

ToucanTalk

A Trip To The Zoo That Comes To You!



he tragic death of Senior Keeper David Marshall on Monday,

June 6 is an indescribable loss for everyone associated with Metrozoo. David was deeply loved by his family and friends, and highly respected and admired by his coworkers. In his 21-year career he came to exemplify the ideal of professionalism in zoo keeping.

After graduating from high school and serving in the Air Force, David joined the Aquatic Department of the Louisville Zoo. He progressed to Senior Keeper and later took the Night Keeper position so he could attend school during the day. He eventually became an Aquatic Supervisor. His colleague and friend, Bill Foster, DVM, now Louisville Zoo director, described a David we all recognize. "If we did anything that took quick action or team work, we always trusted David. He never let us down."

David worked at Metrozoo from its beginning. "He wanted to be part of the foundation of Metrozoo," said General Curator Bill Zeigler. "He had an intense drive and a desire to contribute and he became one of the guiding forces within our Animal Division." He was also known to help other people in doing their jobs which made them better for the experience of having known him.

David was a keeper's keeper. He wasn't here for the paycheck, but because he truly loved what he did. He knew not only the generalities, but the nuances of each and every animal in his charge. Of all the species he worked with in his career, he especially loved wolves and the big cats.

David was never one to waste time, or "burn daylight" as he called it. He spent long hours contributing to a place he loved and we will follow his example by working hard to keep Metrozoo a place he would be proud of.



Super Keeper David Marshall 1949-1994

David and Lisa Marshall, and their daughter Sarah, lost nearly all their possessions in Hurricane Andrew, which makes his death an even heavier blow. A fund for the family has been started. If you wish to make a contribution, please contact the Zoological Society of Florida at 305-255-5551 for more information.

On The Cover: David Marshall in the Galápagos Islands last November, where he had the chance to swim and interact with the wild and fearless pinnipeds he had come to love during his days as an aquatic keeper at the Louisville Zoo.

\$4.5 Million EDA Grant To Bring Major Improvements

lthough it's two years, 7,000 new trees and countless big and small structural improvements in the past, Hurricane Andrew is

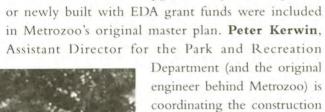
still very much a presence at Metrozoo. Its specter

has continued to haunt Zoo Director Bob Yokel and his staff as they blaze through an unending trail of paperwork, grant applications and insurance claims. Their expert negotiations and unflagging follow-through on literally thousands of details are paying off now, as funds from a variety of sources are becoming available.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded us a \$4.5 million grant. This grant is intended to cover losses from "sudden and severe economic dislocation" and it will bring about improvements ranging from the humble (sewage and water systems) to the lofty (education facilities).

Of the 300 recreation sites in the Dade County Park and Recreation Department, Metrozoo was among the most significantly affected by Hurricane Andrew. According to a research study predating Andrew, Metrozoo has been a significant contributor to the overall economic well-being of the Greater Miami area. When the economic impact of zoo construction enterprises and visitors' expenditures are totaled, Metrozoo's annual value to

the local economy is significant. Rebuilding Metrozoo is more than just good for people and animals: it is an important part of revitalizing the economy of South Dade.



The facilities to be upgraded, replaced, expanded

engineer behind Metrozoo) is coordinating the construction and development of these projects which you can already see in progress at the zoo.

We are particularly pleased that the grant will fund significant improvements in our education facilities. Metrozoo's educational mission is arguably our most important function in the drive to conserve Earth's natural resources. Construction of a new Education Court and School Children's Recreational Area will include site preparation, utilities, structures, signage, seating, picnic tables and trash receptacles, electrical poles, fixtures, underground electrical utilities and some landscaping.

Metrozoo Entrance improvements will include structures, signage, irrigation, and landscaping. Vehicle Parking Area improvements include site preparation, base rock, and asphalt paving, electrical light poles, fixtures, and underground electrical

The grant also provides for a new monorail restroom facility as well as improvements to our water pressure and sewage systems. The Dade County Park and Recreation

Department plans to use a combination of its own internal construction and trades crews and external construction firms to build and install these improvements.







A \$4.5 million Economic Development Administration grant will fund education facilities, plus improvements to make your zoo visit even more pleasant. photos by Rick McCawley

by Barbara Brady

Bountiful Benefactors: Betty & Lee

Two of our most generous benefactors are Betty

paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard

Leakey in January, 1994.

Miller, left, and Lee Bynum, right, pictured here with

hey're so well-known around the zoo that staffers refer to them simply as Betty and Lee. Now the rest of South Florida is beginning to know them on a first-name basis, too.

Why? Because this spring **Betty Miller** and **Lee Bynum** announced plans to leave their entire \$5 million estate to fund a Reptile Center at Metrozoo. They initiated the design process with a \$25,000 gift in March to underwrite research and planning for the facility.

Metrozoo fans have proven their interest in reptiles in many ways over the years. They have indicated their preference in research studies. They have asked at the gate, "Where's the reptile house?" And whenever our local Herpetological Society presents temporary displays of snakes, turtles, lizards and the like, they are a huge hit with visitors.

"The reptile center will bring a new type of interactive exhibit to

Metrozoo, and Betty and Lee's generosity will make it possible," said Glenn Ekey, Executive Director of the Zoological Society of Florida.

Just what does creating a new Reptile Center entail? The planning process requires imagination and vision, something our benefactors Betty and Lee have in abundance. And their reasons for wanting to "leave something behind" are profound.

"Man is a strange animal," said Betty. "We destroy ourselves and we destroy the animals who share the Earth with us. It is a terrible fact that many beautiful animals will soon exist only in zoos. The reptile center will help teach children about them. And Metrozoo has educational and preservation programs that help young people learn how important it is to preserve the

diversity of life on our planet."

"We are so pleased to be a part of the planning process," added Lee. "We want the reptile plan to fit into the updated master plan, so that it 'fills in' what needs to be filled in."

Metrozoo already is starting to talk with other zoo pros who have been through the exhibit design and construction process. A trip to study the new reptile house at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, South Carolina was the first of several information-

gathering junkets.

"We're talking to other zoo folks about their exhibits, their designs, accomplishments, mistakes, and what their wish lists are," said Metrozoo General Curator Bill Zeigler. "We plan to visit at least three other zoos with reptile houses that represent some of the newer materials and ideas that are out there."

They'll also visit some of the older facilities. "Some of the nation's older reptile houses

have the best breeding records in North America," said Zeigler. "We want to incorporate the best of the old and new construction and husbandry techniques into our exhibit."

In making their gift, Betty and Lee have bequeathed more than financial resources to the zoo – they endow the rest of us with their love of animals and concern for wildlife. And they fully expect all of us to join them in their crusade.

"We don't want it said that two little old ladies built the reptile center," said Betty. "We want to hear the people of South Florida say that they did, that their children helped. And we want everyone to enjoy it when it's built. It will be our Olympia, our haven of peace, beauty, and serenity in a world of violence."



Flamingo parents diligently guard their eggs in mounded mud nests in the front lake.

BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

March 4 - May 21, 1994

Chimpanzee
Pan troglodytes
Male
Mar. 20

Grevy's zebra Equus grevyi Male

Mar. 22

Greater kudu
Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Female Apr. 1

Clouded leopards
Neofelis nebulosa
2 Males Apr. 5

Fennec Fox
Fennecus zerda
Male Apr. 6

Indian muntjac
Muntiacus muntjac vaginalis
Female Apr. 12

Sable antelope
Hippotragus niger
Sex undetermined Apr. 20

Walhburgs bat
Epomophorous walhlbergi
Sex undetermined May 11

Blesbok

Damaliscus dorcas
phillipsi
Male May 13
Male May 16
Female May 17

Flamingo
Phoenicopterus ruber
Sexes undetermined May 7-27

ACQUISITIONS

1 Addax Addax nasomaculatus



It's fun to shop at the zoo! Gift shop hours are 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., seven days a week. -photo by Rick McCawley

Shop for School

Your zoo's gift shop is a great resource for back-to-school needs. We carry a colorful assortment of fun, animal-related school supplies such as pencils, pens, markers, notepads, rulers and erasers.

Also keep us in mind when school projects roll around. We have a variety of realistic animal figurines, inexpensive and informative books, post cards and stickers for picture

And, as always, our helpful staff will gladly assist you in choosing the items you need to make your projects and school year a success.

Zoo members receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases. All your gift shop purchases benefit your zoo!

by Marlene Hawkins, Director of Retail Services

> Any time is a great time to visit Metrozoo. The simple guidelines listed on this page can make your zoo day even more pleasant and rewarding.

Tips To Make Your Zoo Visit Better

very day thousands of people tour zoos to spend time with their families, see the animals and enjoy the outdoors. Any month is a good time to

> visit Metrozoo, but the hot summer months present their own challenges. A number of books and magazine articles have been writ-

ten to help families plan a day at the zoo, including Where The Animals Are by Tim O'Brien. O'Brien offers these excellent guidelines for those who may be as concerned with "creature comforts" as they are with zoo creatures:

Be kind to your feet. Wear well-broken-in athletic shoes, since



you'll probably be doing a lot of walking. Use the monorail to reach areas within the zoo.

Wear a hat, apply sunscreen and drink a lot of fluids. If you start feeling ill, report immediately to the first-aid station. Take along rain gear (or a folded trash bag) to use in case of a sudden shower.

Pick up a map and schedule at the gate. Many animal shows are performed only once or

twice daily. Make a list of mustsees and plan your visit around the specific times of the shows and

demonstrations. Plan your route so you don't do a lot of time-consuming, tiring backtracking.

If you're with a crowd, or you have kids who are old enough to go off on their own, give them a map or sheet of paper with a meeting place and time. In the excitement of the day, kids (and others) have a way of forgetting directions.

Buy your souvenirs just before you leave rather than carry books or delicate objects all day. Double check your zoo schedule to make sure the gift shop is open and

give yourself plenty of time to shop when you get there.



Animals bite! Believe the signs and keep your hands and fingers to yourself! And never make a quick motion toward the head of any animal; it will frighten them. This is especially important in the Children's Zoo petting area.

Please pay attention to posted regulations. Most rules are for safety yours and the animals'. The most common rule concerns the feeding of animals. Zoo animals are on strict diets and if you feed them something strange, you can make them very ill.



Wash your hands before eating! You may have touched or petted something you don't normally touch.

Volunteer guides and zoo keepers are great sources of information about animals. Feel free to ask them questions following a show or as you see them throughout the day.

Treat the animals and their surroundings with respect. Remember, the zoo is their home.



Tips are adapted with permission from Where the Animals Are by Tim O'Brien, 1992. To order, contact The Globe Pequot Press, Old Saybrook, CT, 1-800-243-0495.

by Nancy Hotchkiss, Director of Education



- photo by Jaime Calaf

Summer Camp Filling Fast!



e're having a great time here at Camp Metrozoo! Call the Education

Department to see if there is still space in the last few sessions of Zoofari Summer Camp.

Kindercamp Ages 4-6



Created for the youngest campers with lots of songs, crafts and games designed to build appreciation for wildlife.

What's for Dinner?

What animals eat and how they catch or find their food.

July 18-22

July 25-29

August 1-5

Fee per child: Member \$80 per week; Non-member \$95 per week

Zoofari Adventure Camp Ages 7-10

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Campers go behind the scenes and get close to some of our furry (and scaly) residents. Crafts and games help develop an understanding of our fragile Earth.

Zoofari II

July 25-29

August 1-5

August 8-12

Fee per child: Member \$125

per week; Non-

member \$145 per week

ZooLife

Ages 11-13

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Campers discover the ins and outs of managing everything in the zoo from snakes to people. Zoo Keepers and our staff veterinarian demonstrate animal management techniques and share first-hand knowledge and experience.

Two different programs are offered. Register for one or both!

Program I

August 8-12

Program II

August 15-19

Fee per child: Member \$125 per week, Non-member \$145 per week

Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.



Zoocamp Overnights Age 10 and up

Just for campers...

a special evening adventure - complete with special flashlight tour, indoor activities, dinner, snacks and breakfast - starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends at 8 the next morning. Friday, July 29 or Friday, August 12.

Fee per child: Member \$20, Nonmember \$25, plus registration in at least one program.

For Travel Bugs The Amazon, November, 1994

Our new travel program is off to a great start with trips to Africa and China in progress at press time. A journey to the Earth's great wilderness, the Amazon rain forest, is scheduled to depart November 12, 1994. Travelers will see the Amazon Biosphere Reserve and Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research where they will ascend into the treetops on an incredible Canopy Walkway. A zoo expert leads the trip and a portion of the fare benefits the zoo. Call 305-255-5551 for more information.

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Suffice it to say that snakes are a part of South Florida life.

There are no sure cures to remove them. You can reduce their presence by taking some simple steps:

- Survey your yard for anything that provides cover: piles of wood, bricks, branches or other materials. If you reduce usable habitat, you may reduce the number of snakes.
- Do not try to catch a snake with your hands unless you are certain it is not poisonous. (Remember, an accurate description will help get it identified.) Usually a snake is just passing through, but if you feel you must remove it, use a leaf rake, place the snake in a large empty trash can with a lid, take it to an undeveloped area and release it.
- Don't leave any kind of trash around that could attract rats or mice. These are prime sources of food for larger snakes.
- Weather-strip tightly around all doors and windows to prevent small snakes from entering your home (and air conditioning from leaving it!).
- Inspect the soil around all house plants that you have newly purchased or brought in from the yard. The very tiniest snakes sometimes burrow into potted plants because they like the damp soil. If the soil dries out, the snakes may leave the pot in search of moister hiding places.
- Get a copy of Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of South Florida: Part 1 The Snakes by Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and Patricia Sawyer Ashton (1981, Windward Publishing). Whether you're motivated by intellectual curiosity or herpetophobia, you'll find it fascinating reading.

Wild Florida

The Summertime Snake Blues

rring! Rrring! Rrring!

"Metrozoo. May I help you?"

"Oh, yes, please! My
children were playing in the back yard
and found this snake. I do not know
what it is, but I am sure it's poisonous.
What can I do to get rid of it and any
other snakes in my yard?"

This conversation, or one very similar to it, happens two to three times a day in my office. During the summer – like now, when it rains every other afternoon – the calls go up to a half dozen a day.

For South Floridians, "Wild Florida" often means their own back yards. There are more species of reptiles and amphibians (126 native and 24 introduced) found in Florida than in any other state. Of those, 66 species are snakes. That's just the way it is. The good news is that only six Florida snakes are poisonous to people and, of those, only four can be found here in South Florida: the diamondbacked rattlesnake, pygmy rattlesnake, coral snake, and

cottonmouth, or water moccasin. These species tend to move away from developed areas, so they are seldom a threat to human residents.

Based on my phone calls, snakephobes come in all ages, from all walks of life. And guys, your calls are just as filled with dread as calls from women, so don't think you're all macho about snakes.

I've heard of snakes found in yards, pools, garages, garden sheds, living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms and automobiles. To be more specific, my callers have found them in toilets, dresser drawers, closets, silverware cabinets, under living room carpets, on window sills, in curtain rods, com-

ing out of sinks, shoes and ovens, climbing on chairs, under sofa cushions and car seats, in car trunks, in house rafters, sandboxes and swing sets, on high-rise balconies and finally, in the bathtub.

When I get these calls, my role is to help callers realize that most



Snakes are a part of South Florida life. Most are harmless and you *can* learn to love 'em! Our Children's Zoo is a good place to start.

photo by Rick McCawley.

snakes are totally harmless. That is not much comfort to callers who are afraid of them. Being told that all snakes are beneficial to the ecosystem (great natural pest control!) is just not what most people want to hear. What they need to know is that any snake they find should be identified by getting an accurate description of size, color and pattern. I do not suggest that people capture, disturb or kill snakes, especially when they are outdoors.

Perhaps the hardest thing to do is explain to someone newly arrived from the northland that snakes are a part of everyday life in South Florida. That's one fact that the sales reps don't tell people when they relocate. I have known people to literally state that they cannot stay under these circumstances and plan to leave the area.

Small, harmless snakes such as the southern ring-neck snake are most common here. Adults are

rarely more than about 18 inches or wider than a pencil. All they need to get under a door is about a 1/16th of an inch. Weatherstripping is usually a good strategy against these snakes.

Even tinier – and as harmless – is the Brahminy blind snake, an introduced species from the tropics. This snake is often reported as a large, black worm, but closer examination reveals scales and a small head and tiny eyes. Brahminy blind snakes frequently hitch a ride in house plants.

The remedies people try to rid themselves of snakes are about as numerous as sightings. There is the old sulfur trick (pouring a ring of powdered sulfur around the house in the belief – false

- that it will repel snakes). And the horsehair rope method placing a horsehair rope around the house in the belief - also false - that snakes will not cross it). Someone tried freezing snakes by turning down the air conditioner. One couple tented their house as you would for termites, only to be informed that when the tent was removed, the snakes could well move back into the house; a pretty costly effort for naught. The best "remedy" I've heard is to buy a "snake dog." I have yet to see such a breed listed by the American Kennel Club. It's probably just a Chihuahua with a bad attitude!

by Bill Zeigler, General Curator

A-Twitter Over Trustees

onjour, my little zoo buffs. You may have assumed that since "the season" has officially ended, a gregarious creature such as I would have packed her bags and migrated north with the rest of the folks from The Hamptons and The Vineyard.

Well! You're quite mistaken. I wouldn't dream of perching anywhere but Metrozoo any time of year. There's so much going on. Flocks of fine young fledglings have flown in to Zoofari Camp, and the whole zoo is simply teeming with activity.

In May, the Travel Industry Association swooped down on South Florida for their annual Pow Wow Convention. We hosted dozens of eager travel agents from around the globe. With a special tram tour from volunteer K.T. Taylor, we know they left simply loving South Florida - and Metrozoo!

Our Trustees met at the end of April and took some new members under their wings. Thea Katzenstein not only contributed Trustee dues, but made a generous pledge to support the 1994 Education Programs, too. Anne-Marie Godfrey also joined our Trustee flock. We welcome "Teddy" and Anne-Marie

and invite you to become a Trustee, too. Call the Development Department at 305-255-5551 to learn how.

Dan Licciardi of Miami Jai-Alai sent along a wonderful contribution courtesy of his annual Charity Day program. But that's not all! Thanks to his diligent matchmaking, the lovely people at BrandsMart USA joined Metrozoo in a cunning little promotion: with every Sharp Video Camera they sold in June, Dan underwrote the cost of admission for every special coupon presented at Metrozoo through the end of summer.

Meanwhile, Trustees Lee Bynum and Betty Miller are busy helping Metrozoo Director Bob Yokel and ZSF Executive Director Glenn Ekey plan a Reptile Center-to-

be. (For the whole scoop and nothing but, see related story on page 3!) Betty and Lee are making the exhibit possible through the kind bequest of their estate. If you'd like to follow their fine example, call - oh, you know the number!

At the same time, many Friends of Metrozoo have been pecking at our doors, offering support. Cynthia Knight came for a behind-the-scenes tour and left a sizable contribution behind. Manny Soto - a.k.a. the man who brought Donna Mills to Down To Earth - introduced us to the fine people at the Omni Colonnade, who are generously hosting a special event in September for the Walls of the Wild. (See below.) And Patagonia Outdoor Gear has agreed to outfit the staff at our Children's Zoo. What fine feathers they will have!

Now we look forward to President Bill Clinton's international

Summit of the Americas in Miami this December. Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay and the co-chairs of this major event have appointed ZSF Deputy Director Cynthia Zeigler (and 100 other lovely South Floridians) to the Summit Steering Committee. We're proud as peacocks to be a part of this project!

Gotta fly! Sociable Plover_



The eyes and ears of our Development Department, our inimitable "gossip" columnist, Sociable Plover.

Celebrate Your Milestones

If you ever need Bur an unusual way to celebrate a milestone in your life, here's a great idea. We'll personalize a Zoo Brick or



friends and family can see your name set in stone and even take a rubbing or two! An 8" x 4" Zoo Brick engraved with your name or

hand-sculpted terra cotta Animal Tile and install it on our Walls of the Wild at Metrozoo. You can remember an individual or family on a birthday, anniversary, wedding, birth, promotion, graduation or retirement. You can even honor your family pet. With the price of zoo admission (which is free to zoo members) you, your

special message is \$50. A name engraved on an 8" x 8" Rhinoceros, Tiger, Gorilla or Elephant Animal Tile is \$250. A special media kick-off event will be held on September 29 at the Omni Colonnade. To learn more about Walls of the Wild, call Alice Goodhart at 305-255-5551.

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Zoo Visitor Information 305-251-0400



Calendar Of Zoo Events

Saturday, July 23, 1994 Bowling For Rhinos

Sponsored by the South Florida Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers to benefit the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary, Kenya

1 - 4 p.m.
Don Carter's Kendall Lanes,

13600 North Kendall Drive \$75 per team/\$15 per individual

Make a "strike" against extinction of the rhino at this fun, family event sponsored by our keepers' professional organization. Bring your own five-person team (company teams are encouraged) or come on your own and we'll put you in a team. Or pledge your donation and help Bowling for Rhinos "spare" the rhinoceros. Call Walter Dupree at 305-247-9628 for more information.

Our new mother chimpanzee and her infant, born March 20, are living with their family group at Metrozoo. Zoo visitors can observe their natural behaviors and watch the baby and his mother interact. The little one is dependent, much as a human infant is dependent, on adults for nurturing, food and knowledge of the ways of his species.

-photo by Jaime Calaf

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16
1st Annual Wildlife
Art Awareness Weekend

Sponsored by the South Florida Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers At the zoo

If you are a wildlife artist interested in sharing your art with zoo visitors, call Patty Leon-Singer, 305-253-6151 for details about this upcoming event.



Thursday, September 29
Walls of the Wild Event

Sponsored by the Omni Colonnade 6-9 p.m. at the Omni Colonnade

This cocktail buffet will be the media unveiling of "Walls of the Wild." (See story on page 7.)

Zoo Speak

If your civic, business or social organization is looking for a program or speaker for upcoming meetings, why not invite someone from our Speakers Bureau? Our 30-minute presentation "Metrozoo -Past, Present and Future" tells the story from Crandon Park to Metrozoo. It's illustrated with slides that show the beginnings of the zoo, its growth and development, the effects of Hurricane Andrew, and our current projects. Our Speakers Bureau is a free community service. The presentation is geared to adults and is ideal for clubs, professional organizations or churches. Scheduling is very flexible, with volunteer speakers available seven days a week and almost any time of day. Call 305-255-5551 for booking information. If possible, please call at least two weeks in advance of your meeting.



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