

Toucan Talk

Endangered Species

*"Extinct is forever;
endangered means there
is still time."*

Imagine a pyramid! The structure is built of individual blocks and each block represents a species of plant or animal. Ragweed, fan coral, red wolf, dung beetle, tomato, polar bear, honey bee, live oak, house fly, long-horn cattle, and on and on — millions of species blocks, many as yet uncounted, make up the pyramid of life on earth. They are arranged in a complex pattern with blocks touching other blocks they depend on. The koala block sits atop the eucalyptus block, the orange tree block atop the blocks representing insects that pollinate its blossoms. From millions of blocks at the base, which symbolize everything from algae to mushrooms, ascending in layers until you get to the lone block on top, every species is dependent on others within the structure.

The top block may seem to stand alone, but in fact it is totally dependent on the blocks below. Without the rest of the pyramid, the species on top would fall. What species occupies the top block? The only species that has the power to destroy all of the others — human beings.



TOP: Orangutan (*Pongo Pygmaeus*)
ABOVE: Tiger (*Panthers tigris*) Photos by Austin Weeks

The pyramid, with its interdependent blocks, represents an ecosystem, the ecosystem called earth. Until recent years, few people understood the ways in which apparently unrelated species are connected. Most had no idea that eliminating one species could lead to the extinction of many other dependent species. As a result, hundreds of blocks have been lost forever from the various levels of the pyramid.

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Only in the last two or three decades have scientists begun to closely examine the relationships between plants, animals, and the environment. Now, for example, ecologists know that each plant species may have from 10 to 20 other species that depend on it totally. This means the elimination of one species of plant may lead to several other extinctions.

The growth of our knowledge and understanding of ecology led to the passage of a number of state and federal laws. The most important of these is the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The purpose of this federal law was to provide for the protection of threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems they depend upon. For endangered species, the law also mandates development of a recovery plan.

Responsibility for the application of the ESA belongs to the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS biologists and ecologists consider a variety of factors before adding a species to the endangered list: size of population, range, birth and death rates, stability of habitat, and the social-economic impact of endangered status. The process is lengthy and involves public hearings as well as field studies. Currently, FWS is able to process less than 65 species per year, and there is a backlog of over 3,000 species waiting for attention. One such species is the Florida black bear. Despite the fact that the species is facing extinction, the bear must wait until the agency has the time to study it and develop a protection plan.

As discouraging as this may seem, there is good news. A number of species have been saved from extinction and are making a comeback. The American alligator, the American bison, the whooping crane, and many other species have been saved through a combination of protection and captive breeding. The two most recent success stories are those of the black-footed ferret and the California condor.

In the early 1980s, wildlife officials were thrilled to find a small colony of the black-footed ferrets in Wyoming, and they set about protecting the species, once thought to be extinct. In 1985, a small epidemic of canine distemper threatened the colony and officials were forced to bring the animals "in" and set up a captive breeding program. There are now more than 300 of these engaging little animals and in the fall of 1991, about 50 were released into the wild. Breeding continues, and further releases are being planned in 1992.

The program to save the California condor was almost too late. In 1986, officials decided to capture the last five condors left in the wild and establish a breeding program. Condors normally breed slowly, so their numbers have not grown as rapidly as the ferrets', but there are now more than 50 in the program. The first two were released into the wild in January, near Fillmore, California.

Captive breeding/propagation programs are one option for seriously endangered species, but protecting plants and animals in their natural habitats is far more effective. This year the Endangered Species Act comes up for reauthorization and there are many who would like to see it amended to reduce protection for subspecies (such as the Florida panther) and habitats. Such amendments would be a disaster for many species of plants and animals on the edge of extinction. If generations to come are to have the opportunity to experience the "Nation's heritage in fish, wildlife and plants," the ESA must not only be reauthorized, but reinforced. Stiffer penalties for violations and more funding for research and protection are needed to save the blocks that are disappearing from the pyramid of life.

The captive breeding program

The members of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) are working to preserve endangered species from around the world through a cooperative captive breeding program. Member organizations with endangered species work together under a Species Survival Plan (SSP) to manage the entire captive population as one breeding group.

The coordinator for each species is responsible for maintaining the genetic diversity of the population through careful management of breeding. The SSP frequently matches animals from different facilities for breeding, and animals are transferred on breeding loans. When a popular exhibit animal is involved in such a loan, the public may be disappointed, but the overall good of the entire species must be the coordinator's first priority.

The AAZPA currently has SSPs for more than 50 species of reptiles, birds, and mammals. Metrozoo participates in the following programs:

Addax
Arabian Oryx
Asian Small-clawed Otter
Black Rhinoceros
Chimpanzee
Clouded Leopard
Condor (Andean)
Elephant (African and Asian)
Gaur
Gibbon
Gorilla

Grevy's Zebra
Indian Rhinoceros
Orangutan
Palm Cockatoo
Radiated Tortoise
Ruffed Lemur
Scimitar-horned Oryx
Tiger
Tree Kangaroo
Wattled Crane

Grevy's Zebra (*Equus grevyi*)



10th Annual Jungle Jog a runaway success

Perfect racing weather greeted the 1,400 plus participants in the 10th running of the Jungle Jog at Metrozoo. The dry and cool air allowed for fast times on the five mile, TAC-sanctioned course, which covers parts of Metrozoo and adjoining neighborhoods.

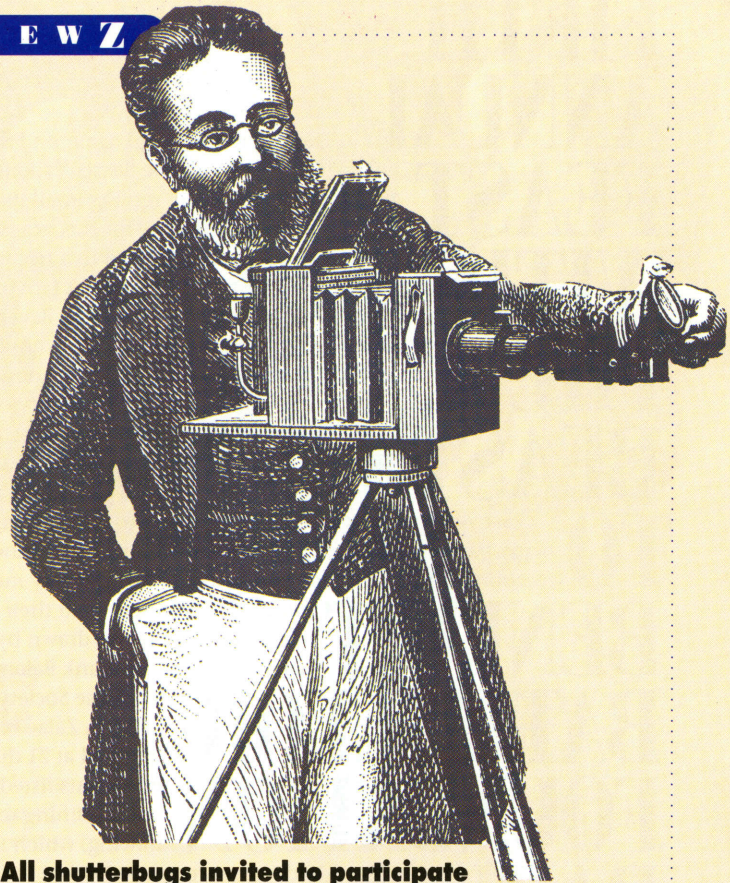
Victor Miranda, a native of Panama and the winner of the Miami Marathon one week earlier, won the men's open division in 24 minutes, 53 seconds. Jan Yerkes won her third Jungle Jog women's open title in 28 minutes, 8 seconds. Hard on their heels were the rest of the field, who later rested on the Metrozoo concert field enjoying food and beverages provided by the many sponsors and donors who make the event possible.

Award ceremonies were hosted by board member William J. Gallwey, III. Cash prizes and framed art were awarded to the top finishers in the Open, Masters, Wheelchair, and Race Walker's Open, Masters and Grandmasters divisions.

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 PPI Del Monte Tropical Fruit, Zephyrhills Water, 10-K Thirst Quencher, the Bagel Emporium, Cravero Fruit, and TCBY Yogurt for their donations.



TOP: "Daddy Gator" and his two bunnies delighted the crowd and won the best costume award at Jungle Jog.
 CENTER: Bill Gallwey, master of ceremonies, presents Men's Open Winner Victor Miranda with his award.
 BOTTOM: Bill Gallwey congratulates Women's Open Winner Jan Yerkes on her third Jungle Jog win.



All shutterbugs invited to participate in our sixth annual photo contest

Every event the Society sponsors is fun, but nothing compares to the creativity that emerges when our annual Photo Contest takes place. The constant is there — Metrozoo's animals are on their paddocks just waiting for you to capture their individual beauty, style, and grace, for posterity. Whether you choose black and white or color film, or both, that perfect photo is waiting for you!

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. Photos will be judged in two categories this year, amateur and professional, giving everyone an equal opportunity to win.

All photographs 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. Please contact the Society office at 255-5551 for registration forms and a complete list of contest rules.

Get clicking now, and good luck!!!



FIFTH ANNUAL FEAST WITH THE BEASTS TO BENEFIT BATCHELOR FOUNDATION RAIN FOREST

The magic will begin again on Friday, March 13, 1992 when Feast With the Beasts™, sponsored by the American Express Card, returns in all its splendor. "Night of the Jaguar" is the theme for this year's extravaganza, and our guests will be transported to a tropical rain forest while dining on the finest of gourmet fare provided by 55 of South Florida's top ranked restaurants. Beverly Assmar, 1992 Feast chairman, is directing the volunteers, whose contributions are invaluable to the success of this magnificent event. Restaurants, beverage providers, donations of goods and services from nearly 200 companies, all come together in a symphony of talent to bring you this glorious community affair, which culminates in an evening of absolute splendor.

Last year's Feast initiated the "Passport to Fine Dining" program, and many participants successfully qualified for a prize drawing held at a reception for the entrants last October at the Society membership building. All present held their breath as the winning passport was drawn by Catherine Baiamonte, wife of Frank Baiamonte, President Elect of the Society. The winner was Dr. Martin Zaiac of Miami Beach who dined at 21 different restaurants listed in the Passport to Fine Dining to qualify for the drawing, which required visiting a minimum of 20 different restaurants from the passport. Dr. Zaiac received two round trip tickets to Rio de Janeiro, provided by Varig Brazilian Airlines, and accommodations at the Sheraton Rio Hotel and Towers, provided by The Sheraton Corporation. The Passport to Fine Dining tradition will continue at the 1992 Feast With the

Beasts. Every guest will receive a Passport booklet and may immediately begin a culinary adventure for 1992. Details of the contest will be provided in each Passport to Fine Dining booklet.

If you haven't purchased your ticket yet, a few are still available

and are priced at \$150 for general admission and \$500 for the Beastkeeper Patron category.

The restaurants and beverage providers listed at right will be at Metrozoo to provide for your dining pleasure.



RESTAURANTS

- A Fish Called Avalon*
- Allegro Pizzeria*
- Anacapri Italian Restaurant*
- Barnie's Coffee and Tea Company*
- Beverly Hills Cafe*
- Big City Fish*
- Bijan's Restaurant on the Miami River*
- Cafe Chauveron*
- Capitano's American Italian Restaurant*
- Captain's Tavern Restaurant*
- Casa Juancho Restaurant*
- Casa Rolandi Ristorante*
- Centro Vasco*
- Chef Allen's*
- Chez Philippe*
- Christy's Restaurant*
- Cisco's Cafe*
- Copenhagen Bakery*
- Crawdaddy's Waterfront Restaurant*
- Creative Tastes Catering*
- Depot Restaurant*
- East Coast Fisheries*
- El Cenador de la Villa*
- El Novillo Restaurant*
- El Picoteo Tasca*
- Firehouse Four*
- Fortunato's*
- French Connection*
- Gavina Coffee Company*
- Giacosa Ristorante*
- Hooligan's Liquor Locker*
- Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar*
- Hotel Sofitel*
- I Paparazzi Ristorante*
- Island Oasis Gourmet Frozen Cocktails*
- La Paloma Restaurant*
- Los Ranchos Restaurants*
- Malaga Restaurant*
- Parrot Jungle and Gardens*
- Pi's Place Restaurant*
- Reflections On The Bay*
- Restaurant St. Michel/Hotel Place St. Michel*
- Ristorante Il Tulipano*
- Ristorante La Bussola*
- Ristorante Rigoletto*
- R.J.'s Catering featuring Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream*
- Roasters 'N Toasters*
- Señor Frog's Mexican Grill*
- Sundays on the bay - Key Biscayne*
- The Bistro*
- The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant*
- Tu Tu Tango*
- 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*



Texaco, Latin America/West Africa volunteers: Give and help live

Texaco, Latin America/West Africa, in partnership with Global Releaf, donated \$60,000 worth of mature live oak, black olive, and mahogany shade trees to the Society's Amenities Program. Pictured here is Texaco's team of volunteers who took an active part in the planting and assumed responsibility for tending the trees.



Torresella joins growing list of companies committed to the preservation of wildlife

Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida congratulate Torresella Wines as they join the growing list of companies making a commitment to preserving endangered birds and wildlife. Torresella has designed a program intended to promote wildlife conservation by making the consumer more aware, better informed, and action motivated to visit zoos where they can see some of these animals first hand.

A division of Heublein Wines, Torresella has illustrated exquisite labels for their bottles to promote awareness of five endangered birds. Additionally, neck hangers will be placed on the bottles with information about each of these birds. To further seal their commitment, the neck hanger will contain a \$2 discount offer into Metrozoo, good through April 30, 1992.

Torresella, Metrozoo, and the Society are hoping that when you purchase one of these fine wines, you will share the wine with friends, read about the birds together, then pass the coupon on so others will visit our fine facility and appreciate the naturalistic settings that have been created to insure the quality preservation of wildlife.



Toucan Trader's Choice

The staff of the Toucan Trader gift shop is dedicated to helping protect all animals living on this earth. The best way we can help is by educating the public.

We do our part by selling books and merchandise with important conservation messages. We have a large selection of World Wildlife Fund items, including t-shirts and plush animals.

A percentage of these sales helps protect the world's endangered animals and their habitats. As a valued member of the Zoological Society, you are entitled to a 10% discount on purchases of \$10.00 or more. Thank you for joining in this important struggle for survival.



Renovations taking place at Paws... Please pardon our dust!

Our little guys and yours need a distinctive, special place to learn about the environment and the species that share it. We are in the process of refurbishing the children's zoo and apologize for any inconvenience to you and your children.



SCIENCE LITERACY

Beginning with this issue of Toucan Talk, we are introducing a new feature called "Science Literacy." The purpose of this column is to present facts and information about the animals, and tips to make your zoo visits more interesting.



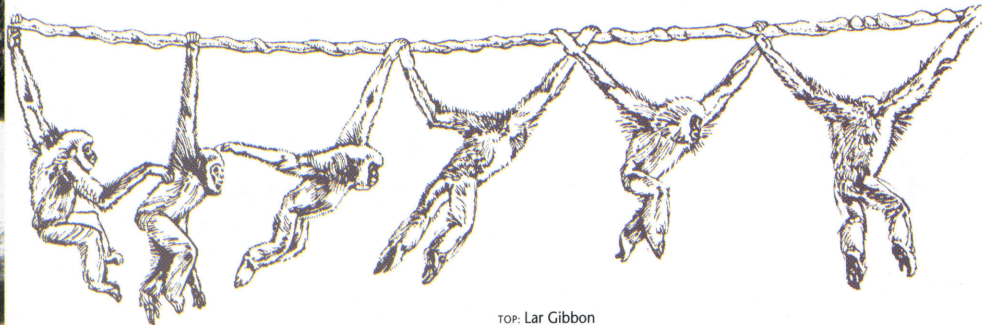
Monkeys or apes? Many zoo visitors refer to the gibbons and siamangs as monkeys, but they are not monkeys, they are apes. Monkeys, apes, and humans are all members of the order called primates (primates), but only monkeys have tails. The next time you visit the zoo, spend a few minutes watching the gibbons and siamangs. Both species are arboreal (arBOR ee l) which means they live in the trees. Notice their very long arms and hands. These physical *adaptations* allow the gibbons and siamangs to *brachiate* (BRA ki ate), or swing through the trees.

Both species of apes live in the tropical forests of Asia where the foliage is thick and vision is limited, so they use sound to mark their territories and warn others away. If you look closely at the siamangs,

you will see a pouch of skin under their chins. By filling this pouch with air, they can magnify the sounds they make.

In their natural habitats, these apes live in family groups and eat leaves, fruits, flowers and insects. In the zoo, they eat zoo chow that contains a variety of plant materials and vitamins, and an assortment of fruits and vegetables. Like all zoo animals, the gibbons and siamangs are on diets carefully planned to keep them healthy. When people throw food to them, their diets are disrupted and they can pick up germs from the people throwing the food. All primates are susceptible to human diseases.

Watch both the gibbons and the siamangs and see if you can figure out the differences in the way the parents care for their youngsters.



TOP: Lar Gibbon
LEFT: Siamang

March/April 1992

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

(Please observe age limits)

Mini Camp

These short session camps for students in grades 1 through 4 are offered on many of the days when Dade County students are out of school. The camps focus on something different each time and include plenty of hands-on activities. Each camper must bring a sack lunch, a snack is provided. Space is limited.

- Dates: Spring recess, April 7, 8, 9
- Hours: 8:30am — 3:30pm
- Fee: Members \$25/day or \$60 for all 3. Non-members \$30/day or \$75 for all 3.

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 for your group.

- Dates: Selected Saturday mornings, September — June
- Hours: 9:00 — 11:30am
- Fee: \$12 per person (1 chaperone per 8 scouts is free)

Summer Zoo Camp

Summer is fast approaching and it's time to start thinking about camp. One-week Zoo Camp sessions are available for youngsters age 4 through high school. This summer's theme is **Survival Strategies**. We will be exploring the many "tricks" different species use to survive in the wild. Games, crafts, films, live animals, and more make summer Zoo Camp a memorable experience. For more information, call the education department at 255-5551.

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.

MARCH:

The Metrozoo animal collection includes more than 1,000

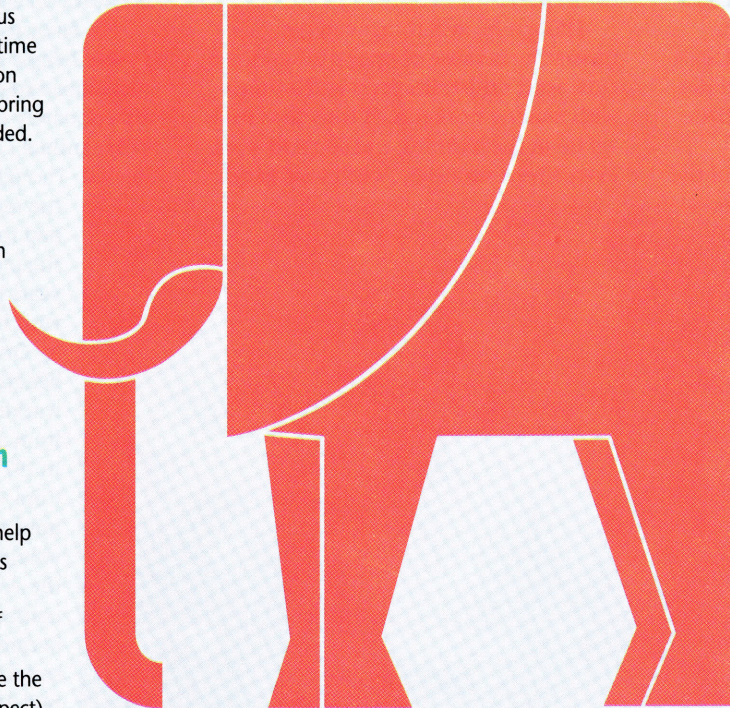
specimens and the person who is responsible for the health of those animals is Dr. Chriss Miller. Come out in March and meet Dr. Miller and find about veterinary medicine in a zoo setting.

- Date: Saturday, March 21
- Hours: 6:30 — 8:30pm
- Fee: Members \$10 Non-members \$15

APRIL:

Did you know South Florida is the only place you can find both crocodiles and alligators? Did you know that both species, now protected by law, are making a comeback? And did you know that these large reptiles nest in the spring? Come to our April WCS and learn more about these relatives of dinosaurs from Frank Mazzotti, wildlife scientist from the University of Florida.

- Date: Saturday, April 25
- Hours: 6:30 — 8:30pm
- Fee: Members \$10 Non-members \$15



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 \$.....

Member membership #..... Non-Member Fee \$.....

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).....

TOTAL \$



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

Scott Lincoln is one of Metrozoo's charter members. His career as a zookeeper began at the old Crandon Park Zoo in 1976. One of his initial responsibilities was night keeper at the smaller, more intimate facility, which gave him general experience in practically all areas. Scott has witnessed tremendous change during his 15 years at the zoo. Though he misses the close, family type atmosphere that existed at Crandon Park, he appreciates the greater opportunities the much larger Metrozoo offers with its variety of areas.

Scott is now the primary keeper of the tiger temple area which includes Malayan tapirs, Malayan sun bears, and blackbuck. Though he truly enjoys all of the animals he cares for, the tigers are his favorite. Working with these very valuable felines in the impressive temple area, Scott claims he runs the most expensive "cathouse", in Florida. Scott is well known among his peers for his sharp humor and extensive use of puns. He is also recognized as one of the hardest workers in the park. Scott says he gets his greatest satisfaction from knowing that his areas are as clean and his animals as healthy as they can possibly be. He puts as much effort into keeping the behind-the-scenes areas as immaculate as the public exhibit

areas. He is also one of the first to volunteer to help other keepers which is one of the reasons he is so well respected by his peers.

Though he says things can get frustrating because of budget and staff cuts, Scott credits his peers and animals with making work fun. "I truly love to get up in the morning and come to work. Even after a vacation, I can't wait to get

back. I've developed some great friendships over the years and it's hard to put a value on that," he states. Scott says his greatest reward is the opportunity to experience the beauty and strength of the tigers from a close-up, personal point of view. "There's nothing like them — they are one of the most incredible creatures on earth," Scott proclaims.

His favorite animal was Natasha, the female Bengal tiger who recently succumbed to cancer. "Tash," as he affectionately called her, "was like no other animal I have ever worked with," he said. Though losing her was one of the most difficult things he ever had to deal with, the memories she provided throughout the years he was privileged to work with her will last forever.

One of the greatest fringe benefits Scott experienced working at the zoo resulted from a very important meeting. In 1977, when the resident rhino Cora was expecting a baby, a 24 hour watch consisting of volunteers was arranged. One of the volunteers was a young lady named Sandy. Scott met and became very fond of Sandy — so fond in fact, that he married her! They now have two wonderful sons.

Keep up the good work Scott — in all areas!



A WISH LIST

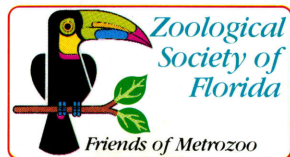
Spring cleaning time is here and as you get your house in order, please keep our education department in mind.

There are a number of items we could really use, including:

- Laminating machine
-
- Typewriter with primary (extra large) size type
-
- Lego and Duplo blocks for our new Discovery Center
-
- Paper Cutter
-

Thank you for thinking of us!

Toucan Talk is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Zoological Society of Florida, a non-profit organization supporting Miami Metrozoo. Editors: Sally Liddell and Judy Jones • Design: Shank Design • Printed on recycled paper



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