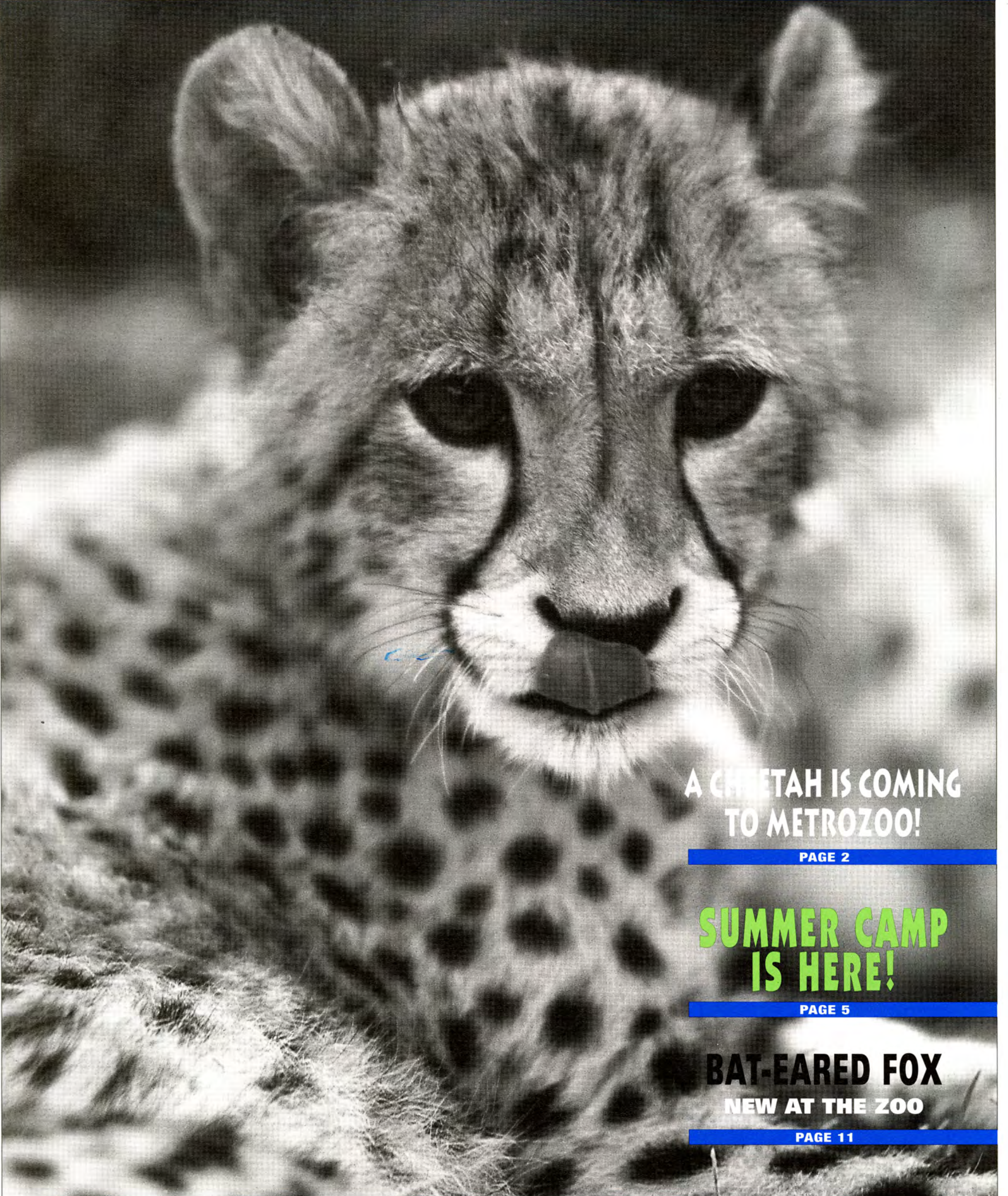


# TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



A CHEETAH IS COMING  
TO METROZOO!

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IS HERE!**

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NEW AT THE ZOO**

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Cover photo by Ron Magill

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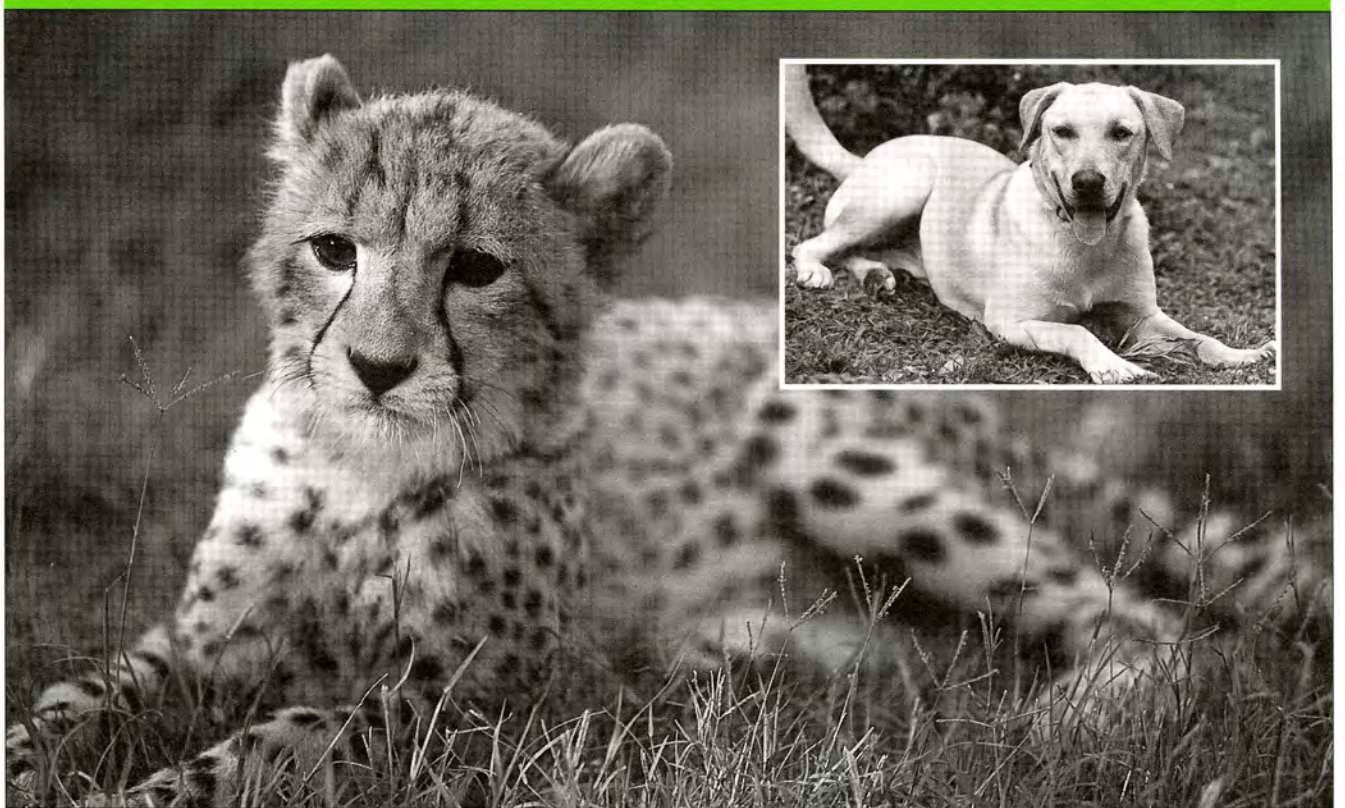
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(305) 251-0401



The Cheetah and Ginger will be the next wildlife ambassadors of Miami Metrozoo!  
Photo by Ron Magill

# A CHEETAH IS COMING TO METROZOO!

By Ron Magill

Metrozoo Communications Director

Since opening day, the cheetah has played a special role at Metrozoo. T.A. Strauser, one of the original designers of Metrozoo, and the Metrozoo design committee selected a logo consisting of three animals: a rhinoceros, a sable antelope and a cheetah. Of the three, the cheetah is the only one that has not been represented among Metrozoo's animal collection, but that is about to change. For the past several years, the search has been on for a hand-raised cheetah that would be incorporated into the Amphitheater "Wildlife Show." In addition, this cheetah would specifically be raised to be Metrozoo's signature "animal ambassador," making frequent visits to schools and special events as a representative for endangered species and the efforts to protect them around the world.

After trying unsuccessfully to acquire a captive born cheetah in the United States, we searched overseas in hopes of finding the special animal we were looking for. The requirements were specific. First and foremost, the animal had to be captive born from a bloodline that was well represented in captivity. This was necessary because, as a hands-on outreach animal, this particular cheetah most likely would not be bred, and therefore could not be valuable to any captive breeding program. In addition, it was imperative that the animal be hand raised from a very young age to help insure its compatibility with humans and thus make it better suited for interacting with the public.

Our search led us to the De Wildt Cheetah Center in South Africa. Well known for its success in the captive breeding of cheetahs (with over 500 being born there) and other endangered animals such as African Cape hunt-

ing dogs, this facility turned out to be the perfect place. It soon became clear that working with the staff at De Wildt would be a truly rewarding experience. They have been featured on a variety of television documentaries and are considered one of the finest captive breeding centers for cheetahs anywhere in the world. They have worked diligently in the efforts to protect the cheetah in Africa and have made major contributions to education and reintroduction programs within South Africa. Once they were sure that Metrozoo could provide an excellent home for the animal requested, we were put on a waiting list. All we could do was to wait for a litter to be born.

We kept waiting and hoping. The exciting news came on June 17, 1997, when we were contacted by Alan Strachan, the curator at De Wildt. The opening paragraph of his fax read: "Good news at last. The last female to give birth had three cubs! I have just spoken to the lady who does all our specialist hand raising and she says the cubs are perfect, probably some of the biggest cubs she has ever had, so things look good!"

It was time to proceed with the application for the CITES (Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species) permit. The plan was to bring the cub to Metrozoo after it had turned 6 months old. This would allow the cub to have all the necessary vaccinations while ensuring that it is strong enough to travel. Arrangements also had to be made as to how the cheetah would come to Miami. It was decided that the best thing would be to have somebody travel to South Africa prior to the shipment to familiarize themselves with the animal, and especially with the management practices of the staff at De Wildt. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of South African Airways, two tickets were provided for myself and Miami Dade Television Manager **Donn Patchen** to meet the cheetah in South Africa and become more familiar with its care and management.

Continued on p. 3



**SPRING BREAK CAMP**

Ages: 4-6 and 7-10

Spring is in the air and it is one of the most exciting times at Miami Metrozoo! At this time of the year most animals' attentions turn to finding a mate. Many male animals go through a transformation (i.e., the male deer developing new antlers and several birds come into full color, like the mandarin duck). It is also the most active time for births. Come and experience spring with us at Miami Metrozoo.

**Date:** April 6 - 10, 1998  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
**Cost:** Members: \$125, Non-members \$145

**SLASHING AND BITING - THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF CATS**

Ages 7 - 12

In this program, we will compare the two techniques that cats have developed to kill their prey. First, we will examine the skulls of saber tooth cats and other sabre tooth mammals and try to figure out how they lived and why they became extinct. We will then talk about biting cats, which includes all living cats. Not only will we look at their teeth and skulls, but we will approach tigers close enough to be able to smell its breath.

**Date:** Friday, April 3, 1998  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
**Cost:** Members \$25, Non-members \$45

**A CAT IS A CAT IS A CAT**

For adults and families with children ages 6 and up.

The feline stalks its unsuspecting prey using all of its senses to the maximum. Camouflage works perfectly as a breeze blows any trace of the predator's scent away from its prey. Every time the animal takes a bite, it stops scanning its surroundings, then the cat moves swiftly. With its eyes fixed on its prey and its elastic body perfectly equipped to kill, it is ready to explode in a final deadly rush. Is it a Bengal tiger or a tabby cat? Is there a difference? Come learn more about these wonderful creatures.

**Date:** Saturday, March 28, 1998  
**Time:** 9:30 - 11:30 am  
**Cost:** Members: \$10 per adult with one child, each additional child \$4 Non-Members: \$15 per adult w/ one child, each additional child \$6

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE ZOO**

Adults, advanced amateur photographers, 35 mm camera and telephoto lens needed for course.

If you are a serious photographer come and take a special photo safari with us! Led by professional photographer and Education Specialist, Ricardo Stanoss DVM\*, your adventure begins with an early morning opportunity to catch the animals at the beginning of their day. Then it is off to your "base camp" for a technical session on wildlife photography equipment and techniques. A photo shoot session will follow. Prepare your

camera with your longest lens and be ready for our "wild" models. Lunch will be provided.

**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 1998  
**Time:** 7:30 am - 3:00 pm  
**Cost:** Members: \$35, Non-Members: \$50

\*Since 1987, Ricardo Stanoss has photographed the spectacular wildlife and scenery of Argentina, Brazil and South Florida. His work appeared in *Select*, a Photography Showcase Magazine, distributed world wide and our own *Toucan Talk* newsletter along with other foreign publications. Ricardo was a Professor of Basic and Advanced Photography in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His work has been displayed in six photographic exhibitions in various South American fine arts museums.

**ZOO INNS**

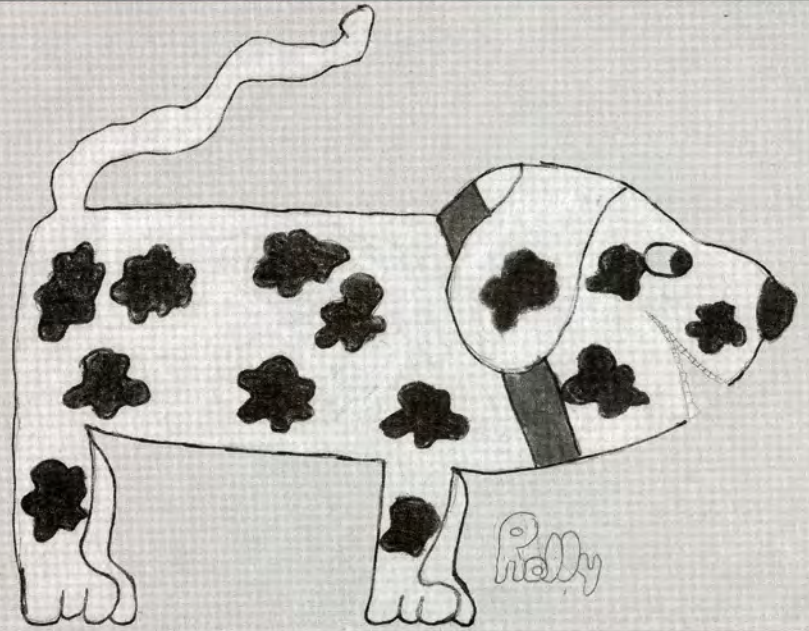
A special thank you to all those who have participated in this year's Zoo Inn education program. This year we have had over 2,290 participants, ranging from Brownies & Weeblos to school and adult groups. Due to this program's success we have been able to raise a substantial amount of money for the ZSF and Metrozoo Education Department. We are looking forward to having another successful year in 1998/1999. Again, many thanks for your tremendous support.

The Zoological Society of Florida Education Department Staff



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**"CARNIVAL KIDS" PROGRAM**



What Is A Mammal? Drawing by Hannah Holston (a student at Carol City Elementary)

The "Carnival Kids" program (funded by the Carnival Foundation), designed for fourth grade children, is under way at two Miami inner city schools - Miami Park Elementary and Carol City Elementary. The "Carnival Kids" program exposes 250 children to the world of wildlife, animal diversity, endangered species, habitat protection, and conservation issues. The program coordinator, **Dr. Ricardo Stanoss**, brought wildlife props such as skins, teeth, and skulls for kids to examine and gentle

animals for the kids to have a "close encounter of a wild kind." The children have also made a visit to Miami Metrozoo, where the Zoological Society of Florida Education Department staff and the Volunteers had a full day of activities and observations planned for them. "Carnival Kids" introduces the children to the idea of careers with wildlife and encourages participants to "give back" to their community by sharing their experiences with their schoolmates through writing, drawing, and photography.

**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 card holders may register by phone.  
 Check     American Express     MasterCard     VISA  
 Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Customer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee

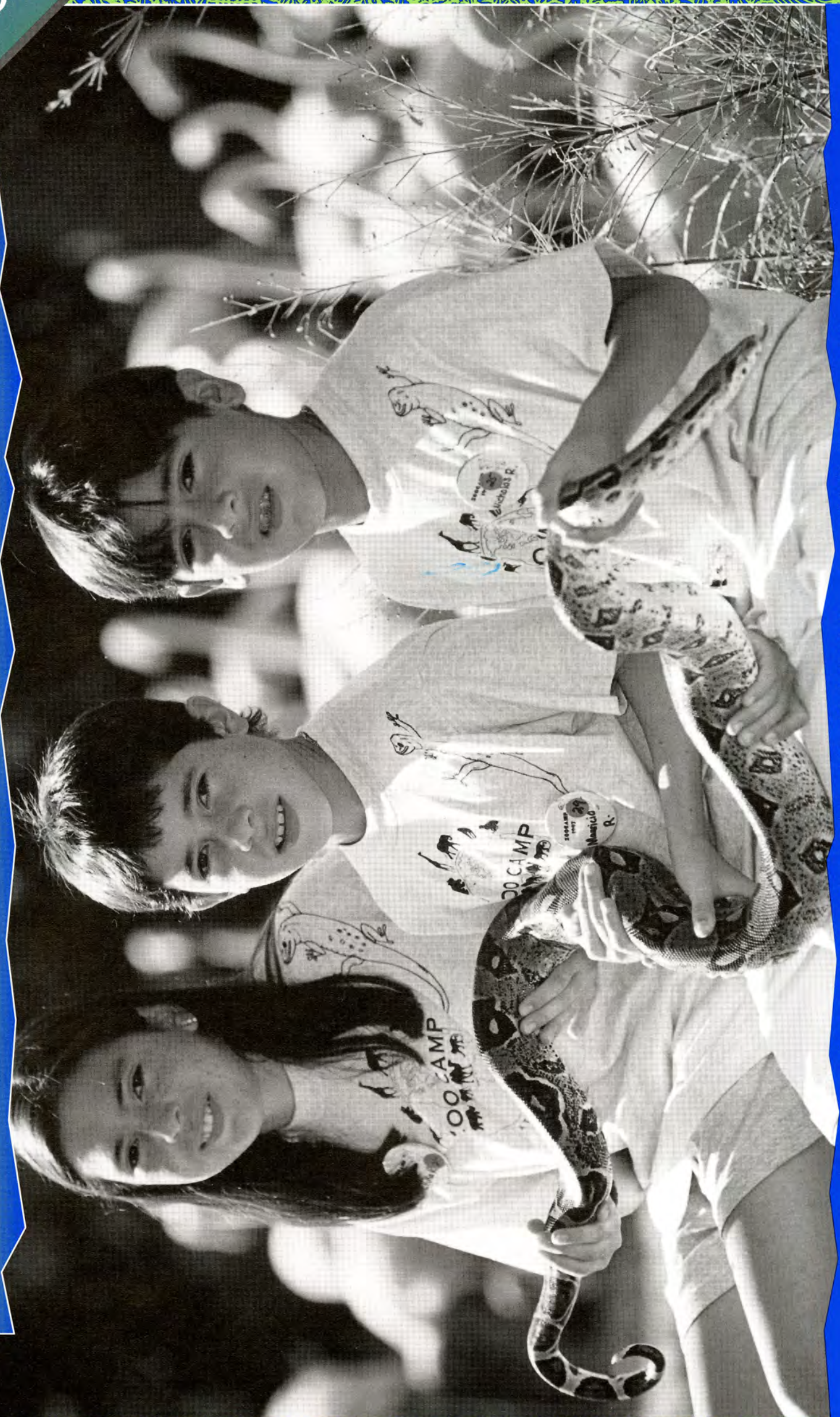
Mail this completed form with your payment to:  
 Education Department / Zoological Society of Florida  
 12400 SW 152nd Street  
 Miami, FL 33177-1499

TOTAL: \$

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

SPONSORED BY  
BELL SOUTH

# SUMMER CAMP 1998



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA ♦ SUMMER 1998

# ZOOCAMP IS HERE AGAIN, WITH TWO BRANDNEW PROGRAMS.

## "ENDANGERED SPECIES" Session A

Session A is entitled "Endangered Species," in it we will look at those species that have not fared well with humans. Why is the mighty elephant in trouble? How can we save the beautiful tiger from disappearing. In this program we will explore how animals become endangered and what we can do to help save them.

## "COMMON CRITTERS" Session B

Session B is entitled "Common Critters," in this program we will learn about species that have no commercial value to humans, such as lions, giraffes, and domestic and pesky animals like dogs and roaches. These are the survivors, the species that have done well because of, or in spite of human activity. Humans think they rule the world, but there are creatures ready to take our place, if we do not watch our step. After our program you will never look at a rat the same as before.



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

## KINDERCAMP SESSION A

**Ages 4 - 6**

**Dates:**  
 June 29 - July 3 (am)  
 July 13 - 17 (am)  
 July 27 - 31 (am)  
 August 10 - 14 (am)

## KINDERCAMP SESSION B

**Ages 4-6**

**Dates:**  
 June 29 - July 3 (pm)  
 July 13 - 17 (pm)  
 July 27 - 31 (pm)  
 August 10 - 14 (pm)

## ZOOLIFE CAMP SESSION A

**Ages 11-13**

**Dates:**  
 June 22 - 26

## ZOOLIFE CAMP SESSION B

**Dates:**  
 August 17 - 21

**Time:**  
 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Cost:**

Members \$125 per week  
 Non-Members \$145 per week



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

**Times:**

a.m. session 9:00 am - 12:00 noon  
p.m. session 12:30 pm - 3:30 p.m.

**Costs:**

Cost per session per week Member \$80  
Non-member \$95

For a full day of Kindercamp, register for both A & B

*(Fee includes a supervised lunch period between camps)*

**ZOOFARI CAMP SESSION A****Ages 7 - 10****Dates:**

June 29 - July 3  
July 13 - 17  
July 27 - 31  
August 10 - 14

**ZOOFARI CAMP SESSION B****Dates:**

July 6 - 10  
July 20 - 24  
August 3 - 7  
August 17 - 21

**Time:**

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Cost:**

Members \$125 per week  
Non-Members \$145 per week

**TEEN ZOOLOGISTS****Ages 14 - 17**

Become a member of our Teen Zoologists Team! Interested teens train for a summer of volunteer work while learning the "ins and outs" of zoos. Teen Zoologists assist with our summer camp programs, in our Children's Zoo petting yard and at the Ecology Theater. Upon completing this training program, teens are eligible to join our Zoo Volunteer Team. Teens must apply and will be interviewed and evaluated. Each volunteer is required to assist with one week of Zoofari Camp, as well as work a total of 40 hours during the summer session.

**Dates:**

June 22 - 26

**Times:**

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Costs:**

Members \$125 per week

Non-Members \$145 per week

- **\$10.00 discount with 2 or more weeks registration or;**
- **\$10.00 discount with 2 or more siblings or;**
- **\$10.00 discount with full day for kindercamp.**

**Please only one discount per family**

**All Summer Zoofari Camp programs are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee.**

Early morning drop-off 8:30 am (earliest)  
additional \$10 per week per child

After camp care 3:30 - 5:30 pm (latest)  
additional \$25 per week per child



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

# REGISTRATION FORM

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment enclosed: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Fee(s) Total \_\_\_\_\_

## CAMPER INFORMATION

Name of Camper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Program \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Session(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Session(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CAMPER'S MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

Physician Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dentist Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In an emergency, if the parent, guardian or designated physician/dentist cannot be reached, I authorize the Zoological Society of Florida to transport and/or obtain medical services from any physician for my child.

**Signature of Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any medical conditions or health problems which the Camp staff should be aware of. Please describe: (if you require further space, please use a separate sheet of paper):

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Physically challenged \_\_\_\_\_

Prescribed Medications \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Your signature below gives permission to Camp staff to dispense only prescribed medications you send with your child. Please provide the prescribed container and paraphernalia necessary for taking medications, and provide explicit instructions on a separate sheet of paper.)

## NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL PICK UP THE CAMPER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle information: Make \_\_\_\_\_

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Tag # \_\_\_\_\_

*I give permission for my child to participate in the Zoological Society of Florida's Summer Camp program. I have read the registration and medical forms and have supplied accurate information. My child can be photographed and his/her picture used for public relations purposes.*

**Signature of Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Zoological Society of Florida/Education Department • 12400 S.W. 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499

*Registration cannot be processed unless this form is thoroughly completed.*



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



# FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '98 WEEK

IT'S THE LAST CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH THE HERD...  
 TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO JOIN US FOR  
 "A WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION OF WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS"



Suza Talbot

**T**his is your final opportunity to purchase tickets to one or more of the wonderful events that make this a Feast like no other:

**AN EVENING WITH DR. RICHARD LEAKEY AT THE BATCHELOR RESIDENCE**  
 Wednesday, March 4, 1998  
 6:30 p.m.  
 \$250 per person  
 Seating is limited

**DR. RICHARD LEAKEY AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, GRAHAM CENTER BALLROOM**  
 Thursday, March 5, 1998  
 7:30 p.m.  
 \$4 Members / \$5 Non-Members  
 Free for FIU students and staff with valid ID

**FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '98 BLACK TIE AT METROZOO**  
 Friday, March 6, 1998  
 Beastkeeper Party: 7:00 p.m.  
 \$500 per person  
 General Admission: 8:00 p.m.  
 \$150 per person

For more information or to purchase your tickets, call (305)255-5551.

## FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '98 RESTAURANTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### RESTAURANTS

**Beastkeepers:**

1. Chef Allen's
2. Christy's
3. Joe's Stone Crab
4. Norman's

**General**

1. Afternoon Tea Gourmet Bake Shop
2. Bijan's on the River Restaurant & Raw Bar
3. Botticelli Trattoria
4. Captain's Tavern
5. Casa Juancho
6. China Grill
7. Christy's
8. Courtview Club at Miami Jai Alai
9. Creative Tastes Catering
10. Fishbone Grille
11. Gaviña Coffee Company
12. Giacosa Ristorante
13. Havana Harry's
14. Hooligan's Liquor Locker
15. Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar
16. International Gourmet Foods
17. Island Oasis Gourmet Frozen Cocktails

18. JoAnna's Marketplace
19. JohnMartin's Restaurant and Pub
20. Legends All Pro Cafe
21. Los Ranchos Restaurant
22. Morton's of Chicago
23. Norman Brothers
24. Old Cutler Oyster Company
25. Olive Garden Restaurant
26. Outback Steakhouse
27. P.F. Chang's
28. Prezzo
29. Rainforest Cafe
30. Restaurant St. Michel
31. Roasters n' Toasters
32. Ruth's Chris Steak House
33. South Beach Brasserie
34. Tex Mex Cafe
35. The Parrot Cafe at Parrot Jungle & Gardens
36. The Melting Pot
37. Tropical Chinese Restaurant
38. Tutti's Trattoria & Bakery
39. Yoko's

After Hours: Barnie's Coffee & Tea Company  
 After Hours: Perricone's Marketplace

### ENTERTAINMENT

Featured Performance: Arturo Sandoval  
 Beastkeeper Party: Eric Allison Quartet  
 Bravo Musicians - Instrumental  
 Drums of Polynesia - Polynesian music  
 Ed Calle Orchestra - Jazz  
 Jubilate - Ocapela  
 Mideastern Dance Exchange - Bellydancers  
 Mirochnik Ballet - Dancers  
 Orpheus - Instrumental  
 The Goods - Rock  
 The Mora Arriagas - Mariachis  
 Vivace Brass - Strings  
 The Inner City Children's Touring Dance Company - Dancers  
 Artz N The Hood, Inc. - Dancers  
 Manolo D' Galvez - Walking Guitarist  
 Mike Avery - Magician  
 Toussant L'Ouverture - Pan Drums  
 Joe Donato - Featuring Kathleen Boogie Man George

### ROARING RAFFLE PRIZES

- A seven-day cruise courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line

- Handblown etched zebra vase by Correia Art Glass courtesy of Mayor's Jewelers
  - A five-day trip to Sandals, Jamaica
  - \$1,500 shopping spree courtesy of Bloomingdale's, Macy's and The Falls
  - Lynn Chase Jaguar Jungle China courtesy of Carroll's Jewelers
  - One-year membership to The Cellar Club at The Biltmore Hotel
  - A seven-night Cayman Islands Vacation courtesy of Cayman Airways Holidays
- ...and many other prizes!

The Chair of Feast With The Beasts Week is Diana Udel, President of Broadcast Quality Incorporated. The official sponsors of the events include American Express, The Batchelors, Lee Bynum and Betty Miller, Broadcast Quality Inc., Florida International University, Miami Jai-Alai, Heritage House, WLRN, Citibank F.S.B., Calder Race Lounge, Inc., and The Collection.

## GORILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Watch for more information on this year's tournament which will take place March 18th at University Country Club. Don't miss this "furry," fun and fantastic fundraising event for Metrozoo. For information, call (305)279-2298.



J.J.  
Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## BRITTO HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



William Galloway III, Romero Britto, Sue Cobb, and Glenn Ekey.

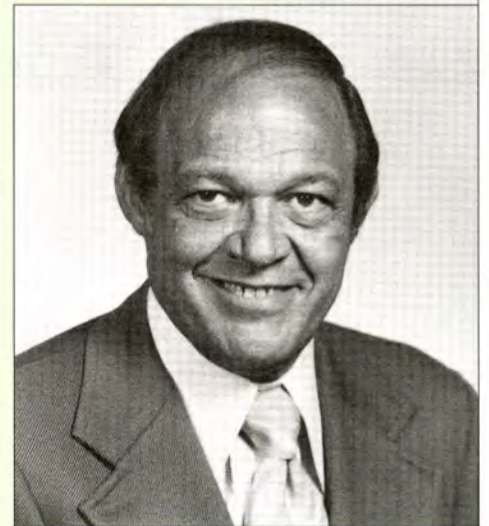
On Thursday, December 18, 1997, world renowned pop artist and former ZSF Board member, **Romero Britto**, hosted his annual holiday party at Britto Central on Lincoln Road in South Beach. More than 200 guests attended the fun-filled party which benefited the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) at Metrozoo.

Among the beautiful people strolling through Britto Central were **Jennifer Getz, Assistant County Manager Tony Ojeda, Sue Cobb, Merle and Dan Weiss, Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Diana Udel (Chairperson of Feast With The Beasts '98) and William J. Galloway III, ZSF President.**

Thanks to **Romero Britto, Gallery Director Tammy Kleinman** and the Britto Central staff, ZSF raised more than \$12,000 in support of our mission!

## A TRIBUTE TO EUGENIO SANSON (1923-1997)

**Eugenio Sanson**, a Board member of the Zoological Society of Florida from 1992 to 1997, was a managing partner of Sanson, Kline, Jacomino & Company, one of the largest Hispanic CPA firms in the United States. During his accounting career, Mr. Sanson was a member of several professional and community organizations. He was a Board member of Third Century U.S.A., Economic Advisor for the Latin Chamber of Commerce, and past President of the Cuban American CPA Association. Mr. Sanson was on the Board of Directors of the Cuban National Foundation, the Spanish American League Against Discrimination, and UNIDOS. A native of Havana, Cuba, Mr. Sanson obtained a degree of "Contador Publico" from the University of Havana. He was one of the first Cuban professionals to obtain a revalidated degree from the University of Miami, as well as a U.S. Certified Public Accountant Certificate in Washington and Florida. He practiced his profession in Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, Cuba, and the United States.



Eugenio Sanson

**"Eugenio's passing is a great loss to this community and, particularly, to the Zoological Society. His great smile and his love of life were infectious. The only question he ever asked was his wanting to know what he could do to help. He never stopped giving, asking nothing in return. He was a great friend who will be sorely missed."** William Galloway III, President

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

The "Year of the Tiger" was the theme of this year's Volunteer Appreciation Party, held at Metrozoo on Friday, January 30th.

Volunteers and guests celebrated a festive Chinese New Year, commemorating the 33,300 hours of service given to the Zoological Society of Florida and Metrozoo during the last year. Hosted by ZSF's Board of Directors, Trustees, staff and Metrozoo's staff, the event began with a wine and cheese reception in front of the Bengal Tiger exhibit, followed by dinner and an awards program at the Lakeside Grille. Entertainment was provided by D.J. Boogie Man George, and a special presentation of a Chinese Lion Dance was performed by the Wing Leung Kung Fu Association.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

Ten volunteers were honored with an "ABCD Award" (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty) from various departments in the zoo. Selected by their supervisors and staff, these volunteers exhibited hard work and dedication in unique and outstanding ways. The winners were **Eileen Davis, Nancy Dunleavy, Roseana Kipman, Rita Krasno, Mary Rose, Beverly Rosenberg, Ellen Rosenberg, Rosemarie Twinam, Earl Warford, and Frank Davis.** The group award was given to the Docent Council Executive Committee.

The delicious dinner was provided by Lily Chen and Beth Boyers. Silver Eagle Distributors donated the beer, and the colorful balloon arch was provided by Happy Balloons (courtesy of ZSF Trustee Carole Cotton).



Photo by Ricardo Stanoss

# BAT-EARED FOX

## NEW AT THE ZOO

By Steve Conners

Metrozoo General Curator

**T**he newest addition to the Metrozoo animal collection is a species found in less than a handful of zoos across the country. The bat-eared fox is, thankfully, far more common in its native African haunts. These unique canids (dog-like animals) are classified in a genus all their own (*Otocyon*), and are only distantly related to other foxes. They have evolved to occupy an insectivorous niche somewhat different from the typical fox lifestyle.

The most obvious feature of these foxes is their large ears, hence their common name. The function of such outsized appendages is probably twofold. Animals that live in hot climates need a way to keep cool, and large ears can serve as radiators for the rest of the body. Large ears are also excellent sound gathering devices so that even minute sounds can be heard. One of the tiny sounds heard by bat-eared foxes is produced by dung beetle larvae. These larvae feed inside a ball of dung which has been formed by the adult beetle and then buried. As the small larval beetle feeds, it produces small scraping noises that are detectable to the fox. Once discovered, the fox quickly excavates and makes a meal of the immature insect. Another adaptation for dining on insects is a large number of small, pointed teeth. In fact the 46-50 teeth of this species is more than any other land mammal. Termites and locusts are also eaten regularly, and small, sharp teeth are apparently well suited for crunchy little prey items. Eggs, small mammals,

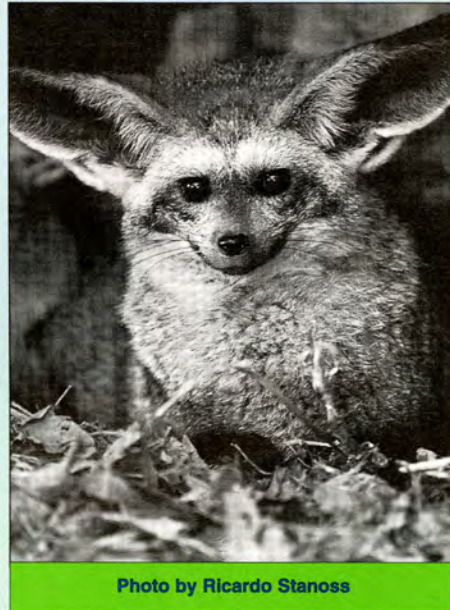


Photo by Ricardo Stanoss

lizards, and fruit round out the diet and bat-eared foxes have even been observed robbing falcons of their prey.

This species prefers arid regions of eastern and southern Africa, leading a mainly nocturnal lifestyle, but often active also during the day. They usually travel singly or in pairs, but are sometimes seen in groups of as many as five or six. Known for their curiosity, they frequently approach human dwellings to watch what's going on, and people walking through the bush are sometimes followed. Breeding can occur during any month of the year. A litter of two to five young is born in a burrow after a gestation period of 60-70 days. With a head

and body length of under two feet and a weight of less than ten pounds, bat-eared foxes are vulnerable to many predators. People hunt them for food in some areas, leopards dine on them regularly, and eagles have them for lunch.

It is said that young foxes tame down easily in captivity and can become quite friendly toward their keepers. Metrozoo's group of one male and two females isn't exactly tame nor are they aggressive. They have actually been very cooperative since being placed on exhibit with the African crested porcupines. Most of the day is spent resting beneath their palm frond shelter where their blackish brown fur camouflages them against the rock work. Look closely--usually the ears are easy to spot. At the end of the day they dutifully return to their night house (and dinner) with little coaxing on the part of the keepers. The few interactions they've had with the porcupines have resulted in the foxes wisely giving ground. We're hoping that this peaceful coexistence will continue far into the future for the benefit of animals and visitors alike.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President**

William J. Gallwey III

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ZSF PEOPLE

Caroline Côté has joined the Zoological Society of Florida as the Associate Director of Media and Public Relations. Her responsibilities include organizing and managing a comprehensive Communication program and writing and producing Toucan Talk. With significant experience in public relations, she previously worked at Dade Community Foundation and Inland Trade Inc. in their Communication departments. Caroline holds her Master of Arts in Communication with a major in Public Relations from the University of Miami.



Caroline Côté

Former Editor of Toucan Talk, Mayra González-Rey, has been promoted to Associate Director of Development /Special Projects. She will be responsible for donor recognition and cultivation, as well as coordinating Feast With The Beasts.

Goodbye to Nancy A. Hotchkiss, who will be the new Director of Education for the American Wilderness Experience. We wish her the best of luck!

CREATIVE RECYCLING

Carnival Cruise Lines donated some mooring line for Metrozoo's animals (Chimps, Orangutans, and Angolan Colobus monkeys) to play on and they love it! Thank you Carnival.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

A MESSAGE FROM...

On March 12, 1998, a living legend -Fred A. Cohen- will retire. Fred Cohen, better known as "Freddie," was hired as a Zookeeper at Crandon Park Zoo on March 12, 1963. He started off in the bird department for five years, but before he went bats, he worked with bears, deer, American Bison, lions, tigers, and reptiles. Since 1968, Freddie has worked daily from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. preparing food for approximately 650 animals. He was assigned to the kitchen with a technical title of "Zookeeper," but he is best known as "Executive Chef" (a title he acquired at Crandon Park and has retained at Miami Metrozoo). Over the years, he has been involved in making diets for new animals arriving at Miami Metrozoo and for picky animals who will not eat their present diet. He estimates the zoo spends about \$350,000 a year on food.



Freddie at work.

Freddie will turn 62 on May 5, 1998 and plans to do some fishing, gardening, canoeing, and then he may return to Miami Metrozoo as a volunteer. His message to the people he has worked with at Crandon Park Zoo and Miami Metrozoo is: "From the bottom of my heart I want to thank the Zoological Society Docents and other volunteers who over the years have helped me. Also thanks to those on the zoo staff who have been my friends over the years and you know who you are."

*Earl Warford*

Earl Warford  
Zoological Society of Florida Docent

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

CHIMPANZEE BIRTH

**NAME:** Dekese (di-kee-see)

This is the name of a town in Cameroon

**BIRTH DATE:**

December 18, 1997

**SEX:** We're not really sure

**MOTHER:** Bubbles

**FATHER:** Bocco or Niger

Brown-eyed baby looking for a special friend. I love watching my relatives run and play at the zoo. Won't you adopt me and join our family?

For information on how to adopt any of the chimpanzees, call 255-5551. Become a "zoo parent" today!

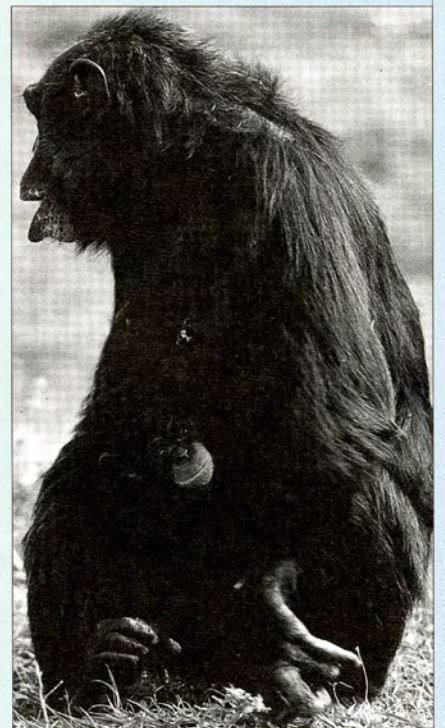


Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

TOUCAN TALK



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