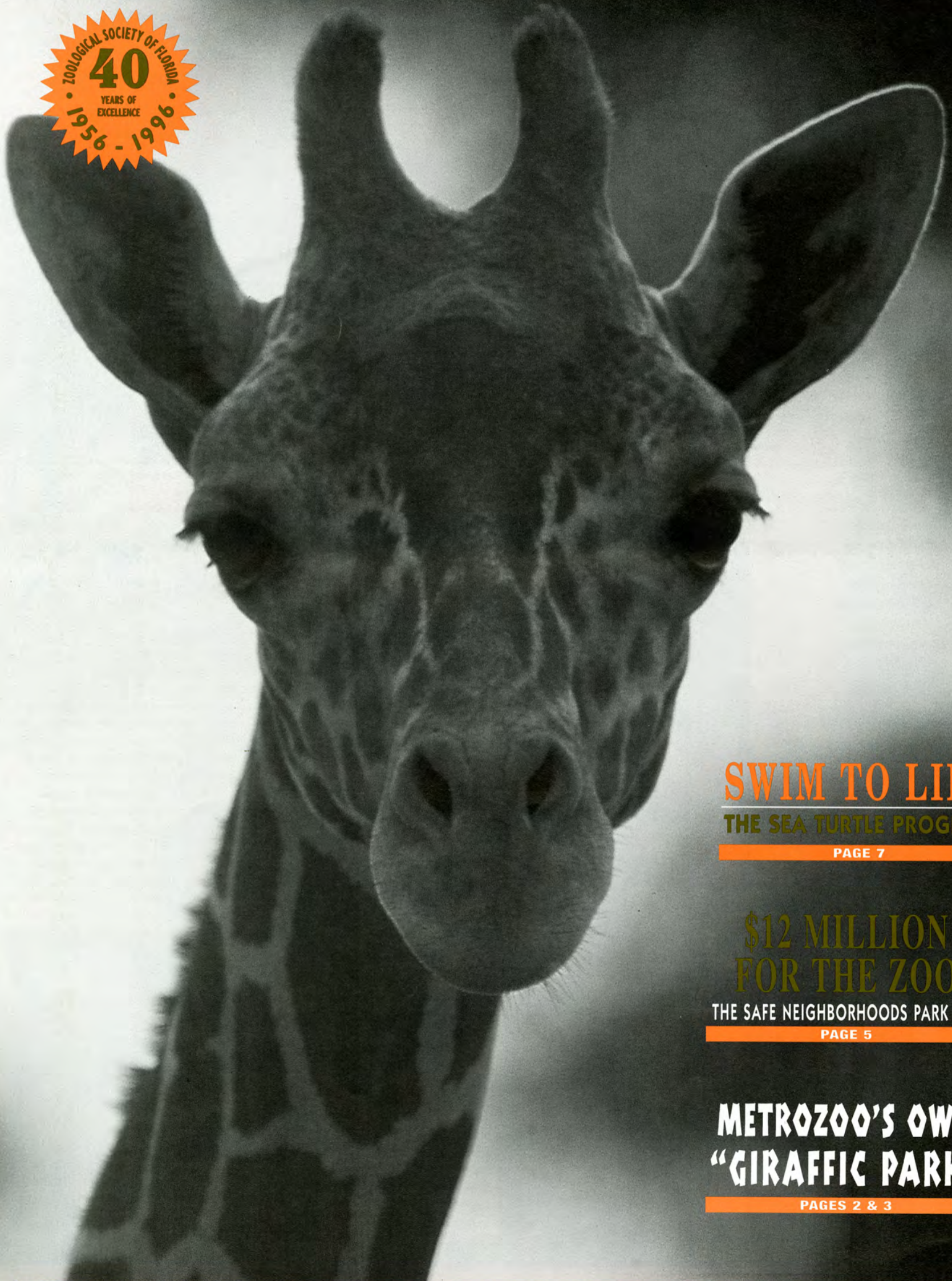


TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



SWIM TO LIFE

THE SEA TURTLE PROGRAM

PAGE 7

\$12 MILLION FOR THE ZOO

THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PARK ACT

PAGE 5

METROZOO'S OWN "GIRAFFIC PARK"

PAGES 2 & 3



Cover Photo: Reticulated giraffe
by Ron Magill

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GIRAFFIC PARK

By Katrina Osborne

Giraffes, the tallest of terrestrial mammals, have been an important part of Metrozoo and the original Crandon Park since 1958. They reside in an area affectionately nicknamed "Giraffic Park," their paddock in the African lobe.

When you visit "Giraffic Park" you might see one of these gentle giants bending down to drink from a large shallow pool or relaxing under one of several groups of shade trees. The 2.5 acre exhibit allows the calves plenty of room for playful frolic during cooler times of the day. You get an up-close view of natural behaviors with no visual barriers, since Metrozoo's giraffes are separated from the public by only an eight-foot moat dug out of Florida's natural coquina rock.

Sharing exhibit space with giraffes is a female ostrich (soon we will have more ostriches on the exhibit), a pair of East African crowned cranes, and occasionally a free roaming iguana. Grant zebras are currently located directly in front of the giraffes (see "Where did you put the giraffes," next page), giving the appearance of a true African savannah. In the past, Grant's and Thomson's gazelles shared this space with the zebras, and this will be true again according to plans for the future of the exhibit.

Large rockwork at both ends of the exhibit screen night housing, for the residents. Shifting animals into smaller quarters on a daily basis permits Zoo staff the opportunity to manage diet, health and hygiene easily. Females and young have

access to three large holding areas and a barn for refuge. The male, recently transferred to another facility, was housed separately, in an outdoor pen. Giraffes are walked through a hall included in the barn out onto the exhibit. The number of pens and use of the barn allow easy separation for any medical or other purposes (i.e. shipment of young).

Working with these enormous animals translates into a lot of work. Metrozoo's collection of seven giraffes requires a minimum of three hours of raking, shoveling and hosing per day. Feeding includes dispersal of 100 pounds of ADF16 (a pelletized food made of dehydrated alfalfa, ground corn, soybean meal, wheat middling, vitamins and minerals), 20 pounds of sweet feed (various grains mixed with molasses), a bale of alfalfa and a variety of browse and/or produce.

Continued on p.3

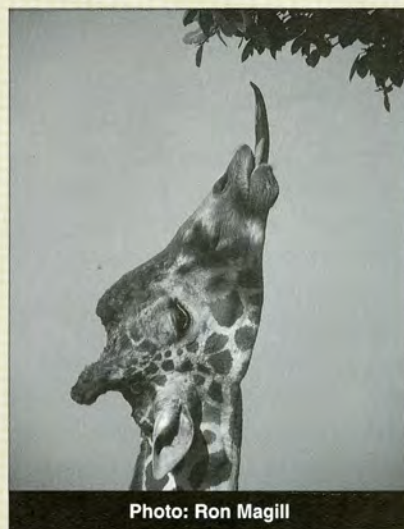


Photo: Ron Magill

Continued from p.2

Treats such as browse and/or produce serve as enrichment, enhance the Zoo visitors' experience and simplify methods of medicating. Everyday at 2:30 p.m. you'll find the herd traveling towards the front of their exhibit where browse is tossed. For visitors such as yourself, the encounter reveals social interactions as well as feeding mechanics. Browse fed frequently are acacia and schefflera; acacia displays use of the giraffes' prehensile tongue, while schefflera's large tender leaves allure the animal and conceal medication easily. Giraffes also get produce three times per week. Cored apples and carrots prove simple back-up tools for dosing giraffes.

Historically, Miami Metrozoo has had thirty-seven reticulated giraffes in its family. Crandon Park (the original Miami

zoo) began with its first female (Sexta) in 1958. Sexta was later joined by a young male (Simon) and female (Lady) in 1968. All three were wild born in Africa. Crandon Park presented its first captive birth in 1973.

As times changed, so did the zoo and its location. Sexta, Simon, Lady and two daughters (Colleen and Connie) were transported to the new Miami Metrozoo site in 1982. Much time has passed and many births have occurred. Our present total of captive births reached thirty in 1995. Ten of these are a direct result of the original trio and considered first generation (F1). The other twenty births are a result of their-offspring or second generation (F2). Most F1 and all F2 offspring are sold to other zoological institutions to prevent inbreeding.

Connie and Colleen still reside with us along with another sister named Kita. Each of these three females currently have a calf fathered by Karibu, a male purchased from Dallas in 1985. We also have another juvenile female named Guinevere who was purchased from Baton Rouge in 1993.

Our collection of giraffes suffered a severe loss in November 1995. One week after our thirtieth calf was born, the original Sexta laid down to her eternal rest. At the age of forty, she is thought to be the oldest female and third oldest giraffe ever. We miss her a great deal, but hope you will come visit where her spirit lives on through her children and grandchildren.

You can adopt the giraffe through our Adopt-an-Animal Program. For information call 305-255-5551.

NEW BABIES

MAY 14 - MAY 31

- Red-crested pochard**
6 males/9 females May 15-22
- Koala**
1 sex unknown May 28
- African spurred tortoise**
17 sex unknown May 29-July 19
- Demoiselle crane**
2 sex unknown May 30 & 31
- American flamingo**
4 sex unknown May 31-June 20
- Nile lechwe**
1 female May 31
- Abyssinian ground hornbill**
3 sex unknown June 5, 10 & 14
- Egyptian tortoise**
1 sex unknown June 17
- Scarlet ibis**
1 sex unknown July 4
- Sacred ibis**
1 sex unknown July 7
- Anoa**
1 female July 18
- Malayan tapir**
1 female July 22
- Greater kudu**
1 male July 24

WHERE DID YOU PUT THE GIRAFFES?

By Steve Conners

Metrozoo's General Curator

Captive animal management is influenced by many factors. Genetics, compatibility, exhibit design, visitor satisfaction and reproductive

goals are some of the things that are considered when decisions are made about what animal to house where. Outweighing all the factors listed above are considerations of animal health. In the case of our giraffe herd, a parasite problem necessitated moving them from their regular paddock for an extended period of time.

Many parasites have a direct life cycle. Put simply, this means that when the parasite eggs are shed from the host, that host (or another member of the same species) can become reinfected, without the parasite passing through another phase of its life cycle in a secondary host (different species).

Parasites with this type of life cycle can quickly build up to dangerously high numbers in a captive setting. This is particularly true if the animal enclosure contains a soil/grass substrate which is difficult to sterilize. What happens is the animals re-ingest the parasite or its eggs that have survived in the substrate, and in spite of repeated de-wormings, the animals can never be cleared of the "bug".

The "bug" in this case is a blood-sucking worm that lives in the stomach of ruminants (cows, antelope, giraffe, deer, etc.).

The worm eggs are eliminated by the host in feces. After hatching the larvae crawl onto the grass and are re-ingested by the host, which in this case is a giraffe, when it eats the grass. From an animal health standpoint the obvious thing to do is move the animals and de-worm them, and keep them on a "clean" paddock to prevent rein-

months which will be required for the worms to die. Fortunately, characteristics of the parasite and the exhibit will allow us to avoid having a display empty for months. First, the parasite does not survive in non-ruminants like zebras and ostriches, because of their different digestive sys-

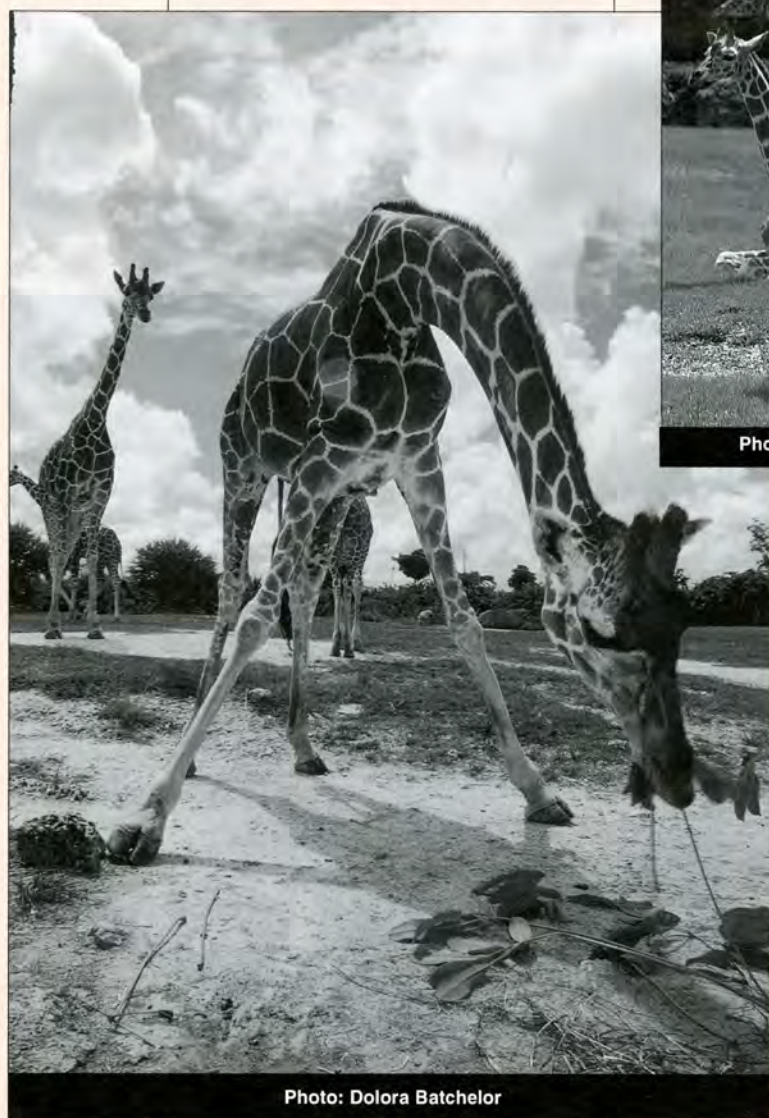


Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

tems. As a result those species can be placed on exhibit in the giraffe lot without becoming infected. Second, the exhibit is designed with a separate (formerly zebra) paddock behind the first, which will allow the giraffe to remain on display, but without the danger of reinfection.

In other words, after a few weeks and a thorough de-worming in the off-display holding pens, the giraffe will be on back display but in a different paddock. Meanwhile the Grant's zebras and ostrich will occupy the giraffe lot. After about six months

everyone will be returned to their original locations. In this case the animal management solution should work to the benefit of the animals' health without diminishing the visitors' experience.



Abyssinian ground hornbill
Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



American flamingo
Photo: Ron Magill

By **Kristin Hitchcock**

Children's Zoo Keeper

Summer's over already! No more days of beach blanket basking and backyard barbecues. No, now your days are filled with math, English and science classes, and homework, homework, homework! But, you still have weekends, and that's the perfect time to come visit us in PAWS, the Children's Zoo. I know, I know, you and your family have probably been to the zoo a zillion times by now. So, here at PAWS, our gears have been turning and our creative juices flowing to make your next visit a little different and a lot more fun! Check it out:

■ **New look!** Mary, a 20-year old female Asian elephant who loves to paint, has been out re-decorating! With a paintbrush in her trunk, she used bright colors and broad strokes to paint a beautiful picture right outside the petting yard. Some of our visitors have told us that Mary's abstract artwork looks like "colorful fire," while others found a pair of macaws hiding in the wild design. Come see what it looks like to your family!

■ **Don't forget your magnifying glass!** No, it's not another sequel to "Honey, I Shrank the Kids," it's our butterfly garden! With sweet flowers to drink from and luscious larval host plants, we've got a perfect butterfly nursery. On a sunny day, you can see caterpillars madly munching on leaves, various species of butterflies enjoying a sip of nectar and, if you're really lucky, a butterfly mother-to-be will let you watch while she lays her eggs on the tender tendrils of the passionvine. This is where the magnifying glass comes in, because butterfly eggs are about the size of the head of a pin!

■ **Make sure to time your next visit right** or you could miss our brand new shows in the Texaco Ecology Theater. Take a break from the hot sun or an unexpected shower and join us under our covered theater area to see our fun and informative animal presentations. These programs are geared for a young audience, yet are entertaining for adults. In "Animals in Your Own Backyard," your family will have an up-close look at neat natives you might encounter on your back porches. You'll become more familiar and comfortable with some of the creeping creatures and night-time neighbors you may have never noticed before! Or, you could be our lucky contestant as we play "Pets with Consequences," a gameshow that combines kooky comedy and audience participation to match you with your ideal animal companion ... but watch out! Your dream pet could turn out to be a nightmare! In the future, you'll also see "Reptile-mania," a show dedicated to the diversity of our cold-blooded buddies!

So, whether you've been here one time, or a zillion and one, PAWS always has a fun and exciting experience for your entire family! Come visit us again soon!

TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL... AND TO THE ZOO, TOO!

STRIPES AND SPOTS FOR TINY TOTS

Ages 3-4, 5-6

Spend some special one-on-one time with your favorite "lil' Zoo fan." Metrozoo's animals come in many patterns and colors. Explore the world of "animal wrappers" in this two-part series for our young Zoo members. Each afternoon includes a classroom visit from some gentle creatures and a visit to a Zoo exhibit. Your program fee covers an adult/child pair.

Date & Time:

Ages 3-5: Tuesday Series SPOT-A

Sep. 24 & Oct. 1

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

Ages 6-7: Wednesday Series SPOT-B

Sep. 25 & Oct. 2

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

Cost: Member \$20

Non-Member \$25

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

Families

Rise early for Breakfast with the Beasts at Metrozoo! A delicious continental breakfast is followed by a special look at some of your favorite zoo families. In September, we'll preen our feathers and learn about our "fowl residents." In October, we'll become our own troop to explore the world of apes, large and small. This popular program fills up fast so sign up early!

Date: Saturday, Sep. 28 - Flapping Flocks

Saturday, Oct. 19 - Going Ape

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

Cost: Adult Member \$10

Adult Non-Member \$15

Child (12 and under) \$6

DISCOVER INTERNATIONAL RAIN FOREST WEEK!!

All Ages

Help us transform our classrooms into a tropical paradise of colorful birds, reptiles, butterflies and plants as we celebrate International Rain Forest Week. Our walls need your artistic talents to assemble a gigantic mural while you learn about the lifestyle and adaptations of these wonderful creatures. Meet incredible invertebrates, spectacular snakes and maybe a noisy macaw as we open up our classroom for this family discovery room. Explore our artifacts, read some books and pick up some activities you can try at home. **The door is open, so come on in!**

Date: Saturday, Oct. 12 &

Sunday, Oct. 13

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE

JUNIOR ZOOLOGIST SERIES

Grades 3-6

This new series is for the future zoologist in your family. Specially designed for grades 3-6, this series will provide an in-depth look at the world of mammals. Our Series consists of three 2-hour

adventures, with classroom discussion and activities, visits to exhibits, "brain-teaser" worksheets and talks with Zoo staff. This fall, we'll look into Zoo Careers. Our Jr. Zoologists will discover who works where and what their job entails. Activities will help them learn about the daily lives of the Director, Curator, Keepers and Veterinary staff, among others. Students will receive a patch and certificate upon completing the program.

Date: Saturdays, Sep. 21, Oct. 5 and 19

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

Cost: \$24 Members/\$32 Non-Members

"HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES"

Ages 12 - Adult

Peer into the secret lives of invertebrates with Sr. Education Specialist Damien Kong. He'll give you the "buzz about bugs," both in your neighborhood and in exotic habitats around the world. You'll be amazed at the diversity and versatility of invertebrates. Feel first hand the hundreds of legs of a millepede as it walks across your arm, or confront your fear of roaches, up-close and personal. Light refreshments will be included in this evening (though defiantly not chocolate covered grasshoppers!)

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 16

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$8 Members

\$12 Non-Members.

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: \$ _____

All program registrations subject to a \$10 cancellation fee.

\$12 MILLION FOR METROZOO!

Dear Zoological Society Member:

This November, you can help your Zoo take a giant step forward by supporting a County ballot measure that would provide approximately \$200 million for improving our parks.

This measure—known as the Safe Neighborhoods Park Act—would expand and improve neighborhood and regional parks, help prevent juvenile crime by providing positive recreation opportunities for youth, improve beaches and protect threatened environmental and natural lands throughout Dade County. Those goals are shared by all of us for whom Dade County is home.

For Metrozoo, this measure would provide \$12 million toward a portion of the exciting new mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird and insect exhibits that will complete the loop at the end of the Zoo. These exhibits will provide many hours of new viewing pleasure and educational opportunities.

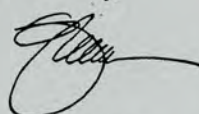
The Zoological Society of Florida's Board of Directors fully supports this measure and will be actively seeking its passage by the voters in November. As valued members, your support of this measure (estimated to cost the

average Dade County homeowner just \$8.34 per year) will help ensure the continued excellence of this great zoological park and of other vital open space opportunities in our community for future generations.

You will receive further information about the measure from the Zoological Society. In the meantime, we urge you and others like you who care so much about the Zoo to vigorously support the Safe Neighborhoods Park Act.

Thank you for your membership support and confidence in the Zoological Society of Florida.

Sincerely,



Glenn Ekey
Executive Director
Zoological Society of Florida

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL INCENTIVE PRIZE WINNERS

The names of the winners were drawn by William Gallwey III, a partner in the firm of Gallwey, Gillman, Curtis, Vento & Horn, P.A, and also president elect to the Zoological Society's Board of Directors, in the occasion of a Board meeting on July 17. Names were drawn from "parents" who adopted animals or renewed their adopt from 5/1/96 through 6/30/96.

1. Weekend for up to four people (two adults and two children) at the Sundial Resort in Sanibel Island

Winner: Name withheld until the winner is notified.

2. Two subscriptions to the Florida Philharmonic's 1996-97 Season, Series A at the Gusman Cultural Center for the Performing Arts

Winner: Merle Weiss

3. Dinner for two at Dominique's at the Alexander Hotel

Winner: Jodi Malkin

4. Fragrance package courtesy of Lillie Rubin

Winner: Bob & Susan Soper

5. Admission for two to Breakfast with the Beasts at Metrozoo

Winner: Alice & Edward Miller

6. Stuffed animal from the Toucan Trader, our gift shop

Winner: McArthur High School - "Little People" Club

7. \$25 shopping spree at the Toucan Trader

Winner: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Farrey & Children

SPONSORS JOIN IN THE FUN!

For the second year in a row, BellSouth proved to be a great supporter of our education programs by becoming the major sponsor of our Summer Camp. In this photo, Joseph DiBenedetto, BellSouth's general manager for network operations and ZSF's Board member, and his wife Roseanne, get ready to enjoy a typical day of Summer Camp at the Zoo and share the fun experience with the campers.

For information on corporate sponsorship opportunities, please call the Development Department at 305-255-5551.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

LAST CHANCE!

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of a unique feature at Metrozoo! This is the last chance to buy your brick (\$50) or animal tile (\$250) for the final phase of

the "Walls of the Wild" bordering the beautiful Flamingo Lake. Call 305-255-5551 to receive information or place an order. Hurry, there aren't many spaces left!



Photo: Cindy Seip

MEMBERS ONLY

A Value for You!

- **FREE** admission to Metrozoo for 365 days a year.
- **FREE** subscription to our newsletter, *Toucan Talk*.
- **FREE** admission to over 150 zoos and aquariums in the U.S. and Canada.
- **Discounts** on exciting ZSF educational programs like Breakfast with the Beasts, Zoo-Inn overnights, Pig Out: Dessert with the Wart Hogs, and other fun programs.
- 10% Discount in the gift shop—knowing every dollar you spend there helps the Zoo a little bit more.

The Zoo,

Your membership dollars support programs such as education, volunteers, and the Children's Zoo. Also, it supports professional training for Zoo staff and provides equipment and materials for management of the animal collection.

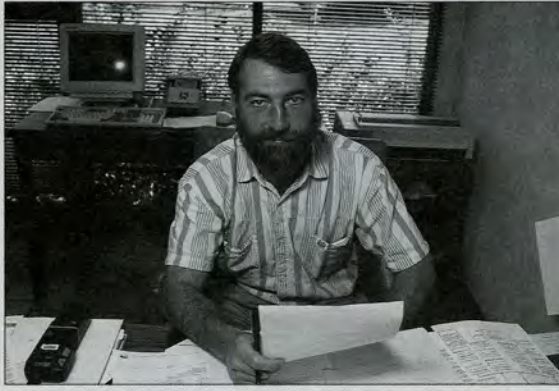
And The Community, Too!

Membership in the Zoological Society of Florida is best understood as "Friends of Metrozoo." It shares a common mission with Metrozoo to provide the public with educational and recreational opportunities and to heighten awareness of environmental and conservation issues, all through the framework of bringing animals and people closer together.

Your continual membership helps us to better serve our community and the next generation of responsible citizens. For any questions concerning membership, please contact the Membership Department at 305-255-5551.

WELCOME!

Steve Conners is the new General Curator at Metrozoo. Steve, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, received his Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He began his zoo career even before graduating, working summers in his native state at the King's Island Wild Animal Habitat in King's Mills. He eventually moved to Colorado Springs, where he worked as a keeper and supervisor at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. In 1986, he became curator of reptiles at the Detroit Zoo. During this time, he spent about two years as curator of mammals. Looking for a better climate, Steve moved to



Alabama in 1990, where he acted as curator of birds and reptiles at the Birmingham Zoo.

In his time away from the Zoo (not too often!!) he enjoys camping, canoeing, fishing and herping. He's looking forward to many new adventures in Florida and at Metrozoo.

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Peter Roulhac, director of community programs for First Union as well as a Zoological Society Board member, was one of the proud carriers of the Olympic Torch in Miami.

An impassioned volunteer, Peter was nominated by the United Way for his role as a committed community leader. He won at the regional level, going through a very competitive process. "Carrying the torch was the highlight of my life," says Peter. "It was an honor and a statement about the non-profit cause, including the Zoological Society of Florida."



Howard Lipman recently became the new development director for the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF). Before joining the ZSF, Howard was vice president and chief operating officer for Oakwood Healthcare System Foundations in Dearborne, Michigan, a billion-dollar, not-for-profit organization made

up of five distinct philanthropic foundations. But Howard is no stranger to Miami. Previously to his position in Michigan, he was director for major gifts at the University of Miami's School of Medicine.

Howard has worked in fund raising for the past 12 years and brings a great deal of experience to the ZSF.

He graduated from the East Carolina University with a Bachelor in Science in Political Science, and is in the process of completing a thesis in the area of fund raising for his Masters of Science Degree in Organization and Administration of Higher Education.

In his spare time he enjoys scuba diving, racquetball and golf. He is thrilled to be back in Miami and now be a part of the "wild" Zoo family.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

WHAT A WOMAN!

ZSF Board of Trustee member and longtime Zoo supporter, Carole Cotton championed the effort to co-name Sunset Drive—from the circle at LeJeune to the river of grass—for the mother of the Everglades, Marjory Stoneman Douglas. When Carole first contacted the Department of Transportation to see what was involved, they told her she had "a lot of work to do." That's just what she needed to hear and her effort began. Carole mobilized the forces and relentlessly lobbied State Representative Annie Betancourt to pass a bill in the State Legislature. After unanimous passage at the State level, it was on to the Dade County Commission and with the

support of Commissioner Katy Sorenson, it ultimately passed with a unanimous vote.

"Marjory is my hero, my mentor," passionately declares Cotton. "She's feisty, spirited, determined and, in her work as an environmentalist, she has not backed down to anyone. She's the life of the river and the life of South Florida. She's truly an inspiration to us all."

Cotton feels a sense of pride in seeing a street named after someone who has given so much to Florida, our community and the environment. The street name will be here forever and serve as a history lesson for all who live and visit in South Florida.

VOLUNTEER V.I.P.

When you see our volunteers around the Zoo, you may notice that many of them sport a number of pewter animal pins on their shirts. These pins are awarded for the hours of volunteer service they have contributed to the Zoological Society (ZSF) and Metrozoo.

Last fall, a very special pin, the golden eagle, was ordered for a very special volunteer, Lee Novak, to recognize 10,000 hours of dedicated service.

Lee began her volunteer career with the ZSF in February, 1984, spending many hours in the Animal Resource Center (ARC), taking care of the animals used for Outreach Programs. Since her personal favorites have always been the birds of prey, Lee also spends time with raptors as a volunteer at the Falcon Batchelor Bird of Prey Center in the

Museum of Science.

These days at Metrozoo, you'll find Lee in front of a computer at the Volunteer Trailer, where she helps log in the hours donated by the ZSF volunteers, often dropping in between golf games.

Congratulations, Lee!



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield



With red, white and blue Happy Balloons to mark the spot, (from left to right) State Rep. Annie Betancourt, Carole Cotton, Commissioners Javier Souto and Katy Sorenson hold the new street sign at the official naming ceremony celebrated at the intersection of SW 107th Avenue. Photo: Carol Gaudino

SWIM TO LIFE

By Jim Hoover

Beach Operations Supervisor
Metro-Dade Park & Recreation Dept.

It was about 5:45 a.m. on July, 1980. I was driving to my office on Miami Beach and, as I approached the intersection of 79th Street and Collins Avenue, I noticed that the road seemed to be moving. I got out of my truck to take a closer look. To my amazement, the movement was due to approximately 100 baby turtles about 1-1/4 inches long.

I quickly gathered them up in a bucket and took them to my office. Later that day I called the State of Florida's Department of Natural Resources and was referred to Mr. Ross Witham, a world-renowned sea turtle expert. He drove down from Hutchinson Island to meet with me and inspect the sight. His inspection revealed I had found sea turtle hatchlings disoriented by the street lights. We released the ones I had previously caught, and proceeded to inspect the beaches for signs of more turtles.

Except for an occasional dead sea turtle, there were no records of any sea turtle activity on our beaches prior to this incident. Mr. Witham's observations yielded that, with the onslaught of beach renourishment (pumping in sand) that had started two years prior to this finding, it seemed sea turtles were coming to our shore and nesting like they used to years ago when there were plenty of beaches.

Mr. Witham stated that there had to be some measures implemented to protect these creature from dangers posed by the developed and populated area. I decided, with the support of Metro-Dade Parks and Recreation Department, to insure the survival of these magnificent creatures on the brink of extinction. This was the start of our Sea Turtle Program.

GETTING TO KNOW THEM

There are three species of sea turtles that crawl ashore on our beaches from April through August to lay their eggs. The threatened loggerhead sea turtle, which grows to about 450-500 pounds. The endangered green sea turtle, which also grows to 450-500 pounds, and the endangered leatherback turtle, although infrequent, which can grow to up to 2,000 pounds.

These sea turtles seasonally come



If a female turtle reaches maturity and mates, she will return to the beaches where she hatched to nest.

ashore and can lay from 2 to 3 nests in one season (358 this year). In the nests, the turtles deposit from 60 to 180 eggs. It takes about 55 to 60 days for the eggs to incubate, hatch and emerge.

About 85% of the eggs will hatch and hatchlings make their way to the sea, but only 1% will live to see their first year. If any female from that 1% reaches maturity and mates, she will come back to the beaches where she hatched to nest.

HELPING THE TURTLES

The Metro Parks program has operated continuously since 1980 through a permit issued by the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection. This permit allows us to perform at least six functions:

- 1) Conduct stranding and salvage activities. If a dead turtle washes ashore, it is taken to our facility where a necropsy is performed to determine the cause of death, or it is transported to a necropsy lab for more elaborate studies. Later, we will dispose of the remains. If the turtle is injured or sick, we care for it in our facilities or, if needed, it is transported to a more critical facility. After recovery, the turtle is released.
- 2) Mark, evaluate and conduct nest survey. All the beaches under our permit have to be surveyed for any turtle activity, documented and data sent to the State of Florida's Department of Natural Resources.
- 3) Relocate nests. The development of our coastal areas, and the artificial light that accompanies it, disorients the hatchlings causing them to go inland instead of to the sea. For this reason, we need to relocate most of the nests to our three hatcheries. The only nests we leave where the female turtle laid them are located in an area where light has little influence on their orientation.
- 4) Operate both a restraining and self-release hatchery. We operate three hatcheries on our beaches, two self-release and one restraining.



The restraining hatchery requires the staff to come out at 10 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. every night to release the hatchlings. With the self-release hatchery, the hatchlings are free to make their way to the sea.

- 5) Conduct public night hatchlings release and educational programs. These activities have been our golden child, with thousands of children and adults participating thus learning about sea turtles and the importance of protecting them. During the hatching season, we invite the public to participate in releases, which are preceded by a slide show. To participate in these releases, people must register first.
- 6) Maintain display and preserve specimens for educational purposes. Our educational programs also display numerous specimens of sea turtles. Continual updating is necessary.

Our Sea Turtle Program has been a success, both programmatically and statistically, for the future of the sea turtle. As with most successful programs, hopes, visions and dreams need to be nurtured. That is why we will continue our hard work.

For more information on sea turtles and the programs available contact the

Metro-Dade Park and Recreation Department, 7929 Atlantic Way, Miami Beach, FL 33141. Or call 305-868-7075.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ❖ Never approach turtles emerging from the sea or disturb nesting turtles.
- ❖ Be careful while boating to avoid collisions with turtles and never throw trash in the water or on the beach.
- ❖ Keep beachfront lighting off from May 1 through October 31 (nesting and hatching season).
- ❖ Never buy products made from sea turtles or any other endangered species.

OCTOBER

26 & 27
saturday & sunday

FOURTH ANNUAL METROBOO!

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 The Fourth Annual MetroBoo! is here once again to delight the young visitors 12 and under. MetroBoo!ers will have a fun day of costume contests with fabulous prizes and safe trick-or-treating throughout the Zoo. Don't miss South Florida's wildest Halloween party! Remember: MetroBoo! is FREE for Zoo Members! For information call 305-251-0401.



Photos: Jorge Perez

A MESSAGE FROM...

As I approach the end of my term as president of the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF), I want to share with you what a productive and exciting year this has been for all of us.

The long-awaited return of the koalas came true in December with the strong support of the ZSF. In January we experienced the thrill of opening the first exhibit since 1990, the Falcon Batchelor Komodo Dragon Encounter. March marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Feast With The Beasts, making this our most successful ever. Thanks to a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the hard work of the ZSF, Metrozoo now has a more colorful and helpful sign system, and we will soon commence working jointly with Metrozoo on a new entry feature at 152nd Street made possible by the generosity of Knight-Ridder and The Miami Herald.

Most importantly, the working relationship between the ZSF and Metrozoo is closer than ever, and a definitive agreement covering our future cooperative efforts is expected to be presented to the Metro-Dade Commission this fall.

I will step down as ZSF's president for the last two years, but my involvement will continue in 1996-97 as chair of the Board of Trustees. I thank all those who have helped the ZSF in achieving its goals and in our planning for the future.

I encourage you to support the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond issue in November. If approved by the voters, \$12 million of bond proceeds will go to Metrozoo for capital projects over the next several years. Finally, I encourage you to continue your support and stay involved in the new era of growth of the ZSF and Metrozoo.

Sue M. Cobb

Sue M. Cobb
 President
 Zoological Society of Florida

ZOO NOTES

- ▶ Bowling for Rhinos, the annual fund raising event organized locally by the South Florida chapter of the American Zoo Keeper Association (AAZK) to help the endangered black rhinos, was a success. It collected over \$3,000 which will go the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Special thanks to those who supported the event.
- ▶ Also, the AAZK will have its first ever Rummage Sale on the zoo's parking lot November 2 & 3 to raise funds to contribute to worthy animal causes. Donations of furniture, toys, pet supplies, baby's clothes and other miscellaneous objects are welcome. For information call Patty Leon-Singer at 305-253-6151.
- ▶ Want to become a volunteer of the Zoological Society for Metrozoo? Call the Volunteer Services Department at 305-255-5551 to receive more information on how to join our "wild bunch." The next Training Program will take place in January.
- ▶ Don't forget to drop by the Toucan Trader or Elephant Walk gift shops for a great selection of back-to-school items, such as a white tiger pencil case/sharpener set and stamp set. Remember: Members get a 10% discount of all purchases which, in turn, help support your Zoo.

TOUCAN TALK



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

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