

# TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



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Cover: Himalayan Black Bear  
Photo: Steve Walker

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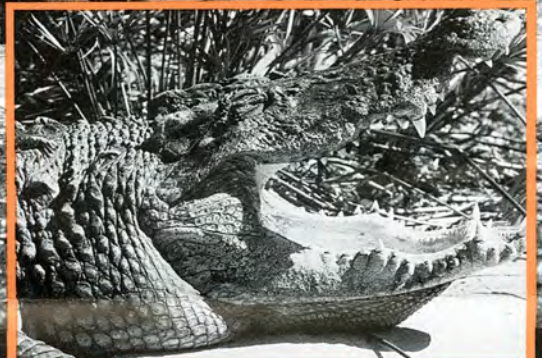
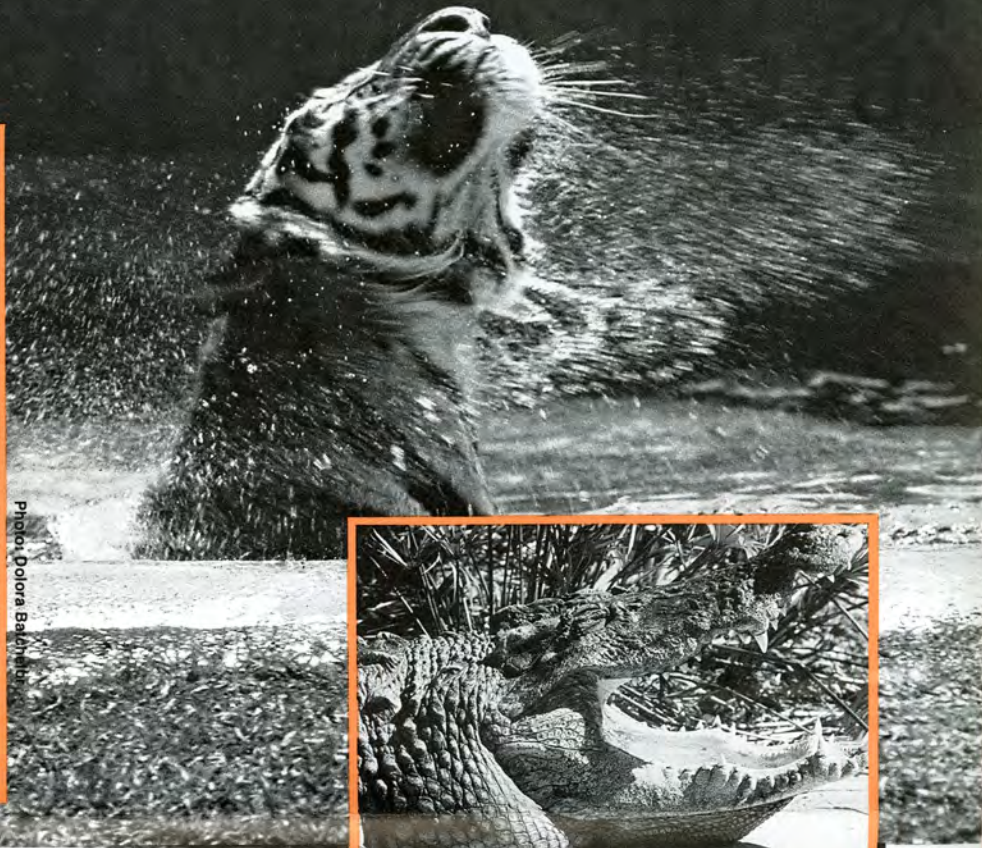
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# KEEPING IT COOL

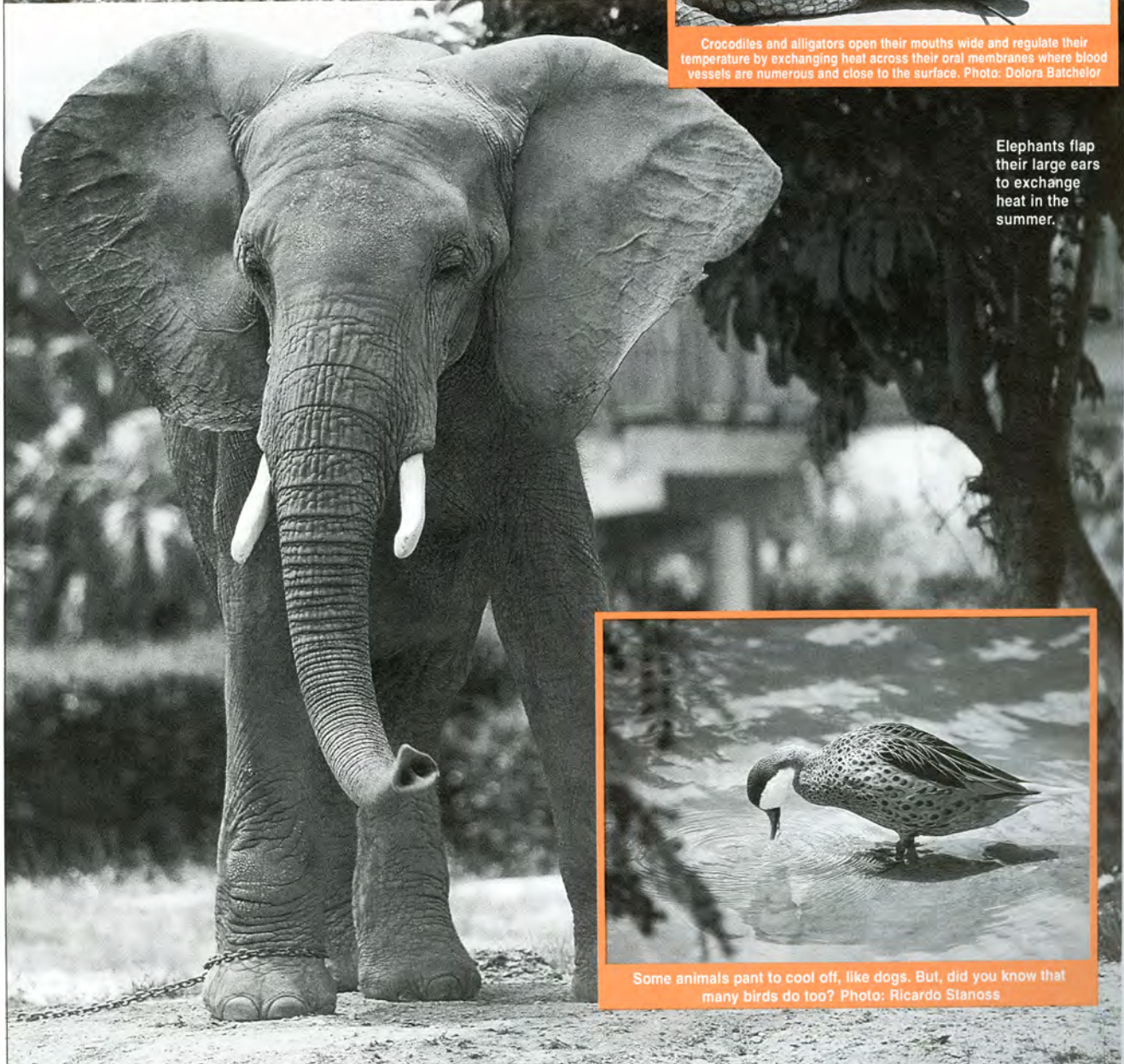


Kangaroos and wallabies will lounge around in the shade during the heat of the day. They also lick their arms to make them wet and allow for evaporative cooling (a "down-under" method of "panting").

Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Crocodiles and alligators open their mouths wide and regulate their temperature by exchanging heat across their oral membranes where blood vessels are numerous and close to the surface. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Elephants flap their large ears to exchange heat in the summer.

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



Some animals pant to cool off, like dogs. But, did you know that many birds do too? Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



APRIL 3 - MAY 13

<b>Red-crested pochard</b>	8 males/13 females	March 22- April 3
<b>Nile lechwe</b>	1 male	March 5
<b>Gemsbok</b>	1 male/1 female	March 6 & April 29
<b>Baird's tapir</b>	1 female	March 21
<b>Cape teal</b>	1 male/3 females	April 9
<b>Thomson's gazelle</b>	1 female	April 9
<b>Black duiker</b>	1 male	April 11
<b>Indian muntjac</b>	1 male	April 17
<b>Oriental small-clawed otter</b>	1 male/1 female	May 1
<b>Ring-tailed lemur</b>	1 male/1 female	May 7
<b>Black rhinoceros</b>	1 female	May 13

Our warthogs, rhinos and elephants play and lie in cooling mud wallows to help wile away the summer's hot hours. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Photo: Dolora Batchelor

Many of Metrozoo's animals enjoy wading or splashing in their pools—especially our tapirs, Indian rhinos and tigers. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Many of our animals, like the zebras, sweat when they're hot, but you can't always see their sweat because of their coloration. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Black rhinoceros. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Baird's tapir. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Ring-tailed lemur. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



## TIPS FOR SUMMER VISITORS

By **NANCY HOTCHKISS**

Director of Education

Any month is a good time for you and your family to visit Metrozoo. The hot summer months, however, present their own challenges. The heat, the sun and a BIG zoo can seem daunting, but try some of the tips listed below. You'll find Metrozoo has something to offer in all seasons. Take advantage of your membership and come back often... after all, it is your Zoo!

- Don't try to do the entire Zoo every time you visit. Pick a theme for your visit, such as "animals of the African plains" or "horns and antlers" or "predators and prey" or "stripes and spots." Choose new ways to look at familiar sites.
- Take advantage of scheduled talks and programs. "Talk to a Keeper" stations are marked with big, bright banners. There are nine opportunities for you to meet our animal care staff and learn more about tigers, otters, tortoises and bears! (see schedule of shows.)
- It's wise to plan your visit around the specific times of the different wildlife shows and demonstrations. Make a list of your "must sees" and plan your route.
- Our volunteers are wonderful sources of information about animals. You will find them in the Information Booth, in the Petting Yard and stationed by various exhibits. Feel free to ask them questions as you see them throughout the day. (See story on back cover if you want to become a volunteer.)
- Be kind to your feet! Wear well-broken-in athletic shoes, since you'll probably be doing quite a bit of walking or use the air-conditioned monorail for transportation around the Zoo. Take along an umbrella to use in case of a sudden shower (a frequent occurrence here in South Florida!) Make sure you wear a hat, apply sun-screen and drink a lot of fluids. The snack bars provide a wide selection of chilled beverages.
- Souvenirs are great, and our gift shop always has something new. It's best to make your purchases on the way out, as carrying around some breakable item or a large teddy bear all day isn't much fun. Check out Toucan Trader by the entrance/exit plaza and the Elephant's Walk at PAWS the next time you visit.
- Always treat the animals and their surroundings with respect. Remember, they live here, it's THEIR home.

### KEEPER FEEDINGS:

White Tiger	11:00 a.m.
Orangutan	11:30 a.m.
Malayan Sun Bear	Noon
Otter	Noon
Sloth Bear	1:00 p.m.
Pygmy Hippo	1:30 p.m.
Himalayan Bear	2:00 p.m.
Chimpanzee	2:00 p.m.
Giraffe	2:30 p.m.
Tortoise	3:30 p.m.

### WILDLIFE SHOWS (AMPHITHEATER):

Noon, 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

### ECOLOGY THEATER (CHILDREN'S ZOO):

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

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

### ZOO INN OVERNIGHTS

A family flashlight safari, featuring the sounds, smells and mysterious sights after dark. Our adventure begins, as darkness falls, with a pizza feast and an orientation talk from one of our zookeepers for the adventure ahead. Families will embark on a 2-3 hour hike exploring the zoo by night. Who knows what we'll see and hear! A special nocturnal craft will add to the memories, as will a late night snack to keep up our strength. Our classrooms will be base camp as we bunk down, then rise early to meet more animal quests as they rise. The adventure concludes with a continental breakfast.

**Date:** Families  
(8 years old and above)  
INN-A Friday, July 19  
INN-B Saturday August 10  
Adults only (18 & over)  
INN-C Saturday July 20  
INN-D Friday, August 9

**Time:** Program begins at 6:00 p.m. and concludes at 8:00 a.m. the next morning.

**Cost:** Members \$25  
Non-Members \$30

### 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 gathering of our herd at the Children's Zoo to shake trunks with a pachyderm! Meet Mary, one of our resident Asian elephants—she may even favor us with one of her unique paintings! Other Children's Zoo animals will be on hand to greet and pet as you begin the day with us!

**Date:** Break-A Trunk Full of Fun! Saturday, July 27

**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

### THE GREAT PEANUT BUTTER MYSTERY WEEKEND!

Help solve the puzzle of The Great Peanut Butter Mystery!

A special family Zoothunt will have you look at the Zoo in a whole new light! This family adventure is geared for parents and kids aged 4-10 with a "nose for clues." Young Sherlock Holmes definitely need to try this one. The Great Peanut Butter Mystery was designed by the Philadelphia Zoo and is

being tested here in Miami. Become one of the first families to try this fun activity. Program is limited, so sign up early.

**Date:** HUNT-A Saturday, July 13

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

HUNT-B Sunday, July 14

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

*There may still be room in our final weeks of Summer Zoofari Camp at Metrozoo. End your summer with a roar, a growl and a whoop as you get to know the exotic world of nature. Call the Education Department at 305-255-5551 today, before this program becomes extinct!*



Some of our happy "summer campers." Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



State Representative James Bush, III accompanied by Stephanie Bivens of State representative Larcenia Bullard's office, present the final installment on a \$38,000 Science, Youth and Children's Museum grant from the State of Florida to the Zoological Society. Funding from this grant supports our Education Department and the many ongoing programs we provide for members and the public at Metrozoo. Also in the photo (left to right): Al Fontana, Metrozoo director, Silvia Unzueta, acting deputy director of Dade County Parks and Recreation Department, Sue Cobb, president of the Zoological Society of Florida, and Glenn Ekey, executive director of the Zoological Society of Florida.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

FAMILY REUNION

With a wonderful turnout of over 100 animal lovers, Adopt Parents celebrated their annual Family Reunion this past June. After a delicious continental breakfast at the Zebrazaar and an interesting talk from keepers Pam Monseur—who spoke about baby otters and an Indian muntjac baby she recently helped handraise—and Janet Johnson—who spoke about the baby black rhino—the Adopt Parents went out on a "baby stroll" to see the new "little ones" at the Zoo and visit their Adoptees.

We want to thank all of our sponsors: Andalusia Bake Shop, Berkeley Florist Supply Co. Inc., The Big Cheese, Cookies By Design, Curbside Florist and Gifts, Henry Lee Company, The House of Bagels, Mimi's Hallmark, Otis Spunkmeyer Inc., Publix Supermarkets stores 293 and 223, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Riviera One-Hour Photo, SportService Corp., The Toucan Trader Gift Shop, and Winn-Dixie stores 371, 384 and 297.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

YOU OTTER ADOPT ME!

All occasions are perfect to become proud Adopt parents through our Adopt-An-Animal program. Our babies are waiting for you to be more active in helping the Zoological Society of Florida and your Zoo improve the services and programs it provides. For more information on the Adopt-An-Animal program call 305-255-5551.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



# THE BEAR FACTS



Sunbear. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Sloth bears. Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Himalayan black bear. Photo: Dolora Batchelor

**T**hey are looked upon as cuddly, ferocious, majestic. But the truth is that bears can be any of these depending on the stage of their life and their species. There are a total of seven species of bears (eight if the panda is included) around the world. The smallest of all are sunbears, which we are fortunate to have here at Metrozoo, weighing some 100 lbs, and the largest are the members of the grizzly family, also known as brown bears, which can weigh up to 2,000 lbs.

The fact that Metrozoo has three different kinds of bears is crucial in terms of conservation, since all bears are either endangered or threatened in the wild. This results

from land encroachment and poaching for the alleged medicinal powers of some of their organs.

Metrozoo participates in the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Bear Advisory Group (BAG). This group develops short and long term recommendations for utilizing the bear's captive population in supporting the conservation of free-ranging bears. BAG also develops regional collection plans (i.e. figure out how much space is available for bears in captivity), determine how many bears are needed to maintain a healthy genetic population, and set priorities on which species to concentrate on.

The Zoo also participates in the Asian bear's Species Survival Plan or

SSP (see "Buying Time For Wildlife," page 6, Nov-Dec '94 issue of Toucan Talk) of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Metrozoo is contributing to the husbandry manual which will be produced with the help of all American zoos in terms of their husbandry housing, diets and reproduction medical histories to compare and compile the best ways to maintain bears in captivity.

Metrozoo participates in bear research by being involved in DNA studies to specify sub-species among bears. We cooperate by agreeing to send organs of animals which have died at Metrozoo to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Forensic Lab. These organs can be compared against illegal bear parts being brought to this country. Also, Metrozoo is involved in fecal studies being conducted by the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle to determine reproductive cycles. We send collected samples so they can study them and, hopefully in the near future, they will be able to determine pregnancy as well.

## SUNBEARS

Metrozoo's has displayed sunbears, so called because of the big, yellow blaze in their chest, since 1980. We currently have one male and two females and breeding here has been extremely successful. With a total of two males and four females producing throughout the years, a total of twenty-four babies have been born.

Sunbears don't do delayed implantation (this occurs when the egg is fertilized inside but doesn't attach to the uterine wall. Instead, it floats and doesn't develop until triggered by the female, usually corresponding with hibernation). Sunbears can breed all year round and the gestation period is 95-103 days. They usually have one or two babies.

Although sunbears are omnivores—meaning they eat meat, insects, fish, fruits and vegetables—we have eliminated most of the meat of their diet at the Zoo because our older bear had problems with clogged arteries. Now they eat less fat to keep them healthy.

## SLOTH BEARS

As youngsters, a male and a female sloth bears came in 1989. We still have the same couple in the exhibit. They received their name because the first people who ever saw them thought they were sloths due to their long claws and their thick coat. Once they realized they were bears, they just attached the name bear to their previous "misconception." In the wild, they don't go into full hibernation. It is more like a "slow down stage" when they eat less and are less active. They typically have babies then, and

it is believed that they do delayed implantation. They breed in June and July and deliver between December and February. Their gestation period is of about 7 months, and typically 2 or 3 babies are born.

Here at the Zoo the sloth bears eat omnivore chow, dog food, smelt, oranges, apples and skinless chicken breast. In the wild they eat termites, ants, some fruits and flowers. They are built to suck out termites and ants with their extra long nozzle. Also, the top front teeth are missing and the palate is tunneled to act as sort of a "vacuum cleaner."

## HIMALAYAN BLACK BEARS

The Himalayan bears arrived at Metrozoo in 1981, and we still have the original pair. Himalayan bears also are called moon bears because of their black coloring and the off-white crest on their chest. Their furry coat serves as insulation against cold and heat. They hibernate and also do delayed implantation. Their gestation period is of about 7 months and they can give birth to 1-3 babies.

These bears are true omnivores and are among the most aggressive towards men. At the Zoo they have a diet of meat, fish, fruit and vitamin-enriched biscuits.

*Thanks to Alice Gilley, animal science supervisor, and keepers Andrés Mejides, Mike Hernández, and Scott Lincoln for their valuable help in preparing this article.*

## FACTOIDS

- A sloth bear is much stronger than a person of the same weight.
- Metrozoo's sloth bears seem to prefer fruits from their native environment even though they were born in captivity.
- Both the sunbears and the sloth bears love to go down into their moats.
- The sloth bear's keeper feeding ("Talk to a Keeper") is at 1:00 p.m. The Himalayan's is at 2:00 p.m.
- Trees are protected at the bear's paddocks to avoid losing them to their teeth and claws. Bears get, however, dead trees to play.
- The crescent sun on the sunbear's chest can go from a thin line to an almost full circle.
- If confronted, sunbears will attack instead of flee.
- And no, sunbears don't have blue eyes like Baloo from the Jungle Book. Their eyes are brown.



# ARE THEY REALLY HERE?

## AMPHIBIANS IN THE EVERGLADES

By Damien Kong

Education Specialist

**S**outh Florida is sort of an enigma. With wet areas like the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee, you would expect to find many amphibians since they use their skin to breathe and they always need to keep moist. (And the one thing South Florida has a lot of is water.) But for the types of habitats in this part of the state, there are very few species to be found.

Amphibians are the only land vertebrates to depend on water to complete their reproduction. They lay their gelatinous eggs in the water and when their young hatch out, they are equipped with gills. After spending weeks or even months in the water, the young will go through metamorphosis. They develop legs and lungs and lose their gills. Then, when the time is right, they move out onto the land.

Salamanders are not as well known as their cousins the frogs, and are sometimes mistaken for lizards. Other than having four legs and a long tail, they are very different. Of the three hundred and fifty eight species of salamanders in the world, over two hundred are found in North America. South Florida has only four species.

All four species are completely aquatic. The peninsula newt can be found in the roots of the water hyacinth, hunting for insect larvae and small fish. Unlike newts found elsewhere, this species does not go through a terrestrial stage.

The other three species of salamanders are neotenic. This means that they never lose their gills and never develop lungs. The two-toed amphiuma reaches up to three and a half feet of length and looks like a bicycle tire that has been cut, and stretched out. If you look very closely, you will notice that it has four tiny legs, with two toes on each foot.



The Cuban treefrog, with its aggressive feeding and breeding habits, outcompeted native treefrogs.  
Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

The other two species are sirens, but not the type that lure men to their deaths. The Everglades dwarf siren is about six inches long, and its cousin the greater siren gets up to three feet in length. Sirens have only front legs and bright, red, feathery gills that surround their head. Dwarf sirens are easily found in the mats of water hyacinths where you find newts in. If you are patient to wait by a culvert out in the Everglades, eventually you will see greater sirens and amphiumas swimming through the pipe looking for crayfish or anything else small enough for them to eat.

Frogs and toads are probably the most well known of the amphibians. Of the twenty seven species found in Florida, only twelve are found in Dade and Monroe counties. As with the salamanders, South Florida seems for some reason inhospitable to frogs. As a group they are unmis-

takable—they have no tail and very large back legs for hopping.

There are two native toads to South Florida, the small oak toad and the beautiful red spotted Southern toad. Toads have a dry, warty skin, which allows them to live far from water. Due to competition with the marine toad and habitat destruction caused by man, it has become very hard to find these creatures. The best place to look is in dry sandy places, like in the pine lands and along railway tracks.

Probably the most disturbing fact is that some of the most well known frogs in South Florida are introduced. The most famous is the marine toad, which was brought to Florida to control the cane beetles in the sugar cane fields. This giant toad had other ideas in mind though: it found this area was to its liking. With a drive to eat anything

smaller than itself and the ability to lay its eggs in any body of water, including pot holes in the road, it has spread like wild fire in South Florida.

Many dogs each year get sick by trying to eat one of these toxic toads.

The other two species of introduced frogs were brought here from Cuba. One is the greenhouse frog, a tiny animal less than one inch in length that can be found in flower pots and under lumber stored in damp areas. This frog does not need water to lay its eggs. It finds a wet place to hide, where it can lay its eggs and guard them. The babies hatch out as froglets and not as tadpoles. The other introduced species is the Cuban treefrog. It can measure up to five inches in length and, with its aggressive feeding and breeding habits, it easily outcompeted our two native treefrogs. This frog can be found hunting insects around porch lights almost anywhere in South Florida.

On any rainy Florida afternoon while cruising along in your car, you might have a encounter with one of our unique frogs. The experience

could be the very loud wonk! wonk! call of the pig frog, or it could be a Green treefrog landing on your windshield. If you are lucky you might see hundreds of southern leopard frogs crossing the road in the Everglades, looking for mates. If you are very lucky, you might see a Eastern narrow mouth toad cover its eyes with a fold of skin, to protect them from the ants they love to eat.

Amphibians are very important to any ecosystem, they help to keep the insect population under control. Their sensitivity to poisons make them a good indicator of the health of the environment. It is unknown at this time why there are so few amphibian species found in South Florida, but if we are not careful about how we treat the environment, even these few will disappear.



# YOU BELONG IN THE ZOO

If you are interested in becoming a Zoological Society Volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Services Department at 305-255-5551 for more information.

**T**here are volunteer opportunities for everyone at Metrozoo: from caring of the animals used in educational programs and assisting customers in the Gift Shops, to helping with office work or the execution of special events. Docents—dedicated volunteers who undergo a very specialized and exciting training—dispense information and assistance at the Information Booth, or lead tours and interpret exhibits to our visitors. Docents also teach lessons in wildlife and conservation to children and adults through "Outreach" programs

and presentations on Zoo grounds.

But the most wonderful aspect about volunteering at Metrozoo is the enormous array of personalities and talents, from all walks of life and professions, combined to help our Zoo grow. They are young and old and in between. And, most importantly, they all care for animals and enjoy learning while contributing to the care and preservation of wildlife.

Volunteers are members of the Zoological Society of Florida, and they can start volunteering at 18 years of age. An interest-

ing series of orientation classes is offered to those who want to know more about the opportunities, the Zoological Society of Florida and Metrozoo. Docents complete an additional eight weeks of specialized training which familiarizes them with the philosophy, management, and animal collection of Metrozoo. After completing the training courses, volunteers are ready to begin their fulfilling activities at the Zoo.



Photo: Jay Good

## A MESSAGE FROM...

Having just celebrated Metrozoo's 15th birthday, I reflected on the amazing history this institution has developed in a relatively short amount of time. Though I prepared for a variety of challenges, as we planned the odyssey of moving the animal collection from Crandon Park to Metrozoo, I could not have imagined the extraordinary events that would take place in the following decade and a half. From the incredible heights of opening a state-of-the-art facility and the celebrations of several "first captive breedings," to the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew and the recent scare of brush fires, we have experienced more than most institutions will in a lifetime. However, it's not the experiences themselves that have made Metrozoo a great zoo, but the way our staff, volunteers and community have dealt with them.

After Hurricane Andrew, few thought that we would be able to overcome the overwhelming destruction this catastrophic storm left in its wake. Thanks to unprecedented efforts by staff and volunteers from near and far, Metrozoo is not only back, but in many cases better than ever. Though there still is a tremendous amount of work ahead, we have earned the admirable respect of people from around the world. Just last month Metrozoo was one of the zoos, besides San Diego and Seattle's Woodland Park, which was recognized as one of "America's Best Zoos" by the nationally televised program "CBS This Morning" in New York.

As we approach the new millennium, Metrozoo is well on its way to being one of the world's great zoos. It's only with the continued support of people like yourself that we will be able to truly realize our goals. On behalf of everyone at Metrozoo thank you for all you've done—I look forward to working with you as we continue to face the challenges of the future.

A. Fontana  
Metrozoo Director

## A LOOK BACK

It is 40 years ago that a group of dedicated individuals had a vision and created the Zoological Society. Wynant D. Hubbard, a Miami resident, was the main force behind the creation of "a non-profit Zoological Society here in Miami to work in cooperation with, and support of, our small Crandon Park Zoo." This was written in a February 22, 1956, in a letter to Mr. John L. Hickey, president of the Carpenter's Union at the time. In this letter Mr. Hubbard reported that some individuals had associated with him to incorporate and develop the Zoological Society. These people were Robert Pentland, Jr., Baron de Hirsch Meyer, John S. Knight, William C. Baggs, Thomas Manuel, Ray P. Hoover, Bart C. Geiger, Max Orovitz, Judge J. Fritz Gordon, Doctor Charles Burbacher, Perry Nichols, Harry Prahl, Louise Olmsted, William Seymour, Captain John H. Halliburton, James N. MacArthur, William P. Mooty, Charles Pusey, Arthur Sokoloff, Charles Brookfield, G.A. Worley and Oliver Griswold.

It was stated that the Society had to be founded upon the widest possible foundation of membership. Mr. Hubbard thought of the Zoo as a place "for the enjoyment and entertainment of everyone, especially the youth and the children of a community." The Zoo was to "grow in the affections of every person in this area and to be used by everyone who live in and around Miami." The original group made a special effort to work with the Board of Education to "develop plans whereby the work of the Zoo and its facilities can be brought to the attention of school children so that they may visit the Zoo and participate in its activities."

The Zoological Society remains a friend of the Zoo, now Metrozoo instead of Crandon. Many supporters have come through its door and many obstacles have been overcome along the way. Proudly enough, the most important principles set forth years ago still endure the test of time.

# TOUCAN TALK



**Zoological Society of Florida**  
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