



# TOUCAN TALK

Published Bimonthly For Supporters of Miami Metrozoo



\$2

**S**ince Hurricane Andrew left Metrozoo in shambles, we have appealed to many public organizations, businesses and private individuals for rescue. There is one group, a very substantial one, from which we did not expect financial help: children. Although we knew they would be concerned about their zoo, we failed to anticipate their willingness to bank their allowance on this allegiance.

This issue of Toucan Talk is dedicated to students and their teachers. Students deserve extra credit for their energy and follow-through. We are astounded by and grateful for their extravagance on behalf of the zoo. After all, \$500 from students is a fortune. Their success is a tribute to committed, supportive teachers, principals and parent-teacher organizations. In our opinion the love of learning and life lessons taught during a time when young minds and hearts are fully awakened, are just as important as dollars for the zoo.

A striking outcome of Hurricane Andrew is that it made environmental destruction a very real thing for children. Suddenly, animals they knew were in danger. Deforestation was not a remote problem in a distant land but an issue here at home. A positive benefit is that many students have started to think locally and act locally to rebuild their environment; behavior that we hope will extend beyond the zoo and continue throughout their lives.



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**On The Cover**  
**Laura Charlotte**  
**Thomson of**  
**Miami inspired**  
**us to do an issue**

**about kids and schools helping**  
**the zoo when she sent the**  
**card pictured on our cover.**

# The Mind Of A Born Zoo Kid

**J**ason Jacobs, 16, has always been fascinated with animals and zoos. “When he was first learning to talk, the word ‘elephant’ came out very funny,” says his mom, **Shelly Jacobs**. “Even at that time he loved any toys or books related to animals.” Jason’s involvement has grown with his increasing knowledge of environmental issues. “He’s very politically angry,” says Mrs. Jacobs. “Jason is not afraid to speak up and I’m glad of that. I know that Jason will go the distance to prove his point.” Not only is Jason a budding activist, he’s serious about zoology. “His books on the zoo are like medical encyclopedias and I have a hard time understanding them,” she says. “That’s how you know when your kids are gaining on you.” Let’s let Jason speak for himself.

**Q: Your mom says she feels like you’re gaining on her. Do you feel that way?**

*A: In some subjects, like zoology. Every night I read and read and hope to learn more. I’m reading “The Encyclopedia of Mammals” by Dr. David McDonald. I’m pretty good at mammals, but I want to learn how to differentiate between the skeletons of the rodents, different types of bats and smaller marsupials.*

**Is this part of your school work?**

*Oh no, this has nothing to do with my school work. I’m in marine biology. Everything is extracurricular when it comes to the zoo.*

**What is your earliest memory of a zoo?**

*It was the elephant at Crandon Park Zoo. There was a big bridge that went over the exhibit moat. I remember the keepers bringing a baby elephant over the bridge and I got to pet it. That was probably my fondest, earliest memory. I was probably three or four. I thought it was so neat to touch an elephant. They’ve always been my favorite.*

**What are some of your feelings and impressions about Metrozoo? Why is it so important to you?**

*I haven’t been to hundreds and hundreds of zoos, but I’ve been to some of the best, like Bronx, National and San Diego. In terms of displaying the animals, Metrozoo is the best. The animals are out in the open all the time. They breathe fresh air. They don’t come in during the winter. I’ve always thought it was a peaceful place to go and walk around. Every time you go you see something new.*

**It must have been really hard for you to go back to the zoo after the hurricane.**

*When I saw the pictures on television the day after I thought I was going to break down or something. There were rumors that they were going to shut it down for good. There were articles in the paper and the first one said, ‘Zoo to close after taking big beating.’ I went to the Miami Herald and told them I had to do something and they put it in the paper. Then Damien got in touch with me and we started the club.*

**You’re a pretty bold kid. Your mom says that you don’t mess around. If you think something is wrong, or you want to report something, that you go ahead and do it.**

*I do. I’ve seen kids feeding the animals at the zoo. I told them that I’d call security on them. If I caught someone feeding the gorillas or the chimps or the orangutans, I’d tell them off because the animals could die from that.*

**I hear you like to design zoos.**

*The first time I designed a zoo was in the sixth grade. What I like to do now is get maps of the zoos that I go to and try to figure out ways to revise the plan. I haven’t revised Metrozoo, but what I have done is make mini-exhibits and place them all around. What I’d like*

*to see is mini-exhibits in all the pockets of the open space. Have you seen the Asian River Life exhibit? That used to be just a pocket of empty space. That shows you what mini-exhibits can do.*

**Are there wildlife or nature books you would recommend to other kids?**

*One is “Monkeys on the Interstate” by Jack Hanna. When I was in 8th grade, I sent Jack Hanna a letter about how my grandmother was dying. Every night I would read a little from his book to her and she enjoyed it so much. Mr. Hanna sent me an autographed picture and I spoke to him over the phone. I thought he was a really nice person. Another good book is the autobiography of Joan Embry. I remember liking Dr. Seuss’ “If I Ran the Zoo” but it didn’t have traditional animals, it had his made-up animals. “Zoo Animals” is a Golden Nature Guide that was printed in 1967. At the time it was written it said there was only one bongo pair in captivity. Now there are a lot more than one pair, just at Metrozoo. Some of the information is outdated, but I learned a lot about identifying the different types of antelopes, gazelles and primates. Whenever I would design a zoo, I would say, ‘Alright, I’ll take some of these animals, but these animals don’t do well so I’m not going to have them,’ and stuff like that.*

**interview by Barbara Brady**



**Jacobs**

*Rick McCawley*

## Young Zoo Crusaders

Once in a while real shakers and movers come along. Occasionally they are teenagers. **Jason Jacobs**, a junior at **Miami Killian Senior High School**, and members of the school's zoo club are just such people.

In the Sunday, Sept. 6, 1992 issue of The Miami Herald, an article featured "Jason Jacobs, Zoo Crusader." It reported that Jason wanted to help keep the public informed about what was happening at the zoo after the hurricane. His one desire, the article said, was to help raise money to rebuild the zoo.

After the article appeared zoo education specialist Damien Kong contacted Jason. As they talked Kong realized, "Jason was everything the article had reported and more. He was so enthusiastic and full of ideas. I thought that if we didn't recruit him to help us, he would definitely show us up."

Jacobs and Kong talked about ways to recruit other teenagers and decided to form a zoo club at Killian



**Sharp, Penland and their feathered friend.**

High School. It would be a pilot project which, if successful, could be tried at other schools. With the help of Killian principal, **Patrick Snay**, the club recruited a faculty sponsor, biology teacher **Constance Sigl**, whose interest in the zoo was strong. Under Mrs. Sigl's guidance, with Jason as president, **Debbie Badillo** as vice-president, **Susan Sharp** as treasurer and **Natalie Penland** as secretary, membership soared to about 60 students. Club members have raised over \$500 for the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

Killian's zoo club has been a major asset to the zoo, and it looks like a symbiotic relationship may be forming. According to Sigl, zoology has been added to the Dade County Public Schools science curriculum for the 1993 school year and Killian will become a second Zoo Magnet School. "I can't wait to tell Jason," Sigl remarked, "he will be thrilled. Kids want to do hands-on projects. The zoo provides plenty of opportunity for that."

**by Damien Kong and Barbara Brady**



**Orangutan**

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### ZOO BIRTHS

#### January 19 - March 1

<b>Sable antelope</b> <i>Hippotragus niger</i> Female	Jan. 26
<b>Black &amp; white colobus</b> <i>Colobus polykomos angolensis</i> Sex undetermined	Feb. 2
<b>Indian muntjac</b> <i>Muntiacus muntjak vaginalis</i> Male	Feb. 4
<b>Black rhinoceros</b> <i>Diceros bicornis</i> Male	Feb. 11
<b>Sumatran orangutan</b> <i>Pongo pygmaeus abelii</i> Male	Feb. 15
<b>Defassa waterbuck</b> <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i> Female	Feb. 26
<b>Arabian oryx</b> <i>Oryx leucoryx</i> Male	Feb. 27
<b>Bongo</b> <i>Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci</i> Male	Feb. 27
<b>Addax</b> <i>Addax nasomaculatus</i> Female	Mar. 1

## Precious Pachyderm



Few animals are as highly endangered as the black rhinoceros. While wild populations continue to diminish, American zoos are having a fair degree of success with captive breeding. On February 11, our female "Cora" gave birth to her fifth, bringing the total of black rhinos born here to seven. He weighed in at a very healthy 92 pounds. Keepers Tom Condie and Martha Thaden will relate full details in the next Toucan Talk. - All photos this page: Rick McCawley



**Staff Stuff**

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**Christopher Danhauer, a native of Denver, Colorado, works in the elephant area. He comes to us from**

**a privately-owned company where he worked with elephants for five years.**

**She Cheers for Volunteers**



**Agnes Spurlock joins us as director of volunteer services. She previously served in the same capacity at**

**the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. She has also consulted on volunteer management throughout the U.S. Agnes has a long-standing interest in education issues having served her hometown, Norwood, Ohio (a suburb of Cincinnati) on the school board and other civic decision-making bodies throughout her career. She comes to Miami with her husband Tom and college-age daughters Sherry and Stacy.**

# F.I.U. At The Zoo

*Florida International University education professor Dr. Edward Reichbach talks about the graduate level zoo course he helped create.*

**I**n 1981, my wife Judee, an early childhood education specialist, and I both volunteered to develop a zoo curriculum for teachers. It took us a few months to do it, but when we finally launched a series of workshops, the teachers returned glowing evaluations. In fact, they wouldn't go home; they kept hanging around the zoo.

Soon, the students began asking for college credit. So with the cooperation of the zoo and the **College of Education at Florida International University**, a graduate level course was developed. That was 11 years ago. Since then, approximately 1,600 teachers in Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties have attended "F.I.U. at the Zoo."

The cooperation between the zoo and F.I.U. has been nothing short of phenomenal. The zoo's Education Committee has suggested improvements that have made the course even more meaningful. They have also opened the zoo to other educational projects such as the highly successful summer zoo camp and the **Zoo Magnet School at Richmond Heights Middle School.**

**"Once you unleash the teachers' creativity, the beneficiaries are the children of South Florida. They learn that the zoo is here for a purpose. It's their zoo."**

of animals at the zoo and made them into jigsaw puzzles. A physical education teacher based her game on the jumping, leaping and hopping abilities of various animals. High school teachers devise elaborate games to teach about the food chain, chemistry or physiology. I continually marvel at the creativity of our teachers. Once you unleash the teachers' creativity, the beneficiaries are the children of South Florida. They learn that the zoo is here for a purpose. They feel they are a part of the zoo; it's not just a place to visit, it's their zoo.

**by Ed Reichbach, Ed.D**

F.I.U. AT The Zoo is successful and popular because it makes science fun. It helps teachers who are afraid of science; they get a feeling of security and learn that they, too, can teach science.

Something we always do about midway through the semester is to have the teachers develop a game to teach about animals, zoos, biology or wildlife conservation. Many of our students have taken off on commercial games. Others are totally original. A first grade teacher took photographs

*"F.I.U. at the Zoo" is presented twice annually in the fall and spring. It runs 13-14 weeks, three hours, one evening per week providing three graduate credit hours. Teachers in any subject area can use this course for recertification. The next class begins in late August or early September. For more information contact Dr. Edward Reichbach at 348-2561.*

## Plant A Tree For The World To See

**M**iami Beach Senior High 12th grader **Anjul Baid** approaches recycling issues with a bit more international perspective than some students. He is a native of India who has been studying in the U.S. for four years.

"I was born in Bikaner, a small town located on the Rajasthan Steppe, a desert in northern India," he says. "After I arrived in Miami, I was so overwhelmed with the diversity of trees here that I became very interested in South Florida's environment and ecology."



**Baid**

*Rick McCauley*

Anjul's interest in the environment has manifested itself in a number of projects including efforts to raise money to

replant the zoo. Anjul created a complete fundraising program including business sponsors, donor recognition system, community awareness and a catchy slogan: "Plant a Tree for the World to See - Rebuild Metrozoo." For five dollars, individuals purchased certificates acknowledging their support. Contributors of less than five dollars received buttons. **Mora McClellan**, president of **Modern Recycling Solutions**, contributed design and printing for the certificates. The school's chapter of the **Future Business Leaders of America** reached beyond the student population by setting up booths in area malls. Their efforts have raised several hundred dollars.

Anjul has also worked hard on recycling at his school. In India, he says, recycling is a necessary part of the economy. "Poor people in India save newspapers to get money. Because there are so many poor people, most paper is recycled. Here in the U.S., paper is thrown away. People don't need the money, I guess."

**by Barbara Brady**

# Do It Yourself Zoolympics

## Participants

Grades 2-6 (age 7-12). Within each grade/age level, girls compete with girls, boys with boys.

## Entry Fees

50¢ per event entered. Participants are allowed to choose any number of events up to five. Maximum cost, \$2.50.

## Prizes

Ribbons are given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each event and each grade level. (A total of 75 ribbons.) In place of ribbons, awards can be certificates, small toys or just the honor of having names posted or announced. In addition to individual event prizes, a scoring system allows individuals or teams to accumulate points toward a grand prize. Students can compete individually or in teams. If your Zoolympics is a fundraiser for the zoo, we'll be happy to work with you to arrange a behind-the-scenes

tour for grand prize winners. Call Damien Kong at 255-5551.

## Point System

Participants earn points if they place in the top ten in an event within their group (e.g. top 10 third grade girls in Endurance Jump Rope). Point values as follows: 1st=10 points, 2nd=9 points, etc. down to 10th=1 point. In case of ties, add points for the places filled then divide evenly among those who tied.

## Equipment

For the five events below, you'll need: seven 8-inch high cones, individual jump ropes, two 6-foot sticks or broom handles, a 6-foot length of rope, a few old pillow cases, a basketball hoop mounted on a pole or wall about four feet high, a basketball, chalk or tape for marking throw zones and bull's eyes, scoring sheets, clipboard, whistle and timer or stopwatch.

## The Events

The following five events were held indoors at Milam Elementary, which was somewhat limited due to construction on the school grounds. Additional outdoor events could include foot races (Wolf Pack Relay for teams or Cheetah Run for individuals) or obstacle courses in which obstacles mimic various animal movements (crawling, leaping, swinging, etc.) If you have the appropriate equipment, you could include events like Monkey Rope Climbing.

### 30-second Basketball Shoot



How many points can you make in 30 seconds shooting from 1-, 2- or 3-point zones? Basket is placed about 4-feet high. Each child may choose which zone they wish to shoot from. If you wish, you may place a bull's eye under the basket and award points for close throws.

### Zig Zag Sack Race

How long will it take to go from the starting point, in and out of all the cones and back again? Make sure the floor provides good traction. This event could be run as a relay if teams are competing.



### Agility Jump

How many times can you jump from one side of the stick to the other without missing or touching the stick? (For younger grades, place the stick, or a rope, directly on the floor.)



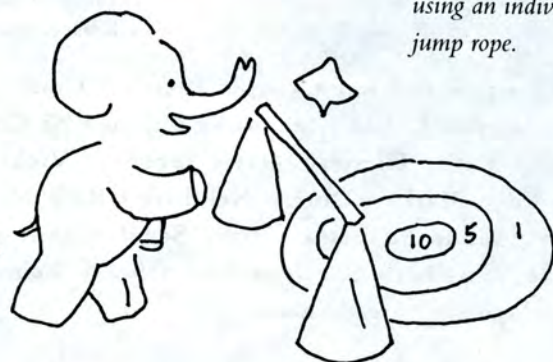
### Endurance Jump Rope

How long can you jump without missing? This is single rebound jumping using an individual jump rope.



### Bull's Eye Bean Bag Toss

How many points can you make with five tosses?



## Learning And Earning At Milam School

Linda Crutchfield, a physical education teacher at M.A. Milam Elementary School who is also a zoo volunteer, created the zoo olympics to work on a number of levels. As a P.E. lesson plan, it uses a wide range of skills to develop coordination and help kids stay fit. As a fundraiser, it is an excellent tool for organizations like scout troops or PTAs. At Milam Elementary, it was both.

"After the hurricane, the kids were concerned," said Crutchfield. "I wanted to help the zoo and I knew the kids would feel good about themselves if they could help too." With support from principal Robert Valenzuela, assistant principal Rosie Calvo fellow P.E. teacher Mike Linden, and her mother Barbara Crutchfield (a retired P.E. teacher) Ms. Crutchfield staged a five-event zoo olympics. With the school's parent teacher organization, led by president Maria Montoya, managing the money, they were able to raise over \$500.

"We structured the program so that kids could participate for as little as fifty cents," said Crutchfield. "Some parents sponsored their children, some kids used their allowance money. There were some kids who couldn't participate, but gave their allowance money anyway."

Although the olympics program was limited to students from grades two through six, the whole school wrote get well cards to the zoo. These were presented with proceeds at a zoo tour given for top scorers. Children who took the tour presented reports about what they learned to fellow students.

Illustrations: L. Crutchfield

**Special Sponsors**

The 1993 "Feast" was successful because of the support it received from these community businesses and organizations. When you give them your business, you give them our thanks.

- Advantage Golf Carts**
- American Express**
- American Red Cross**
- Associated Photographers**
- Automated Typesetting Services**
- Black Tie Formal Wear**
- Broadcast Quality**
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- Charles Collins**
- Crispin & Porter**
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- Curbside Florist**
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- South Florida Business Journal**
- Spectrum Programs**
- Swago T-Shirts**
- Bob Soper**
- Tech Air**
- Thompson Press**
- Tower Paint**
- Unique Producers Service**
- University of Miami**
- Wine News Magazine**
- Winn Dixie Supermarkets**
- Zellerbach Paper Company**

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# Feast Not A Famine

## American Express, Restaurants, Volunteers Outdid Themselves

**T**he 1993 Feast with the Beasts committee and more than 50 volunteers began their work last summer. Undeterred by Hurricane Andrew, they redoubled their efforts to raise money for the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. The event came off March 5 without a hitch.

Still euphoric days after the event, Glenn Ekey summed up the reaction of staff and board members, "Everybody agrees it was absolutely the best Feast with the Beasts ever, by leaps and bounds. **American**

**Express** and the restaurants did a fantastic job. We've never had better committees behind us. **Jackie Levy**, her committee and the whole volunteer group simply outdid themselves. That's not to forget the really top flight support from security and maintenance staff who worked so hard behind the scenes. We had higher attendance, earned more money, had greater food than ever before and the weather was perfect. It was just one of those times when the whole was greater than the sum of its parts. It was an incredible social event."



**Jackie Levy (left) headed the team that created the best "Feast" yet. Here she celebrates with honorary chairman Dante Fascell, his wife Jeanne Marie and Feast committee member Ealeen Abelle.**

**Dick and Beverly Assmar, Jacki Gran, Bob Yokel and Ron and Charlene Esserman couldn't be happier with Feast, '93. Beverly and her committee rounded up the restaurants. Jacki's group did the dazzling decorations.**



# Our Valued Volunteers

*Our thanks to each and every volunteer who worked so hard on this year's Feast:*

**Jackie Levy, Feast Committee Chair**  
**Dante Fascell, Honorary Chair**

**Beverly Assmar, Restaurants**  
**Jacki Gran, Decorations**  
**Julie Heller, Invitations**

**Carmen Frick, Donations**  
**Pamela Liberman, Beastkeepers**  
**Rosemarie Twinam, Volunteers**

- Ealeen Abelle • Tina Archbold • Frances Baboun • Carole Brener • Cindy Brown • Vivian Camus  
Diane Chasin • Teresa Chamorro • Marilyn Cohen • Stephanie Cohen • Ni Colabuono • Marilyn Flam  
Luz Gonzalez • Madeline Gruber • Kathy Hirsch • Gayle Jacobs • Vicki Katz • Kathy Klinger  
Barbara Manning • Jane Marcus • Ellen Marks • Dorian Neidhart • Rick Nicholls • Barbara Parness  
Amy Pollack • Helen Schatzman • Linda Scopetta • Toby Segal • Carmen Sierra • Maxine Solo  
Missy Thorne • Judy Viera • Linda Wanschel • Kathleen Weil • Steffi Weinstein • Ginnie Wheeler  
Suzy Williams • Jill Wittels • Robin Zagorski • Martin Zulac

Invitation design and printing were donated by **Crispin & Porter Advertising** and **Ross Printing**. Special thanks to **University of Miami** volunteers and to the **Zoo Docents**.

# Whittling Down The Wish List

**Y**ou might think that building a brand new zoo and moving a huge collection of megaverbrates from Crandon Park would be about as complex an effort as anyone could concoct. According to Bob Yokel, that was "a piece of cake" compared to rebuilding Metrozoo. Yokel and staff are juggling marketing, budgeting and construction with dozens and dozens of projects vying for attention.

"Many projects that have been in the pipeline are starting to materialize. We're resolving funding issues for major construction projects such as the monorail guideway system so our progress is accelerating," says



**Zoo director Robert Yokel (top L.) and board member Michael Greif (top R.) with telephone pioneers Marie Rocheford, Jim Smith (top row), Gloria Pazel, Marie Murray and Jayne Trillo (seated).**

Yokel. Urgent projects such as fencing, gates and animal holding areas have proceeded with limited funds. Other projects wait for donor support.

The updated Wish List on this page shows how far we've come. Items with dollar amounts crossed out have been fully funded thanks to those who have given to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. Items with asterisks are only partially funded. As you can see, there's

still much to be done. Your continued support through donations and membership renewals is appreciated!

## Telephone Pioneers Answer The Call

**T e l e p h o n e Pioneers**, volunteers from **Southern Bell**, responded to post-

Andrew needs in many ways, from purchasing trees in cooperation with the **National Tree Trust** to giving a Christmas party at the zoo for children whose homes were destroyed in the hurricane. As if that weren't enough, they took a look at the "Wish List" we published in "Toucan Talk Extra" and raised \$5,000 to cross an item off the list. Thanks to them reconstruction can begin on our Florida Panther Pens.

## Take A Load Off: Ride The Tram

Transportation throughout the zoo grounds is one of the biggest concerns for zoo visitors, especially those with children. Unfortunately, Andrew caused almost \$2.5 million worth of damage to the monorail track, cars and barn. Zoo director Bob Yokel has been working hard to resolve funding issues for the monorail repair, but it still looks like it will be a few months before the two and a half mile system is up and running and visitors can hop on and off the monorail to get to where they want to go.

You don't have to hoof it around the zoo, however. Regular tram tours are being offered daily between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tours depart from the ticket booth at the zoo entrance and last approximately 45 minutes. And the best part is it costs only \$2. So there's no need to tramp around. Take the tram! ◀

## Wish List

Zoological Society Building	\$300,000
Administration Building	175,000*
Entrance/Exit Gates	75,000
Gift Shop	<del>50,000</del>
Classroom	50,000
Trailer Offices	30,000
Zebraaar Umbrellas	35,000*
Amphitheater	55,000
Picnic Shelters	10,000
Picnic Restrooms	5,000
Wings of Asia	3,000,000
Zoo Kitchen	70,000*
Warehouse	50,000*
Zoo Hospital	85,000
Quarantine Building	<del>5,000</del>
Brooder Hatchery	10,000
Florida Panther Pens	<del>5,000</del>
Shipping Pens	30,000*
Children's Zoo	1,000,000
Monorail 1 Restroom	<del>10,000</del>
Perimeter Fence & Gates	484,000*
Walkway Fencing	30,000*
Holding Pen Fencing & Gates	60,000*
Quarantine Pens & Gates	200,000
Monorail Stations	40,000
Monorail Barn	900,000
Monorail Guideway Column	1,500,000
Rest Areas	<del>30,000</del>
Trees	4,267,000*
Shrubs	480,000*
Ground Cover	60,000*
Sod	13,000*
Irrigation	180,000*
Bird Quarantine	2,000
Primate Quarantine	2,000
Balem Cages	100,000
Signs & Graphics	150,000*
Water Fountains	6,000*
Shade Structures	30,000*
Giraffe Barn	45,000
Koala Building	65,000
African Elephant Barn	25,000
Generators & Pumps	20,000*
Animals	80,000
Vehicles	25,000
Otter Water Conditioner	5,000
Otter Night House	25,000
Clouded Leopard Roof	3,000
Crocodile Breeding Facility	25,000
Reptile Trailer	10,000
Eucalyptus Grove	25,000
Animal Shade Structures	20,000*
Animal Transport Trailers	20,000
Lion Night House Doors	2,000*
Chimp Night House Doors	2,000*
Gorilla Night House Doors	2,000*
Electrical Wiring	<del>20,000</del>
Guard Houses	15,000
Reed Fencing	<del>20,000</del>
Flag Pole	15,000

\*partially funded



**Detail of Larger Than Life billboard winner by Darcy Etienne. See story page 8.**

## The Earth In Literature

"Nature made me euphoric," said Pablo Neruda, Chilean poet and 1971 Nobel laureate, in his autobiography. The last of his 67 works, *Confieso que he vivido: Memorias*, was published post-humously in 1974. An English translation by Hardie St. Martin, "Memoirs", was published in 1976 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York. Here is Neruda's description of the rain forest in which he grew up.

"Under the volcanoes, beside the snow-capped mountains, among the huge lakes, the fragrant, the silent, the tangled Chilean forest. My feet sink down into the dead leaves, a fragile twig crackles, the giant rauli trees rise in all their bristling height, a bird from the cold jungle passes over, flaps its wings, and stops in the sunless branches. And then, from its hideaway, it sings like an oboe. The wild scent of laurel, the dark scent of the boldo herb, enter my nostrils and flood my whole being... This is a vertical world, a nation of birds, a plenitude of leaves. I stumble over a rock, dig up the uncovered hollow, an enormous spider covered with red hair stares up at me, motionless as a huge crab. A golden carabus beetle blows its mephitic breath at me, as its brilliant rainbow disappears like lightning. Going on I pass through a forest of ferns much taller than I am: from their cold green eyes sixty tears splash down on my face and, behind me, their fans go on quivering for a long time."

### Contributions Welcome

To share your favorite description of our planet, send title, author, chapter and page reference with your name and daytime phone number to: "The Earth In Literature," c/o The Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33177-1499. If your suggestion is published in Toucan Talk, we'll send you a zoo T-shirt.

# A Larger Than Life Contest

**A**t the awards presentation for **Ackerley Communication's Larger Than Life Billboard Contest** William Barkell, Bea Goodman, Brian Norcross, Ron Magill and I were on stage facing a sea of hopeful youngsters. They had all submitted artwork in the hope that theirs would be reproduced, 50-times life size, on billboards around Dade County.

Near the front of the audience, in a group of hearing impaired youngsters, was a little girl dressed "to the nines" in a pink dress with her hands politely folded in her lap. Her perfect deportment, sparkling eyes and intense focus on the proceedings showed that she was listening very carefully, maybe paying closer attention than other children could, or would need to.

Over 700 students from age six to nineteen had entered art work or essays. Drawing on this year's theme "Be a Zoo KEEPER", they illustrated their concerns about the destruction and rebuilding of Metrozoo. In all, 130 children received awards. Billboard contest winners for the Senior

High and Middle School categories were **Giovanni Vargas**, a senior at **Miami Sunset** and **Darcy Etienne**, a seventh grader from **Norland Middle School Center for the Fine Arts**.

The winner in the Elementary category was the girl in the pink dress, **Iris Leonor Urena**, a fifth grader from **Hibiscus Elementary**. When the trophy was placed in her

hands, she broke into tears of joy. I was nearest to her when she turned around to thank us. But instead of saying "thank you" and shaking my hand, she hugged and kissed me, tears streaming down her face. Before I knew it, I started crying, too. When she hugged and kissed Ron, he started crying. So did Brian and Bea. Pretty soon we were all crying. As adults, we tend to forget the impact that an event like this can have. Who would have thought we would share such an emotional moment at a billboard contest? Maybe this is why they call it "Larger Than Life".

by Glenn Ekey



Giovanni Vargas's winning entry.



Norcross and Urena with her winning entry.

## Open Wide



Look ma, no cavities!

Rick McCauley

**S**ometimes even a tiger bites off more than he can chew. "Lucknow", our 400 lb. male white Bengal tiger, was treated twice in February for a tooth he apparently broke while chewing on a bone. In early February, veterinary dental specialist **Dr. Jan Bellows** performed a root canal on the big cat's left upper canine. Three weeks later, he applied a custom-made, 1.5-inch long, stainless steel cap. Stainless steel was used because, with Lucknow's incredible jaw strength, conventional material could present a risk of future problems.

Dr. Bellows donated his services and was assisted by zoo veterinarian **Dr. Chriss Miller**. Dr. Bellows has performed a similar procedure on police dogs, but this was the first time he had performed such a procedure on a tiger.

by Ron Magill



# Summer Programs

## Kindercamp For Ages 4 to 6

Each fun-filled session in this introductory program includes close encounters with some of our Metrozoo animals. We do crafts, songs and games designed to build your child's appreciation of wildlife.

All Kindercamp sessions meet 9:00 a.m. - noon at the zoo. You may sign up for one week of any session or take all three.

**Session I : Animal Crackers**

**Dates:** June 21-25; July 12-16;  
August 2-6

Feathers, scales and fur. Ostriches, snakes and elephants. What do they have in common? How are they different? Kindercampers learn about the basic animal groups.

**Session II : What's For Dinner?**

**Dates:** June 28-July 2; July 19-23;  
August 9-13

How much hay does an elephant eat? Why don't our tigers eat everyday? What does our gorilla "Jimmy" eat at snack time? Session II campers explore what animals eat, how they catch or find their food and how the zoo keeps all its animals fit and well through diet.



**Session III: Look Who's Talking!**

**Dates:** July 5-9; July 26-30; Aug. 16-20

Gorillas beat their chest. Wolves howl. Possums play dead. The animal world is full of messages, loud and silent. In this session, children learn about language of the wild.

**Fees:** Members pay \$80 for one session, \$150 for two sessions or \$225 for three sessions. Nonmembers pay \$85 for one session, \$160 for two sessions or \$240 for three sessions.

## Zoofari Adventure Camp For Ages 7 to 10

Zoofari adventurers participate in behind-the-scenes tours, close encounters with furry (and scaly) zoo residents. Crafts and games lead them to an understanding of our fragile Earth and its inhabitants. Zoofari Adventure Camp is designed as a two-week session but may be taken as a single week.

Classes meet Mondays through Fridays, from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the zoo. You may sign up for one week only or for two consecutive weeks. Sessions I, II and III all cover the same activities and material.

**Session I : June 28-July 2; July 5-9**

**Session II : July 19-23; July 26-30**

**Session III : Aug. 9-13; Aug. 16-20**

**Fees:** Members pay \$125 for single week session, \$240 for two weeks. Nonmembers pay \$130 for single week session, \$250 for two weeks.

## Animal Antics: Exploring Animal Behavior For Ages 11-13

Campers learn about how animals know where they are, how they know who's boss, how they find food, and other animal behaviors. This is a highly interactive program in which campers observe a chimpanzee family, watch a feeding session with our otters and learn how wild cats are trained for our Amphitheater Show.

**One session only:**

July 12-16, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Fee:** Members pay \$125; nonmembers pay \$135.

## Zoo Life For Ages 11-13

Students learn the ins and outs of managing everything in the zoo from snakes to people. Zoo keepers and our staff veterinarian demonstrate animal management techniques and share first hand knowledge and experiences with Zoo Life campers. Behind-the-scenes tours enable campers to get to know the whole zoo. Campers will also design

their own zoo exhibits.

**One session only:**

Aug. 2-6, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Fee:** Members pay \$125; nonmembers pay \$135.

## Special Night Tour

Campers participating in both Animal Antics and Zoo Life will be invited to a special night tour of the Zoo.

## After Camp Fun For Zoofari, Animal Antics and Zoo Life Campers

Campers enrolled in Zoofari, Animal Antics and Zoo Life programs can sign up for some extra, relaxed fun 3:30 until 5 p.m.

**Fee:** \$20 additional per week.



## Toucan Team Training For Ages 14-18

The Toucan Team is our group of teenage volunteers who work in the Children's Zoo Petting Yard, assist with summer programs and participate in other volunteer activities for the zoo. The training program teaches potential volunteers about the zoo and its staff and leads them to an understanding of wildlife. Those who successfully complete this training are eligible to apply to become a member of the Toucan Team.

**One session only:**

June 21-25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Fee:** \$130

**To register for zoo summer programs, call 255-5551 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Class sizes are limited so register early! ■**

## Media Update

These publications and broadcast stations have generously donated advertising space and time to promote the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

## National Publications

American Birds  
Animals  
Architectural Digest  
Audubon  
Bon Appetit  
Buzzworm  
Departures  
E Magazine  
Entertainment News & Views  
Food & Wine  
Newsweek  
People Magazine  
Sierra  
Sports Afield  
Travel & Leisure  
US News & World Report  
Wildlife Art News  
Wildlife Conservation  
Wine News  
The World Monitor  
Zoolife

## Local Media

Ackerley Communications  
Adelphia Cable  
Diario Las Americas  
Dynamic Cable  
Ft. Lauderdale News/Sun-Sentinel  
Goldcoast Cable  
Miami & Broward Review  
Miami Herald/El Nuevo Herald  
Miami Mensual  
Playbill  
Selecta  
South Florida Business Journal  
Storer Cable  
WCIX-TV  
WDZL-TV  
WEDR-FM  
WFLC-FM/WIOD-AM  
WHQT-FM  
WJQY-FM  
WLTU-TV  
WLVE-FM  
WLYF-FM/WMRZ-AM  
WPLG-TV  
WQBA-AM/FM  
WRHC-AM  
WSCV-TV  
WSVN-TV  
WTMI-FM  
WTVJ-TV  
WXDJ-FM  
WZTA-FM/WINZ-AM



## Bookworms

**Glenn Ekey, Executive Director of the Zoological Society of Florida**

*"On Nature's Terms: Contemporary Voices"*  
edited by Thomas J. Lyon and Peter Stine

*"This is a collection of contemporary essays about nature. At a time when zoos are stretching to get their arms even further around the problems of vanishing wilderness, I find these stories moving and insightful. Jack Turner's piece 'The Abstract Wild' which deals with complacency about the environmental crisis is particularly thought provoking."*

**Damien Kong, Education Specialist**

*"Quantinary Extinction"*  
edited by Paul S. Martin and Richard G. Klein

*"This books contains many opinions on how humans may influence extinction, but it also reviews the many other reasons for species having become extinct from the Pleistocene to the present."*

### What Are You Reading?

If you'd like to share your latest read, send your name and daytime phone number along with a title and author and a brief description of why it's important to you to "Bookworms" c/o The Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33177-1499. If your suggestion is published in Toucan Talk, we'll give you a zoo T-shirt.

# Wild Florida

**T**he air is thick and heavy with moisture. You make your way through wild coffee, Jamaica dogwood and wild bamboo. Bromeliads and orchids hang overhead. The constant hum of mosquitos almost drowns out the sound of tanagers and warblers busily catching insects. Occasionally, frogs sound a nasal "quank quank." Slowly and quietly a crocodile sinks into dark, murky water and glides away.

You're in a tropical hardwood forest, one of those strange and mysterious places you read about in "National Geographic" or "International Wildlife." But, to get there you didn't board a plane or spend thousands of dollars. Nor did you need any vaccinations for yellow fever, cholera or typhoid. In fact, you didn't even leave Florida. You simply got in your car and drove an hour west or south from Miami.

Most people in South Florida would call our tropical hardwood forest by its common name "hammock." But there's nothing common about this habitat. It is filled with animals and plants, found nowhere else on our continent and is no less exotic than the forests of Latin America, Madagascar or South East Asia. Complacency or failure to understand the ecological value of Florida's tropical forests, however, is leading to the loss of these beautiful and unique habitats.

Tropical hammocks occur in Dade, Collier and Monroe counties. All grow on limestone, of which there are three types, identified by their age and the way they were formed. Key Largo limestone was formed by coral beds during the Ice Age, about one hundred thousand years ago. During the same era, Miami Limestone formed from tiny bubbles of calcium carbonate, called ooids, cemented together like fish eggs. Tamiami limestone is much older, having formed six million years ago from bryozoans ("brya-ZOH-ans") small marine invertebrates which produced a calcareous structure in which to live.

All limestone has thousands of bubbles and air pockets which provide excellent drainage. Even after heavy rains the land is left relatively dry. On the surface is meager soil. The profuse tropical forest growth masks thin, poorly developed topsoil. The forest floor consists of organic matter produced by the forest itself. Leaves, fruits, droppings, woody material and animal remains are broken

**"Complacency or failure to understand the ecological value of Florida's tropical forests is leading to the loss of these beautiful and unique habitats."**

down quickly by bacteria, mold, fungi, insects and other animals and used by the plant life. If the forest is cut and the fragile topsoil exposed, it quickly disappears. The underlying limestone cannot provide a growing medium in which to re-establish the forest.

Hundreds of thousands of acres of tropical hardwood forests existed in Dade and Monroe counties at the turn of the century. By 1985 only 15,000 acres were left relatively undisturbed. Currently, about

half of our local tropical forest land is owned and protected by the state and federal government. The remainder, belonging to private owners and developers, is not protected from clearing.

The bright fact is that the majority of privately owned hardwood forests in Dade and Monroe counties have been identified for purchase by the **Florida Conservation and Recreation Land Program**. Two land acquisition programs may preserve forests in the Keys: **The Crocodile Lakes National Wildlife Refuge** is a federal program; the **North Key Largo Hammock Preserve** is a state project.

Whether forest areas should be preserved has long been an issue. The aesthetic and scientific rationale for preservation is well recognized, as is the economic rationale for development. But we have only begun to explore ways in which keeping forests standing might provide strong economic benefits. Unless everyone holding the deed to these precious lands - public and private - begins to plan for preservation, there will be nothing left to discuss and new opportunities will be lost.

by **Bill Zeigler**

## See For Yourself

**Some excellent local examples of tropical hardwood forests, are:**

**The Royal Palm Hammock, Everglades National Park, 45 minutes from downtown Miami. For tour information and schedules call 242-7700**

# Toucan Notes



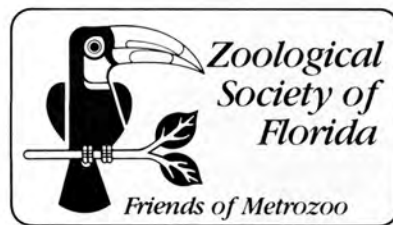
**C**reeping home during rush hour on Dixie Highway I happened to notice several cars bearing window decals of our familiar Toucan, symbol of the Zoological Society of Florida. There was nothing unusual about this. Happily, one sees our Toucans often. There are thousands of them. They are a very visible, even decorative part of the South Florida automotive landscape.

"One of ours," I thought as I spotted each sticker. I felt an instant kinship with the people in those cars. Men. Women. Younger people. Older people. People of various ethnic groups. All are part of my group, people with whom I share an intensely common interest. All are people who have put their money where their hearts are and are proud to let the world know about it. All are part of the 15,000-member Zoological Society of Florida.

Waiting for one of the endless Dixie Highway lights to change, I found myself reflecting further about

what it means to display the Toucan. And then it really hit me. It says, yes, this is indeed someone very special to our community. This person is a Friend of Metrozoo.

But the Toucan says more than that. A lot more. It says this is someone interested in preserving our environment. This is someone who understands and appreciates the



important role that other species play in the life and, indeed, the health of our planet. But above all, the Toucan says this is someone who cares.

As the light changed and my car edged forward, it occurred to me how important it is to our community that the Toucan be seen every day, all the time by our political leaders. It says to them that we stand for something important and deserve

their continuing support.

To those in the community who are not members, the stickers send the important message that thousands of their fellow citizens care about our zoo. It is a cause very much worth caring about. And to area visitors, the stickers say, "We've got a great zoo and we're proud of it. Come and see it."

If you're a member and you're not showing your sticker, slap it on. Show the rest of the community that you support an important cause. If you've lost or misplaced your sticker or traded cars and would like another one, send us the form below. We'll see that you get one.

Our zoo is alive and vibrant. We are in the process of not only rebuilding Metrozoo but also creating one of the great zoos of the world. We can be proud of what we are achieving. Display the Toucan proudly. Let people know you are part of this. Show them you're someone special.

**by Frank N. Hawkins, Jr.**

## I'm Sticking With The Zoo!

- I'm a current member, but I have lost my sticker. Please send me a new one.  I'd like to join or renew.

**All members enjoy the following benefits for a full year:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Free Zoo Sticker and Official Membership Card              | Free Admission to your zoo and 125 other U.S. zoos |
| Free Subscription to Toucan Talk, our bimonthly newsletter | Invitations to Members Only events                 |
| Discounts on Gift Shop purchases and educational programs  | Discount admission to other Florida attractions    |

Additional benefits accrue to members at the \$75 level or higher. Depending on your level of membership you receive one or more of the following: a free subscription to ZOOLIFE magazine, a commemorative gift, free guest passes, invitations to V.I.P. events, a special behind-the-scenes tram tour and invitations to sneak previews of new animal exhibits. If you need more information, give us a call at 255-5551.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual Membership</b> - \$30<br>Annual membership for one person  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Senior Membership: Dual</b> - \$35<br>Annual memberships at reduced prices for adults age 62 and over. Proof of age required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dual Membership</b> - \$40<br>Annual membership for two persons living at same address                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Supporting Membership</b> - \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family Membership</b> - \$50<br>Annual membership for two adults and all children 18 years and under living at same address | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contributing Membership</b> - \$125   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Senior Membership: Individual</b> - \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sustaining Membership</b> - \$250<br>Supporting, Contributing and Sustaining memberships can be Individual, Dual or Family    |

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Check  MasterCard  Visa  American Express Charge Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Members:</b>	<b>Children (Age 18 and younger):</b>
Adult #1 _____	Child #1 _____ Age: _____
Adult #2 _____	Child #2 _____ Age: _____
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime phone: _____	

Mail completed membership form with your payment to  
**The Zoological Society of Florida,**  
 12400 S.W. 152 Street,  
 Miami, FL 33177-1499.

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*Zoological Society of Florida*  
**Glenn Ekey,**  
*Executive Director*

*Miami Metrozoo*  
**Robert Yokel, Director**

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 305-255-5551  
 305-255-7126 (fax)

**Zoo Visitor Information**  
 251-0400



# Calendar Of Zoo Events

Friday, May 14

## An Evening With Jane Goodall



8:00 p.m. Dade County Auditorium

Cost: \$10/zoo member;

\$15/non-member

Meet the world's foremost chimpanzee expert and hear her fascinating tales of chimps in the wild and in captivity. Admission includes a wine and cheese reception for Ms. Goodall following the talk. Call 255-5551 for reservations.

Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22

## Miami Jai-Alai

Friday: 6:30 p.m. - Midnight

Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3500 NW 37th Avenue, Miami.

General Admission: \$1

Miami Jai-Alai dedicates these performances to the zoo. A percentage of admissions and betting proceeds will be donated to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. Call 255-5551 for information.

Date To Be Announced

## Magill To Be Featured On

### "You Bet Your Life"

For a recent taping of "You Bet Your Life" hosted by Bill Cosby, six zoos were invited to send representatives to Philadelphia to play and earn prize money. Zoo Atlanta, Cincinnati Zoo, Denver Zoo, Miami Metrozoo, National Zoo and Philadelphia Zoo participated. The program will air later this year.

"We all had a very good time," said Ron. "The producers really took care of us. It was enlightening, a lot of fun and," he added, "we didn't embarrass ourselves!" Ron returned triumphant with over a thousand

dollars for the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

Ron's impression of meeting Mr. Cosby? "Bill Cosby was just the nicest guy. He was quite cordial, very friendly. And he went out of his way to make sure that everyone left with some money for their zoo."

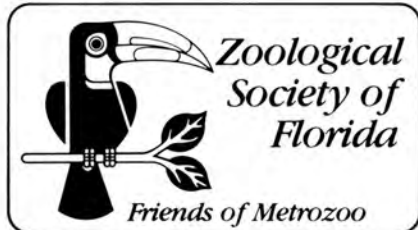
If you watch the show, you know that in the tradition of Groucho Marx, the host sometimes teases people to have some fun. "With us he was more serious," said Magill, "he was really trying to get across the point that zoos are important."

In Miami, "You Bet Your Life" is presented weekdays at noon on WCIX, Channel 6. Keep an eye on local TV listings for the date of the zoo show.

## Picnic At The Zoo: You're In Good Company

If your company is interested in finding ways to help the zoo get back on its feet (and paws and hooves), one way is to hold your company picnic at the zoo. If you do, you'll be in good company. "We're having a great year so far," said Karen Martin, director of corporate picnics, "and we certainly need it. We're hosting groups like the Postal Service, Southern Bell, Miami Children's Hospital and the County Clerk's Office." We'd love to welcome you too. Groups of 100 or more pay \$6/adult and \$4/child and receive admission to the zoo, exclusive use of our picnic field; tent, tables and chairs; volleyball; softball; unlimited use of the children's rides; a private animal presentation; security and clean-up.

Call 251-0403 for details.



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