



# TOUCAN TALK

Published Bimonthly For Supporters of Miami Metrozoo



Rick McCawley

**B**efore we launch into the story of our progress during the past year — which is what this issue is all about — let's give credit where credit is due. We have applauded keepers and contributors, businesses and board members, volunteers and veterinarians, but there's another group that deserves special thanks. Meet our Maintenance Division.

While administrative and animal department staff may have wielded chain saws or maneuvered forklifts during the hours and days immediately after Hurricane Andrew, our Maintenance Division has done the lion's share of the heavy work. They have sustained an unprecedented level of effort for an entire year. Groundskeepers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, welders and heavy equipment operators under the direction of Jorge Maura, and security, concessions and admissions personnel under Julio Mesa have masterfully juggled disaster relief, clean-up and repairs, and "business-as-usual."

"Even after the hurricane, with all there was to do, the grass was still growing," said Maura. "I can't say enough about all our employees. We believe in what we do, and to see the zoo reopen by mid-December was great. It took a lot just to get to that point."

But they didn't stop there. In early January, replanting began; 25,000 shrubs and ground covers were installed this spring. In March, *Feast With The Beasts* was the best ever, thanks to maintenance crews overcoming obstacles created by Andrew. By July, animal night houses, shade structures and shipping pens were repaired. And an unprecedented tree planting project has kept them hopping: planning, marking, staking and clearing utilities to make way for crews planting 75 to 100 trees each day throughout the summer. As FEMA funds, state and federal grants, and more donations become available, a new phase of restoration will ensue, keeping our Maintenance Division at the forefront of our rebuilding effort.

**Look At All We've Accomplished!**

August 24, 1992 - August 24, 1993

- Emergency cleanup
- 500 trees removed
- 2,000 stumps removed
- Temporary relocation of animals
- AAZPA Zoo Crisis Fund established
- Office equipment salvaged
- Office trailers set up
- Damaged tarps removed from Children's Zoo
- Service roads opened
- Gift shop merchandise salvaged
- Dadeland Mall gift shop opened
- Commissary roof replaced
- Animal kitchen & hay barn repaired
  - New walk-in refrigerators
  - New walk-in freezers
  - New dishwashers
  - New industrial slicers
  - New food storage facility doors
- Phone lines & light poles restored
- Electricity & plumbing restored
- Lake drained, cleaned, patched
- Zoo administration building repaired
  - New roof & windows
  - New copier
  - New fax machine
  - New cash registers
- Monorail cars in top shape
- Guideway track sand blasted & painted
- Quarantine area cleaned
- New quarantine shipping pens built
- Animal clinic repairs undertaken
  - New walls & windows
  - New front doors
  - Roof repaired
  - Painting
- Shade structures built throughout zoo
- New drinking fountains installed
- Waterfall pump repaired
- 10 new vehicles purchased, including
  - Pickup trucks
  - Bobcat with front end loader
  - Lawn mower
  - Tractor
- Gift shop cleaned & repaired
  - New roof & windows
  - New paint job
  - Floors repaired
- Siamang exhibit repaired
  - New fence
  - New landscaping
- Classrooms completely restored
- Holding pens made functional
- Guard shacks ordered
- Asian River Life repaired
  - New water softener
  - Fog and sound system repaired
- Many new signs throughout the zoo
- Eucalyptus grove healthy, trees growing
- Pro bono communications services obtained
  - Zubi Advertising
  - Crispin & Porter Advertising, Inc.
  - Burson-Marsteller/Miami
- Free advertising time & space
  - 25 local media
  - 20 national publications
- "Hurricane at Metrozoo" aired four times
- Cash donations received from every state
- Zoo reopened December 18, 1992
- Flamingos returned to front lake
- New newsletter format introduced
- Unprecedented business & community support
- New Children's Zoo program: "Animal Encounters"
- Plans made to expand & connect administration buildings

2

# Metrozoo O See It Fo

**H**aving passed the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Andrew, it is staggering to comprehend the impact of the past year on our lives and on Metrozoo. How much has been done. And how much there is still to do.

People are always asking me, "What's going on at Metrozoo?" It's a question I find difficult to respond to. A great deal is going on. Yet in some ways, not nearly enough. Many things the public doesn't see or notice, such as new walk-in refrigerators or new quarantine shipping pens. Much of the progress has been gradual and not really noticeable on a day-to-day basis.

The truth is that an almost unbelievable amount has been done. The list accompanying this article gives you an idea. It represents extraordinary achievement by the zoo staff, the county, the Zoological Society and our volunteers, including wonderful friends like Crispin & Porter Advertising. (Their

Zoo Rebuilding Fund advertising campaign earned us finalist status in the "Marketer of the Year" competition of the Greater Miami Chapter of the American Marketing Association.)

As this is written, the major visible progress is thousands of trees funded by FEMA and the Zoological Society of Florida. Planting started in July and continues. Our zoo is wonderfully green again. This represents a renewal



**Alice Gilley, Lead Keeper, checks out the owner's manual for a new truck.**

- photo by Barbara Brady



**Keeper Barbara Judd with new addition: Baird's tapir born May 29.** - photo by Barbara Brady



# One Year Later For Yourself!

and transformation of Metrozoo that is astonishing and exciting. If you haven't been to the zoo since the storm, or since the reopening last December, you must see for yourself what has happened.

The trees and new plants, including 25,000 shrubs and ground covers planted since January, symbolize the comeback of our zoo and the strong spirit of cooperation among many organizations and individuals getting things done

together. They also represent the massive support we have received from all 50 states since August, 1992. We have received donations from more than 35,000 people and institutions.

We are moving ahead on three very critical rebuilding projects — the Wings of Asia aviary, the monorail and our administration building. FEMA funds are forthcoming for all three projects and we expect to see positive decisions and progress in the near future. We'll keep you informed.

There is a massive amount to do to regain the full forward momentum we had before August 24, 1992. We still need millions of dollars to properly restore and build — here in South Dade — one of the great zoos of the world.

In the meantime, life goes on at our zoo. You can see from the list that we have new animals, births and hatchings of 31 different species. As life is renewed, so is Metrozoo. You must see it for yourself. ■

by Frank N. Hawkins, Jr., President of the Zoological Society of Florida.



Jerry Tobias



Rick McCawley



**Volunteer Mary McCormick assists a Zoo Camper.**

— photo by Misty Rorer

## Zoo featured in national & local media including

NBC's "Today"  
CBS's "This Morning"  
ABC's "Good Morning America"  
CNN's "Sonja Live"  
Telemundo & Univision  
"National Geographic Explorer"  
"You Bet Your Life"

People Magazine

## Successful special events

Feast With The Beasts  
Jungle Jog  
Gorilla Golf Classic  
Nabisco Springtime Fun Days  
Zoo Safari at Sawgrass Mills

## Outstanding support from area schools

## Successful public lectures

Norman Myers  
Jane Goodall

## FIU At The Zoo class resumed

25,000 shrubs & ground covers planted

Capital campaign initiated

7,000 new trees planted

21 new employees

New financial, accounting system

SunBank Seed Bank established

National Tree Trust project introduced

25,000 live oaks

5,000 palm trees

Butterfly garden created

Speakers Bureau resumed

Volunteer "Get Acquainted" class held

Zoo Summer Camp Sold Out

Environmental symposium planned

Monorail construction contract developed

Wings of Asia conceptual drawings completed

FEMA & insurance claims negotiated

Enhancements planned

Environmental Education Center

Cuban Parrots Plaza

Donor Recognition Plaza

Brick & Tile program

## New animals

Toco toucan

Black duiker

Gemsbok

Bactrian camel

Clouded leopards

## Births & hatchings of 26 species

Yellow-backed duiker

Reticulated giraffe

Nyala

Black & white colobus monkey

Greater kudu

Sable antelope

Gerenuk

Domestic zebu

Baird's tapir

Malayan tapir

Nile lechwe

Indian muntjac

Red kangaroo

Black rhino

Orangutan

Defassa waterbuck

Arabian oryx

Bongo

Addax

Brush-tailed possum

Bennet's wallaby

Hedgehog

Eastern leopard tortoise

Impala

Red wattlebird

Flamingo

Perimeter fence & gates rebuilt

Paddock birds returned



4

**Killian Zoo Lab**

This school year, honors students from Killian Senior High will have the chance to work in a unique 740-acre laboratory: Metrozoo. Under the supervision of science teacher Constance Sigl, students in the experimental zoology course will spend one afternoon a week at the zoo. We're proud to have them involved and to help broaden their knowledge of science.

# A Classy Event

**A**fter suffering \$50,000 worth of damage in the hurricane, our new and improved classrooms reopened in time for the '93 Zoo Camp, thanks to the toil and sweat of staff and volunteers. We celebrated the official reopening of our classrooms building on Thursday, June 17.

We honored volunteer "general contractor" **Inge Hawkins** for coordinating the project. The presence of **Boyd Rose** of the Economic Development Administration's Atlanta Regional Office and **Lola Smith**, Florida Economic Development Representative, was particularly special and symbolic since

EDA had helped fund the original classroom with a generous grant back in 1976.

Also present was board member **Patti Ragan**, with baby orangutan Christopher in tow. A beautiful framed poster of Amazon River Wildlife, a gift from Zoo Rebuilding Fund National Honorary committee member **Liana John**, was unveiled by Zoological Society President **Frank Hawkins**. ■



**Above: Kindercamp teacher Janet Dahlberg handles a hedgehog. Below: Zoo Campers are all smiles.**  
—photos by Misty Rorer

# Eagleview Has Landed

**Jennifer Dallman and Jan Sapanero got the red-carpet treatment when they flew in from Colorado to deliver Eagleview Middle School's gift to the zoo.**



Misty Rorer

**L**ast October **Jennifer Dallman** of Colorado Springs received a letter from us describing our emotional and physical encounter with Hurricane Andrew. When she read it to her 7th-grade science class at **Eagleview Middle School**, their immediate reaction was to help us. Forty students initiated a year-long project to benefit Miami Metrozoo. Everyone got involved: students, faculty, parents, private businesses and community organizations.

The project culminated with a Dessert Festival/Talent Show Night on April 30. Colorado Springs franchisees such as **PepsiCo**, **Taco Bell**, **TCBY**, **Burger King**, and **Dairy Queen** and community flower shops and restaurants contributed to make the event a success. A special announcement made the evening even more exciting: Continental Airlines Captain **Tom Salmon** presented two round-trip tickets to Miami. A drawing was held and **Jan Sapanero**, a 7th-grade student, was selected as ambassador to Metrozoo. She and Ms. Dallman delivered her classmates' contribution during a two-day visit in June. ■

# First Annual Metro Boo!

**T**his year the zoo will dress up for Halloween, and you're invited to join our weekend of Metro Boo! activities. On Saturday and Sunday, October 30 and 31, we'll create a special Trick-or-Treat Trail that lets kids say "hi" to the flamingo, tiger, siamang, orangutan, sun bear, anoa, crocodile and tapir, and also pick up Halloween treats at each exhibit. Last stop on the Trick-or-Treat Trail is the Children's Zoo, where we'll have special animal displays and demonstrations featuring bats, owls and scorpions. We'll also have face painting, music and entertainment.

A highlight will be a Costume Contest at 12:30 p.m. each day in the Amphitheater. We'll have terrific



**Trick-or-treaters-in-training, Samuel C. McMillian IV and Matthew Dunnigan.**

*photo by Greg Lewis*

zoo admission. If you'd like more information, call us at 305/255-5551. ■

prizes for the most creative costumes.

On Saturday and Sunday, pumpkin Picassos can bring their carved pumpkins from home (there will be no carving at the zoo) to enter in a Carved Pumpkin Contest. Contest registration will take place from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each day. Winners will be announced at 3 p.m.

Kids age 12 and under can pick up a free pumpkin at our Pumpkin Patch. Each day we'll have free pumpkins from 9:30 a.m. on, for as long as supplies last.

Metro Boo! is free to zoo members. For the general public, it's free with

## Major Gifts Set The Pace For Zoo Rebuilding Fund

**T**wo pace-setting corporate gifts have taken prominent places in the Zoo Rebuilding Fund's pyramid of progress.

**American Bankers** has pledged \$100,000 to the Fund with **Knight-Ridder, Inc.** and **The Miami Herald** pledging \$500,000.

These generous gifts from two of South Florida's corporate leaders will be applied to the rebuilding of Metrozoo in the wake of the \$15 million in damages suffered here during Hurricane Andrew. The Zoo Rebuilding Fund, a national fundraising campaign to restore and enhance the zoo, was instituted in response to Andrew's unprecedented devastation.

"Metrozoo is one of the world-class features of South Florida," said **R. Kirk Landon**, CEO of American Bankers. "It means a great deal to us to help rebuild this valuable community resource for ourselves, tourists and our children."

"This contribution from Knight-Ridder, Inc. and **The Miami**

**Herald** recognizes the importance of Metrozoo as a fundamental building block in the rebuilding of South Florida," said Frank N. Hawkins, Jr., president of the Zoological Society of Florida and vice president of corporate relations and planning for Knight-Ridder. "The zoo offers magnificent and unique opportunities for tourism, education, environmental awareness

and improvement of the quality of life in our community. But it can only be possible through the strong and visible support of our key institutions."

To discuss how your company can become involved in rebuilding the zoo, call Cynthia Zeigler at 305/255-5551. ■

*by Sheila Fyfe, Development Coordinator*



*Greg Lewis*

### We're Accounting On Support

*Before Andrew, development of a new accounting system for the Zoological Society of Florida was a high priority, and it's finally been accomplished. Finance director Aldrick Dodds supervised the transition. "This is something we've needed for a long time," he said, "and Hurricane Andrew helped us get it done." Installation of a new computer system was initiated by Lou Pugliese of Ernst & Young. Thomas M. Trumbly, Sherry Ropp and Ann M. Blackwell designed and implemented the system conversion. Board members Frank N. Hawkins, Jr., Ralph Morera and John Little provided tremendous support and referrals. Insurance claims also have weighed heavily on our minds over the past year, as they have for so many in South Dade. This burden was considerably lightened because of assistance from Milissa Stubbs and Robert C. Aizley from Coopers & Lybrand. With these two major management projects behind us, we can move forward into the era of rebirth at the zoo.*

**Ron Esserman, president of Esserman Automotive Group, is spreading the word about Metrozoo by providing bus stop benches throughout Miami.**



**On The Cover**

**Our Dedicated Maintenance Crew:**

**Pictured on our cover are these members of our Maintenance Division:**

- 1 Jimmy Curry
- 2 Jorge Maura
- 3 Elston Lawrence
- 4 Amado Vazquez
- 5 Mike Armstrong
- 6 José Muela
- 7 Louis Archer
- 8 Tom Varnadoe
- 9 Nelson Tudelo
- 10 Alberto Artigas
- 11 Antonio Rodríguez
- 12 Antolin Rodríguez
- 13 Rigoberto Escarpio
- 14 Gilly Cole
- 15 Alberto Díaz
- 16 Gilberto González
- 17 Alberto Rodríguez
- 18 Ardo Martínez
- 19 José Alfonso
- 20 Nestor Cabrera
- 21 Leo Vargas
- 22 Tomas Díaz
- 23 Napoleon Bastien
- 24 Earl Gibson

**Not Pictured:**

- Roberto Alonso
- Roberto Carmona
- Virgilio de Arce
- Miguel Delgado
- Emilio Estrada
- Fernando Galán
- Renaldo García
- Juan Hernández
- Sergio Oliva
- Ray Robinson
- Hipólito Sandoval
- Ernesto Valdés
- Charles Watkins
- Kim Watson
- Bob Weschsler
- Willy Wright

# Look Who's New

Some of the best events to happen here since Hurricane Andrew are the new arrivals. And we're especially pleased that professionals from South Florida and beyond have joined us.



**Alberto Artigas,  
Equipment  
Operator**



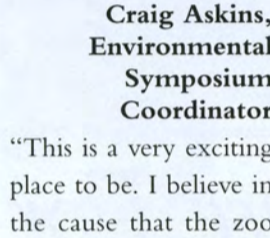
**Sheila Fyfe,  
Development  
Coordinator**

"I've been a member of the zoo for seven years. It is one of the best things about living in South Florida. It's just always been a very special place to me."



**Juliana Fiedler,  
Grants Manager**

"The best part of working for the zoo is that there are so many things that will be done here. There is unlimited potential not only for the rebuilding, but community participation. Our constituency can do something."



**Craig Askins,  
Environmental  
Symposium  
Coordinator**

"This is a very exciting place to be. I believe in the cause that the zoo stands for, especially its environmental and conservation aspects."



**Alice Goodhart,  
Special Programs  
Coordinator**

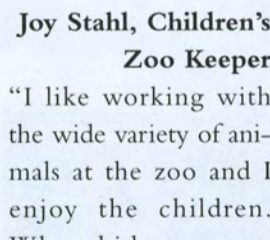
"I was one of the founders of the neonatal intensive care unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital where our slogan was, 'We're here to help those who are too young to speak for themselves.' Now I'm working with another group that can't speak for itself. I'm here for the animals."



**Kathy Hitchcock,  
Zoo Keeper**



**Margaret  
Bertolami,  
Concessions  
Attendant**



**Joy Stahl, Children's  
Zoo Keeper**

"I like working with the wide variety of animals at the zoo and I enjoy the children. When kids come up and ask you questions and they don't know the answers, they are very excited to learn."



**Billy Cooper,  
Park Ranger**



# ew At The Zoo

...s. Our Amphitheater and Children's Zoo welcomed two new species this summer. ... us to help rebuild. As they will tell you, working for the zoo is a job with a great future.

**Gilberto Gonzales,**  
Park Attendant



**Giselle Chamizo,**  
Executive Assistant to  
Glenn Ekey

"The biggest asset that this zoo has is the dedication of people that have cared enough to stick with it. I know the zoo is going to be beautiful in the future."



**James Harris,**  
Park Ranger



**Jeanette Pineda,**  
Children's Zoo  
Keeper

"I worked here previously, and after Hurricane Andrew I volunteered to help them reopen. I was lucky enough to get a chance to work here again, so I came on board immediately. You can tell everyone worked really hard to make it shine."



**Samantha Putt,**  
Administrative  
Assistant to Cynthia  
Zeigler

"The people here are all wonderful; they're the best people I've ever worked with. They all have the goal of rebuilding in mind and are very directed."



**Hipólito Sandoval,**  
Park Attendant



**Janet Perales,**  
Community Relations  
Director

"I thought it would be very interesting to work for the zoo, but I could not see how I would fit in until I read the hurricane issue of the newsletter. The effort, dedication and love that I read about convinced me that I wanted to work with the people here, and my goal is to make all our communities aware of this great resource." ■



**Michael Montenegro,**  
Park Ranger



**Above: "Piggly" and "Wiggly" are pot-bellied pigs. Come and meet these southeast Asian natives in the Children's Zoo.**



**Left: Clouded leopards, pictured here with Toni Brough, are new to the amphitheater show. This species grows to 40-60 lbs. and has the largest canine teeth of all cats in relation to their size.**

Animal photos by Rick McCawley

Head shots by Rick McCawley, Greg Lewis and Janet Perales



**Caribbean flamingo** Rick McCawley

## BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

**April 25 - June 25, 1993**

**Eastern leopard tortoise (6)**  
*Geochelone pardalis babcocki*  
Sex undetermined Apr. 27 - May 4

**Impala**  
*Aepyceros melampus*  
Sex undetermined May 18

**Baird's tapir**  
*Tapirus Bairdii*  
Male May 29

**Caribbean flamingo**  
*Phoenicopterus ruber*  
Sex undetermined June 9

## ACQUISITIONS

**Black duiker**  
*Cephalophus niger*

**Black & white ruffed lemur**  
*Varecia variegata variegata*

**Fennec fox**  
*Fennecus zerda*

**Oriental small-clawed otter**  
*Aonyx cinerea*

**Red kangaroo**  
*Megaleia rufa*



8

**A Toast To Our Progress**  
 This fall, Torresella Wines is making it easy to toast your good health — and the rebuilding of the zoo. For each bottle of Torresella Wine sold in September and October, Torresella and the National Distributing Company are contributing a percentage to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. By targeting key retail and restaurant accounts to participate in the promotion, the two companies hope to raise \$10,000 for the aviary. Torresella held a kickoff party at the zoo for the NDC sales team. This isn't the first time Torresella Wines and NDC have been kind to the zoo. They generously donated wine to "An Evening with Jane Goodall" on May 14, 1993.

**Gardening for winged wildlife in the Garden of Dreams.**

# On Our Andrew-versary

## Mighty Trees From Seedlings Grow

**A**t the zoo, we marked the first-year anniversary of Hurricane Andrew by looking forward instead of back. And the SunBank Seed Bank and the Garden of Dreams were just two ways of doing it.

Along with the zoo's tree-replacement program, the SunBank Seed Bank is a symbol of all Dade County's renewal. Through the generosity of SunBank/Miami, N.A. and Ron Schaff's Hidden Garden Nursery, the zoo will become temporary home to 25,000 oaks and 5,000 Washington, Queen and Phoenix palms.

The two-year-old trees will be repotted — through the cooperative efforts of zoo staff and our dedicated volunteers — in 30,000 pots and potting soil supplied by the National Tree Trust in Washington, D.C. Florida Silicon & Sand contributed peat, sand and composted pine bark, and the U.S. Forestry Service supplied a shade house. For the next year, the trees will be tended by volunteers from across Dade County. Then they will be distributed, free of charge, to hurricane-ravaged areas of the community.

SunBank generously underwrote a full irrigation system as well as the forklift and pallets used on the day of planting.

"SunBank is pleased to help reforest Dade County by supporting the National Tree Trust Seed Bank at Metrozoo," said Lynn M. Cambest, SunBank executive vice president and member of the zoo's board of directors. "The zoo is a particularly

fitting site because it lost so much greenery during the hurricane. And with its successful campaign to rebuild, Metrozoo personifies all of South Dade's restoration and rebirth." ■  
 by Sheila Fyfe, Development Coordinator



**Volunteer Linda Crutchfield preps pots for planting.** Rick McCawley

## Winged Creatures Dance Among The Plants

**M**etrozoo has broken ground on a new Garden of Dreams butterfly garden. The original Garden of Dreams was planted at Miami Sunset Senior High by students led by teachers Pam Shockey, Carol Yngve and Linda Speedy. As an

educational project, it was honored by the Florida Department of Education as the 1993 Sharing Success in Environmental Education Program as a "Program of Promise."

We are replicating their concept, creating a garden environment that features native plant species attractive to butterflies. It is located by the Siamang Exhibit. When in bloom, the Garden of Dreams will be alive with colorful native butterflies. Dade County Park & Recreation contributed soil and mulch, and Pelsencia Nursery gave such plants as porterweed, dill and purple passion flowers to the zoo's Garden of Dreams. ■

by Agnes Spurlock, Director of Volunteer Services



Greg Lewis



# Wild Florida

*A post-hurricane report on natural areas within Metrozoo's parent organization, the Dade County Park & Recreation Department.*

**T**he Dade County park system includes over 500 facilities comprising 11,150 acres. Sixty of the 500 facilities – over 6,000 acres – have been identified as natural areas. In these nature parks many of the unique habitats of Florida are represented, including tropical hardwood hammocks, pine uplands fresh water and coastal wetlands. Responsibility for ecosystem management of natural areas falls under the Natural Areas Management Division of the Park & Recreation Department. Their goal is to maintain these lands in as natural a state as possible while still providing public access.

Almost half the parkland natural areas acreage is in South Dade and it was dramatically affected by the storm. Areas like Castellow Hammock, Snapper Creek Hammock, Matheson Hammock and the Charles Deering Estate were hardest hit and will take the longest to revive. All but a few parks with natural areas have reopened, but full restoration of these ecosystems is many years away.

In the case of natural areas, “restoration” doesn’t mean planting and building as it does at Metrozoo. There are fences, lighting and visitor amenities to be repaired, but in terms of the habitat itself, restoration means making sure the area maintains its natural integrity while healing. Regrowing a complex and diverse habitat is a slow process.

One of the biggest obstacles to overcome is the “sunburst” effect: the overgrowth of plants and vines that occurs in areas suddenly exposed to sun. In mature hammocks, little sunlight reaches the ground beneath the canopy. The lack of sunlight reduces growth of plants and controls competition for the scarce soil nutrients. With the canopy all but destroyed by the hurricane, sunlight has triggered growth of exotic vines which, if not suppressed, can strangle

**In the case of natural areas, “restoration” doesn’t mean planting and building as it does at Metrozoo. Regrowing a complex and diverse habitat is a slow process.**



the life out of native plants. Nature controls overgrowth of native vines. But non-native, exotic species are highly invasive and pose a great danger because they grow so quickly. Such growth must be intensively controlled or it will literally create a blanket of cover that smothers native plant species by blocking the sun. Metro Parks has initiated an intensive exotic plant removal program.

The second major natural areas problem is the dying off of pine trees since the hurricane. This problem relates to the reduced hydrology of the higher elevation pine lands from the digging of drain canals and diversion of water resources. Because of water drain-off and residential use, the availability of water for pines has decreased over the decades. This had

already stressed the trees and affected their overall health by the time Hurricane Andrew hit. The added stress of the storm lowered the pines’ resistance to insects and other external factors. The primary culprit, the pine bark beetle, bores into the trees and, if unchecked, can eventually kill them. Pine bark beetles are taking a terrible toll, which can be seen in the number of dead pines throughout southern Dade County.

Despite the amount of damage sustained in some areas, there are still a number of county parks with natural lands open to the public. Some of the better-known are Greynolds and Arch Creek Parks in North Dade, and Bill Sadowski Park (formerly Old Cutler Hammock Nature Center) and The Fruit and Spice Park in South Dade. There is much to be learned and enjoyed from visiting our area’s special native habitats.

*by Bill Zeigler, General Curator, with Maureen Gregg, Natural Areas Administrator for the Dade County Park & Recreation Department. ■*

## See For Yourself

**For guided nature tours, self-guided nature walks and programs, call the A.D. Barnes Interpretive Programming Center at 305-662-4124. Ask for Alice Thurman and subscribe to Tropical Trails, a quarterly publication devoted to Dade County natural areas programs and information. Call 305/662-4124 for a complimentary copy and subscription information. Metro Park’s Natural Areas Management also produces a free quarterly newsletter. If you are interested in receiving this, call 305/857-3370.**

## Bookworms

**David A. Hester, Zoo Member**

*Last Chance To See*  
by Douglas Adams and Mark Carwardine

*“In a project sponsored by the BBC, British humorist and science fiction writer Douglas Adams (of “Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy” fame) and zoologist Mark Carwardine travel to the four corners of Earth to seek out and view some of the world’s most exotic and endangered species. In his inimitable style, Adams leads the reader through a series of amazing, sometimes humorous and sometimes tragic meetings with these wonderful animals and the equally fascinating men and women who are struggling against incredible odds to save them from extinction. In the end he leaves us with a sense of wonder over the variety and fragility of life on our planet as well as a profound sense of hope for the future.”*

Mr. Hester receives a free zoo T-shirt for his “Bookworms” contribution. If you’d like to share your latest read, send us the title, author and a brief description of why it’s important to you. Please include your name and daytime phone number. If your suggestion is published in *Toucan Talk* we’ll give you a free zoo T-shirt, too. The address is Bookworms c/o The Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, Florida, 33177-1499.

**Remembering A Friend**

Thanks to her friends at **American Senior High**, the name of **Uuluma Reyes** will have a permanent place of honor at Metrozoo. When "Zuly," a junior, was tragically killed in a car accident, her friends in **Students Against Drunk Driving** took up a collection for a memorial to her. They raised over \$1,000 which will place a bench commemorating her in front of the Caribbean flamingo exhibit. The location is fitting, says Zuly's mother, **Gladys Saavedra**. "She was a total animal lover from A to Z," Mrs. Saavedra said. "She especially loved birds."

If you would like information on how to commemorate a loved one at the zoo, call Alice Goodhart at 305/255-5551.

10

# Looking At Our Garden

**T**his summer a dramatic rebuilding project began. Thousands of trees were planted in July and August and thousands more will be installed before next summer. The impact of this effort can be seen and felt immediately. And it will be enjoyed anew by successive generations of Metrozoo visitors. Decades from now, when horticulture volunteers give tours of our lush zoological garden, they will relate the story of how our gardens came to be. What would such a tour be like?

**We meet in a fine, old oak grove. Gnarled branches overspread the path, shielding us from the 21st-century sun. Our tour begins:**

"Perhaps the strongest influence on the gardens you see today was the great hurricane of 1992, a hurricane named 'Andrew.' It was a sweeping disaster that almost completely destroyed Metrozoo. At the time, over 75 percent of the trees and plants here were lost. But like the phoenix rising from its ashes, Metrozoo remade itself in the aftermath of a tragedy to become the garden you'll see today.

"This landscape design was not the work of an individual. It was a cooperative effort by zoo and county administrators, animal curators, landscape architects and gardeners. **Martha McDonald**, from Dade County Park & Recreation Department and **Robert Parsley**, owner of a design firm called **Geomantic Designs**, are the landscape architects who oversaw planning. The method of actually creating the garden followed more in the European tradition of bringing materials to the site, then arranging them as a living sculpture or painting. A landscape artist named **Kevin Rosen** was instrumental in that process. Building a garden in this way is a lot like cooking. If you have a tomato with a bit of a dint in it, you chop it up and use it in the gazpacho. The perfect tomato is sliced thinly and used as a garnish. It is the same with gardening. In the field, each plant must be positioned according to its location and use. Is it a specimen tree for a public pathway? Is it a screening tree for

an animal paddock? We have many specialty gardens here at Metrozoo, but in terms of the overall design, this on-site design approach has been very effective.

"When Metrozoo was built (it opened in 1980) certain species had been transplanted from Crandon Park, the zoo's former location. Some, unfortunately, were not suitable for the conditions on this site. Today, you see poinciana, tabebuia, oaks, peltophorum, mahogany and gumbo limbo in profusion. In fact, Metrozoo is famous for its flowering trees, many of which were added in the design that followed Hurricane Andrew."

**After passing through the Wings of Asia, we wind along the pathway to forested paddocks of the European lobe of**



*In Memoriam*  
 We wish to thank an anonymous donor for a very generous contribution of \$90,000 to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. This donation was made in memory of Gertrude S. Woolley, September 4, 1916 - May 24, 1993.

# From The Next Century

**the zoo. The forward placement of shade trees in the exhibits brings the animals to the front and shows them against a textured background of trees and shrubs. Our tour guide continues:**

"Another strong, positive influence in the development of this garden was, believe it or not, a government agency. After Hurricane Andrew, damages at the zoo totaled over \$15 million. The Federal Emergency Management Association, or FEMA, funded repairs not covered by insurance, including tree replacement. The director of Metrozoo, Bob Yokel, and the assistant director, Al Fontana, worked with FEMA to arrange for canopy, not individual trees, to be replaced. Thus, the

zoo received anywhere from two to four trees for every tree lost. During one two-month period in the summer of 1993, over 4,000 trees were planted here! Today those mature FEMA trees are a veritable forest."

**Now we enter a deeply shaded pathway where vines languish over trellises, sending forth heavily scented flowers. Well-detailed, small exhibits highlight a diversity of species. We are drawn in to observe at close range several small, highly active animals. Moving on, we turn a corner and are amazed at a dramatic change in color and scale. We encounter a wide, bright vista that encompasses giraffes, elephants, zebras, impalas, bongos, crowned cranes and kudu, all in one sweeping view. Successive layers of landscaping draw our eyes to various species as they might be seen on an African plain. A fantasy of palms also graces this landscape.**

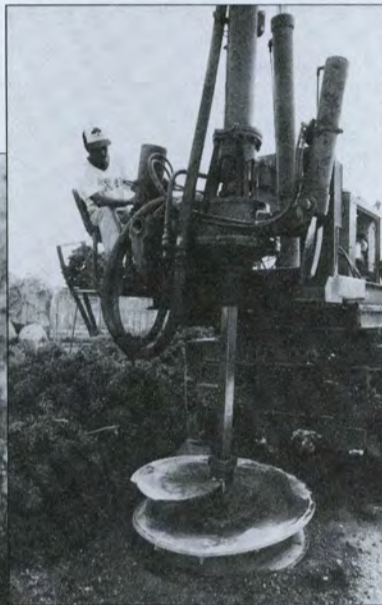
"Thousands of the trees at Metrozoo were planted here through the generosity of donors from around the U.S. The

response from the nation after Metrozoo was nearly destroyed was a real miracle. There was another miracle of sorts that occurred at that time.

"A gentleman named Manuel Diaz had a tree farm in South Dade County. Manuel Diaz Farms is still one of the largest ornamental tree farms in the world. The eye of Hurricane Andrew swept through his property, leaving no area untouched. They say that as he surveyed his acres of twisted, splintered, defoliated trees, he realized that many trees had been spared. While he bulldozed away dead trees, representing thousands of years of growth, he thought his sturdy survivors must have been saved for a special purpose. As he righted the surviving trees, buttressing them with dead ones, he slowly came to the idea: use these trees to help rebuild another South Dade property that had been destroyed: his neighbor, Metrozoo.

"The primary impact of Mr. Diaz's contribution is that it supplemented the tree replacement with thousands of palm trees that still are a feature of our zoo. They are yet another element in a project that grew from a disaster and changed Metrozoo dramatically — for the better — so many years ago." ■

*by Barbara Brady. Based on interviews with Manuel Diaz, Al Fontana, Jorge Maura, Martha McDonald, Robert Parsley, Kevin Rosen and Bob Yokel.*



Greg Lewis

**Workers from Manuel Diaz Farms, and our own zoo maintenance staff, have installed thousands of trees this summer — one at a time.**



#### Editor

**Barbara Brady**

#### Contributing Editors

**Sheila Fyfe**

**Janet Perales**

#### Graphic Design

**Jill Ditzel**

#### Illustrators

**Laura Blanken**

#### Photographers

**Barbara Brady**

**Greg Lewis**

**Rick McCawley**

**Misty Rorrer**

**Jerry Tobias**

#### Contributors

**Carol Gaudino**

**Frank N. Hawkins, Jr.**

**Ron Magill**

**Agnes Spurlock**

**Bill Zeigler**

Printed on ● recycled paper with vegetable-based inks. Please recycle this publication when you are finished with it.

Copyright ©1993 Zoological Society of Florida. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without permission of the publisher.

#### Toucan Talk

Volume 19, Number 5

September/October, 1993

Published six times each year as a benefit to the members and supporters of Miami Metrozoo.

#### Zoological Society of Florida

**Glenn Ekey,**

**Executive Director**

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

**President**

#### Miami Metrozoo

**Bob Yokel, Director**

12400 SW 152 Street

Miami, FL 33177-1499

305/255-5551

305/255-7126 (fax)

#### Zoo Visitor Information

305/251-0400



**Gala Kicked Off In Style**

*Neiman Marcus in Bal Harbour honored Metrozoo at the showing of their 1993 fall evening collection on June 2. Between lunching and viewing the newest creations of French couturier Paul Louis Orrier, attendees got a "preview" of a different kind. Zoo Rebuilding Fund Co-Chair Diane Sepler spoke of plans to restore and enhance the zoo. A grand "merci" to Ms. Sepler, Monsieur Orrier and Neiman Marcus for letting us steal a little of the show that day.*

# Calendar Of Zoo Events

**Thursday, September 9  
"FIU At The Zoo" Class Begins**

"FIU At The Zoo" meets one evening per week for one semester and provides three graduate credit hours. Teachers in any subject area can use this course for recertification. (See the May/June, 1993 *Toucan Talk*.) For registration information contact Dr. Edward Reichbach at 305/348-2561. This class will be repeated in Spring 1994.

**Music To Our Ears**

The New World Symphony is America's orchestral academy — and a great supporter of the zoo. The New World Symphony's family concert series, "Hands On Music," introduces children to classical music by focusing on sections of the orchestra, such as strings or brass. Our favorite part offers a musical instrument "petting zoo" in which children can touch and hold the instruments. "Hands On Music" will be presented on October 23, 1993, and February 5 and April 16, 1994, at the Lincoln Theater. To purchase discount subscriptions to the series, call 305/673-3331.

**Saturday & Sunday, October 30 & 31  
First Annual MetroBoo!**

9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Zoo  
Free with zoo admission.  
(Zoo members, of course, are always admitted free!)  
Introducing South Florida's best Halloween party. Two days of trick-or-treating, costumes, entertainment, special animal displays and other activities for children age 12 and under. Here's the lineup:

**Pumpkin Patch**

From 9:30 a.m.  
Children under 12 can take home a free pumpkin, as long as supplies last.

**Trick-or-Treating**

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Treats for kids at nine stations around the zoo.

**Costume Contest**

Trick-or-Treaters can enter and win great prizes!

**Carved Pumpkin Contest**

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Carve your pumpkin at home then bring it to the zoo and register for our contest. Winners will be announced at 3 p.m. each day.

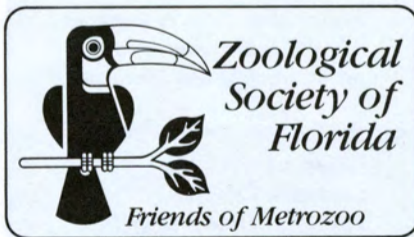
Call 305/255-5551 for more information about MetroBoo! and other events at the zoo.

**January 27, 28 & 29, 1994**

**Global Environmental Symposium**



Experts Jean-Michel Cousteau, Thomas E. Lovejoy and Richard Leakey will be featured in the upcoming symposium presented by the zoo. The symposium will focus on global environmental issues and how community and personal involvement can influence these concerns. You also can look forward to key White House officials participating in this exciting event for Miami.



12400 SW 152nd Street  
Miami, FL 33177-1499

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 4358  
Miami, Florida

*You're Invited  
To South  
Florida's Best  
Halloween Party:  
See Page 7*