

TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!

NOT BY ANTS ALONE:
**GIANT ANTEATERS
AT METROZOO**

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THE BEASTS**

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WHITE ALLIGATOR

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Cover photo: White alligator
courtesy of Audubon Zoo

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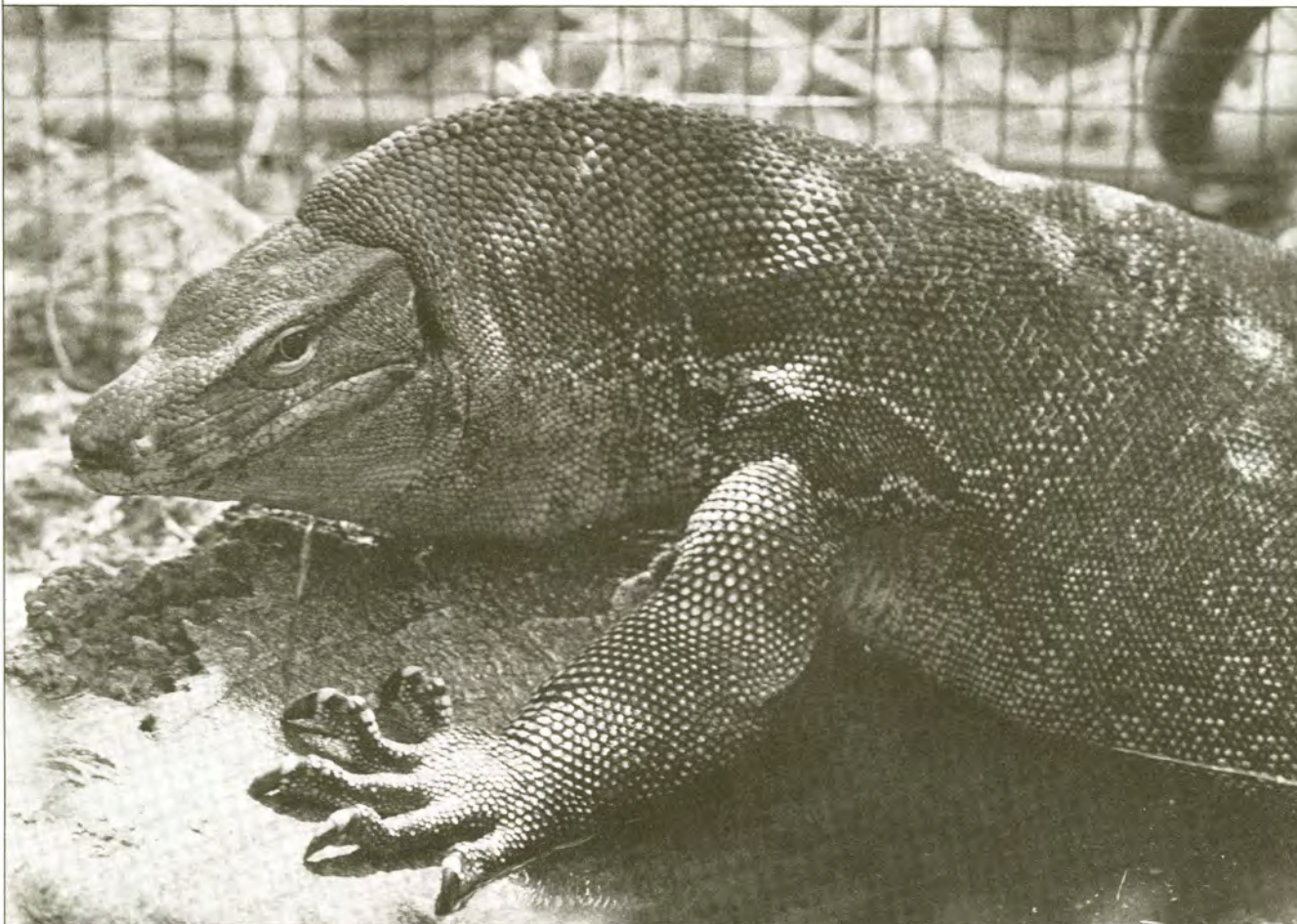
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Zoo Visitor Information
(305) 251-0401

QUARANTINE

A Time Apart



This water monitor spent some time in quarantine before being transferred to the Asian River Life Exhibit.

Photo: Rick McCawley

You heard it was here...
But WHERE is it? Most
certainly in quarantine,
because all birds, rep-
tiles, and mammals
coming into Metrozoo
must go through a period of isolation.
During this time, usually between
30 and 60 days, the newcomers are
kept in a separate area on zoo
grounds.

There are various places to do
this. Behind the Weeks Animal
Hospital we have Bird Q (the "Q"
stands for quarantine). This building
was extensively damaged during
Hurricane Andrew, but our keepers
managed to repair it to accommo-
date temporary inhabitants. There
also are quarantine pens (most
often used to give some of our large
animals more room and privacy to
breed), Primate Q, and the
Quarantine Building, surrounded by

By Jacky Shaw

Sr. Zookeeper and Veterinarian Assistant

smaller holding pens.

Quarantine gives the veterinarian,
keepers and the general curator a
chance to observe the animals, help
them recover from their journey and
get used to a new diet. It also gives
time for any disease or other prob-
lem to show up.

During the first week animals are
just settled in, and only a fecal sam-
ple is collected and examined to
see if any internal parasites are pre-
sent. If the test results show the
presence of parasites, the animal
receives appropriate treatment.

A week or so later, a hands-on
physical exam is done. This involves
weighing the animal and taking
blood samples to evaluate the ani-
mal's health (such as checking white

and red blood cell counts). The test
results are used to provide a compar-
ison for future samples and to con-
trast them with others from similar
animals. At this time, the animals
may be tested for exposure to vari-
ous diseases, or given vaccinations
to protect them from other illnesses.

After the quarantine time is over,
and if everything is right, the ani-
mals are taken to their new home in
the respective exhibit area. Ready
to begin their happy lives at
Metrozoo!

If you want to see the quarantine
area at Metrozoo, take our behind-
the-scenes tram tours. On your next
visit, check at the admissions gate
for departure times and price. For
more information call the admissions
office at 305-251-0401.

GIANT ANTEATER NOT BY ANTS ALONE

What do you think of if I describe an animal that measures about six feet from head to tail, has a tongue of about two feet long, no teeth and powerful curved claws? If you think it's another strange animal from Australia, you're way off. I'm talking about the giant anteater, and Metrozoo will be the new home for a pair of females.

The giant anteater is the largest member of four species of anteaters. They are classified as members of the order Xenarthra (Edentata), which also includes sloths and armadillos, all restricted to the New World. They live in open savannahs associated with ant and termite mounds, swampy areas, and humid forests. For the most part, they are diurnal (active during the day), but near areas disturbed by human interference they are active mostly at night (nocturnal).

They have three large claws, one small claw on each hand, and five relatively small claws on each foot. When running or walking, they protect the large claws by tucking them under and inward, using the outer edge of their forefeet. This produces a rather clumsy gait accentuated by the long flopping fur. They do, however, take readily to water and can easily swim across wide rivers.

Although their vision is poor, they have keen hearing and a well-developed sense of smell which, it is believed, allows them to locate ant mounds by following the ant's scent trails. Past experiments have shown that they can identify a scent to which they have been positively conditioned, even when the scent is diluted to four thousandths of the concentration of a neutral odor!

Their preferred menu items are the larger carpenter ants and termites (in quantities of as many as 30,000 per day!). Giant anteaters usually ignore leaf-eating ants, army ants, and other species with large jaws. As required by these eating habits, their tongue has tiny backward pointing spines, and it can be

By Paul Bermudez

Zookeeper



Giant anteater

Photo: San Antonio Zoo

pushed out as many as 150 times a minute. The salivary glands secrete a sticky coating when anteaters are eating; this helps them trap their meal and, since anteaters do not have teeth, a portion of the stomach is a muscular gizzard which helps them with their digestion.

And if you wonder how an animal of this size can survive on a diet of ants and termites, the explanation lies in their metabolic rate. Giant anteaters have a relatively slow rate of metabolism, and one of the lowest recorded body temperatures (90°F) of any terrestrial mammal. A low metabolic rate means low energy demands, so the food they consume is actually quite sufficient to sustain them.

Their feeding is mostly passive; the mound is harvested rather than preyed upon. The anteater eats for only about 30-60 seconds at each mound, taking as few as 140 ants. Then, it's time to move to another mound. In addition, anteaters tend to move in a constant direction between insect nests, seldom altering their route by more than a few degrees.

The giant anteater shares its habitat with some large and powerful predators such as the puma and the jaguar. Since the anteater is unwary, and slow running, how does it cope with these threats? The answer lies in a rapid defensive reaction in which the anteater uses its strong front legs and sharp, four-inch claws to fend off its attacker.

STATUS IN THE WILD

Currently the species is considered vulnerable due primarily to the killing by people who regard giant anteaters as worthless at best or, at worst, dangerous. Though the meat is sometimes consumed, the giant anteater has no actual commercial value. The low reproduction rate—no more than one offspring per year—makes it difficult for anteaters to tolerate this increase in mortality. Nonetheless, the outlook for the giant anteater is still good. It is widely distributed on a continent blessed with abundant ants and termites. The Brazilian government has granted the species protection, and the establishment of national parks ensures protection and preservation of their natural habitat. Perhaps humans will become more tolerant of the giant anteater as they learn that it poses no real danger if left alone.

MORE DETAILS

Since it would be no easy task to provide our anteaters 30,000 ants a day, feeding them ought to be an interesting feat. A common zoo diet consists of a gruel made up by mixing 12 cups of soaked dry dog food, 5 bananas, 4 ounces of high protein cereal, 46 ounces of canned dog food, 4 cans of evaporated milk, and 1¾ cups of water (Yummy!).

Take the time to come by and see our new pair at the new Giant Anteater exhibit (formerly the wallabys' exhibit). I'm sure you will agree this unusual creature makes a great addition to Metrozoo's family.

GIANT ANTEATER'S TIDBITS

Order: Xenarthra (Edentata)

Family: Myrmecophagidae

Distribution: Central and South America, east of the Andes, extending as far south as Uruguay and northwestern Argentina

Size: head-body length 39-47 inches; tail length 27.5-35.5 inches; weight 44-86 lb. (Males are 10%-20% heavier than females)

Coat: coarse, stiff, dense, gray with black and white diagonal shoulder stripe

Gestation period: 190 days

Longevity: Unknown in the wild, 26 years in captivity

BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

October 9 - November 17

African slender-snouted crocodile
Crocodylus cataphractus
1 sex unknown October 9

East African crowned crane
Balearica regulorum gibbericeps
2 sex unknown October 9

East African crowned crane
Balearica regulorum gibbericeps
1 sex unknown October 10

African slender-snouted crocodile
Crocodylus cataphractus
1 sex unknown October 11

Black-and-white colobus monkey
Colobus polykomos angolensis
1 sex unknown October 15

Black-and-white colobus monkey
Colobus polykomos angolensis
1 sex unknown October 22

Sable antelope
Hippotragus niger niger
1 female November 16

Sable antelope
Hippotragus niger niger
1 female November 17



Colobus Monkey

Photo: Frank Davis

Start 1995 With A Learning Exploration AT METROZOO

From early morning "Breakfast with the Beasts" to family overnights, there's something for everyone!

Breakfast with the Beasts

Families

The early bird gets the worm, so what do early-rising zoo members get? Breakfast with the Beasts at Metrozoo! A continental breakfast will be followed by a special look at exotic animal care. The perfect way to start off your day!

Session FAST-A: Saturday, January 21
Great Apes

Session FAST-B: Saturday, February 25
Asian River Life

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Cost: Adult Member \$10, Non-Member \$15
Child (12 and under) \$6, Non-Member \$8

Mini Camp

Group A: Grades 1-3

Group B: Grades 4-5

Dade County Schools may be "out," but classes are "in" at Metrozoo. Spend your day off with our "wild bunch," learning about the amazing residents of Metrozoo. This one-day safari includes live animals, crafts and snacks.

Date: Monday, February 20 (Presidents' Day)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Member \$30, Non-Member \$37

Family Slumber Party

Families, Children (6 and older)

Be our guest for the wildest sleep-over in town! Your "base camp" will be our air-conditioned classrooms for dinner and orientation, then it's off on a flashlight safari. The zoo seems totally different at night, so you'll need to use all your senses to take in the experience. Bring your sleeping bag, and a spirit of adventure. We'll bring the pizza, breakfast, movies and animals. An adventure to be shared by the whole family!

Date: Saturday, January 28

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$20 Member, \$25 Non-Member

Wildlife Photography

With Irene Hinke-Sacilotto*

Adults (16 and older)

Beginner photographers and serious amateurs won't want to miss this unique two-part class. Drawing upon years of experience in the field, Irene will share tips and help you understand the principles and techniques that will improve your photography. Her successful workshops have been held throughout the U.S. and we are pleased to welcome her back to Miami.

This two-part class offers two different field locations to choose from. All participants attend the three-hour evening classroom presentation, then choose from site A or B, depending on your interest—either Metrozoo or the Everglades.

Class: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Thursday, January 19

Site A: Zoo Shoot, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 21

Site B: Everglades Shoot, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Sunday, January 22

Cost: Member \$65, Non-Member \$75

* Ms. Hinke-Sacilotto has been shooting nature subjects for 16 years, and her name regularly appears in nature publications for both her photographs and photography workshops.

Jr. Zookeeper Workshops

Ages 7 to 10 (grades 2-5)

Specially designed for our younger members. Explore the world of animal adaptations and zoo careers. Each Saturday is different. Sign up for one, two or take all THREE to earn a Jr. Zookeeper badge!

Dates: **Session A:** "Elephants & Rhinos," Saturday, February 18

Session B: "Sssllithery Snakes and Creepy Crawlies," Saturday, March 18

Session C: "Zoo Careers," Saturday, March 25

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Cost: Member \$6, Non-Member \$10 per class

Amazing Alligators

Adults (16 and older)

Our special exhibit this winter is a rare white alligator, direct from New Orleans. Spend a special evening, complete with dessert and coffee, learning about this oddity of nature. General Curator, Bill Zeigler, will provide background information on crocodiles, alligators and their relatives, and the discovery of these white alligators.

Dates: Thursday, February 16

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Cost: Member \$10, Non-Member \$14

MEMBERSHIP CHAT

Season is just around the corner and Metrozoo is looking forward to another busy season with you, our members.

In order to serve you better we would like to review a few things. Please note:

- Zoo memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Please be prepared to present identification with your membership card for free admission to Metrozoo, reciprocal zoos and all other discounts. Showing ID is our policy to protect you and the value of your membership card.
- Replacement cards are available for \$3. You will need a duplicate if your card is lost or stolen, or for any change (i.e. name, family size, etc.)
- Metrozoo policy prohibits individuals accompanying classes on zoo field trips or groups on zoo picnics receiving special group admission rates from using their membership cards for free admission.

To keep the price of zoo membership at a low level while protecting the value of your membership, we ask for your cooperation. Please feel free to contact the Membership Department before your next visit to Metrozoo if you have any questions or concerns; the number is (305) 255-5551.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

I'm a Member: Membership # _____ I'm not a Member _____

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):

Credit cardholders may register by phone.

Check American Express MasterCard Visa

Card _____ Expiration Date: _____

Customer Signature: _____

Program/Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee

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

TOTAL: \$

Come and . . . FEAST WITH THE BEASTS

The Zoological Society of Florida's Annual Gourmet Extravaganza

**Friday March 3, 1995
at Metrozoo
General Admission:
\$150 per person
Beastkeeper Patron:
\$500 per person
Grazing Area - Table
of 10: \$2,500
The black-tie event
will be sponsored for
the eighth
consecutive year by
American Express**

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

- Restaurants to date include:**
- Afternoon Tea Gourmet Bake Shop
 - Bijan's on the River
 - Cafe TuTu Tango
 - Casa Juancho Restaurant
 - Chef Allen's
 - Christy's
 - Cisco's Cafe
 - Creative Tastes Catering
 - El Novillo Restaurant
 - Gaviña Coffee Company/
Café La Llave
 - Godiva Chocolatier
 - Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar
 - Island Oasis
 - JoAnna's Marketplace
 - JohnMartin's Restaurant
 - Los Ranchos Restaurants
 - Málaga Restaurant
 - Outback Steakhouse
 - Paparazzi Ristorante
 - Parrot Cafe at Parrot Jungle and Gardens
 - Planet Hollywood
 - Prezzo
 - Restaurant St. Michel
 - Ristorante Florencia
 - Ristorante La Bussola
 - The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
 - Ruth Chris Steakhouse

This year's Feast will be the most colorful culinary creation of all. The event will feature vivid lighting mixed with brilliant artwork. There will be interactive entertainment, a variety of live music, dancers, celebrities, mimes, magicians and plenty of fun. Forty of Miami's favorite fine dining establishments will be there to provide a sumptuous celebration. And, for the first time, the Zoological Society of Florida will offer the Grazing Area, a limited number of tables for 10. In the Grazing Area, patrons can meet and greet their business associates and foot-sore friends. Funds raised will contribute to education programs designed to provide our community with a greater appreciation of our environment and its wildlife.

The Zoological Society of Florida introduces Raffle Tickets \$5.00 each or buy 6 for \$25.00 or 10 for \$40.00

It is not necessary to be present to win. To enter, simply fill out the form below, enclose it with a check, and mail it to the address indicated on the form to receive tickets in the mail. Some of the fabulous prizes include:

- Two Business Class round-trip tickets from Miami to Paris on American Airlines; featuring American's award-winning *International Flagship Service* to Europe.
- Jewelry courtesy of Mayor's Jewelers
- A seven-day cruise courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line
- A day of beauty at Sullo Spa
- Animal sculpture by Marcie Ziv and many others



FEAST WITH THE BEASTS RESERVATION FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

I would like to make the following reservations:

	Quantity	Amount
Grazing Area- Table of 10 (\$2500)*	_____	\$ _____
Beastkeeper Patron (\$500 each)	_____	\$ _____
General Admission (\$150 each)	_____	\$ _____
Raffle Tickets (\$5.00 each)	_____	\$ _____
	\$25.00 for 6	
	\$40.00 for 10)	

I will be unable to attend but wish to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Zoological Society of Florida. Mail to: Feast With The Beasts, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177. Upon payment, tickets will be mailed to the above address. Late paid reservations will be held at will-call. Reservations are limited and will be honored by date received. No refunds.

According to IRS guidelines, only contributions over the value of dining/entertainment are tax-deductible. For the Beastkeeper, the value is \$120/ticket; for General Admission the value is \$50/ticket.

* (Limited number of tables available)

WHITE ALLIGATOR A HOLIDAY GIFT

By Bill Zeigler

General Curator

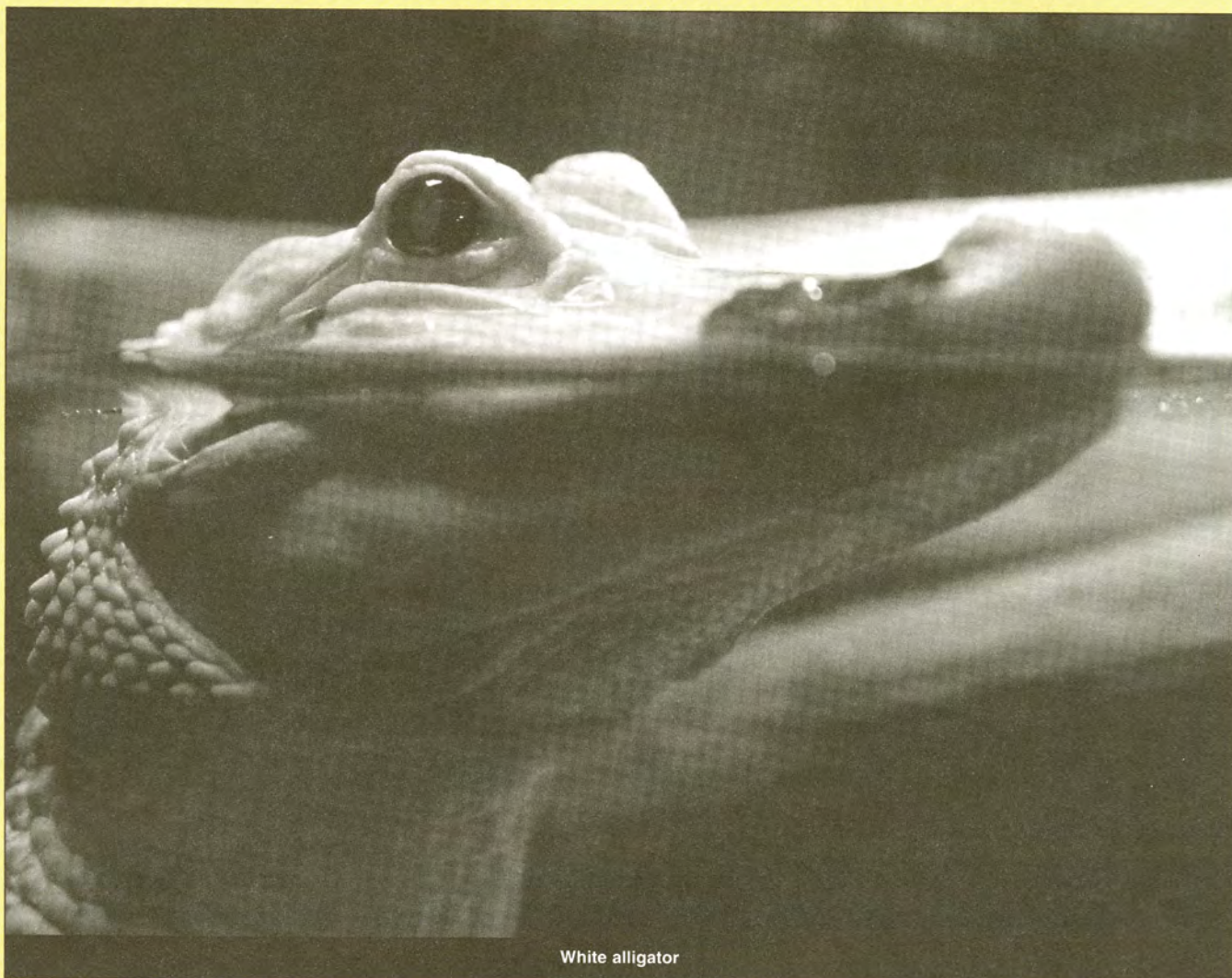
We may not have a "white Christmas," but we can certainly provide you with a white treat!...In mid-December a unique visitor, a rare white alligator, made its debut at Metrozoo and will remain with us until March.

Through the generosity of the Audubon Zoological Gardens of New Orleans, Metrozoo has received this white alligator on loan. It is not an albino, which means it would only lack black pigment and have pinkish eyes. In the case of the white alligator, the genetic mutation that causes whiteness is called leucism, which is a reduction in the intensity of all pigments.

But how did Audubon get a white alligator? In August of 1987, a Cajun fisherman came across a gator's nest in the parish of Terrebonne, Louisiana. Accustomed to seeing young gator hatchlings, the fisherman did not think much of it until he happened to see unusual white specks on the nest. To his surprise, the specks moved and within a few minutes he made history by capturing the first non-albinistic white alligator; altogether, 18 were found.

In September of that same year, the fisherman offered four of the gators to the Audubon Zoo. The remaining were given to friends and to the landowner where the nest was found, the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company (LL&E).

The Audubon animals immediately became stars and helped



White alligator

draw attention to their new Louisiana Swamp Exhibit. In their effort to aid other zoos, Audubon has started a loan program with the animals, in which the receiving zoo gives a donation that goes toward field conservation efforts of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA).

Our 7-foot-long guest will be displayed at the Asian River Life Exhibit and, to house it, we had to take special precautions. First, the edges of the pond had to be smoothed to ensure the animal would not scratch its belly or feet, thus creating the risk of an infection. Second, we had to install a shade structure over the exhibit since its skin lacks protection from ultraviolet rays making it very susceptible to sun-

burn. We also had to temporarily remove our Asian fish from the exhibit just to prevent the gator from making a quick meal out of them.

To date, white alligators have been displayed at only 20 zoos in the country due to the care that they require. To prevent the animal from being hurt during the trip, the crate in which it is transported is lined with soft burlap and the process is done only by air for a speedy trip.

In terms of diet, the gator is quite a gourmand; at the zoo it is fed a variety of food items including skinned chickens, horse meat, beef heart, rats, and nutria (an aquatic rodent related to the American muskrat).

We hope you will come out and see our special visitor. Remember, he will only be here through March!

GATOR PARENTING

- Gators build a nest of vegetation.
- They lay between 20-40 eggs.
- The eggs normally take 60-70 days to hatch.
- Temperature actually determines sex in crocodylians—within the first two weeks of incubation, exposure to a high temperature of 91°F or more will produce all males; below 87°F will produce females.

A FLORIDA HERITAGE

An inspiration for folklore tales and souvenir designs, the alligator is one of the best known animals in the state

By Bill Zeigler

General Curator

An animal of myths, mystery, fantasies and folklore. A physical force that has altered waterways, built islands, and created habitat for other wildlife. What am I talking about? The alligator; a creature that has provided man with nourishment, clothing, fine-leather goods, jewelry, and an endless collection of postcards ranging from funny to tasteless, along with many other tacky memorabilia.

Hunted for its hide, meat, and its value as a pet, the alligator was almost exterminated in the '60s. Today, due to aggressive laws and protection, the alligator has made a remarkable comeback.

Part of the alligator's success is its varied taste for food. It will eat almost anything it can catch, including snakes, turtles, birds, deer, hogs, dogs, cats, bobcats and other gators; even anything that humans throw away, from coins and soft drink bottles, to beach balls and other assorted objects.

Some biologists have estimated that as many as one million alligators may reside in Florida alone. A large industry has been developed for farming alligators for the meat and hide. Florida's Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission now regulates alligators allowing a hunting season. This is an example of how protecting a species can actually save it.

The alligator inhabits the northernmost climates of any crocodilian. It can be found in southeast Texas, east to North Carolina, north to southern Arkansas, and south to the tip of Florida. Its average size is between 7 and 9 feet, but 10 to 12 feet are not uncommon. The record length for Florida is a reported 14 feet 3 inches.



Metrozoo has a number of first breedings for North America, including the Siamese crocodile.

JUST BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Alligators have been responsible for a number of human deaths. Usually these are cases of "mistaken identity of prey." In other words, an alligator grows accustomed to human activity and to being fed by people; it then loses its natural fear and shyness towards humans, or associates them with handouts, making it easier to attack them.

The slow-moving, awkward gait of the alligator is deceiving and, if allowed to approach within 10 or 12 feet, it can easily surprise an unsuspecting victim with a sudden attack.

The only other time alligators become very dangerous is during the nesting season (spring through early fall). But despite their reputation, alligators are caring parents, and females will aggressively pro-

tect the nest and the young once they hatch. The young hatchlings are quite striking, with bright yellow or white stripes on a dull black background. When floating or lying quietly along the shore, or in and around the grass and other plants, the pattern of their body can blend in with nature and the alligator can be easily overlooked.

WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN?

Until now, Metrozoo has occasionally displayed alligators only in PAWS, the Children's Zoo, for educational purposes. In the meantime, behind-the-scenes efforts have been taking place to support more endangered species of crocodilians. And our commitment has proved very fruitful: Metrozoo won a Bean Award (the zoological equivalent of an Oscar) for crocodilian breeding.

Metrozoo now has a number of first breedings for North America, including the Siamese crocodile, African slender-snouted crocodile, Orinoco crocodile, and the false-gavial of Southeast Asia.

This year, between January and March, we will display a rare white alligator from the Audubon Zoological Gardens of New Orleans (see "White Gator" p. 6). Perhaps in the future, as Metrozoo keeps growing, we will provide a permanent home for alligators. Until then, you can see them in a number of places. A quick trip out on Highway 41 will reward you, along with trips to the Everglades National Park South, and Shark Valley, also located on Highway 41.

The next time you see a gator lying along the bank of a canal or lazily floating in the water, take time to enjoy this opportunity; you are looking into the past—alligators are the closest living relatives of the dinosaurs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

You can find out more about the alligators through the following books:

- *Last of the Ruling Reptiles, Alligators, Crocodiles, and their Kin*, by Wilfred T. Neill
- *Giant Reptiles*, by Sherman A. Minton Jr. and Madge Rutherford Minton
- *The Alligator—Monarch of the Everglades*, by Connie M. Toops
- *Crocodilians of Florida and the Tropical Americas*, by Howard H. Hirschhorn
- *Jaws Too—The story of Sanibel's Alligators and other Crocodilians*, by George R. Campbell

JANUARY

14-15 Saturday & Sunday

RAILROAD DAYS

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. — both days
Come join the folks at the Cold Coast Railroad Museum (located on zoo grounds) in this unique opportunity to see vintage trains and antique automobiles. There will be 10 passenger cars, eight freight cars, three diesel locomotives, and two steam locomotives. You also will have the chance to take a ride in vintage trains! \$4 adults, free for children under 12. For more information call Robert Willison at 407-738-6408 or the Cold Coast Railroad Museum at 305-253-0063.

19-21-22 Thursday, Saturday & Sunday

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Nature photographer Irene Hinkle-Saciolto draws upon her 16 years of experience to share tips and help you understand the principles and techniques that will improve your photography. Her successful workshops have been held throughout the U.S. and we are pleased to welcome her back to Miami. This two-part class offers two different field locations to choose from. All participants attend the three-hour evening classroom presentation, then choose from site A or B, depending on your interest—either Metrozoo or the Everglades.
Class: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (January 19)
Site A: Zoo Shoot 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (January 21)
Site B: Everglades Shoot 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (January 22)

25 Saturday

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

Session FAST-B: Asian River Live
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
The early bird gets the worm, so what do early-rising zoo members get? Breakfast with the Beasts at Metrozoo! A continental breakfast will be followed by a special look at exotic animal care. The perfect way to start off your day! For more information call the Education Department at 305-255-5551.

FEBRUARY

A MESSAGE FROM...

For over two years now, Toucan Talk has covered the wildlife of Florida and its fragile ecosystems. Our hope is to provide you with entertaining, yet valuable, information that is important to maintaining the quality of life in South Florida. Through such information we also hope that you will be supportive when issues regarding Florida and its natural resources are presented to the public. As we enter the new year, we face many challenges regarding Florida's future growth and our successful sharing with our fellow creatures of the limited habitat and resources we have. Please remember your actions, or lack of them, in protecting our natural resources will make a difference. Help Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida preserve our world.

Bill Zeigler
General Curator

** In our last issue's "A Message From..." the attendance figures for Metrozoo should not have included a dollar sign. The actual figures are as follows: 530,027 FY 93-94 vs. 316,420 FY 92-93.*

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The Volunteer Department is getting ready for the new year and they encourage you to join them. If you are 21 years or older and are interested in becoming part of our volunteer force, please call the Volunteer Department at 305-255-5551.

Get Acquainted Class

Saturday, January 14, 1995
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm

If you decide to join us you must not miss this class! Familiarize yourself with all the volunteer opportunities available.

Orientation Class

Saturday, January 21, 1995

Once you've decided where you'd like to volunteer, it's time to have a look at the Zoological Society of Florida and Metrozoo, including their history and general operations. In this class you'll also review the policies and procedures of the Volunteer Program.

TOUCAN TALK

Zoological Society of Florida
12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, Florida 33177-1499

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