



TOUCAN TALK

Published Bimonthly for Supporters of Miami Metrozoo



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This fall, Zoological Supervisor **Carl Burch** and Keeper **David Hill** outfitted a large stock trailer with 23 enclosures and lined them with coastal hay. They hitched the trailer to a truck and set out on a four-day, 2,000-mile junket that took them the length and breadth of Florida and to Savannah, Georgia. Their mission was to bring back 50 of Metrozoo's storks, cranes, hornbills, ibises and swans still in "foster homes" where they had been for the past year.

First stop was **The Zoo at Gulf Breeze** in Pensacola. There, one female sarus crane was installed in deluxe accommodations in the trailer. "We knew she'd be in the truck for a while," said Burch, "so she got the most luxurious suite." Then on to St. Catherine's Island, Georgia where aviculturists with the **New York Zoological Society** said bye-bye to 18 birds including wattled cranes, European storks and Abyssinian ground hornbills. At **White Oak Plantation** in Yule, Florida, they gathered up our breeding pair of Stanley cranes, and in Hayne City, they met with private breeder **Mary Dam**, who'd been watching over our breeding pair of black-necked swans and three offspring hatched in 1992. At Tampa's **Busch Gardens** our marabou storks, roseate spoonbills and Eurasian spoonbills joined the flock on the truck. And **Lowry Park Zoo** turned over several scarlet ibises.

By this time, Carl and David had been on the road three days. The birds had settled in to their temporary life on the road and, says Burch, all went according to plan. "Our greatest concern in transporting the birds was the heat," he said. "But it was overcast and rainy the entire trip. This made driving miserable, but it was great for the birds." Last stop, **Silver Springs** to pick up East African crowned cranes and Abdim storks. Then they zipped back to Miami where you now can see these specimens in fine feather throughout the zoo.

On The Cover

This Stanley crane, recently brought back to Metrozoo, has already hatched an egg. Mother and fledgling can be seen in the nyala exhibit.

- photo by Rick McCauley

New ZSF Bylaws Approved

The Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) has taken a major step forward with the adoption of new bylaws and the election of new officers and directors. These changes represent a powerful blending of continuity together with fresh minds, energy and commitment. With the election of the new directors, we have the strongest team in the history of ZSF.

In the months and years ahead, we will be faced with unprecedented challenges. It is essential that we have the people and the structure to do what it takes to build one of the great zoos of the world here in Dade County.

This undertaking demands deeper and closer cooperation between the ZSF, which helps support Metrozoo, and the **Dade County Park and**

Recreation Department, which operates Metrozoo. It demands an increasingly deep commitment at all levels, from directors and officers through staff and volunteers.

In the past year we have accomplished more than at any time in our history. Much of this, of course, was driven by necessity. And I'm proud to say that, thanks to the strong leadership from **Bob Yokel** and his fine staff, and from the Park and Recreation Department, Metrozoo is rising rapidly from disaster to greatness. The ZSF staff has also done an outstanding job of providing critical support.

But there is still much to be done. Your board and officers look forward to another year of accomplishment and progress. ■ *by Frank N. Hawkins, Jr., President of the Zoological Society of Florida.*

ZSF Elects New Officers And Board Members

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors of ZSF elected a new slate of officers and directors. At the same time, the board adopted a new set of bylaws aimed at streamlining its operation and making it more responsive to the growing needs of Metrozoo.

The new bylaws provide for six vice presidents, each of whom will head a major committee. These

VPs, along with two at-large members appointed by the president comprise the ZSF Executive Committee. They are:

<i>President</i>	Frank N. Hawkins, Jr.
<i>Immediate Past President/ Chairman of the Trustees</i>	Sherrill W. Hudson
<i>VP/Development Committee</i>	Michael Greif
<i>VP/Long-Range Planning Committee</i>	Ralph Morera
<i>VP/Marketing Committee</i>	Jean Kislak
<i>VP/Legal & Legislative Committee</i>	Bill Gallwey
<i>VP/Nominating Committee</i>	Andy Weinstein
<i>VP/Education Committee</i>	Ed Soto
<i>Treasurer/Budget & Finance Committee</i>	Lynn Cambest
<i>Secretary/Volunteer Committee</i>	Laura Jack
<i>At Large</i>	Sue Cobb
<i>At Large</i>	Lester Goldstein
<i>Executive Director</i>	Glenn W. Ekey
<i>Director of Metrozoo</i>	Bob Yokel

Board members who are past presidents serve as non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

We welcome several new members to our board this year. They are **Charles Crispin, Jason Israel, Jean Kislak**, past presidents **Sanford B. Miot** and **Robert Paul**, and **Patricia San Pedro**.

Continuing their service on the Board of Directors are **Mark D. Bloom, Gerald C. Cherry, Ron Esserman, Samuel Getz, James C. Hartenstein, Barbara A. Ibarra, Linda Isenhour, Daryl Jones, John K. Little, Jack Lowell, James E. McDonald, Allan J. Pekor, Patti Ragan, Eugenio Sanson, Monroe Scheiner, M.D., Lawrence O. Turner, Jr., Sam Verdeja**, and **Georgia A. Wright**. **Bill Bird**, director of Metro Dade County Park and Recreation Department is an *ex officio* member. ■



Like this newly-acquired Bactrian camel (foreground) our board members go the distance to make your zoo an oasis of education and fun for South Florida. - photo by Rick McCauley

Meet The Monitor

Among our new acquisitions is an Asian water monitor (*Varanus salvator*).

It is our hope that this female will be a suitable mate for our male who is on display in the Asian River Life exhibit. According to General Curator **Bill Zeigler**, however, males can easily kill females during courtship. Therefore, great care is being taken in introducing these two animals.

First she will be placed in an enclosure adjacent to the male so he can get to know her by smell. Then visual contact will be given, followed by physical contact through wire mesh. All the while, keepers will be observing the behavior of both animals.

"Body language is very important," explained Zeigler. "If she becomes defensive, or ignores him, he

may think she's an intruder – or another male. If that's the case, he may decide to attack."

Naturally, we hope both animals will exhibit courtship behaviors and that, eventually, offspring will be hatched.

Asian water monitors are common throughout Southeast Asia. They are voracious predators that will eat anything they can capture. They have adapted well to human presence throughout their range, in part, says Zeigler, "because they have learned there's lots of good eating around trash piles."

Although not endangered, Asian water monitors provide an excellent model to establish a management program for Komodo dragons, which are endangered on their island habitat. ■



This female water monitor represents the second largest lizard species which can reach eight feet in length and weigh over 80 pounds. (First in size is the Komodo dragon; challenging for second is the crocodile monitor, a tree-climbing reptile that is longer, but lighter, than the Asian water monitor.)

- photo by Rick McCawley

Coming Soon To A Ballot Near You

If you're a registered voter in Dade County – and if you love Metrozoo – you'll want to keep an eye out for the **Dade 2000 General Obligation Bond Program** planned for 1994.

The preliminary Dade 2000 proposal calls for a \$2 billion multi-services county program to address current vital needs and to move the county into the 21st century. Funding is recommended to support the zoo. The bond issue is expected to go before the voters sometime this spring.

ZSF Board of Directors President **Frank N. Hawkins, Jr.** has appointed Board member **Sue Cobb**

to spearhead our **Dade 2000 Bond Program Task Force** which will encourage voters to support this important program. **Stan Hemphill**, our director of capital improvements management, also will be active on this project.

"Dade 2000 will present the voters of Dade County with an unprecedented opportunity to rebuild and enhance our community," said Cobb. "I am proud to have been appointed to represent the Zoological Society on this important project."

Stay tuned to *Toucan Talk* for more news and information about Dade 2000. ■



Gerenuk

Rick McCawley

BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

June 15 - September 10, 1993

Parma wallaby
Macropus parma
Male June 15

Fennec fox (2)
Fennecus zerda
Sex undetermined June 28

Black & white colobus
Colobus polykomos angolensis
Sex undetermined July 5

Defassa waterbuck
Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa
Female July 7

Nile lechwe
Kobus megaceros
Sex undetermined July 13

Gerenuk (2)
Litocranius walleri
Female August 5

Greater kudu
Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Male August 9

Red kangaroo
Megaleia rufa
Sex undetermined August 18

Indian muntjac
Muntiacus muntjac vaginalis
Male August 27

Thomson's gazelle
Gazella Thomsoni
Female August 28

ACQUISITIONS

Asian water monitor
Varanus salvator

Bactrian camel
Camelus bactrianus

Bennett's wallaby
Macropus rufogriseus fruticosa

Blacktail prairie dog
Cynomys ludovicianus

Domestic rabbit
Oryctolagus cuniculus

Epauleted fruit bat
Epomophorus wahlbergi

Gemsbok
Oryx gazella

Opossum
Didelphus virginiana

Sable
Hippotragus niger

Volunteers Learn The Drill

Seventy-five new recruits are spending October and November Saturdays at the zoo. They're training as interpretive volunteers in a special program which we offer in the spring and fall each year.

The new volunteers are learning specific teaching techniques to interpret the zoo's animal collection for visitors. The training prepares them for volunteer opportunities such as the Texaco Ecology Theater — daily, live animal presentations in the Children's Zoo. Interpretive volunteers also provide a personal touch by chatting informally with zoo visitors at various animal exhibits. And in outreach programs, they "hit the road" with small animals to give presentations off-grounds at businesses, schools and community centers.

Being an interpreter is just one of the many jobs available to our volunteers. No matter what your interest or skill, if you want to become a part of the zoo we'll make you welcome.

The first step is to get acquainted. Our next Volunteer Get-Acquainted class will be held Saturday, January 15, 1994. Please join us to learn more about the opportunities available to you. To register, please call Volunteer Services at 305-255-5551.

This new opossum will be part of our educational programs.

See story on the next page.

Winter 1994 Programs

Our Education Department staff has put together a fantastic schedule of programs for all ages. All programs take place at the zoo and include demonstrations of live animals from our collection along with participatory activities. We encourage you to register early because space is limited and programs fill very quickly. Please use the registration form included here. If you have any questions, call the Education Department at 305-255-5551.

Here's the schedule for January through March, 1994.

Animal Discovery

These are animal encounters for our youngest zoo members and their parents. You'll meet mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in this easy introductory series. Each week a different group of animals and in-zoo activities are featured. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

Ages 3-5

Tuesday Series A:
January 11, 18, 25/1:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday Series B:
January 12, 19, 26/1:30-3:00 p.m.

Ages 6-7

Tuesday Series C:
February 8, 15, 22/1:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday Series D:
February 9, 16, 23/1:30-3:00 p.m.

Fee per adult-child pair:
Member \$36, Non-member \$41

Mini Zoo Camps

What a day away from school! Dade County schools may be out, but classes are in at the zoo.

Students in grades one through four can spend their school holidays with our "wild bunch" learning about — and meeting — the amazing residents of the zoo.

Ages 6-10 (grades 1-4)

Series A: Monday, January 17,
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Series B: Friday, January 28,
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Series C: Monday, February 21,
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Fee per child: Member \$25,
Non-member \$30



Misty Romer

Zoo Careers

What is it like to work at a zoo? Zoologists-to-be can learn about careers with exotic animals and other jobs at Metrozoo. Participants also get a behind-the-scenes look at exhibits in our Children's Zoo.

Ages 12-16

Saturday, February 5,
9:00-11:00 a.m.

Fee per person: Member \$8,
Non-member \$13



Rick McCauley

Zoo Slumber Party

Be our overnight guest for a wild sleep-over. You bring your sleeping bag, flashlight and a spirit of adventure, we'll bring the pizza, breakfast, movies and animals. Series A and B are for kids; Series C is for grown ups only. The party starts at 6 p.m. and finishes at 9 o'clock the next morning.

Series A: Ages 8-10,
Friday, January 14

Series B: Ages 11-13,
Saturday, January 22

Series C: Adults only
(age 16 and up) Friday,
February 11

Fee per person: Member \$20,
Non-member \$25

Travels with Ron Magill

Join Metrozoo's goodwill ambassador Ron Magill — recently returned from an African Safari — for a special evening exploring the splendor of the African countryside. The trip took Ron into the reserves of Kenya and Tanzania, to see vast herds of wildebeests and gazelles as well as elusive predators such as leopard, hyena and martial eagle. A wine and cheese reception will accompany the talk.

For adults (age 16 and up)

Monday, February 28,
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee per person: Member \$12,
Non-member \$17

Keeper Chats

Some amazing people work at Metrozoo. Many are involved in exciting field work with endangered species in exotic locations. Others devote their efforts to local species, rehabilitating injured animals or preserving the unique wild habitats of Florida. Each Keeper Chat features a different zoo personality and topic. A box dinner and beverage are included for each evening talk.

For adults (age 16 and up)

Thursday February 10,
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday February 24,
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Fee, per person, includes
dinner and beverage:

Member \$12

Non-member \$17

Children's Zoo News

We are proud to announce the arrival of several new animals which will be part of our Animal Resource Center (dubbed "ARC" for short). The animals in the ARC are an important part of our education programs. These additions will make it possible to implement more programs for zoo visitors and audiences throughout our area.

When Is A "Dog" Not A Dog?

When it's a prairie dog! Contrary to its name, the prairie dog is not a canine, but a rodent – a very large type of ground squirrel. It has been over ten years since the zoo has had blacktail prairie dogs, so it's with great fondness that we welcome a young male.

Prairie dog colonies, called "towns," are extensive underground burrow systems. Blacktail prairie dogs were once found throughout the American Great Plains, but because they compete with cattle for grass as a food source, prairie dogs have been greatly reduced by an

intensive poisoning campaign. Today they are protected in our National Park System where their numbers have been slowly increasing.



Blacktail prairie dog. Rick McCawley

A Backyard Marsupial

When most people think of marsupials – animals with pouches to carry their young – they think of Australian koalas and kangaroos. But there is one marsupial found right in our own back yards. This animal is the common opossum.

With their long hairless tails, opossums look more like large rats – not as graceful as kangaroos nor as cutesy as koalas. But opossums are a very successful species, having slowly increased their range across most of North America. Their success is due, in part, to an omnivorous diet which includes both plants and animals.

Opossums are nocturnal so you'll generally see them only at night. Unless, of course, you're lucky enough to meet ours during a Children's Zoo demonstration or an education program.

Bats Can Be Beautiful

Also nocturnal are our newly-acquired epauleted fruit bats. This species gets its name from the conspicuous pair of shoulder tufts found in the males. Because of centuries of superstition and misinformation, bats are a very misunderstood group. By experiencing these up close and personally in the Children's Zoo, visitors may learn that bats aren't all bad. In fact, they're pretty cute. ■

by Damien Kong, Education Specialist



Expressing Thanks

ZSF Executive Director Glenn Ekey gleefully pockets a gift from The American Express Foundation with help from ZSF Board Member James Hartenstein. The "check" represents a \$10,000 grant to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund which will be used to help reconstruct the Children's Zoo.

Good Folkes

The Folke H. Peterson Charitable Foundation, a private, Florida foundation which awards grants to organizations that benefit animals, has made a \$25,000 gift to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. We're gratified to receive such generous support from outside of Dade County. This gift affirms that the zoo's sphere of influence encompasses the entire tri-county area. We hope to return Folke Peterson's generous support by creating facilities and services to benefit all of South Florida.

Thank You, Coral Gables Elementary

During the 1992-93 school year, Coral Gables Elementary School took on the mission of making money for Metrozoo. Parents, students and teachers held craft sales and presented the show "Wackadoo Zoo." They raised over \$800 for the Zoo Rebuilding Fund, and were so excited about the project that they've adopted Metrozoo again this school year.

RSVP: Affirmative!

RSVP Publications answered "yes" to the call to support Metrozoo. They've donated valuable space in a cooperative mailer this fall to make thousands of South Florida families aware of our exciting new brick campaign. We're grateful to Marilyn Cocco and everyone at RSVP for enabling us to reach a key audience so efficiently. We're looking forward to immortalizing their entire mailing list in brick!

Education Program Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

I am a Member Membership # _____ I am not a Member

Name of Program	Session	Name of Participant	Child's Age/Grade	Fee
TOTAL:				\$

For children's programs, complete the following:

Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Method of Payment (Please do not send cash.)

Check American Express MasterCard Visa

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Customer Signature: _____

Mail this completed order form with your payment to Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.



Bookworms

This month we tickle your curiosity with the pen and ink efforts of some of our Down To Earth speakers:

Jean-Michel Cousteau's latest is *Cousteau's Australia Journey*, a down-under description and travel title. In 1992 he penned *Cousteau's Great White Shark*, an in-depth (so to speak) look at these fantastic creatures. Both books are hardbacks, published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Thomas E. Lovejoy has co-authored *Ecology & Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds* and *Key Environments: Amazonia*. His latest is *Global Warming & Biological Diversity*. These titles are available from Smithsonian Institution Press and Yale University Press, respectively.

Richard Leakey has two recent books on discoveries he's dug up about our past: *Origins: What New Discoveries Reveal About the Emergence of Our Species and Its Possible Future* (1991, Doubleday & Company) and *Origins Reconsidered: In Search of What Makes Us Human* (1992, Viking Penguin).

Environmental Bringing Complex Is

Environmentalism is a big word. It's about big challenges that seem to require big action. But environmentalism starts with individuals. Most often it's collective efforts at the local level that keep environmental action a high priority for business and government.

Environmental issues can be as big as the globe. How on Earth does an environmentally-minded person get started?

The first steps may be confusing. "Paper or plastic?" Houses or habitats? Landfills or incinerators? Sometimes you're helped along by civic programs like curbside recycling, but eventually, before you can increase your involvement, you need more information about environmental issues. This is where we come in.

On January 28-29, 1994 we're presenting **Down To Earth**. Three of the world's top experts on oceans, forests and endangered animals help with the big picture by sharing their outlooks on the global environment. We're creating unique forums for you and these experts. We'll also offer events and excursions that let you see – and feel – how you, as an individual, can help your natural world.

Environmental issues can be as big as the globe. How on Earth does an environmentally-minded person get started?



Oceanographer **Jean-Michel Cousteau**, biologist **Thomas E. Lovejoy** and archaeologist **Richard Leakey** will be our honored guests. (Dr. Leakey will be appearing in the United States for the first time since his plane crash in Nairobi in early 1993.) Together, they will expand your understanding of the issues and

inspire you to new levels of environmental accomplishment.

Down To Earth Gets Down To Business

The Down To Earth event will give business leaders a special opportunity to share their ideas on environmental issues with one another – and with the principal speakers. Participating South Florida business leaders and individuals will be invited to a reception to meet each other, and our speakers, and share their ideas on environmental issues.

"We want to inspire area businesses to include environmental concerns as a part of their annual agendas," said Frank N. Hawkins, president of the ZSF Board of Directors and vice president of corporate relations at Knight-Ridder, Inc. "We want to provide a forum to establish networks of environmentally concerned businesses. This reception should be a 'must' item on the do-list of every South Floridian concerned with the health of both our economy and the environment," said Hawkins.

Any South Florida company – large or small – is invited to participate as are interested individuals. For more information and reservations, call Craig Askins at 305-255-5551. ■

The Cousteau name is synonymous with adventurous nature programs. Almost everyone has grown up watching the Cousteau family travel the oceans in search of fascinating marine creatures large and small. Many of us secretly wished to be part of the *Calypso* crew, assisting with exciting discoveries about whales, otters, octopi and tropical fish. The Cousteaus and their crew took us places we would never actually see, and made us care deeply about preserving the

oceans for generations to come.

Jean-Michel Cousteau carries on his family tradition, on both land and sea. He is an internationally recognized spokesperson for the marine environment, who communicates directly with the public through lectures and media productions. We are honored to have him join us for Down To Earth and his ideas are sure to spark lively conversation about approaches to research and conservation. We hope to see you there! ■



Cousteau

'sm Made Easy

sues Down To Earth

Thomas Lovejoy is one of those exceptional scholars and field researchers who has originated many groundbreaking and influential programs in his field. Since 1965 he has worked in the tropical regions of South America, conducting landmark research that brought to the public eye the plight of the rainforest.

Lovejoy conceived the idea of "debt-for-nature" swaps and founded the award-winning PBS program "Nature." Currently he is on special assignment to the U.S. Department of the Interior, where he works directly with Secretary **Bruce Babbitt** to coordinate the National Biological Survey. Following this monumental task, he will return to the Smithsonian Institution to serve as Assistant Secretary for Environmental and External Affairs.

Our Director of Education Nancy Hotchkiss caught up with Dr. Lovejoy between his birdwatching, meetings and international travel and chatted with him about his personal motivation and approaches to conservation.

Hotchkiss: Your background and experiences are so diverse that nearly every superlative has been used to describe you. How would you describe yourself?

Lovejoy: *I've been called a lot of things! I'm really just a biologist who is interested in more than my corner of the sciences. Whatever the label, all I'm trying to do is persuade people to care enough to save the natural world.*

One major conservation effort you have spearheaded is the "debt-for-nature" swap. How does that work,

"The state of the environment is still getting worse, but not nearly as quickly as before."



and do you feel it has been successful?

The concept is to encourage wealthier nations to forgive the international debts of developing nations in exchange for setting aside large tracts of land as nature preserves. It has been met with modest success. I had hoped the dollar amount would be in the billions, but it's only in the hundred-millions. While I spend a lot of time negotiating with vari-



Lovejoy

ous factions, people like your zoo members can get involved. They can write to the U.S. Treasury or their elected representatives to encourage them to accept this form of debt payment.

After nearly three decades in the conservation field, have you seen much progress? Do you think the situation for the environment is improving?

It's a mixed picture. The state of the environment is still getting worse, but not nearly as quickly as before. In this age of electronic media, it's harder to hide things, harder to deny the state of the planet. The increasing speed of communication has been important in changing public attitudes towards nature.

People are turned on by visual images. They relate to other people, both to tragic stories and to positive stories. When we developed the PBS series "Nature," we wanted to wake people up to the fragile state of the natural world. We must have touched a nerve, as it has become one of the most popular series in PBS history.

With all you've seen and experienced, what continues to inspire you?

Way deep down I believe the work is right. I want the next generation to care. It's a huge challenge for them. It can even be terrifying, but they need to take a role, be it as a scientist, publicist, lawyer, whatever. Mostly, I want them to see — as I have — that it's really fun!

Tom Lovejoy has an infectious enthusiasm that comes through when he talks about his work. For more information about all our Down To Earth activities, call Craig Askins at 305-255-5551.

Let Us Tell You A Story

Metrozoo celebrates our rich ethnic heritage Friday, November 26. Eight storytellers will gather here to relate animal tales from around the world. Stages will be strategically placed in four locations in the zoo so visitors can enjoy the folklore of Latin America, North America, Africa, Europe, Asia and the South Pacific against the backdrop of our newly replanted zoo. Samples of international foods will also be on sale; and drawings for sets of *World Book Encyclopedia* will be held.

Get Your Kicks At The Zoo

Sunday, November 14 M&M Mars sponsors a Youth Soccer Clinic at the zoo to benefit both Metrozoo and La Liga Contra El Cancer, Inc. Children age 12 or younger who bring six SNICKERS® brand single bar wrappers will receive free admission. (Must be accompanied by a paying adult.) Members of the Ft. Lauderdale Strikers professional soccer team will be on hand to give soccer tips. Zoo visitors can give goal kicking a try, and for every goal scored M&M Mars will make a contribution to Metrozoo and La Liga. There will also be raffles all day and prizes at the gate.

Staff Stuff



Stan Hemphill joined us in October as Director of Capital Improvements Management. His mission is to create a

four-point program to encompass planning, financing, building and endowing new exhibits and facilities. With his career history of success in the recreation and leisure industry, including the last 19 years as Financial Assistance Manager in the Planning and Research Division of Dade County Park and Recreation Department, he'll be a great asset as we launch our dramatic rebuilding plans.



This fall we welcomed **Nancy Hotchkiss** as Director of Education. Nancy has been actively

involved in conservation education for the past 12 years. She has held positions at the National Zoo, New York Zoological Society, Philadelphia Zoo and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Most recently she served as Director of Education for the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. She holds a Masters Degree in Museum Education from Georgetown University and an undergraduate degree in animal behavior.

Holiday Shopping (And It Sho

For a great selection of gifts, flock to the zoo this holiday season. Here are some presents that you don't have to hunt for, assemble, wrap or mail. And they all benefit one of South Florida's prized parks.

Proceeds from holiday gift purchases help make the zoo a better, more fun and more productive organization. If you and your loved ones want to know – not just this December, but for years to come – that their 1993 holiday helped support and expand the animal collection, provide travel and training for staff development and field work, enhance veterinary facilities and care, expand education programs and volunteer services, and have a bottom-line impact on the state of our local and worldwide environment, then shop early and often, in person or by mail. **Please use the order form on page 10.**

Add Some Fauna To The Family: Adopt-An-Animal

Someone on your shopping list can be the proud parent of an animal they never have to feed, house or clean up after. Each and every species in your zoo is waiting for someone to take a special interest.



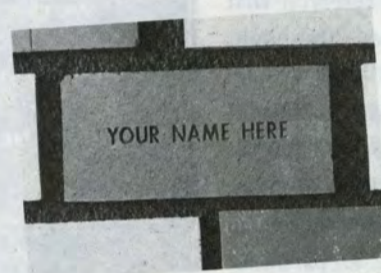
Anyone is eligible to Adopt-An-Animal – individuals, families, school groups, businesses, social or service clubs. The best part is that you can match “adoptees” and personalities. Adopt a team mascot. Give a secretary bird to your secretary, an otter to a swimmer, a stork to an expectant mother or a monkey to a climber. Let your imagination go wild!

Depending on the level of your contribution (fees range from a minimum \$25 up to \$2,500), “parents” receive terrific benefits such as an “adoption” certificate, color photo, fact sheet, a ZooBook, an Adopt-An-Animal window sticker and an invitation to our “Adopt-An-Animal Family Reunion.” Adopt-An-Animal at the \$250 level or higher and receive membership privileges for one year plus a behind-the-scenes tour (to exercise “visitation rights” of course!). **Order code: (ADOPT) Minimum contribution \$25**

Paving The Way To Progress

Indulge in the universal dream of seeing your name up in lights. Well, not in lights, exactly. In bricks!

For just \$50, we'll personalize a brick and permanently install it at Metrozoo where it will symbolize your caring and support for generations.



Personalized bricks can feature individual or family names, even family pets. They are great for holiday gifts or for “milestones” like birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, promotions, graduations, births and memorials.

With each brick purchase, you receive a certificate of appreciation which specifies your brick's location, plus a special invitation to visit the zoo, see your name set in stone, and maybe take a rubbing or two. **Order code: (BRICK) \$50 each**

Wild Cards

Knowing that everyone needs to send their thanks, congratulations or best wishes once in a while, and that animal lovers love beautiful animal art cards, we set out to create some special stationery for our zoo fans. At the same time, we were presented with many outstanding wildlife designs by Dade County students who entered the 1993 Larger Than Life Billboard Contest sponsored by Ackerley Communications, Inc. To honor the talent and creativity of the youthful artists and to raise funds for the zoo, we have reproduced ten designs on 4" x 6" cards printed in full color. Each boxed set includes ten different note cards with ten envelopes for just \$10. **Order code: (CARDS) \$10 each**

Give The Whole Zoo

You can give your friends a piece of the zoo – an animal adoption, a gift from our gift shop, a personalized brick, a packet of note cards – and that's super. But how about giving them the whole banana? Your gift of a zoo membership provides the following benefits for a full year:

- Free Zoo Sticker and Official Membership Card
- Free Admission to your zoo and 125 other U.S. and Canadian zoos
- Free Subscription to *Toucan Talk*, our bimonthly newsletter

g Can Be A Zoo uld Be, Too!)

- Invitations to Members-Only events
- Discounts on Gift Shop purchases
- Discount admission to other Florida attractions

Additional benefits accrue to members at the \$75 level or higher. Depending on the level of membership it includes one or more of the following: a free subscription to *Wildlife Conservation* 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.

(INDIV) Individual Membership \$30

(FAMLY) Family Membership \$50

(SPPRT) Supporting Membership \$75

(CONTR) Contributing Membership \$125

(SUSTN) Sustaining Membership \$250

A One-Stop Holiday Shop

Our gift shop is your year-round source for a huge variety of wildlife art from T-shirts, mugs, stationery and ZooBooks, to plush animal toys, to fine porcelain, sculpture and jewelry.

Toucan Trader at Metrozoo has great buys for every budget, making it a great place for children and adults to shorten their shopping lists. Everyone is welcomed to shop at the Toucan Trader. If you're a zoo member, you receive a discount on all purchases. **For more information on Toucan Trader hours and merchandise, call Marlene Hawkins at 305-232-5315.**



For more information on Toucan Trader hours and merchandise, call Marlene Hawkins at 305-232-5315.

Toucan Ties

The Toucan Trader Gift Shop now has, custom made, men's necktie that features our own ZSF logo, the toucan.

The toucan is executed in bright colors against a solid background. Four background color choices are available: teal, evergreen, maroon or blue.

This silk-blend tie sells for \$35 and is available only through the Toucan Trader Gift Shop at the zoo. **Credit card orders may be placed by phone by calling 305-232-5315.**



Buckle Up For Wildlife

No matter what your holiday gift budget, we hope you'll be in for some belt-tightening this season. **Canterbury Belts, Ltd.** – a retailer of fine accessories head-

quartered in Miami – is offering an Endangered Wildlife Belt to benefit the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

Canterbury Belts owner **Ralph Sobel** and his family are Sustaining Members of the zoo, proud Adopt-An-Animal "parents" of the Galapagos tortoise, and faithful Beastkeepers at Feast With The Beasts. So it was only natural of them to think of Metrozoo when they saw the belt's wonderful animal design. The belt is available in men's and women's sizes for \$40, and in children's sizes for \$25.

You can try one on for size in the Toucan Trader Gift Shop at the zoo, or call Canterbury Belts directly at 1-800-327-5003.

Zoo-nique Lalique

We are thrilled to announce that **Nessa Gaulois** at Bal Harbour is donating 10 percent of all **Lalique Cristal** purchases during the month of December to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

And that's not all. This holiday season, Lalique – the world-famous maker of fine crystal that captures the beauty of nature – is introducing three crystal birds signed by **Marie-Claude Lalique** herself. So Metrozoo's good friends at **Nessa Gaulois, Nancy and Robert Frehling**, decided that the proceeds from these pieces should benefit (what else?) the aviary reconstruction.

The Frehlings have always urged their clients to support nonprofit organizations in South Florida, and we are honored to be among their favorite causes. And our thanks to the wonderful people at Lalique for agreeing to join in supporting Metrozoo.

To find out more about buying Lalique crystal pieces from Nessa Gaulois, call 305-864-3226 or 1-800-783-4475. ■



Party Animals

In August, **Burdines** at Dadeland opened its doors after hours for "Burdines Reports." Supporters of Metrozoo enjoyed a cocktail reception and a sneak peek at the latest trends from the Burdines fall catalog. The event raised over \$3,000 to benefit the zoo. Many thanks to **Hannelore Hill**, Burdines' director of fashion activities, and to all at Burdines who designed this successful event.

Support For The Zoo? You Bet Jurassic!

Crowds at Steven Spielberg's dinosaur blockbuster "Jurassic Park" showed support for some not-yet-extinct critters at Metrozoo. Our **Wishing Well** – stationed outside the **Lauderhill Theater** on Commercial Boulevard in Broward – took in hundreds in small change from excited dino-fans. Thanks to the many "well-wishers" and to the fine folks at the **Lauderhill Theater** for hosting our **Wishing Well** throughout the month of June.

800 Number, Please

If you're notorious for bragging about the zoo to your friends and relatives across the country, and if you've been pressing them to donate to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund, we're making it easier than ever. Our toll-free telephone number for contributions is still up and operating – 24 hours/day, seven days/week. From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST weekdays, you'll reach a member of the ZSF staff directly. So tell everyone from Maine to Hawaii: it's 1-800-362-5800 to help rebuild Metrozoo!

Environmental Employees

John Alden Life Insurance, Inc. employees regularly give time and energy to our community. This year they worked with students at **Perrine Elementary School** to promote environmentalism and raise funds for Metrozoo. Employees created a catchy slogan ("Earth: Love It or Lose It"), inspiring students in their art and writing contests, bake sales and plant sales which generated a very appreciated donation for the zoo. **Flora Green**, president of **Foliage by Flora**, contributed plants to sell. **Michael Theil** and **Earlene Johnson** of John Alden Life Insurance (pictured below) presented their gift at the zoo.



Toucan Talk Holiday Gift Order Form

(For Adopt-An-Animal, Personalized Bricks, Notecards and Membership)
(see pages 8-9)

So that we may better serve you please fill in your phone number(s) below:
Daytime: _____
Evening: _____

Customer Service: If you have questions about your order, call Alice Goodhart at 305-255-5551 or 1-800-362-5800 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Your Name _____
Your Address _____
Your City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Order To Your Address

Order Code	Quantity	Description (or Adopt Species)	Price	Total
ADOPT	1	FLAMINGO	50-	

Your Brick Inscription (Maximum 20 characters per line, capital letters only):

Gift Order 1

Send Gift Order 1 to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Order Code	Quantity	Description (or Adopt Species)	Price	Total

Gift 1 Brick Inscription (Maximum 20 characters per line, capital letters only):

Gift Order 2

Send Gift Order 2 to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Order Code	Quantity	Description (or Adopt Species)	Price	Total

Gift 2 Brick Inscription (Maximum 20 characters per line, capital letters only):

Order and Gift Order Total: _____

Postage & Handling _____

(\$2.50 for each order and gift order): _____

Total: \$ _____

Method of Payment (Please do not send cash.)

Check American Express MasterCard Visa
Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Customer Signature: _____

Mail your completed order form with your payment to:
Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.

Feast With The Beasts

Takes Wing March 4

It's that time again. Mark your calendar for the Seventh Annual Feast With The Beasts on Friday, March 4, 1994. Mercedes Ferre and Jean Kislak are co-chairs this year.

Sponsored again by American Express, Feast celebrates the Wings of Asia aviary whose post-Andrew design will feature geodesic domes to withstand the "Andrews" of the future.

In the avian spirit, 1,000 Feasters will wing their way through a transformed, nighttime Metrozoo, pecking daintily at delicacies from over 45 of the finest dining establishments in Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. As usual, look for epicurean entrees, desserts to die for, generous open bars, and hours of music and fun.

Feeding time is 8:00 p.m. Attire is Aviary Elegant (raven-black tie, that is). General admission is \$150

per person. For \$500 per person, guests can become honorary Beastkeepers who receive special gifts and enjoy an exclusive reception before the rest of the flock flies in.

For reservations and information, call Lisa Amaro, Feast With The Beasts coordinator, at 305-255-5551. ■



Like this Stanley crane, our FWTB committee is "hatching" great ideas for this year's Feast.

- photo by Rick McCawley

It's A Jungle (Jog) Out Here

Come on, now, admit it. Haven't you secretly wished to take your daily jog in a zebra costume?

Well, here's your big chance!

Jungle Jog returns to Metrozoo on Sunday, January 9, 1994. Due to Hurricane Andrew, we temporarily relocated Jungle Jog in 1993, but we're pleased that the zoo is back in shape for this year's run. And we hope you are, too.

Co-sponsored by the Miami Runner's Club, Jungle Jog is one of South Florida's most festive racing events. (Yes, some runners actually have been known to indulge in the zebra suit gambit.) And Jungle Jog is more than just a regular five-mile run. It also features a five-mile race walk, and a one-mile fitness

walk and a fun-run.

So walk, run or gallop to Metrozoo for Jungle Jog on January 9 at 8:00 a.m. It's the area's only "intercontinental" competition taking runners through Asia and Africa - past anoa, sun bear and orangutan exhibits - to a wild finish. Runners and walkers receive Jungle Jog T-shirts; and their families enjoy the zoo at its best, in the early morning hours. Oh, and for the winners there will be fabulous prizes, too. Registration fee is \$12 in advance; \$15 after January 2.

So don't drag your hooves. Sign up in advance to match your stride with a graceful giraffe or powerful lion. For registration information, call the Miami Runners Club at 305-227-1500. ■

Wild Florida: Oh, Rats!

One of the best known human phobias is fear of rodents. They have been reviled for thousands of years – since the first urban sighting of the house mouse in neolithic Turkey.

In the case of the house mouse (*Mus musculus*), black rat (*Rattus rattus*) and Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), fears may be justified. These are three of a handful of rodent species that have become human “commensals” – literally, our “companions at meals.” Wherever agriculture and humans have flourished, certain rat and mouse species have also flourished, eating what they need, and contaminating much more. Rodents have long presented a costly burden to agriculture. And where disease exists, rats and mice spread it. In the last 1,000 years, rodent-borne diseases have cost more human lives than all wars and revolutions ever fought.

These destructive species are not native to North America. They followed humans from Europe, hitching a ride aboard immigrant ships.

Rodentia is the largest mammalian order. There are 267 genera and 1,138 species. The genus *Rattus* alone contains more species than any other mammalian genera. Worldwide, almost all rat-related problems are the work of seven species. Unfortunately, the disgust we feel towards them has flowed over onto 44 other non-invasive rat species.

Commensal rodents are survivors. They can climb, swim, eat anything humans eat and more including soap, paper, beeswax, animal hide, woodwork and cloth. Rats literally can chew through cement walls. Rodent presence is always associated with trash and unclean environments, and Americans spend over \$500 million a year trying to eliminate rats and mice. Yet the only way to eradicate them is to eliminate vermin habitat: inadequate food storage and garbage disposal conditions.

Ironically, we are successfully eliminating certain benign rat and mouse populations through habitat destruction. Years of development in Florida have brought about the demise and endangerment of some of the most harmless and diminutive mammals in our state. In fact, in the Sunshine State at this point, the only safe mouse may be Mickey.

Most Floridian species and subspecies come from the genus *Peromyscus* and are commonly called “beach mice” due to their preference for coastal dunes. It is this preference that has helped place these animals in such a precarious position. The Florida lifestyle is known for sun and surf, so we have built our homes, hotels and condominiums where land meets water. Since the turn of the century, Florida has developed more than half of its coastal areas, leaving little room for the beach mice and other diverse species.

Unlike their sturdy urban cousins, their sensitivity to habitat change is quite dramatic. The beach mouse does not adapt or take advantage of human presence, and we have already driven a few species, such as the Pallid beach mouse and the Chadwick Beach cotton mouse to extinction. Today there are five endangered species of beach mouse and two that are threatened.

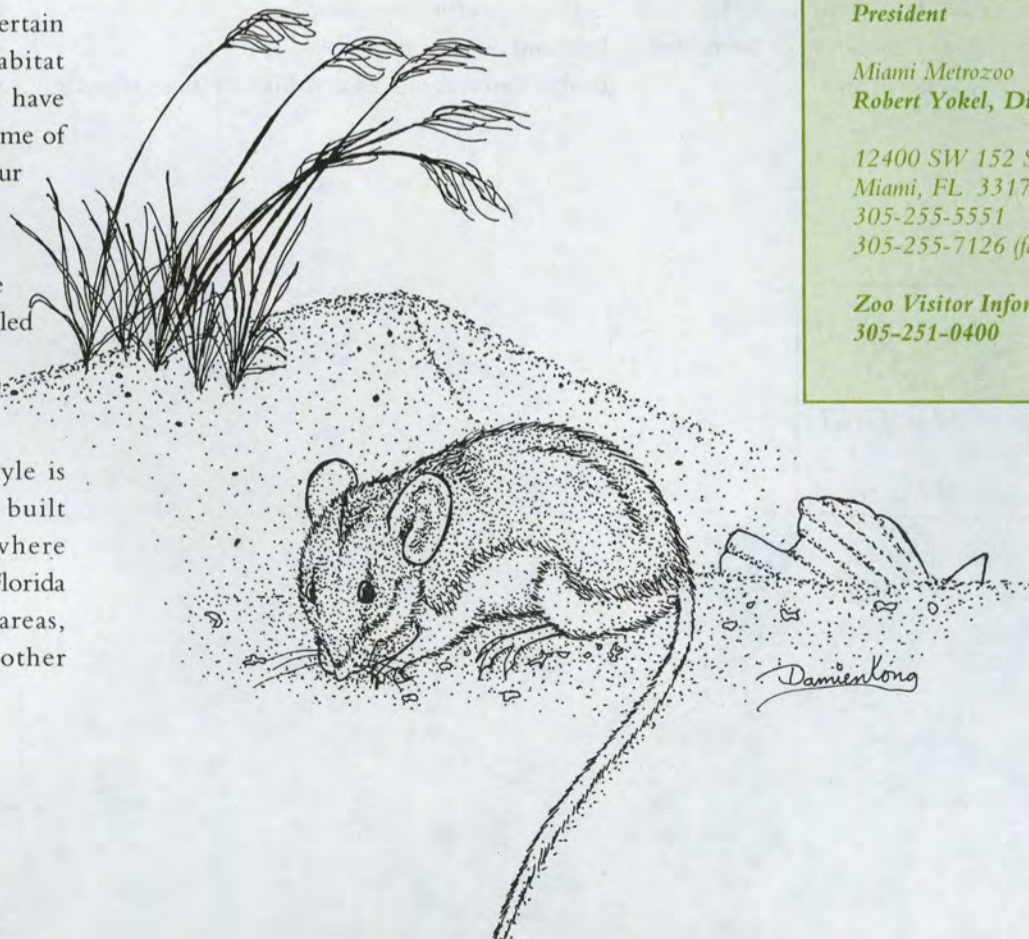
One Florida rat species is a direct victim of tropical hardwood habitat destruction. The Key Largo wood rat (*Neotoma floridiana smalli*), used to inhabit all of Key Largo, but since World War II, its habitat has dwindled. Unlike black rats and Norway rats, wood rats are shy, harmless creatures that simply vanish in the face of human expansion.

Key Largo wood rats are subterranean by day and feed in the trees or bushes by night on a diet of tree snails, fruits, seeds and leaves. Their mounds, called “houses,” do not normally contain nests but are built to create mazes that confuse predators. In addition to supporting wood rats, these houses host ten to 12 species of arthropods that are found nowhere else, including the tiny Key Largo wood rat dung beetle, the green Key Largo wood rat dung beetle and the blind weevil.

The happy news about the Key Largo wood rat is that with no further habitat loss and sound management, this subspecies will be able to survive.

Next time you consider the lowly rat, remember that everybody has some relatives in their family that they're not exactly proud of, but that doesn't make the whole family bad. Some rodents found the sun and surf vacation land long before we did. Let's give them a chance to continue to enjoy it. ■

by Bill Zeigler, General Curator



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Zoo Visitor Information
305-251-0400



Calendar Of Zoo Events

Saturday, November 13

Breakfast With The Keepers

8-10 a.m. at the zoo

\$15/zoo member; \$20/non-member

The South Florida Association of Zookeepers is offering a breakfast that's really a "keeper." You'll meet several of Metrozoo's most enchanting new additions - including our new Bactrian camels and clouded leopards - and their human caregivers. Continental breakfast will be served and you'll take a behind-the-scenes tour to find out exactly what an Indian rhino has for breakfast. Proceeds benefit the American Association of Zookeepers. Make reservations by calling Patty Singer at 305-253-6151 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

Sunday, November 14

Youth Soccer Clinic

M&M Mars sponsors a benefit for La Liga Contra El Cancer and Metrozoo.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the zoo

Children (age 12 and younger) who bring six of SNICKERS® brand single bar wrappers receive free admission when accompanied by a paying adult. (Zoo members are admitted free, as usual!) Members of the Ft. Lauderdale Strikers professional soccer team will give soccer tips. And visitors can try goal kicking. For every goal scored, M&M Mars will make a contribution. Call 305-251-0401 for information.

Friday, November 26

Stories Of Many Cultures

All day at the zoo

Eight storytellers relate animal tales from around the world. International foods will be on sale and sets of *World Book Encyclopedias* will be raffled. Call 305-251-0401 for information.



Scarlet Ibis

Rick McCawley

Sunday, January 9

Jungle Jog

8 a.m. at the zoo

Registration fees: \$12 in advance; \$15 after January 2. The Miami Runner's Club co-sponsors this annual five-mile run, race walk, fitness walk and fun run. Registration includes a Jungle Jog T-shirt and admission to the zoo. For registration information, call the Miami Runners Club at 305-227-1500.

Tuesday, January 11

Winter Education Programs Begin

Check out the program listings inside this issue of *Toucan Talk* and sign up yourself or your children for an exciting and informative zoo program. To register by mail use the form inside, or call 305-255-5551 for additional information.

Saturday, January 15

Volunteer Get-Acquainted Class

9-11 a.m. in the zoo classrooms

Free and open to the public

Learn more about zoo volunteer opportunities

open to you. Please register in advance by calling Volunteer Services at 305-255-5551.

Friday, January 28 - Saturday, January 29

Down To Earth Environmental Event

Oceanographer **Jean-Michel Cousteau**, biologist **Thomas E. Lovejoy** and archaeologist **Richard Leakey** will be our honored guests. (Dr. Leakey will be appearing in the United States for the first time since his plane crash in Nairobi in early 1993.) Together, they will expand your understanding of the issues and inspire you to new levels of environmental accomplishment. We're creating unique forums for you and these experts. We'll also offer events and excursions that let you see how you, as an individual, can help your natural world. Register now to participate in all or part of this exciting schedule. Call Craig Askins at 305-255-5551 for more information.

Friday, March 4

Feast With The Beasts

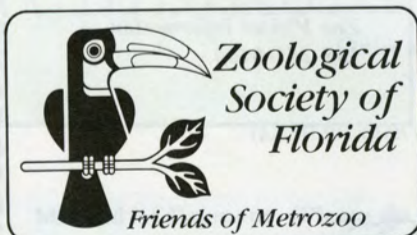
Sponsored by American Express

8 p.m. at the zoo

\$150 per person, general admission

\$500 per person, Beastkeeper

The zoo's biggest annual fund raiser is one of the Miami's most fun events. At the Seventh Annual "Feast," guests will wing their way through a transformed, nighttime zoo, enjoying foods from over 45 fine dining establishments during an evening of music and fun. Beastkeepers are invited to an exclusive reception one hour before the event. Call Lisa Amaro at 305-255-5551 for more information.



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