

TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



WILD FLORIDA

LOOKING BACK
TO SEE THE FUTURE

PAGE 7

FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '96

FUN WITH LASTING IMPACT

PAGE 6

BLACK RHINOS SAVING THEM FROM EXTINCTION

PAGES 2 & 3



Cover Photo: Black Rhino
by Steve Walker

Editor

Mayra González-Rey

Graphic Designer

Maribel Moure-Medina
Moure Graphic Design, Inc.

Photos

Dolora Batchelor

Harvey Bilt

Rick McCawley

Katrina Osborn

Cindy Seip

Steve Walker

Contributors

Sheila Fyfe

Carol Gaudino

Nancy Hotchkiss

Chriss Miller

Katrina Osborn

Eric Stephens

Bill Zeigler

Cindy Zeigler

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Zoological Society of Florida
Glenn Ekey, Executive Director
Sue Cobb, President

Metrozoo
Al Fontana, Director

12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33177-1499
Phone: 305-255-5551
Fax: 305-255-7126

Zoo Visitor Information
305-251-0401

BLACK RHINOS AT METROZOO

By Martha Thaden

Quarantine Supervisor

Almost everyone knows that the black rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornios*, is an endangered species, but I wonder if everyone knows what "endangered" really means. It means that the black rhino is on the very brink of extinction. And the reasons are simple. They are being killed for the assumed medicinal powers of their horns and they also are losing their habitat in the wild.

In the 1970s, there were an estimated 65,000 black rhinos living in the wild. By 1984, only 8,000 were left. As of 1990, fewer than 3,500. In Kenya alone, there were fewer than 400, a loss of 98 percent in less than 17 years. In a few years, chances are there will be no black rhinos left living in the wild.

The numbers are staggering. However, there still is hope for the rhino. There are many dedicated persons and organizations fighting the impending extinction of this wonderful creature. At Metrozoo, we have made tremendous efforts to breed rhinos. We hope that, someday, when governments are stable and poaching has been eliminated, the rhino, through captive breeding programs, may once again be able to safely roam the wild ranges that have been home for thousands, and perhaps millions of years.

Our successes began at Crandon Park Zoo with the purchase of a 1-1/2-year old female named "Cora." Her mother presumably was killed by poachers when she was an infant, and she ended up being hand-raised in a lodge in Kenya. She was moved to the Mombasa, Kenya quarantine station when her natural rhino personality began taking its toll on the contents of the home lodge.

Cora came to Crandon Park in 1973. The following year, a 2-year old male from Kenya named "Studley" was purchased, and in 1978 they produced a calf named

"Amani." Unfortunately Studley died of a blood disorder shortly after he and Cora were moved to the brand new Metrozoo.

In early 1983, 12-year old "Lulu" came to us from Franklin Park Zoo, and later that same year we bought a 7-year old, captive born male called "Toshi" from Asa Zoological Park in Hiroshima, Japan.

In the ensuing years, between the two of them, Cora and Lulu produced five calves by Toshi. Another is expected during spring. In 1985, we received an aging male named "Watu" who never had reproduced. Fortunately, he and Cora had a male calf, "Tatu," in 1988, only months before Watu died of old age.

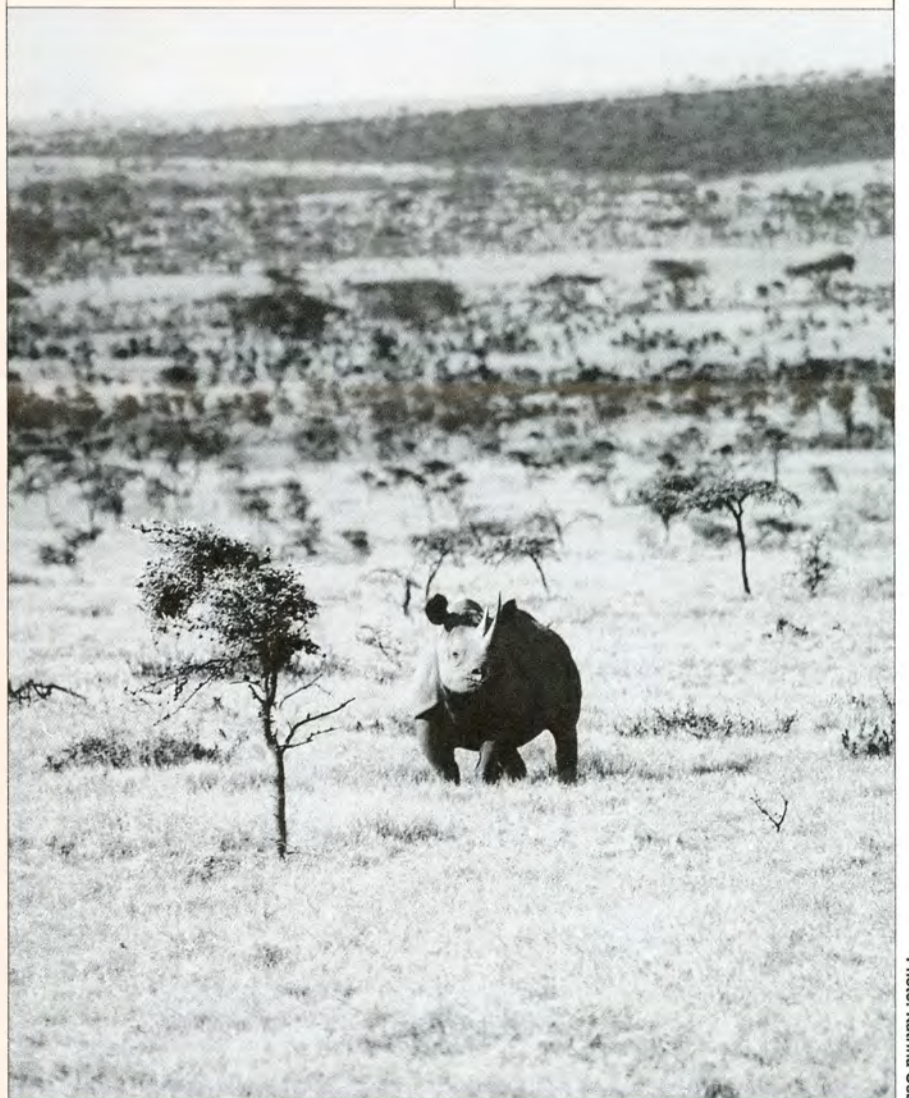
With the exception of Tatu, all other offspring have been sent to other zoos and breeding facilities in the United States and as far away as

Japan. So far, three of our rhinos have become grandparents.

Tatu (which means number three in Swahili, and was named as such for being Cora's third offspring) can be seen at the black rhino exhibit with a female companion from Los Angeles named "Moonstone." They also are expecting a calf this spring. Cora, Lulu and Toshi can be viewed in the Quarantine Area by taking the Zoo's Tram Tour.

Black rhinos have a 16-month gestation period and the calves are not weaned until they are 1-1/2 to 2 years old. Therefore, breeding and reproducing the rhino can be time consuming, but the long wait is always worth it. When you see the first baby rhino, you'll know what I mean.

In the meantime, we will continue our dedicated efforts to breed these magnificent animals and do our part to try to save the rhino from extinction.



Wild rhinos are protected from poachers at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya.

Photo: Katrina Osborn

Katrina Osborn, one of the giraffe's area keepers, was the proud winner of a two-week trip to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Katrina won first prize for collecting the most pledges in the United States and Canada through Bowling for Rhinos, an annual bowling tournament organized by the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). (See Calendar of Events for upcoming tournament.) This tournament is part of an effort to provide needed funds to protect the endangered black rhino. After her return from Kenya, Katrina talked to Toucan Talk about her wonderful experiences.

TOUCAN TALK: What exactly is the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and how did it start?

KATRINA OSBORN: Anna Merz, rightfully called the "Rhino Lady," started the reserve. In 1982, Anna went to visit Lewa Downs, property of a British family, the Craigs. She fell in love with the black rhinos and decided to help. She proposed to the Craigs that, if they lent her the land, she would provide the funds to create a rhino sanctuary. They agreed, she sold all her possessions and started by fencing a 5,000-acre portion of land which later became 10,000 acres. Today, there are 55,000 acres fenced to protect a wide variety of animals.

TT: How do they watch this wide area?

KO: They enforce the protection with a security staff of 75. They also fly a plane, donated by AAZK, looking for breaks in the fence or for any kind of poaching. It's been so successful that no animals have died in the hands of poachers! That is why they're the role models for the rest of Africa. They're even looking to possibly expand protected boundaries all the way to Ethiopia so the rhinos can have a natural migration route.

TT: What was so special about this reserve, besides the obvious reason of serving as a sanctuary for black rhinos?

KO: Anna has always been ahead of her time. She set the example for the rest of Africa by working with local farmers such as the Craigs and showing them that tourism could be a very profitable industry.

TT: How does the Conservancy help local communities?

KO: They provide jobs to at least 100 people who work in places such as the tourist lodges, or building the school or the hospital. This is in addition to the approximately 150 working directly for the reserve.

TRIP TO THE LAND OF THE RHINOS



Serene landscape in Kenya, where important efforts are made to protect the endangered black rhino. Photo: Katrina Osborn

One of the things that Anna has done, for example, is to publish a tiny book relating her experiences with Samia, a rhino she hand-raised. She then sells it to tourists for a price which allows her not only to cover her costs, but also to produce the same booklet in Masai to help educate the natives.

TT: Where did you stay?

KO: The first night I stayed at the "Wilderness," a lodge used for people who go on photo safaris. After that, I stayed with Anna Merz for 3 days, and for the rest of the trip I stayed with the Dyers, a wonderful couple who work for the Conservancy.

TT: What were your activities during the day?

KO: The first 3 days we went "rhino-watching." This meant going out with a tracker to find the rhinos and check their behavior. The rhinos are checked daily (there

are 42 rhinos!) and when Anna can't do it, the trackers call her

over the radio. She has a little notebook she carries with her to write down the observations. Imagine, she has kept track of daily rhino behaviors for each one since she came to the reserve! Anyway, going back to our activities...Other times we would go on a "game ride," looking for animals such as elephants or the "elusive kudu." Two mornings we went to the Craigs' house and walked with trackers who watched the rehabilitated cheetahs.

Other times we visited the native women to see them making rugs and the men woodwork. We also visited the school, met the head-

master, and the administrative offices of the Conservancy to learn how they operated. In the afternoon, Anna and I took walks with her dogs among secretary birds, kori bustards and zebras.

TT: How can people help the Conservancy?

KO: Here in Florida and the United States in general people can participate in their local AAZK chapter's "Bowling for Rhinos" fund-raiser.

TT: What is your most special memory from the trip?

KO: The fact that I was able to spend time with someone as committed and passionate about a cause as Anna Merz. It was incredible to get to know someone so significant worldwide on a personal basis.

TT: Anything you would like to add?

KO: I would like to thank Metro-Dade County, Zoological Society docents and the South Florida chapter of AAZK for their wonder-



Katrina Osborn, Metrozoo keeper and winner of a trip to Kenya, in the company of Anna Merz, "The Rhino Lady."

ful support. I've never worked in a place where everybody was so supportive. Metrozoo is a very special place!

NEW BABIES

JANUARY 11 - APRIL 3



Baby gemsbok Photo: Dolora Batchelor

African spurred tortoise
20 sex unknown January 11-March 1

Demoiselle crane
2 sex unknown February 14 & 15

Wart hog
1 male/2 females February 16

Addax
1 male February 16

Eastern leopard tortoise
7 sex unknown February 18-29

Gemsbok
1 male February 20

African white-backed vulture
1 sex unknown March 2

Nile lechwe
1 male March 5

Gemsbok
1 male March 6

Baird's tapir
1 female March 21

RETURN TO JAMAICA

By Damien Kong

Education Specialist

About two years ago, I was in Jamaica assisting the Hope Zoo with the Jamaican Iguana Project. My main purpose that time was to deliver materials and equipment that were badly needed. Recently the Director of the Hope Zoo, Rhema Kerr, contacted the Zoological Society to ask for my assistance, once more. So off I went again, to that beautiful island of my birth!

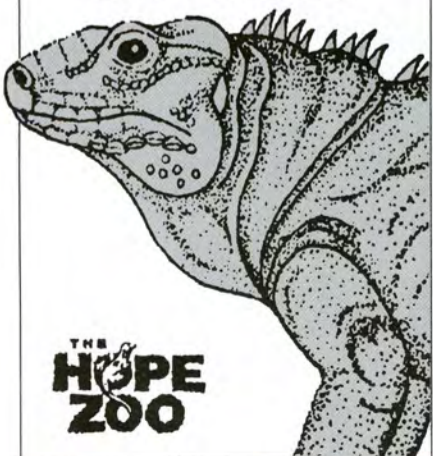
This time my trip was to help get the Hope Zoo's new Education center off the ground. I took educational materials and some classroom equipment down with me. While I was there, I met with some members of their education committee to help them implement new education programs.

A very popular item among the young visitors at Miami Metrozoo are our animal cards. On each card is a picture and information about a species found at the Zoo or native to Florida. Kids run around our Zoo collecting cards from every docent they see. Using this idea, I designed a Jamaican iguana card for the Hope Zoo. Even if it is half as popular as it is here, it surely will be a success.

While I was down there, the AZA and the University of the West Indies radio tagged and released some of the Jamaican iguanas back into the wild. These iguanas were raised and hatched at the Hope Zoo. I had been asked if I would be interested in participating and videotaping the whole event. Well I guess since they asked so nicely, what else could I do but help them out?

I always am thrilled to help other zoos, but this meant a lot to me.

JAMAICAN IGUANA



THE HOPE ZOO

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

SUMMER CAMP IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

It's not too late to register for Zoofari Summer Camp at Metrozoo! Our seven weeks of summer camp for explorers ages 4-17 are filled with exotic animals, crafts, games and in-zoo activities. Zoofari Camp begins June 17 and runs through August 9. Call the Education Department **today** at 305-255-5551 for the full program description and registration form.

DON'T MISS OUR ZOOOPER FUN PROGRAMS

STRIPES AND SPOTS FOR TINY 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 afternoon includes a classroom visit from some gentle creatures and a stop-off at a special Zoo exhibit. Program fee covers an adult/child pair.

Date: (Ages 3-4) Tuesday Series, SPOT-A: May 14, 21

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Date: (Ages 5-6) Wednesday Series, SPOT-B: May 15, 22

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Parent-Child pair Member \$20 Non-Member \$25

PIG OUT-DESSERT WITH THE WART HOGS

Adults

Snuffle for truffles, root for chocolates and enjoy dessert with the wart hogs! Learn the truth about these mammals while you dig into a banana split. Meet "Babe's" relatives, both domestic and wild, in this unique evening. Bring a date, they'll be really impressed!

Date: Wednesday, May 29

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

Cost: Member \$8 Non-Member \$11

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

Families

The early bird gets the worm, so what do ZSF members get? Breakfast with the Beasts at the Metrozoo! A continental breakfast will be followed by a special tour to

one of our exhibits. A few animal guests may join us for breakfast. Finish off your morning adventure with a monorail ride over the zoo residents as they enjoy their first meal of the day.

Date: Saturday, May 18 - Lions and Tigers and Bears (oh my!)

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

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

BREAKFAST WITH THE KEEPERS

Families

The South Florida Association of Zoo Keepers (SFAAZK) is offering a very special breakfast that's really a "keeper." You'll meet several of the most enchanting animals including "Mary," an Asian elephant, "Willie," an African elephant, and "Kupala," our new male koala, along with other residents and their human caregivers. A continental breakfast will be served. All proceeds benefit the American Association of Zookeepers.

Date: Saturday, June 22

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

Cost: Adult Members \$15 Adult Non-Members \$20 Child Member (12 and under) \$8 Child Non-Member \$10 For registration call the Education Department at 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: \$

SUCCESSFUL GORILLA GOLF CLASSIC

The 9th Annual Gorilla Golf Classic was a roaring success, with \$18,000 raised to benefit Metrozoo's conservation programs.

We would like to thank the following individuals and corporations for their support:

3M
 ADF
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 Shorty's Bar-B-Q
 Sunshine Beepers
 Tamiami Plumbing
 Water Company of America

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped the day of the tournament. Without them we could have never been as successful. Special thanks to the Tournament Committee. Your efforts really made a difference!

YOU CAN ADOPT ME!

Why go for the usual? It's easy to give a different kind of gift for graduation, Mother's or Father's Day. Give your loved one a special "adoptee" that reminds you of one of their personality traits or that is as cute as they are. How about the elephant for those who remember it all? Or the European stork for moms-to-be? All our wonderful animals can be adopted for as little as \$25, and those who contribute in our \$75 category or up can join a fun crowd for a yearly Family Reunion. (See Calendar of Events for date and time.) This year, we are celebrating it with a continental breakfast, an interesting talk about the newest babies, and a walk to see the little ones. And, to top it all, the door prize is a limited-edition sculpture called "The Den."

Since we want you to join or renew your commitment to our Adopt-an-Animal program, we are offering you a unique opportunity: Join (or renew) between May 1 and June 30 and be eligible to win one of the following prizes:

- Weekend for up to four people (two adults and two kids) at Sundial Resort in Sanibel Island
- Two subscriptions to the Florida Philharmonic's 1996-97 Season, Series A at the Gusman Cultural Center for the Performing Arts
- Dinner for two at Dominique's

- at The Alexander Hotel
- Fragrance package courtesy of Lillie Rubin
- Admission for two to Breakfast With The Beasts at Metrozoo
- Stuffed animal from the Toucan Trader, our gift shop
- \$25 shopping spree at the Toucan Trader

KOMODO 'ROUND TOWN



Komodo Jack pays a surprise visit to Miami Jai-Alai to thank them for a recent and generous contribution to the Zoological Society.



Photo: Rick McCawley

FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '96

A FEEDING AND ENTERTAINMENT FRENZY WITH LASTING IMPACT

It was, AGAIN, the best beastly feast of South Florida. *Feast With The Beasts*, the Zoological Society of Florida's (ZSF) annual fund-raiser to benefit programs provided to Metrozoo, was a huge success.

Sponsored by American Express, the **9th Annual Feast With The Beasts** was held Friday, March 1, 1996 at Metrozoo. *Feast* herded new supporters, offered exceptional entertainment and featured fantastic food served by over 40 of South Florida's best restaurants.

This year's *Feast* raised over \$267,000 to support ZSF's programs at Metrozoo.

The following is a list of the participating restaurants, with their addresses and phone numbers for your dining pleasure:

Afternoon Tea Gourmet Bake Shop
12727 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 238-6696

Barnie's Coffee & Tea Company
20505 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 253-7755

Bijan's on the River Restaurant & Raw Bar
64 SE 4th Street, Miami, 381-7778

Bluewater Bistro at the Doubletree Grand
1717 N. Bayshore Drive, Miami, 372-0313

Caffe Abbracci
318 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, 441-0700

Captain's Tavern Restaurant
9621 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 666-5979

Caribbean Cigar Factory
6265 SW 8 Street, Miami, 267-3911

Casa Juancho Restaurant
2436 SW 8 Street, Miami, 642-2452

Chef Allen's
19088 NE 29 Avenue, Aventura, 935-2900

Christy's
3101 Ponce de Leon Boulevard., Coral Gables, 446-1400

Cisco's Cafe
5911 NW 36 Street, Miami, 871-2764

The Courtview Club at Miami Jai-Alai
3500 NW 37 Avenue, Miami, 633-6400

Creative Tastes Catering
7118 SW 117 Avenue, Miami, 598-1575

Doc Dammer's Bar and Grill
180 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, 441-2600

Gaviña Coffee Company
8240 NW 68 Street, Miami, 477-4070

Giacosa Ristorante
394 Giralda Avenue, Coral Gables, 445-5858

Godiva Chocolatier
7429-A Dadeland Mall, Miami, 662-2429

Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar
9555 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 667-9381

Hooligan's Liquor Locker
13135 SW 89 Place, Miami, 251-8282

Island Oasis Gourmet Frozen Cocktails
463 NE 185 Street, Miami, 655-0685

i Paparazzi Ristorante
940 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, 531-3500

JoAnna's Marketplace
8247 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 661-5777

Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant
227 Biscayne Street, Miami Beach, 673-4611



Susan Abraham, *Feast With The Beasts* chair, Jennifer Getz, *Beastkeeper Party* chair, and Bob Soper *Feast* MC and WFOR weatherman. Photo: Harvey Bilt.

JohnMartin's
253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, 445-3777

Le Basque
4004 San Amaro Drive, Coral Gables, 567-0537

Los Ranchos Restaurant
125 SW 107 Avenue, Miami, 229-7002

Lure
805 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, 538-5873

The Melting Pot
9835 Sunset Drive, Miami, 279-8816

Mike Gordon Seafood Restaurant
1210 NE 79 Street Causeway, Miami, 751-4429

Norman's
21 Almeria Avenue, Coral Gables, 446-6767

The Old Cutler Oyster Company
18415 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 238-2051

The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
8201 W. Flagler Street, Miami, 266-5000

Outback Steakhouse
13145 SW 89 Place, Miami, 254-4456

Parrot Cafe at Parrot Jungle & Gardens
11000 SW 57 Avenue, Miami, 666-4931

Prezzo
8888 SW 136 Street, Miami, 234-1010

Restaurant St. Michel
162 Alcazar Avenue, Coral Gables, 444-1666

Roasters 'N Toasters
11293 S. Dixie Highway, Miami, 271-5757

Ruth's Chris Steak House
3913 NE 163 Street, Miami, 949-0100

Señor Frogs
3008 Grand Avenue, Coconut Grove, 448-0999

Tutto Matto
17004 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, 945-0765

Tutti's Trattoria & Bakery
4612 Le Jeune Road, Coral Gables, 663-0077

Uva Wine Bar & Eatery
3850 SW 8 Street, Miami, 529-2264

Victor's Cafe
2340 SW 32 Avenue, Miami, 445-1313

A special thanks to the sponsors of our best *Feast* ever!

Presenting Sponsor:

American Express Southern Region Sales & Marketing District
Southern Region Operating Center
Latin America/Caribbean Headquarters

Beastkeeper Party Sponsor:

Portofino Tower

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Cathy Blank, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Getz, *Beastkeeper* Chair
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Ellen Wolfson
Marcie Ziv

*These generous businesses, individuals and artists provided services, support and entertainment for *Feast '96*. Help us say "thanks" by giving them your business whenever you can:*

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New World Symphony
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Bob Soper
Sound Experience
The South Florida Restaurant Association
Southern Wine & Spirits
Spot Cooler
Tech Air
Tropical Tent
Vivace Brass
Yellow Strawberry Salon
Marcie Ziv

*Next year will be the 10th Anniversary of *Feast With The Beasts*. The date is Friday, March 7, 1997. Mark your calendars!*

LOOKING BACK TO BETTER SEE THE FUTURE

By Bill Zeigler

This will be my last "Wild Florida" article for *Toucan Talk* since I have left my position as general curator at Metrozoo to seek other opportunities. And as I have reflected on articles past, I began to wonder if "Wild Florida" had actually compelled any readers to change, alter their behavior or, at least, made them more aware of the richness of Florida and the importance of protecting it.

As the song says "You don't know what you've got till it's gone," and this tune has been played over and over throughout man's development of his environment. Many of his actions, even in an attempt to aid or correct, have gone sour. And some have been very costly, as the straightening of the Kissimmee River or the introduction of the malaleuca tree. But we have learned from these examples.

In recent years, restoration of the Everglades has become the hottest issue in the state. Somewhere between the White House, the sugar industry and the environmentalists lies a politically-mediated, middle-ground answer that will be resolved eventually. However, I can almost guarantee that it will run over budget, not be completed in our lifetime, and never restore the Everglades to their original state.

I support any restoration of the Everglades and I urge you to do the same. But there is a need to better educate the public on the importance of restoring them and its broader meaning. What we do to Lake Okeechobee, how we develop the coastal areas or how we burn or bury waste, all have an impact on the Everglades. How we use our resources daily affects our whole environment, and no ecosystem is so isolated that one step can remedy all the problems.

All of these issues must be dealt with in a thoroughly thought-out manner if we are to save "Wild Florida." To get a better perspective, let's look back at the last 40-50 years and see what we have lost.

Florida had a slow start in comparison to other states at the turn of the century. It wasn't until after World War II that people began to take a serious interest in the state.

Until that time, mosquito-filled swamps and mangroves were of no value, and the cost of dredging and draining was high.

Since then, the flow of people has

are fewer than 21,000 acres left. That's a loss of 94.6 percent!

In the central part of the state, one can find the once-common scrub community that covered over



The state of Florida still contains the largest biodiversity in North America.
Photo: Cindy Seip

been steady. We are quickly reaching a population of 14 million people, with over 39 million visitors each year. In order to accommodate these people, we have drained, filled, cleared or altered over 8 million acres of Florida. This portion of land represents over 24 percent of the state's total land mass. Or, to put it in a more visible way, a portion equal to all of the land south of about Port Charlotte (Cox, Kautz, MacLaughlin and Gilbert, 1994). Unfortunately, the state's lands utilized first were some of the richest in terms of biodiversity.

In Broward, Dade and Monroe one can find the rare pine rockland, a subject discussed in an earlier "Wild Florida." This pine rockland community used to cover more than 380,000 acres. Today, there

1.03 million acres. Now, there are fewer than 422,000 acres—a loss of more than 60 percent. As with our tropical hardwood hammocks, the scrub community is considered endemic to Florida, and supports some of the rarest plants and animals in the United States.

Consider the coastal strand community, also covered in a previous "Wild Florida." Once surrounding almost all of Florida and no wider than a few hundred yards, this delicate habitat has been lost to our own desire to live next to the ocean. Today, only 13,000 acres remain—a loss of 50 percent.

Finally, though much habitat remains, most of it is fragmented or isolated due to agriculture, canals, highways, cities and other man-made disturbances. The result

is a reduction of genetically viable populations since small pocket populations cannot connect with others of their own kind to utilize the total genetic pool they represent. Such was the case with the Florida panther. But with the recent introduction of the Texas panthers, the population now stands a chance of surviving until we can secure the habitat it requires.

Unfortunately, not every species receives as much support as the panther. Eventually, extinction at an unnatural rate and under unnatural conditions will occur, unless we provide the way and means to protect species.

As discussed earlier, we need to be aware of our daily activities and the impact on our environment, and make sure governing bodies provide for the protection of our natural resources. Development and nature, I believe, can coexist. The past provides wisdom in deciding the future. Cooperation, intelligent decisions based on knowledge, and commonly shared beliefs in the irreplaceable value of nature and the worthiness of spending the extra effort and dollar to protect and preserve are key.

Still there is much to be saved in Florida, despite our losses over the last 50 years. The state of Florida still contains the largest biodiversity in North America, consisting of 75 mammal species, 283 bird species, 127 reptiles, 57 amphibians and 126 fish species. Approximately 115 of these species (17 percent) are found nowhere else. Florida also is home to 3,500 species of plants, of which 8 percent are endemic. In terms of invertebrates, no one knows the total number, but a minimum of 400 species are thought to be endemic to the state (Cox, Kautz, MacLaughlin and Gilbert, 1994).

The success we experience will be a direct result of your knowledge and conscious efforts to see that our leaders make the right choices.

I hope that "Wild Florida" has entertained you, but, most importantly, that it has provided some insight into the richness this state has to offer and the value of protecting the wildlife and habitat of "Wild Florida."

(James Cox, Randy Kautz, Maureen MacLaughlin and Terry Gilbert - *Closing the Gaps In Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation System*, 1994.)

JUNE

8 **saturday**

FAMILY REUNION

A benefit to those caring "parents" who take part in our Adopt-an-Animal program in the upper-level categories (\$75+), the Reunion will give them a chance to see their "adoptees," and some of our lovable newborns. Enjoy a continental breakfast, an interesting talk on our newest Zoo residents, and a "baby stroll" around some of our exhibits. For information on the program and this event, call 305-255-5551.

15, 22 & 29 **saturdays**

VOLUNTEER SPECIALIST TRAINING CLASSES

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Here is your chance to become a volunteer at METROZOO. You will receive an overview of the Zoological Society of Florida and METROZOO at our Get Acquainted and Orientation classes (3 total), prior to hands-on training for special volunteer positions. Call Volunteer Services to be placed on the mailing list at 305-255-5551.

8 **saturday**

BOWLING FOR RHINOS

Registration: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bowl-a-Thon: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Recognition & Awards: 4:00 p.m.

It's time to bowl for the rhinos again! This event at Don Carter's Lanes in Kendall is the American Association of Zookeepers' national fundraiser for the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. You get three games of bowling, a T-shirt, chances for door prizes and a great time. All proceeds go directly to the reserve. Help save and protect wildlife in Africa! For information and registration call Michael Hernandez at 305-272-1223 or Patty Leon-Singer at 305-253-6151.

22 **saturday**

BREAKFAST WITH THE KEEPERS

Join some of our animals and their caregivers for a fun and informative breakfast. (Complete information on page 4.) For information and registration call the Education Department at 305-255-5551.

A MESSAGE FROM...

I want to thank the following 1996 *Feast With The Beasts'* Beastkeepers for making the Beastkeeper Party a huge success:

Michael & Hilary Abes
Sherrie & George Abraham
Susan & Tom Abraham
American Express
Betsy & Jim Atkins
Atlantic Consulting/Marcille
Joaquin & Mercy Avino
Roberta Backus Turner & Larry Turner
BankAtlantic
Bunny & Jim Bastian
Batchelor Foundation
Jon & Nancy Batchelor
George & Marianne Batchelor
Sandy Batchelor-Robjohns
Robert & Priscilla Beatty
Mark & Pam Begelman
Mark & Bonnie Blank
Andy & Kathleen Blank
Cathy & Tony Blank
Brent Bowden
William & Mary Bowden
David & Lisa Brayer

Dr. & Mrs. George Brener
Romero Britto
Joseph & Leslie Buchanan
Eric & Linda Buermann
Ann Bukofser
Lynn & Maura Cambest
The Chingos Foundation
Tony & Diana Clemente
Sue M. & Charles E. Cobb
Cobb Partners
Courtney & Kitty Cunningham
G.A. & Marta Cutie
Dade Aviation Consultants
The Hon. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla
Jennifer Whirley-Diaz & David Diaz
The Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart
Joe & Roseanne DiBenedetto
Gonzalo Dorta
Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation
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The Hon. Maurice Ferre
Frank & Janet Fierro
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Diana Udel
Silvia Unzueta
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Verdeja
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Steve Watkins
David Whitaker & Kathleen Bertrand
Aizik & Robyn Wolf
Louis & Ellen Wolfson
Lisa & Kenneth Young
Larry & Beth Zuckerman

*Sue M. Cobb, President
Zoological Society of Florida*

TOUCAN TALK



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

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