


TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



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ANIMAL DIETS**

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Cover Photo: Red kangaroo by Ron Magill

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FOOD FOR ALL

By Patty Leon-Singer

Senior Zookeeper and Kitchen Supervisor

When most alarm clocks go off at 6 a.m., Metrozoo's kitchen staff has already started their daily routine. This involves preparing approximately 150 diets for Metrozoo's animal residents.

The morning chores start by preparing the grain buckets according to weight per individual or group. Pelletized feed and grain are poured into buckets which are labeled and color coded per area. They are then placed at our loading dock next to the kitchen for keepers to pick up by 7 a.m.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

There is a wide variety of commercial foods available. One type used to feed our herbivores is called ADF16—a small pellet of dehydrated alfalfa meal, ground corn, soybean meal and wheat middling balanced with needed vitamins and minerals. This is fed to most of our hooved stock along with free choice of

either alfalfa or timothy hay. Keepers supplement the menu with fresh-cut browse.

We also use specially designed diets for browsers like our duikers and, in the case of our gaur, banteng, and sable antelopes we use "bovine grazer," a higher-fiber diet designed specifically for grass-eaters. But variety can also come in terms of size; the elephants and rhinos receive very large pellets which avoid waste since they are easier for them to eat. These large pellets are 24 percent higher in protein than the ADF16. Supplements and produce are added when needed. In some cases, we may add sweet feed or corn to enhance the taste, for extra weight gain, or to provide additional energy on cold nights.

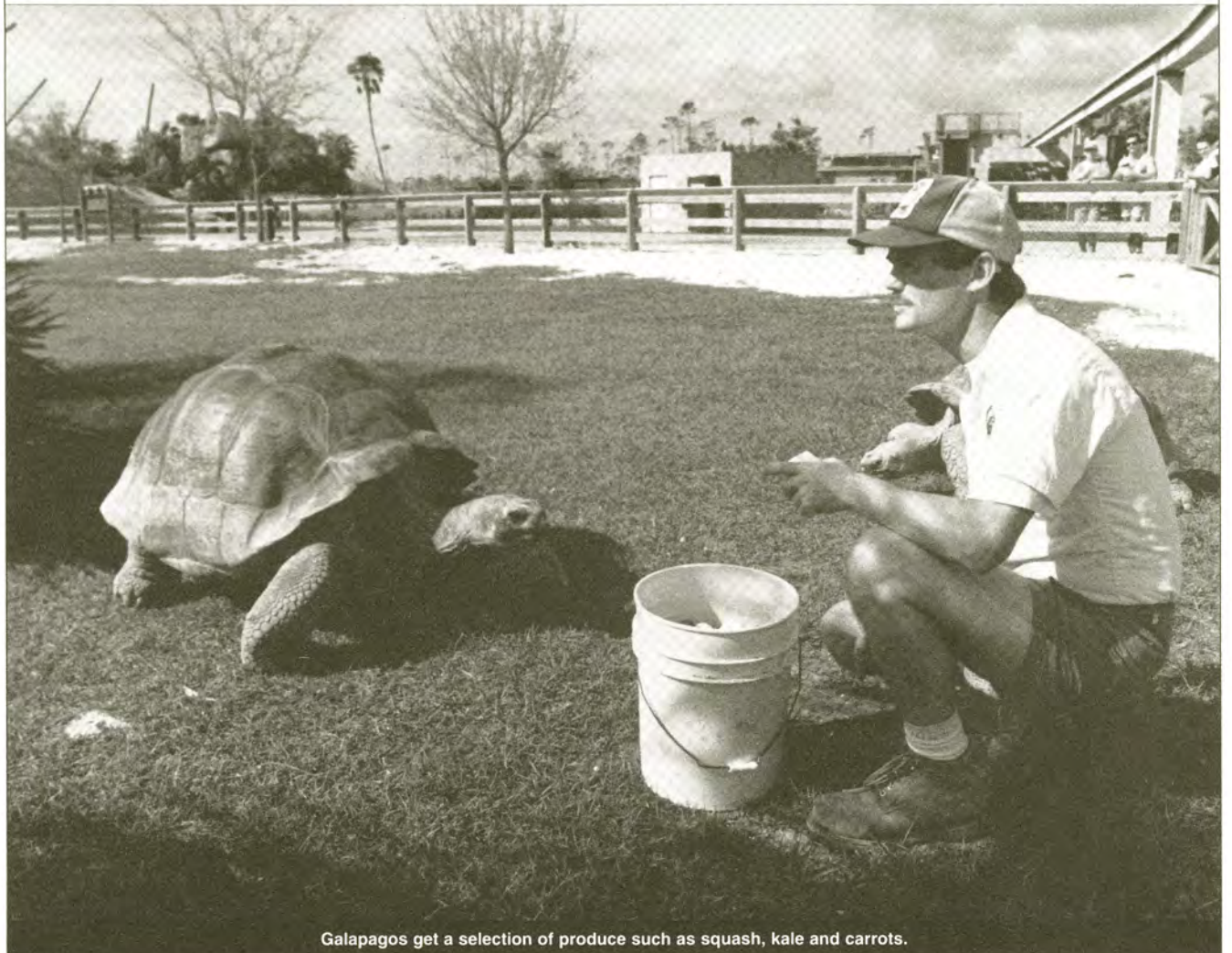
Next we start on diets for carnivores and some birds. Altogether, we prepare about 42 meat and fish

diets. In the case of the large carnivores, their diets are prepared and weighed per individual. Our large cats, for example, are fed a feline diet—a horsemeat-based loaf with bonemeal, fishmeal, and enriched with vitamins—and are fasted one day a week. This is to simulate what they would experience in the wild. That day they receive a large horse knuckle bone for crunching on to keep their teeth clean. Jomo, our male lion, receives 8-1/4 lb. of "feline diet," except on Mondays.

As for bears, they get omnivore chow (amounts vary per bear), one apple, one orange, one mullet, and one boneless/skinless chicken breast. The bears and cats are fed once a day in the afternoon (this is what entices them to come in their night houses each night).

The fish- and meat-eating birds, such as the storks and spoonbills, eat twice a day. All items are weighed on a gram scale and whole

Continued on p.3



Galapagos get a selection of produce such as squash, kale and carrots.

Photo: Greg Hark

KEEPER OF THE YEAR

Each year the South Florida chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) recognizes one of their own as "Keeper of the Year." This year the winner was Connie Philipp, who works with Metrozoo's chimpanzees and gorillas. This award recognizes her work training the animals through positive reinforcement, conditioning them to allow a general physical exam and injections without anesthetizing them. Her work is important because a visit to the doctor's office can cause anxiety for the animals, and her work is designed to reduce that stress. In addition, it allows her to examine the animals often without having to call the veterinarian in. Connie's contributions are a vital part of Metrozoo's strong program of preventive medicine for our animal residents.

Connie began working at Metrozoo in 1987, first in the Bird Department and later in the koala area. The five years she spent working with the kangaroos and koalas, allowed her the unique opportunities to observe births and hand-raise infants that needed extra help. Her successful rearing of a Bennett's wallaby earned her another nomination for "Keeper of the Year" in 1992.

Since the hurricane, Connie has been working with the great apes. Like any keeper, she knows her animals well and has a few favorites. J.J., our 15-year old male gorilla and Samantha, our 25-year-old female chimp were the first to accept Connie and trust her, so they hold special places in her affection. Away from work, she has her own menagerie to care for—six cockatoos, one chinchilla and three Belgian malinois.

We wish Connie continued success!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 850 COMES TO METROZOO

The Zoological Society is proud to announce that the newly formed Boy Scout Troop 850 will be meeting at Metrozoo every Thursday evening from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. In addition to projects with the Zoo, the Boy Scouting program will focus on the outdoor world.

In this part of the state, 23,500 young people are registered members of the South Florida Council and 700 Scout units meet in 435 chartered organizations. A new Cub Scout Pack, number 850, was formed at the beginning of the school year and meets at Jack Gordon Elementary School. When these Cub Scouts graduate to Boy Scouting, they will join Boy Scout Troop 850 at Metrozoo.

Scouting teaches young men leadership skills, first aid, citizenship and community skills, and physical fitness through sports and other activities. Boys ages 11-18 are eligible to join. For more information, contact the Scoutmaster, Mr. Stanford, at 253-8664.

E·D·U·C·A·T·I·O·N·A·L A·D·V·E·N·T·U·R·E·S

FUN SPRING PROGRAMS AT METROZOO

Don't miss the chance to join us for our educational adventures. There's something for everyone!

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 and full of excitement.

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

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

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

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

Breakfast with the Beasts

Families

The early bird gets the worm, so what do ZSF members get? Breakfast with the Beasts at Metrozoo! A continental breakfast will be followed by a special look at exotic animal care. A few animal guests may join us for breakfast.

Session FAST-A: Saturday, March 25
African Plains

Session FAST-B: Saturday, April 29
Wart hog

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

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

Spring Break Camp

Grades 1-5

School is out, so why not spend your break with us? Our mini Zoofari Camp is a two-day adventure that will take you to the wilds of Africa, complete with a special zoo passport to document your travels and animal adventures. A personalized souvenir T-shirt will help make the memories last.

Session A: April 4-5

Session B: April 6-7

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

Cost: Member \$45, Non-Member \$55

Stripes and Spots for Tots

Ages 3-4, 5-6

Animals come in many patterns and colors. Explore the world of "animal wrappers" in this two-part series for young zoo members. Each session includes a classroom visit from some gentle creatures and a stop at one of our exhibits. Program fee covers an adult/child pair.

Series A (Ages 3-4): Saturday,
March 28 & April 4

Series B (Ages 5-6): Tuesday,
March 29 & April 5

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Parent-Child Pair Member \$20, Non-Member \$25

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: \$ _____

ZSF GOES APE OVER YEAR-END GIFTS

The Zoological Society of Florida received tremendous support from our friends at year's end.

Generous gifts from Biscayne Greyhound Track, Ryder System, Inc. Charitable Foundation, the Blank Family Foundation, the Storer Foundation, and the Chingos Foundation all brightened our holiday season.

Members of the Board of Trustees—including Betsy Singer, Roger Lowe, Kiki Courtelis, Marc Osheroff, Frank Fierro, James Hawkins and Paul Frohring—showed unflagging and much-appreciated support.

And Peter and Marion Mosheim, Kathryn Wagner, and Anne Helliwell signed up to become "Children's Zoo Keepers" and support the animals and educational programs at PAWS, the Children's Zoo at Metrozoo.

But that wasn't all: ZSF Board members who pledged year-end gifts in 1994 were treated to a very special pair of visitors: Jessie the baby orangutan and a gregarious (although anonymous) gorilla.

No, it's wasn't Animal Outreach—instead, it was the animals who "reached out" for those welcome checks!

But remember, this little road trip is not necessarily confined to the holidays. That's because it's *always* a good time of year to give to the Zoological Society, and the vital programs and services we provide Metrozoo.

So keep this in mind in '95: a gorilla—or something else— may turn up on your doorstep next time!



Lester Goldstein welcomes Patti Ragan, baby Jessie, and affectionate gorilla.



As Jessie inspects the check, Ron Esserman poses with an ape friend and Patti Ragan.



Jack Lowell fulfills a year-end pledge to the Zoological Society.



Michael Greif presents his year-end gift to a friendly gorilla.



The gorilla receives the gift from Larry Mulkey of Ryder System, Inc.

THE WORD IS OUT: FUND-RAISING PROGRAMS ARE A SUCCESS!

The "Animal of the Month Club" is off and running with 127 brand-new members. The first of 12 monthly "Sunday Celebrations" of the program took place January 22 when the wart hog was the "birthday boy" in the spotlight. Next, the flamingos were feted February 19 as our favorite Valentines. If you haven't already enjoyed one of these educational fun-fests, don't miss the next ones: The African lion will roar March 19 and the African elephant will trumpet onto the scene April 16.

Mother's Day is coming up Sunday, May 14, and what better way to say "Thanks, mom" than to enroll her in our Adopt-An-Animal program. Let mom

select her favorite wild animal (other than you!!) from our zoo collection, and enjoy a new kind of trouble-free parenting for a whole year.

You also can purchase her very own personalized "Zoo Brick" for \$50, or a handsome personalized "Endangered Species Tile" for \$250. Both, the "Zoo Brick" and the "Endangered Species Tile," will be installed on the new "Walls of the Wild," where you and mom can see the tile or brick every time you visit the Zoo.

Sales on bricks and tiles for Phase II are now open and doing well as word gets around on the success of the program's first phase. Watch your mail for an invitation to

the official dedication ceremonies for the "Walls of the Wild".

For more information on these programs call 305-255-5551.

ALSO...

If you are looking for other options for Mother's and Father's Day, don't forget our gift shops, Toucan Trader and Elephant Walk. They are open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., seven days a week. And remember that members receive 10% off all their purchases.

FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '95 FRIDAY, MARCH 3

This year's Feast will be provided by:

- Afternoon Tea Gourmet Bake Shop
- Barnie's Coffee & Tea Company
- Bijan's on the River Restaurant & Raw Bar
- Cafe Tu Tu Tango
- Captain's Tavern Restaurant
- Casa Juancho Restaurant
- Charade Restaurant
- Christy's
- Cisco's Cafe
- El Novillo Restaurant
- Gaviña Coffee Company/ Cafe La Llave
- Godiva Chocolatier
- Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar
- Hooligan's Liquor Locker
- Island Oasis
- JoAnna's Marketplace
- JohnMartin's Restaurant
- Los Ranchos Restaurants
- Málaga Restaurant
- Mike Gordon's Seafood Restaurant
- Outback Steakhouse
- Paparazzi Ristorante
- Parrot Cafe at Parrot Jungle and Gardens
- Ocean Reef Club
- Planet Hollywood
- Prezzo
- Restaurant St. Michel
- Ristorante Florencia
- Ristorante La Bussola
- Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
- The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
- Tutti's
- Tutto Matto
- Victor's Cafe

Beverage Sponsors

- The House of Seagram
- Beverage Canners
- Hiram Walker and Sons, Inc.
- Silver Eagle Distributors, Inc.
- Southern Wine and Spirits
- Gourmet Chandlery

Beastkeeper Party

- Chef Allen's
- Creative Tastes Catering

Music/Entertainment

- Alex Fox
- Arabesque
- Billy Rolle Jazz Ensemble
- The Goods
- Jeff Rutenberg
- Laray Mistik
- Mark Snow
- Orpheus Guild String Quartet
- Robert Leslie & Friends
- Scala Miami Performers

SPONSORS

- Presenting Sponsor: American Express
- Additional Sponsors: American Airlines, The Falls

It's not too late to join us! For reservations call 305-255-5551.

CARING FOR BABY MARY



Baby Mary coming out of her man-made "pouch."

It is 3:00 in the morning. It's time again. Time to feed Mary, that is, a seven-month-old red kangaroo that is being hand-raised at Miami Metrozoo. Either J.J. or Paul, the keepers in charge of caring for baby Mary, will have to feed her...and it's so hard at this time of night!

For now, Mary's "room" is a pillow case (any pillow case will do), since it is the closest thing they could come up with to imitate her mom's pouch. Unfortunately, the mother died when Mary was six months old; that is why she receives all the care she needs from zookeepers, Paul Bermudez and J.J. Cooper. This includes, of course, her bottle every four hours (it used to be every two hours!). Paul and J.J. switch every two weeks to nurse their newly acquired kangaroo joey. The one-on-one care allows them to detect any problems she might develop as a baby not growing up with her mom. During the time

they are off, they also get to recharge their batteries.

Since they started taking care of Mary, she has become a regular visitor in their homes. This has been the only way to feed her so often and to keep an eye on her. During the day, they bring her to work, where she spends her time in a playpen at our veterinary clinic.

After the 11:00 a.m. and the 3:00 p.m. feedings, J.J. and Paul allow Mary to play freely in a grassy area behind the clinic (although she usually just follows them around) to help her get used to what it will be like in the paddock; she even gets to chew some grass. The purpose of these outings also is to simulate what she would do with mom.

In the wilds of Australia red kangaroos graze on grass and select green shrubs, here at the Zoo they receive a different diet that covers all their nutritional requirements (see "Red Kangaroo Facts," this page). Besides her bottle, Mary has

solid food available just in case she decides to snack in between her every-four-hours feedings.

Mary will keep growing and we expect her to be out in the paddock with the rest of the mob by the end of March. So don't miss the chance to visit her in the red kangaroo exhibit.



Mary plays on a grassy area after her 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. feedings.

Information provided by zookeepers J.J. Cooper and Paul Bermudez

RED KANGAROO FACTS

- Adult females stand approximately 5 ft. and weigh anywhere from 50 to 120 lb. when fully grown. Male red kangaroos stand taller (over 6 ft.) and weigh more than females.
- Red kangaroos have been known to jump 6 to 8 ft. high and, on the average, cover a distance of 8 ft. per leap. They can leap 30 ft. on the run.
- They are the largest of all marsupials (animals which are part of an order of mammals that do not develop a true placenta and that usually have a pouch to carry their young).
- Female kangaroos are constantly pregnant from the time they reach maturity. Females cycle every 35 days and gestation takes 33 days so, technically, they can get pregnant two days after giving birth. The development of the second embryo is suspended (they stay inside the mother without growing until the first baby is ready to leave the pouch). Once the pouch is empty, the second embryo can be born and move to the pouch.
- At birth, a blind, furless joey crawls into the female's pouch where it remains for approximately 235 days.
- Red kangaroos live in organized groups called mobs which might have from two to up to 100 individuals in certain circumstances.
- In Australia males are called "boomers," females are called "flyers," and the young "joeys."
- Red kangaroos are herbivores and can cover considerable distances to seek food. They can be without water during long periods of time (up to two or three months).
- At Metrozoo, the red kangaroo's diet—which they receive twice a day—consists of a mixture of grain and oats with fresh produce such as kale, carrot, orange, and banana. They also eat whatever grass they choose to eat on their paddock.

BACKYARD CRITTERS

By Bill Zeigler

General Curator

It was a quiet Tuesday morning. The rush of the neighborhood had not begun, and the freshness of the morning dew was making me forget what was ahead for the day.

I was performing my usual manly chore of taking the garbage out—something as a young boy I thought I'd outgrow—when the idyllic scene was suddenly destroyed. The street before me was strewn with empty cans, remnants of last night's dinner from the Johnsons and the Smiths, and an assortment of objects from the rest of our neighbors. Every trash can that had been set out the night before was either knocked over, rolled in the street, or otherwise in a total state of disarray.

Despite the devastation around me, I smiled, knowing that my decision to never leave the garbage out over night had been vindicated.

At the far end of the street I noticed a slight movement and, as my eyes focused, a trash can rolled to a stop disgorging its contents. Along with the usual garbage there was a



Grey fox

All three are lessons in survival and adaptation to the human world. Wherever there is a trash can or a city dump you will find them. And they are not restricted to the suburbs! I have seen them survive in the concrete jungles of downtown U.S.A.

taste to the meat side of the menu, including pet rabbits, guinea pigs, ground birds, and any other animal smaller than a dog or cat that is confined and unable to run away.

The least loved, of course, is the opossum, with its gray coarse fur, narrow toothy snout, and bare, rat-like tail. The opossum is the only native North American marsupial (for definition see "Kangaroo Facts," p. 6); it also is one of the most primitive living mammals.

Here in Miami all three species are doing quite well and, in fact, over the last 12 years the fox has actually increased its population in the developments surrounding downtown. Although as wildlife lovers we would encourage you to enjoy these native inhabitants, we also must warn you about the dangers inherent to their presence.

WATCH OUT!

Raccoons, opossums, and foxes alike can carry rabies—an acute viral disease which attacks the nervous system. Rabies can be transmitted to other mammals, including man, through a bite wound. Usually the most susceptible to this problem are dogs. Both the raccoon and the fox also can carry distemper, another viral disease to which dogs are very susceptible too.

Keeping any of the three bandits

out of your yard is hard, bordering on impossible, but there are steps you can take to limit their visitations:

- Do not leave full trash cans outside.
- If you have pets, never leave food out overnight, feed them in the morning, and pick up the leftover food before dark.
- Keep your yard clear of brush piles and debris that can be used as shelter.
- Make sure there are no open vents or other accesses to your attic or crawl spaces that they can enter through. Both the raccoon and opossum are excellent climbers and a tall tree or brush next to your house will allow them easy access to your rooftop.
- Do not purposely feed any wild animal, except perhaps birds and butterflies (even squirrels can damage a home). You may find the invitation to feed will lead to more than you bargained for.

Our local backyard critters can be a treat to enjoy. Just learn to keep yourself and the wildlife safe.

GETTING TO KNOW THEM

■ Opossum

Body: 15–20"

Tail: 10–20" – bare, prehensile used to grasp limbs to keep balance or just to hang by it

Weight: 9–13 lb.

Activity period: Nocturnal (active at night)

Opossums have been kept as pets, but are not recommended because they retain their wild instincts and can be unexpectedly aggressive.

■ Raccoon

Body: 18–28"

Tail: 8–12" – black and white ringed

Weight: 12–35 lb.

Activity period: Nocturnal or crepuscular (active at night and at dawn or dusk)

Although raccoons have been kept as pets, they are usually very destructive and become aggressive upon sexual maturity. Not recommended.

■ Fox

Body: 21–29"

Tail: 11–16" – bushy, tipped in black

Weight: 7–13 lb.

Activity period: Usually nocturnal (active at night)

Foxes are very nervous animals, so they don't make good pets. Permits are required from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to keep any of the three, with a state-enforced minimum housing standard.



Raccoon



Opossum – Photo by Rick McCawley

familiar sight: It was brown, had a high back hip posture, long bushy tail and slightly waddled gait. Out of the heap came out an adult raccoon leisurely devouring the contents of a leftover container of macaroni salad.

One of the best-loved of the TV critters, the raccoon—or *Procyon lotor* as the biologists know it—also is the best known member of the BBB (Backyard Bandit Brigade). Also included among the ranks in South Florida are the grey fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, and the opossum, *Didelphia virginiana*.

The two most often seen—and who do the bulk of the trash can raids—are the raccoon and opossum. Since their appetites are not selective, they can cause extensive damage when looking for their food. Both will tear through porch screens, chew through wood, and crawl in, over, and under walls, roofs, and fences. The fox, on the other hand, tends to stay on the ground and is the most secretive. It usually finds a place to den under a porch deck, shed, or brush pile left in the backyard. The fox also tends to limit its

MARCH

3 **friday**

FEAST WITH THE BEASTS

Enjoy superb dining from over 35 of South Florida's finest restaurants plus fabulous cocktails, dancing, and live entertainment at this annual, black-tie fund-raising event. Join us in this music-filled night amid the wilds of Metrozoo's animal exhibits. For reservations call 305-255-5551.

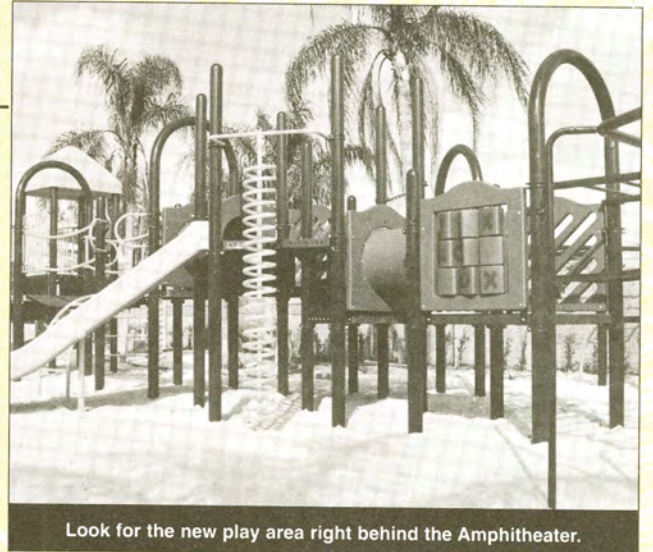
APRIL

4-7 **saturday-tuesday**

SPRING BREAK CAMP GRADES 1-5

Session A: April 4-5
Session B: April 6-7
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Spend your break with us in our mini Zoofari Camp, a two-day adventure that will take you to the wilds of Africa. You will get a special zoo passport to document your travels and animal adventures! For further information please call the Education Department at 305-255-5551.



Look for the new play area right behind the Amphitheater.

Photo: Janet Perales

A MESSAGE FROM... A MESSAGE FROM... A MESSAGE FROM... A MESSAGE FROM...

BOB YOKEL

In April, Bob Yokel—the first and only Director Metrozoo has ever had—is retiring after 29 years of service to the county, 17 of those in charge of the Zoo.
Born in Evansville, Indiana, Bob has had many wonderful experiences in his life. After his service in the Army during the Korean War, he enrolled in the University of Miami where he earned his degree in business.
Prior to his zoo experience, Bob coordinated many major projects for the Park and Recreation Department. The building of the Key Biscayne Golf Course and the Matheson Marina were two of his most gratifying accomplishments.
Bob joined the Crandon Park Zoo in 1979 as Superintendent and as the Project Coordinator for the construction phase of Metrozoo. With the opening of our Preview Center on July 4, 1980, Bob began his service as Metrozoo's Director.
As the challenges of operating a major zoo mounted, Bob led the way and we enjoyed a variety of successes. From AZA Accreditation and hosting the 1984 AZA National Conference, to major exhibit openings such as the aviary in 1984, koala in 1988, and Asian River Life in 1990, the Zoo grew in size and reputation. When disaster struck, Bob was, and is, extremely proud of the way that all staff pulled together to go forward and make the Zoo better than it ever was.
As Bob retires to work on his golf game and to see some of the country with his better half Bev, and his daughter Chris, we send him our love and best wishes. Hit 'em straight!

Eric Stephens
Metrozoo's Business Manager

PETER F. KERWIN

Peter Kerwin, the Assistant Director of Special Projects for the Dade County Park and Recreation Department, is retiring in April after 35 years of service to the residents and visitors of Greater Miami. One of his shining successes was the direction of the original construction of the 740-acre Metrozoo.
He coordinated the design and development of a number of other outstanding leisure areas throughout Dade County. Some of these community favorites are Amelia Earhart Park and Farm Village, Black Point Park and Marina, the Tennis Center at Crandon Park, and Tropical Park.
In April of 1994, "Pete" returned to help Metrozoo one more time. He has been implementing a \$4.5 million federal grant to help the Zoo facilities become even nicer. We hope the improvements to the entrance boulevard, the paving of the parking area, and the future upgrades to the admission ticket booths will lead Peter and his wife back to Metrozoo for many memorable visits.

Stan Hemphill
Director of Capital Improvements

TOUCAN TALK



Zoological Society of Florida
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