

# Toucan Talk

## Florida's Endangered Wetlands

Judy Jones, M.S., Ed.

Wetlands, like tropical rain forests, are a vital part of our planetary ecosystem. Swamps, marshes, tidal flats, bogs and estuaries all qualify as wetlands, as do many freshwater ponds and, of course, the Everglades. Generally, wetlands are the buffer zone between the water and the land. Some have surface water for much of the year, others only during certain seasons. All are important to the survival of the earth.

For many generations, wetlands were perceived as wastelands, obstacles to progress, and breeding grounds for mosquitoes. They were (and are) used for dumping grounds or "reclaimed" by draining or filling. From the colonial era to the present, 117 million acres of wet-

lands, more than half of the total in the lower 48 states, have been lost in this way.

It has only been in the last two decades that the scientific community has begun to understand the role of wetlands. A coastal wetland, such as the Everglades, provides a number of "services" to the environment. As water flows toward the sea, it picks up silt and waste material. In wetlands, literally millions of organisms and water-loving plants filter out waste and break it down as food/fertilizer for animals and plants in the system.

This ability to filter and decompose waste material makes wetlands valuable as a final step in water treatment. Water hyacinth, generally considered a weed, can absorb as much as 75% of lead contamination in water as well as several other substances. Processed water hyacinth can yield fertilizer, fodder, methane gas, and pulp wood. Cities from Venice, to Boston, to Calcutta have depended on wetlands and wetland species for sewage treatment for hundreds of years.

The abundance of well fertilized life



in the wetlands provides food for a multitude of animal species. Plankton, shellfish, prawns, and dozens of fish species live and breed in wetlands. As much as two thirds of the fish taken commercially each year hatch in wetland nurseries.

Birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals also call wetlands home. In fact, more than one half of the animals and one third of the plants classified as threatened or endangered are native to wetlands.

Another function of wetlands is flood protection. Flood waters can be absorbed by wetlands and held until they can drain naturally. The United States Army Corps of Engineers has come to the conclusion that wetlands are the best flood control possible.

Coastal wetlands such as mangroves hold mud and silt and prevent coastal erosion while the plants themselves absorb the brunt of damaging wind and waves. When these coastal guardians are removed, damage from wind, waves, and tides can be devastating.

Finally, wetlands provide recreational opportunities for hikers, bird watchers, and many others.

Despite their obvious importance, wetlands are being destroyed at the rate of 300,000 acres per year. Efforts by conservation groups at local, state and national levels to protect wetlands were given a boost in 1988 when George Bush promised "no net loss of wetlands" during his campaign.

Recently, however, lobbying efforts by groups such as developers, oil companies, and farmers have put pressure on both the president and congress to limit protection for wetlands. The Bush administration is currently

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ABOVE: Water hyacinths  
LEFT: Endangered Wood Stork

# SUITCASE FOR SURVIVAL

Alligator skins, tropical fish, frog legs, and orchids are all part of the worldwide trade in wildlife and wildlife products that is valued at over \$5 billion annually. Much of this trade is legal and, in theory, controlled by various government agencies. However, a growing portion of this trade, some estimate more than 30%, is illegal and is contributing to the endangerment of thousands of species of animals and plants.

Ivory tusks from elephants, skins from reptile species such as the spectacled caiman, furs from cats large and small, and live parrots and primates are *poached*, taken illegally, and funneled to buyers around the world by various means. This trade is so dangerous to many species that an international treaty organization was formed in 1975 to try and control it. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) counts more than 100 nations among its membership, yet in the more than 15 years CITES has been in existence, it has not been able to stop the deadly trade in endangered plants and animals.

The reason for the failure is simple: As long as there is a consumer demand for an item, someone will find a way to supply it. It is still possible to buy a coat made of clouded leopard skin in Bangkok, even though Thailand is a

CITES member. The Japanese continue to import tons of tortoise shell from the endangered hawksbill sea turtle for jewelry and combs. Female orangutans, gorillas, and chimpanzees are still being killed in order to take their young for sale as prestigious pets. All because there are people who are willing and able to pay for these items, no matter what the cost to the animals and the ecosystem. The trade is so profitable that many governments choose to ignore it or claim that it does not exist.

Foreign countries and their wildlife are not the only targets of the poachers. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the profits from the illegal trade in U.S. wildlife is \$200 million per year and increasing. Walruses killed for their ivory tusks, polar bears killed for their skins and gall bladders, aningas taken for their feathers, desert cacti sold to collectors, the list goes on and on of increasingly rare animals and plants taken by profit-hungry poachers to sell to greedy consumers here and abroad.

Despite the efforts of CITES, the World Wildlife Fund, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and others, the trade in wildlife is growing. Government agencies and non-profit organizations are able to patrol limited areas and invest valuable time in collecting enough evidence to convict poachers, only to see them given lenient sentences or probation that is impossible to enforce. Stricter

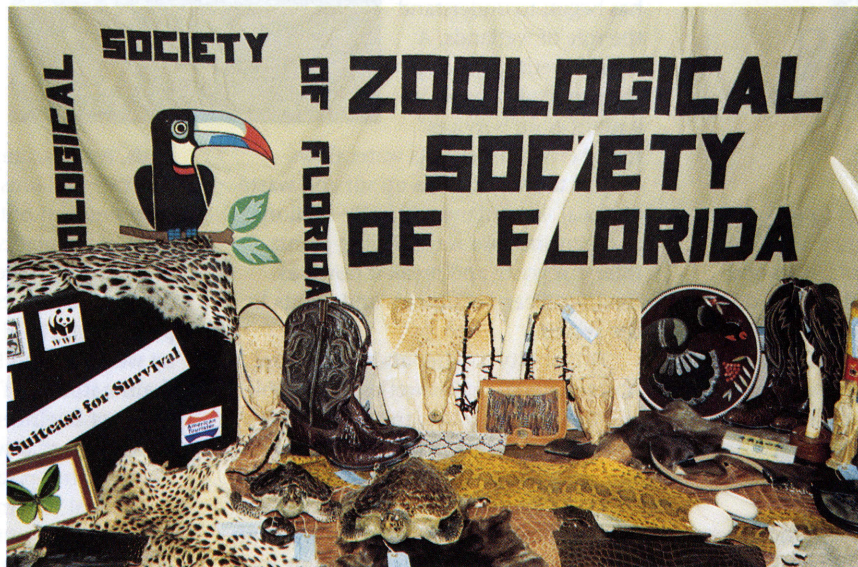
penalties and more enforcement personnel will help in the war against the illegal wildlife trade, but the real solution lies with the consumers.

When the market for these items disappears, when there is no profit in poaching plants and animals, the majority of the poaching will stop. Educating the public about the illegal trade in

wildlife and the consumers' role in it is the goal of a pilot program developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the World Wildlife Fund, and the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. Called "Suitcase For Survival," the program utilizes wildlife items confiscated by FWS and suitcases donated by American Tourister to make a very graphic point about the illegal trade. Twelve zoos and zoological societies around the United States, including the Zoological Society of Florida, were chosen to receive the suitcases with their precious contents to use in

public education programs.

The Zoological Society of Florida education department has developed a program around the suitcases to focus on two audiences: Students and zoo visitors. Students are traditionally fashion conscious and account for a large portion of consumer spending. By convincing young people not to buy endangered wildlife or products made from



endangered species, we can remove a portion of the market now and in the future. Teachers who attend special workshops on the "Trade In Endangered Species" can qualify to borrow materials from the Society and arrange for a "Suitcase" to be brought to their classrooms so that students have an opportunity to see and touch the materials. Teachers who cannot attend the workshops may qualify for a special Outreach program titled "Trade and Endangered Species." In this abbreviated program, our trained docents bring a slide presentation and a "Suitcase" to the classroom.

The other audience we are targeting is zoo visitors who then spread the word to family and friends. In adult lectures and family programs, zoo visitors are introduced to the trade in endangered species and its impact on wild animals and plants here and abroad. Once again, the focus is on removing the market and the incentive for poaching.

If you are interested in attending an Endangered Trade program or arranging a classroom presentation, call the education department at 255-5551 and watch your *Toucan Talk* for upcoming programs.

ABOVE: Wildlife products confiscated by the Fish and Wildlife Service become educational tools in the "Suitcase For Survival" program.



**Sixth annual photo contest kicks off with "Zootography" seminar**

**G**ather all your photo equipment together, check it over, and stock up on your choice of black and white or color film (or both), for the Sixth Annual Photo Contest is about to begin.

To give participants a head start in the contest, the Zoological Society of Florida will sponsor a **Zootography Seminar** featuring a panel of photography experts to give you hints on how to capture that winning image. Leading the seminar will be Phil Sandlin, Associated Press Photo Editor, and Lyn Pelham, former photographer for *Life*, *Time*, *Sports Illustrated* and *People* magazines.

The seminar will be held at Metrozoo on Saturday, February 15 from 3:00 to 5:00pm and will conclude with light refreshments. Registration for the seminar is \$25.00 and includes \$10.00 registration for one photo contest entry. For seminar registration, call the special events office at 255-5551.

Eligible photos must be taken at Metrozoo, featuring animals on public display between January, 1991 and the registration deadline.

Registration for the Photo Contest will be from April 25 through May 8, and the winners will be announced at a reception on May 16.

Every photograph must be taken from the public viewing areas at Metrozoo, without the assistance of zoo or Zoological Society personnel. All photos must be **FIRST TIME ENTRIES**. For registration forms and a complete list of photo contest rules, contact the Society at 255-5551. Good luck!!!

**Florida Panther license plate... Drive to help them survive**

Conservation is a complex topic for discussion because it is such an all encompassing issue and tends to be overwhelming. It is difficult for an individual to know what *one person* can do to save the environment or a species. In the case of the Florida panther, the solution is easy, just consider purchasing Florida's special license tag depicting the panther.

The proceeds go towards Florida's ongoing effort to save this graceful and mysterious feline. The FLORIDA PANTHER RECOVERY PROGRAM is a broad spectrum project, encompassing a number of activities all geared towards saving the beautiful panther.

The project includes habitat preservation and improvement; genetic, demographic and behavioral research; construction of underpasses for the cats where major highways transect their habitat; captive breeding to promote long-term survival of the species; and providing animals for release programs.

Metrozoo is actively involved in the panther program by providing medical care and rehabilitation for cats injured by accidents, and as a proposed center for captive breeding.

To purchase a Florida panther license plate, you need a valid driver's license, registration, proof of insurance, and a current tag (if applicable). The cost is \$37.00 plus the regular registration fee the first year, and \$27.00 plus registration fee every year thereafter.

This one individual effort will go a long way to support the State of Florida and Metrozoo in their efforts to save our precious and endangered state animal, the Florida panther.

**President's Message**

The reality of the economic climate in Miami is that "times are tough." Experts predict that the economy will be lackluster until 1994. Can those of us who live in Miami afford to wait that long, can we just watch it happen, or can we do something to turn our economy around?

As past chairman of the board of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, I would like to share some positive suggestions made by Chamber president Bill Cullum. He presented these challenges in his C.E.O. Report to the general membership a few weeks ago and if we all take his statements to heart, maybe there is something we can do.

"Can you imagine what would happen in Miami if we all worked as a team? No one could top us. However, as we let our ethnic diversity work against us instead of recognizing it as an asset, other cities are picking our bones. Atlanta, San Francisco and other cities are attracting our conventions. Orlando is trying to lure our international flights to Latin America. Fort Lauderdale and other Broward communities are becoming home to 90% of all new executives transferring to Miami with major companies. The reality is that until we decide that we are going to work together as a team, we will continue to be easy prey for other cities.

"We have approximately 53,300 hotel and motel rooms in Greater Miami that are currently at a 70% occupation rate. With teamwork and cooperation, could we increase this rate to 90%? If we were successful, we could create approximately 7,000 new jobs in the hospitality industry alone. How could we increase this rate from 70 to 90% in reasonably short order? Convince the 3.5 million cruise passengers who embark and disembark at the Port of Miami to stay in Miami one day. That one day would translate into 1,946,000 additional room nights, increasing the hotel/motel utilization by 10%.

"End the boycott. It is hurting us.

"We must find a way to get businesses and individuals to **Buy Miami First**. Let's go about filling our available office space. We've got to tell our community's story to more people and more companies and their decision makers. We must find a way to show new executives who are being transferred to Miami that Dade County is a fine place to live. If we keep competing, going our separate ways and not working together, other cities will be the victors."

Thank you Mr. Cullum, for these positive suggestions. Operating any kind of business in today's economy is difficult, especially an attraction like Metrozoo that depends on Society support and visitor dollars. Economic trends are reducing the amount of money people have to spend on recreation and leisure activities. Our beautiful Metrozoo will grow and prosper only if our city grows and prospers. Let's all work together to make our home the very best it can be; let's all be part of **MIAMI NICE!**

*Sherrill Hudson*



# Feast with the Beasts to mark fifth year of tradition

**F**east With the Beasts, sponsored by the American Express® Card, returns in all its elegance on Friday, March 13, 1992. Praised by the Miami Herald as the "best organized event of the season" and "just plain fun," this extravaganza of food and entertainment has become the Zoological Society of Florida's largest fund raising event of the year.

For one glorious night, Metrozoo is transformed into an enchanted land, decorated to mirror the theme of the year's event. Guests at this year's Feast With the Beasts will enter the "Night of the Jaguar." Each will dine on the finest of gourmet fare from forty of South Florida's top ranked restaurants and will be entertained throughout the evening.

The 1992 event is directed by Beverly Assmar, Feast With the Beasts Chairman, who is hard at work leading the committees who will ensure that this is the most elegant and successful Feast to date. With contributions from the restaurants and beverage providers, as well as donations of goods and services from more than 180 companies and volunteers, this event has become a community affair and a source of pride for all of South Florida.



To date the restaurants and beverage providers shown at right have agreed to participate this year.

**RESTAURANTS**  
 Allegro Pizzeria  
 Anacapri-Italian Restaurant  
 Atlantic's Edge at Cheeca Lodge  
 Bernie's Coffee & Tea Company  
 Beverly Hills Cafe  
 Bijan's Restaurant on the River  
 Cafe Chauveron  
 Capitano's American Italian Restaurant  
 Captain's Tavern Restaurant  
 Casa Juancho Restaurant  
 Casa Rolandi Ristorante  
 Centro Vasco  
 Christy's Restaurant  
 Cisco's Cafe  
 Copenhagen Danish & Scottish Bakery  
 Crawdaddy's  
 Creative Tastes Catering  
 Depot Restaurant  
 El Cenador de la Villa  
 El Novillo Restaurant  
 El Picoteo Tasca  
 Firehouse Four  
 Fortunato's  
 Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream  
 Hooligan's Liquor Locker  
 Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar  
 Hotel Sofitel  
 I Paparazzi Ristorante  
 La Paloma Restaurant  
 Los Ranchos Restaurant  
 Malaga Restaurant  
 Monty's Stone Crab  
 Island Oasis  
 Parrot Jungle and Gardens  
 Pi's Place Restaurant  
 Reflections On The Bay  
 Restaurant St. Michel  
 Ristorante Il Tulipano  
 Ristorante La Bussola  
 Ristorante Rigoletto  
 Roasters 'N Toasters  
 Señor Frog's Mexican Grill  
 Sundays on the Bay—Key Biscayne  
 The Bistro  
 The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant  
 The Palm Restaurant  
 Valenti's  
 Victor's Cafe

**BEVERAGE PROVIDERS**  
 Beverage Canners International Corporation  
 Hiram Walker and Sons, Inc.  
 Silver Eagle Distributors, Inc.  
 Southern Wine and Spirits  
 The House of Seagram

## Time is running out... REGISTER FOR JUNGLE JOG NOW!

There is still time to register for the **10TH ANNUAL JUNGLE JOG** coming up on Sunday, January 12 at 8:00 am. Sponsored by **Baptist Hospital and Bud Light**, Jungle Jog is open to all ages. The advance entry fee is \$12-\$15 on race day, and the first 1,500 runners receive a special commemorative Jungle Jog t-shirt.

The race includes the five-mile state sanctioned championship run open to men and women in fifteen different age categories, teams and wheelchair; a five-mile judged race walk and a two-mile fitness walk open to all ages. Runners and walkers get refreshments at the finish line and free entrance to the zoo for the day.

In addition, all Jungle Jog entrants will be eligible for two (2) round-trip airline tickets to Germany, courtesy of Lufthansa German Airlines. The winner must be present to claim the prize.

The Zoological Society thanks the following additional sponsors for their support of the 10TH ANNUAL JUNGLE JOG: **Bagel Emporium, Lufthansa German Airlines, PPI Del Monte Tropical Fruit Company, TCBY Yogurt, and 10K Thirst Quencher. We couldn't do it without them!**

Please call the special events department, 255-5551 for your entry blank and join us for some fun **NOW!!!**



## Officers Installed at Board Dinner December 5, 1991



Past President Robert Paul congratulates incoming President Sherrill W. Hudson.



President Sherrill Hudson with keynote speaker Joaquin Avino, P.E., P.L.S. and his wife, Mercy.



Zoo director Bob Yokel and General Curator Bill Zeigler present awards to Trustees Lee Bynum and Betty Miller for their dedicated work on the chain link fence project.

You could win  
a trip for two to  
the Galapagos  
Islands! Don't  
monkey around!  
start today...

Just enroll five new members, fill in their membership information on the back of this form and mail it to the zoo by March 31. Then, if your entry is chosen in the random drawing, you'll win a four day, three night, all expense paid trip for two to the exotic Galapagos Islands! Be sure to fill in *your* membership information below so we know who to credit... and remember, memberships make great gifts!

(Also see *A Big Bargain in Your Budget* in this issue for more details.)

**Individual Membership** **\$30**  
Annual Membership for one adult

**Dual Membership** **\$40**  
Annual membership for two persons living at same address.

**Family Membership** **\$50**  
Annual membership for two adults and all children 18 years and younger living at same address.

**Senior Membership** Individual **\$25** Dual **\$35**  
Annual memberships at reduced prices for adults age 62 and over. Must submit copy of proof of age.

**Supporting Membership** **\$75**  
Annual membership can be Individual, Dual or Family  
**Bonus:** • One year subscription to *Zoo Life Magazine*

**Contributing Membership** **\$125**  
Annual membership can be Individual, Dual or Family.  
**Bonus:** • Two free one-day guests  
• One-year subscription to *Zoo Life Magazine*  
• Commemorative gift  
• Invitations to special VIP events.

**Sustaining Membership** **\$250**  
Annual membership can be Individual, Dual or Family.  
**Bonus:** • Four free one-day guest passes  
• One-year subscription to *Zoo Life Magazine*  
• Commemorative gift  
• One special tram tour of the zoo including "Behind the Scenes" (maximum of five people on tour).

**Zoo Life Magazine Subscription** **\$15**  
One (1) year subscription to this beautiful quarterly zoological publication. \$11.95 per year (**Bonus with Supporting, Contributing or Sustaining memberships.** Optional with Individual, Dual or Family.)

Memberships are non-transferable • Discounted guest passes are available.



**MY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Date expires \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBERS' INFORMATION** (Please make checks payable to: Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 S.W. 152 St., Miami, FL 33137)

- Individual — \$30       Senior Individual — \$25       Supporting — \$75       Dual — \$40       Senior Dual — \$35  
 Contributing — \$125       Family — \$50       Family plus \$15 per additional adult       Sustaining — \$250  
 Optional subscription to *Zoo Life Magazine* \$11.95       Cash       Check       Mastercard       Visa       American Express

Charge Card #                         Expires    Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
*signature required on credit card purchases*

**New Members**

**Children** (18 years and younger)

Adult #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Adult #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

 Tear  
out this  
page and  
enter our  
Galapagos  
Islands  
contest  
Today!

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
could frame thy fearful symmetry?

William Blake

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
METROZOO'S BEAUTIFUL  
NATASHA,  
1979-1991.

WE WERE HONORED BY  
HER WONDROUS AND  
MAJESTIC PRESENCE.

Photo courtesy of the Miami Herald,  
Tim Chapman



## Zoological Society of Florida Membership...

# A big bargain in your budget!

If your Zoological Society membership card stays in your wallet only to be used on "let's visit the zoo" days, you're missing a lot of fun and not taking full advantage of your investment in Metrozoo.

As a zoo aficionado, do you travel a lot? Not only does your membership include unlimited free admission to Metrozoo, but free admission to over 125 other reciprocating zoos around the country—what a great money saver! This benefit provides an opportunity for you to compare Metrozoo to other zoological parks. Many of our docents travel extensively and they inevitably comment that our zoo is the most beautiful animal sanctuary in the country. If you need a list of the zoos that offer free admission to our members, please call the office and we will be glad to send one to you.

However, you don't have to travel to enjoy membership benefits. Your card entitles you to 20% off admission to several local attractions including the Center for the Fine Arts, the Discovery Center, Gold Coast Railroad Museum, Historical Museum, Miami Seaquarium, Miami Youth Museum, Museum of Science & Space Transit Planetarium, Vizcaya, Weeks Air Museum, and Parrot Jungle and Gardens.

Additionally, you receive our bi-monthly newsletter *Toucan Talk*, a discount in the gift shops at Metrozoo, a discount on education programs, a discount on Metrozoo's concerts, a discount on our travel program, and invitations to "members only" events.

Now, through the courtesy of **SAETA Airlines**, we offer another benefit. WE INVITE OUR MEMBERS TO TAKE PART IN AN EXCITING CONTEST!!! All you have to do is enroll five (5) **new members** in the Society (a form is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience). Send the completed form to the Society office—all entries must be received by **March 31, 1992**. In April, a drawing will be held to determine the winner of an all expense paid trip for two—four days, three nights to the Galapagos Islands. The excursion will include a three day cruise of the islands aboard the M/Y ERICK. This could be your chance to see some of the most spectacular scenery and unique wildlife on earth. Introduce some of your friends to a wonderful organization supporting a world class zoo, and who knows, you could be cruising the Galapagos Islands next summer!

You are a valued member of the Society and we want you to enjoy your visits to the zoo and the additional benefits membership includes. Thank you for being part of our zoo family.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Children's Concert Series Returns to Metrozoo...

Metrozoo is once again planning a full season of fun for kids of all ages. Each program offers live, main stage entertainment targeted to youngsters and their parents. Beginning with the following shows and adding more as the schedule permits, Metrozoo is the place to be this year for family fun. Be sure to mark your calendar now and watch your local paper for details.

**Sunday, January 19  
and Monday, January 20:**

**CAPTAIN PLANET** Move over Superman, Batman and Spiderman, there's a new superhero on the block. He's Captain Planet, the ever-changing eco-hero from within our earth. With help from Metrozoo's audience, Captain Planet once again confronts the selfish Hoggish Greedly, and continues his never ending battle against eco-villains out to destroy the world.

**Sunday, February 9:**

**MARIA AND LUIS OF SESAME STREET** Back again, in an updated version of their show, Maria & Luis bring that special something that only Sesame Street brings to children's programming. Maria and Luis are always professional and always delightful.

**Saturday, February 29**

**and Sunday, March 1:**

**GARFIELD'S MAGIC SHOW**

It's a musical, magical adventure as the "Great Garfini" and his professional magician sidekick take to the stage to amuse and mystify fans of all ages.

**Valentine's Day,**

**Friday, February 14:**

**SEX AND THE ANIMALS** Join us for a special presentation of this critically acclaimed program by Ron Magill, Assistant Curator. For adults only, the show begins at 7:30 pm, and tickets are \$8.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Call 251-0403 or stop at the zoo's ticket booth to reserve your space for this romantic interlude.

## GUARDian Angels Oversee Installation of Zoo's Security Perimeter Fence

When Zoological Society Trustees Lee Bynum and Betty Miller first heard of the wild dog attack that decimated the springbok herd at Metrozoo, they were completely dismayed. This feeling soon turned to outrage when they learned that the dogs gained entry into the zoo by simply digging under the perimeter fence.

Devotees of wildlife and women of action, they decided to take the bull by the horns and remedy the situation. After contacting those in authority and discovering that the County had no funds to strengthen the fence, they donated \$50,000 to this project, \$25,000 from their own funds and \$25,000 from their Florida Endangered Species Endowment Fund. This fund was established primarily to insure a continued source of operating revenue. Only the interest may be used, the capital remains intact, and may be used only at the discretion of the donor.

A trench was dug around the perimeter of the zoo and a new chain link fence was installed over a foot below the surface, on top of the coral rock. Additional fencing was installed at an angle, forming an

effective trap for any burrowing animal.

Lee and Betty want to take this opportunity to remind our members to be *responsible* pet owners. Individual dogs are wonderful pets, many of them are a boon to mankind. They help blind people see, they are invaluable to behavioral scientists, some are guard dogs, others are trained to help the police, most of all —they provide steadfast love and companionship. When someone decides a dog is no longer useful to them and dumps the animal by the side of the road, their ancient feral (wild) instincts surface and survival is the key. Wild dogs form packs and behave exactly as their relatives the coyotes, wolves, foxes, African wild dogs, and Australian dingoes. A pack of wild dogs is an awesome and fearful sight and in many instances, they kill for sheer pleasure. Please do not take any animal into your home unless you are willing to accept full responsibility for its welfare, as long as it lives.

In closing, we want to invite our members to help Lee and Betty fund this project. If every Society member sent in \$1.00, the fence would be paid for and the initial money could be returned to the



Lee Bynum, Bob Yokel, and Betty Miller hard at work on the chain link fence project.

Endowment Fund where they always intended it to be. Every donation to the "buy a link" program, no matter how small, will be so very much appreciated and will help insure the safety of Metrozoo's priceless animal collection.

*Won't you please help?*

### Florida's Endangered Wetlands from page 1

re-evaluating the standards for deciding what qualifies as "important wetlands." Many conservationists and some government scientists fear the new definition of wetlands will no longer extend protection to many areas that are vital for flood protection and wildlife habitat.

Meanwhile, in congress, the Clean Water Act, which is the basis for wetland protection, comes up for re-enactment this year. Four bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives which could amend the Clean Water Act. Only one of those, H.R. 251, would strengthen the Clean Water Act. Two of the others would make it easier to obtain permits to destroy wetlands.

In Florida, where 30% of the state is wetlands, and flooding, beach erosion, and hurricane damage are very real

problems, changes that weaken wetland protection are serious. Despite federal protection, Florida has lost more than 3,000 acres of wetlands since 1979. Florida's Department of Environmental Resources is working to stop the destruction of wetlands and needs the support of the federal controls.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas described the true character of the Everglades as a wetland, not a swamp, and gave them the enduring name, *The Everglades: River of Grass* in her 1947 book. She wrote then, "There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth, remote, never wholly known. Nothing anywhere else is like them; their vast glittering openness, wider than the

enormous visible round of the horizon, the racing free saltness and sweetness of their massive winds, under the dazzling blue heights of space... The miracle of the light pours over the green and brown expanse of sawgrass and of water, shining and slow-moving below, the grass and water that is the meaning and central fact of the Everglades of Florida. It is a river of grass."

Mrs. Douglas, whose name is synonymous with Florida's Everglades, maintains that the "glades" must have their free flow of water restored, because water is the Everglades. She tells us the "whole" thing must be preserved. We must restore the Kissimmee River, clean up Lake Okeechobee and maintain the sheet flow of the Everglades. The return of a vast sheet of water, moving southwestward from the Kissimmee River and

Lake Okeechobee, down and across one hundred miles of the state of Florida will bring back the birds, animals, and the rainfall which have been gradually disappearing.

If we value the quality of life in South Florida, we must fight to protect our most precious national treasure, the Florida Everglades. Let your voice be heard — write to your local legislators and let them know you support the Clean Water Act and the H.R. 251 bill.

Their addresses are:

Senator Bob Graham  
241 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Connie Mack  
512 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Dante Fascell  
2354 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515



January/February, 1992

**R**eady or not, another year has begun. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to visit the zoo more often (and we hope it was), we have a variety of programs and some ideas to make each visit more interesting...

**PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**

*(Please observe age limits)*

**Mini Camp**

Our popular one-day camp series continues on days when Dade County schools are not in session. Camps are open to students in grades 1 through 4 and each day's activities focus on an animal or conservation theme. Each camper must bring a sack lunch, a snack is provided. Space is limited.

Dates: Rain Forest:  
Monday, January 20  
Florida Species:  
Friday, January 31  
We All Need  
Clean Water:  
Monday, February 17  
Hours: 8:30am - 3:30pm  
Fee: Members \$25.00/day;  
Non-members \$30.00 per day

**A.I.R. Scouting Program**  
*(Grades 1-12)*

This program is designed to help scout groups and their leaders learn about the functions of modern zoos, conservation of wildlife, and the animals at Metrozoo. Participants receive the A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest, Respect) patch. Scout leaders, contact the education department to reserve space.

Dates: Selected Saturday mornings  
September-June  
Hours: 9:00-11:30am  
Fee: \$12.00 per person  
*(1 chaperone per 8 scouts is free)*

**PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES**

**Weekend Adventure: Where Do Zoo Animals Come From?**  
*(Age 10 to adult)*

Have you ever wondered where zoos get the animals they exhibit? This Saturday morning program introduces captive breeding, Species Survival Plans, and the International Species Inventory System, all part of the answer to the question "Where do zoo animals come from?"

Date: Saturday, Jan. 25  
Hours: 10:00am - noon  
Fee: Members \$5.00  
Non-members \$7.00  
*(Does not include zoo admission.)*

**Weekend Adventure: Bird Workshop**  
*(Age 10 to adult)*

So, you think you want a pet bird? How much do you know about parrots, parakeets, cockatoos, finches, and many others? What do they eat? How much space and care do they need? Where should you buy a

pet bird? Learn the answers to these and many other questions, and meet some of our birds in this program.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 8  
Hours: 10:00am - noon  
Fee: Members \$5.00  
Non-members \$7.00  
*(Does not include zoo admission.)*

**Breakfast With the Beasts: Animal Training**

Join us for a light breakfast and a demonstration of the training techniques used by the staff of our wildlife shows.

Date: Sunday, Feb. 9  
Hours: 9:00am - 11:00am  
Fee: Members \$12.00  
Non-members \$15.00  
Children 7 and under, half-price

**FOR ADULTS ONLY**

*(No children, please!)*

**Wildlife Conservation Seminar (WCS)**

*This series of monthly lectures, followed by refreshments and discussion, is designed to provide information about wildlife and the environment in an informal setting.*

**JANUARY:**

**Keeper Talk**

Back by popular demand! Our September Keeper Talk was a sell out, so make plans early to join us for an informative and entertaining evening.

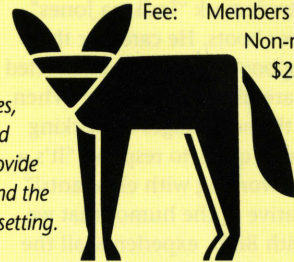
Date: Saturday, Jan. 18  
Hours: 6:30-8:30pm  
Fee: Members \$10.00  
Non-members \$15.00

**FEBRUARY:**

**Zoo After Dark**

Our February program is for the adventurous only. Put on your walking shoes and join an experienced keeper for a stroll around the grounds *after dark!* Space is limited. Note different hours.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 22  
Hours: 7:30 - 10:30pm  
Fee: Members \$20.00  
Non-members \$25.00



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

**Register Here**

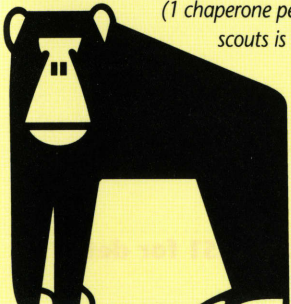
*Please send registration form and a check or money order with a self-addressed envelope to:*

**Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida  
12400 S.W. 152 Street, Miami, Florida 33177-1499 • (305) 255-5551**

Participant's name.....  
Street address.....  
City..... State..... Zip.....  
Home phone..... Business phone.....  
program(s)..... Date..... Fee \$.....  
..... Date..... Fee \$.....  
..... Date..... Fee \$.....  
 Member membership #.....  Non-Member.....  
 Mastercard  Visa  American Express.....  
Expiration Date (important!).....  
Card #..... Signature.....  
*For children's programs, please complete the following:*  
Parent's name.....  
Student's age..... Grade in school (as of Sept. 1991).....

**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.



# MEET THE ZOO CREW

Ron Magill, Assistant Curator

**B**rett Bannor has been a member of Metrozoo's bird department since December, 1983. He came to us from a small zoo in Monroe, Louisiana where he also worked in the bird department for two years. Brett has a B.S. in zoology from Southern Illinois University and is presently working on his master's degree in landscape architecture at Florida International University. Brett originally wanted to work with mammals but there were no openings in this field. He did secure a position in the aviary at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago and since that time, he has dedicated over a decade to the husbandry and care of birds.

Brett can be found in the vicinity of the front lake across from the tiger temple, wearing his trademark "Indiana Jones" hat and rubber boots. He cares for the flamingoes, spoonbills, and other assorted birds which are his responsibility. When asked about the advantages of working with birds, he is quick to respond "It's a lot safer than working with elephants!" This is indicative of the humor that we, who work with Brett, experience all the time. He goes on to say that one of the prime advantages of working with birds is that he is actually able to get in with

the animals under his care and have much more of a "hands on" type of approach than may be experienced in another area. He enjoys feeding time the most. It brings the majority of the birds out for a closer look and enables him to get an accurate count, at the same time affording the opportunity to observe many interesting behaviors.

Brett considers one of his most rewarding experiences to be the captive breeding, hatching, and raising of a Caribbean flamingo at Metrozoo. "It's very rewarding to know that you can maintain an animal like the flamingo in an environment comfortable enough to convince it to reproduce and raise young in captivity," he said.

In addition to the zoo's collection of birds, Brett also deals with a variety of native birds which fly in to take advantage of the free, first class accommodations provided in his area. "Many of them are welcome additions and are quite fascinating to watch, such as the least terns diving after fish and the coots



raising their young," says Brett, "but the seagulls can be a bit overwhelming because they are fierce competitors with other birds over food."

In the future, Brett is looking forward to being a part of the successful hatching and raising of scarlet ibis which are the brilliant red birds on the center island of the lake. "They nested this year and laid eggs which unfortunately didn't hatch. But nesting and egg laying are accomplishments in themselves and are good indicators of success further down the road," he stated. Warm climate and an abundance of vegetation and hiding places are the main factors Brett feels contribute to the success he has experienced in his area. Hopefully, he will continue to experience that success for many years to come. Keep up the good work Brett!

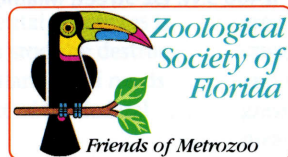
## A WISH LIST

*Now that the holidays are over, it's time to make space in homes and offices for gifts and post-holiday bargains. As you sort and rearrange, please keep us in mind.*

*There are a number of items the education department could make good use of, including:*

- Computer equipment (hardware/software) for desktop publishing
- 
- Laminating machine
- 
- Typewriter with primary-size type
- 
- Glass aquariums
- 
- Gram scale
- 
- Paper Cutter

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**Zoological Society of Florida**  
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