been captured for the pet trade and biomedical research. As with other animals taken for these reasons, the majority of them die from the trauma of capture and transport.



Golden Lion Tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*)

This species should be familiar to members, as we currently have two in the exhibit at the front of the Society building. Larger than the emperors, they may weigh up to 1.5 pounds and their bodies may be 20 inches long. They also have long, non-prehensile tails. Their most

distinctive feature is the brilliant golden hair that covers their bodies.

They live in groups of 2 to 10 and are diurnal. At night they sleep in hollows in the trees, preferring those with openings too small for any predator. They may use the same hollow for years and in time, the hole becomes lined with cushions of their golden hair.

Like most tamarins, the golden lion female usually gives birth to twins and turns them over to the male within a few days. The male carries the youngsters on his back, returning them to the female one at a time to nurse.

The golden lion tamarin is found only in the Atlantic forests of Southeast Brazil and is close to extinction because more than 90% of their habitat has been destroyed. In recent years, a program to release captive-born members of this species into a preserve has met with limited success, but the golden lion tamarin is still an endangered species.

New World Monkeys –

tend to be larger than the tamarins but unlike their smaller cousins, they do not have claws, but flat nails like apes and humans. A few of the New World monkeys have truly prehensile tails. They are superbly adapted to their arboreal life.



Dusky Titi Monkey (*Callicebus moloch*)

These monkeys are larger than the tamarins, weighing a little over 2 pounds. Their long, dense fur is grey with red-brown on the chest and abdomen. The titi monkeys have long tails which are not prehensile.

Titis are diurnal and live in groups of 2 to 5 animals. They live in forest areas where the ground is sodden, if not covered with water, during much of the year. They stake out territories of about an acre and feed on fruits and leaves. Like most animals that eat a lot of foliage, they spend many hours each day sitting quietly, digesting their food. At night, they seek branches that are covered by thick vegetation. When they sleep, they frequently intertwine their tails so that several tails, wound together, hang below the branch.

Titis are monogamous (permanent pairing) and usually have one offspring at a time. The male is among the best of

primate fathers, carrying the baby from the second day after its birth. The youngster quickly learns to climb from the father to the mother when it is hungry. At about 3 years of age, young titis leave their parents and seek their own territories without a show of aggression by the parents.

Dusky titis are found in South America east of the Andes from Colombia to Paraguay, and in Brazil south of the Amazon. They are listed as a threatened species due to the destruction of their habitat.



Guianan Saki Monkey (*Pithecia pithecia*)

Sakis are small monkeys, weighing between 3 and 5 pounds, with males a bit larger than the females. The Guianan

sakis are sexually dimorphic, which means the male and female do not look alike. The male's thick coat is black except on the brow and the sides of the face, which is pure white. The female is grayish-brown with a lighter face. Both have very bushy tails that are not prehensile.

In South America, they are known as "monos voladores," or flying monkeys, because of the way they move through the trees. When they are not in a hurry, they walk on all fours along the branches like other primates. When speed is necessary, they hop and leap from branch to branch like arboreal kangaroos. A leap of 30 feet from one support to the next is not unusual and is often accomplished bipedally (no hands)!

The sakis stay in the middle and lower layers of the canopy and avoid forest areas that are regularly flooded. Their diet of fruits and seeds is supplemented occasionally with young leaves and shoots. They rarely eat insects. The monkeys live in small groups occasionally seen in apparent association with other

species of monkeys.

The Guianan Saki monkey is found in South America, the Guianas, Venezuela, and Brazil north of the Rio Amazonas and east of the Rios Negro and Orinoco. They are listed as a rare species, and much of their geographic range is, as yet, undisturbed by man.

Monkeys have always been a source of fascination to zoo visitors. Their acrobatics, vocalizations, and social behaviors are unique and amusing. The primates listed above will be part of an exhibit that will closely resemble their natural habitats, and we hope to create an educational experience, as well. Few people have seen these noisy, high-spirited animals in their native surroundings, but anyone entering an Amazon jungle is immediately aware of their presence. Over the next two years, the Society and Metrozoo will attempt to re-create a jungle and you will be able to see these wonderful animals as you would in the wild.

Sketches by Damien Kong

Texaco Latin America/West Africa Employees Participate in Amenities Program

Trees are the lifeline and lungs of our planet. They dispense life-giving benefits and offer us shade and shelter. They clean our air, act as barriers to abrasive sound, lower the surrounding air temperature and break the onslaught of pelting rain. They nurture animals and birds. They camouflage harsh scenery and break the monotony of endless pavement. Their form and color are inspirational to poets and artists and their protective arms provide perches for playful children.

This summer, thanks to the commitment of Board of Directors member C. Robert Black, President of Texaco Latin America/West Africa and a generous gift of \$60,000 from Texaco, a major tree planting will take place at Metrozoo.

Full and mature specimen trees will provide instant shade as they appear throughout the park. A total of sixty trees including live oak, black olive, sea grape, loquat and mahogany, will transform your favorite animal viewing area and the center walkways into canopies of shade.

The Texaco trees are a key component of the Amenities Program. Decorative benches and comfortable seating areas, made possible by the generosity of individuals and companies interested in

making the zoo more people friendly, will be installed beneath some of the trees.

The Amenities Program provided Texaco with the opportunity to make Metrozoo the Miami focal point of their nationwide urban tree planting program, a company-wide commitment to our natural resources.

The Texaco trees, to be planted and maintained with the assistance of Texaco employees, represent more than shade and shelter. Their very presence in our zoo will offer each visitor an insight into Texaco's commitment to our community, our planet, and the conservation of our precious natural resources.



Mayor's Jewelers Hosts Wildlife Showcase

Irving Getz, Damina Nocete and Michael Greif pose with a one of a kind, solid sterling silver gorilla sculpture, which was part of the Mayor's Wildlife Showcase held on May 23. Mayor's buyers assembled a unique collection of animal jewelry and giftware from around the world for a cocktail reception to recognize Feast With the Beasts ticket holders and volunteers. Thanks to Board Member Sam Getz, Mayor's contributed 15 per cent of the evening's proceeds to the Zoological Society.

Education Outlook

July - August, 1991

Thank you.

To all the teachers who brought classes to visit Metrozoo during the 1990-91 school year. We know how much effort is required to organize a class trip and we appreciate the teachers and chaperones who take the time to prepare students beforehand.

Programs for Children

(Please observe age limits)

Summer Camp

There are still a few spaces left in our popular Zoo Camp programs for children age 4 through 6th grade. For information and registration, call 255-5551.

Holiday Week Mini Camps

Kids can save the earth! A series of one-day camps for environmentalists in grades 1 through 4, each one day session begins at 8:30 A.M. and ends at 3:30 P.M.



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 non-refundable. 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.

Campers must bring lunch; a snack is provided.

Monday, July 1 - "**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.**" Campers will learn about trash and landfills and what can be done about them. Craft projects involving recycling are included.

Tuesday, July 2 - "**Global Releaf.**" It has been said that trees are the lungs of the planet. Campers will learn about this and many other benefits of trees.

Wednesday, July 3 - "**Down the Drain.**" Water - all life depends on it and South Florida seems to be running out of it. Campers will learn about water cycles, water tables, and water conservation.

Dates: July 1 - 3

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.

To err is human...

In the last issue of Toucan Talk, we said that Marjory Stoneman Douglas lectured at Metrozoo. Please forgive our error - Dr. Sharyn Richardson lectured. Our beloved Marjory signed books only.

Programs for Families

African Safari Hunt

Bring the family to the zoo to watch a master stone carver at work and join us for a scavenger hunt involving the zoo's African animals. Prizes - t-shirts, zoo books, posters.

Date: Sunday, July 28

Hours: 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Fee: Fifty cents per entry (\$.50)

Family Rain Forest Film Festival

(Not recommended for pre-school children; children must be accompanied by an adult)

Bring the family to our air conditioned classrooms for a special showing of the toe-tapping *Rain Forest Rap* from the World Wildlife Fund and *You Can't Grow Home Again* from the Children's Television Workshop. We'll have popcorn, soft drinks, and some rain forest activities.

Date: Sunday, August 18

Hours: 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Fee: Members \$3.00, Children \$1.00

Non-members Adults \$4.00, Children \$2.00

Watch for Weekend Adventures and Wildlife Conservation Seminars Again in the fall.

Programs may be cancelled without sufficient enrollment. Please call for reservations.

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**

Participant's name _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Business 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, complete the following:

Parent's name _____

Student's age _____ Grade in school (as of Sept. 1990) _____

Travelogue 1991 – See the Wilds of The World

Travel with fellow Zoological Society members and experience the earth's natural treasures. Each of our trips 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 airfare from Miami.

Amazon River Basin and Macchu Picchu

September 28 - October 10, 1991

Explore the Amazon river basin, the largest rain forest on earth. Observe the overwhelming diversity of the forest from aboard your river launch and on foot as you discover the treasures of the rain forest. The 8-day expedition is a photographer's paradise. A 5-day optional extension to Macchu Picchu takes you to experience one of the most mystical places known to man. The Amazon expedition is September 28 – October 10 and costs \$1,495 per person, including round trip airfare. The Macchu Picchu extension is \$698 per person.

Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

November 17 - 26, 1991

The volcanic "lavascape" of the Galapagos is teeming with hardy species, from dragon-like lizards to flightless cormorants. The wildlife is so tame, you can walk up to marine iguanas sunning themselves on the beach, stroll the shore with colonies of exotic birds, even swim alongside playful fur seals. You'll cruise the islands for four days aboard the MV Santa Cruz.

In Quito, the charming capital of Ecuador, you'll discover centuries-old churches and cathedrals that are palaces of art and architecture. You'll also bargain for handicrafts at Ecuador's largest Indian market, Ambato. 10-days, including a 4-day Galapagos cruise, November 17 – 26, is \$2,895 per person, including round trip airfare from Miami.

Polar Bear Expedition

November 3 - 10, 1991

Come explore the vast wildlife sanctuary of Churchill, the domain of the polar bear, one of the world's largest car-



Photo by J. Edwin Farmer, Worldwide Images
Courtesy Park East Tours & Columbus Zoo

nivores. You'll cross the rugged terrain in a tundra buggy, observing the "Lord of the Arctic" and over 200 species of birds, 500 species of plants, and 44 species of animals. At night, colorful displays of the aurora borealis command the sky. Your tour includes a visit to Winnipeg, a city of inspiring museums,

parks and historic sights. 8-days in Manitoba, Canada, November 3 - 10, \$2,695 per person includes round trip airfare from Miami.

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



Greg Sharp, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Miami Dade Community College North and incoming Junior Orange Bowl President, presents outgoing President Bill Zeigler, General Curator of Metrozoo with his presidential plaque and gavel at a recent dinner and installation ceremony.

The Fifth Annual Photo Contest

On Saturday, May 18th, the Zoological Society hosted over 250 guests at a reception announcing the winners of the Fifth Annual Photo Contest. Sponsored by Kodak Film and Kenya Photo Mural, this year's contest attracted a record 350 color and black and white entries depicting the theme "Animals in the Wild."

The Grand Prize of two tickets to Germany courtesy of Lufthansa German Airlines was awarded to **Dan Bader**. A first time entrant, Dr. Bader began serious photography only eighteen months ago. He has mastered the artform superbly, also winning First Place Color and placing a third photo in the Honorable Mention category.

Top prizes were also awarded as follows: First Place Black and White to **Alvin Goodman**; Second Place Black and White to **Jo Winstead**; Third Place Black and White to **William Winchester**. Second Place Color went to **Linda Andersson** and the Third Place Color winner was **Deborah S. Lindley**. Fifteen Honorable Mentions were awarded to **Hans L. Andersson, Linda Andersson, Dan Bader, Ralph Curtin, Charles H. Hirsh, Bob Kirstein, Danita McIntyre, Gail Morrison, Mike L. Ortiz, Jay Quintero and Bill Surina**.

Valuable prizes are donated by some of the region's most important resorts and photographic businesses, and the Annual Photo Contest at Metrozoo has become one of Florida's most prestigious competitions, attracting amateurs and professionals. **Masud Quraishy**, owner of Kenya Photo Mural has carefully nurtured its development and in doing so, has brought us many loyal friends.

We thank this year's donors for their support. Please patronize them whenever possible and show your appreciation for their commitment to Metrozoo:

Boca Raton Resort and Club
Coconut Grove Camera
Colonial One Hour Photo
Cotton Bay Club, Eleuthera, Bahamas
The Falls
Fotofast
Hotel Alexander
Metro One Hour Photo
Pier 66 Resort and Marina
Pitman Photo
Rich Photo
Riviera Photo
SeaEscape
Sheraton Grand Hotel, Paradise Island

Sonesta Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa
Thomson Photo Lab
Wolf Camera & Video
World Wide Foto

We extend sincere appreciation to our judges -

Steve Murphy, freelance wildlife and sports photographer.

Lyn Pelham, former photographer for Life, People, Sports Illustrated, Time,

Fortune magazines; owner Pelham Photographic.

Phil Sandlin, News Photo Editor, Associated Press.

Julius Sirilo, Retired Professor of Visual Communications and former Art Director, Miami Dade Community College.

*Grand Prize Winner
Dr. Dan Bader*



*First Place
Color Winner
Dr. Dan Bader*



*First Place
Black & White Winner
Alvin Goodman*





Toucan Trader's Choice

Mark your calendars – on Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28, PAWS, the children's petting zoo will host an African Arts Exhibition.

Witness the creation of an antelope, elephant, giraffe, hippo, lion, leopard and rhino, hand carved from kisii-stone. Master carver Jonathan Kioko will demonstrate the techniques used by Akamba tribesmen in Kenya, Africa. The only tools used are a chisel, a rough file, and sandpaper to achieve the final smooth finish.

There has been a tremendous response to these beautiful items in the Toucan Trader gift shop. All the colors in the stone are natural and no two pieces are alike. Items on display and available for purchase will include kisii-stone animals and boxes, napkin rings, bowls, mugs, wooden animals, wooden masks, walking sticks, book ends, utensils, beads, jewelry, and clothing.

A program entitled "Passport to Africa" will also be presented by noted authority on African life, Mr. Chisseko. Mr. Chisseko's lectures have been enjoyed by many children through school and library programs. Our agenda will include his lecture, plus art work, batiks and jewelry on display. Some items may be available for purchase.

You can also experience an African safari through the photographs and first hand accounts of fellow Zoological Society members and docents.

An African Safari Scavenger Hunt will also be hosted by the Society's Education Department (see Education Outlook).

Please join us for a weekend of fun for the whole family as we capture some of the wonder and enchantment of African life.



The Japanese delegation from Kagoshima, Japan were the guests of the Zoological Society as they visited Metrozoo. Their zoo excursion was part of the recent Miami Sister Cities Program.

Thank You, Friends

Special thanks to all the folks who attended our Be A Friend party on June 8. This annual event, a gathering of individuals who share a love of animals, was enlivened with a presentation of Ron Magill, Assistant Curator of "Sex and the Animals" program. We would also like to thank Torresella wines, whose labels feature rare and endangered birds including some species found in our aviary, and Sara Sharpe Catering for providing the wonderful hors d'oeuvres.

Volunteers – the Soul of Metrozoo

Volunteers are part of almost everything that happens at the Zoological Society. They play a key role in the zoo's education programs, the children's zoo, the gift shops, in all of our animal-related activities, special events and fund raisers as well as providing visitor support on grounds 365 days a year.

With seemingly endless activities to choose from, being a zoo volunteer is never dull. If you would like to add excitement to your life, volunteering may fit your needs. Volunteer training will begin again on Saturday, September 7 and run through November 2. For more information, please call Ruth Hamilton at 255-5551.

Zoological Society of Florida

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

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Miami, Florida

Become a volunteer at Metrozoo!

Call 255-5551 for details.