

# TOUCAN TALK



A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!

CHECK OUR  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

PAGES 4-5

RAMBLING RHINOS

PAGE 7

HARPY EAGLE  
PROJECT: PANAMA  
A SUCCESS STORY

PAGE 2



Cover photo by Ron Magill

Editor

Caroline Côté

Graphic DesignerMaribel Moure-Medina  
Moure Graphic Design, Inc.PhotosRon Magill  
Ricardo StanossContributorsSteve Connors  
Mayra González Rey  
Eloisa King  
Damien Kong  
Elizabeth Koncza  
Carol Lang  
Ron Magill  
Connie Owens  
Maria Roberts  
Ana Siberio  
Ricardo Stanoss  
Eric Stephens

Printed on ♻️ recycled paper with vegetable-based inks. Please recycle this publication when you are finished with it.

Copyright © 1998 Zoological Society of Florida. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without permission of the publisher.

Toucan Talk  
Volume 25, Number 5  
September/October, 1998

Published six times each year as a benefit to the members and supporters of Metrozoo

Please be advised that any use of the Zoological Society of Florida's name or position, whether written or implied, is prohibited without the written consent of the Society's directors or officers. Should you desire endorsement of any type, please contact the office of the Zoological Society of Florida.

Zoological Society of Florida  
Glenn Ekey, Executive Director  
William Gallwey III, President

Metrozoo  
Eric Stephens, Interim Director

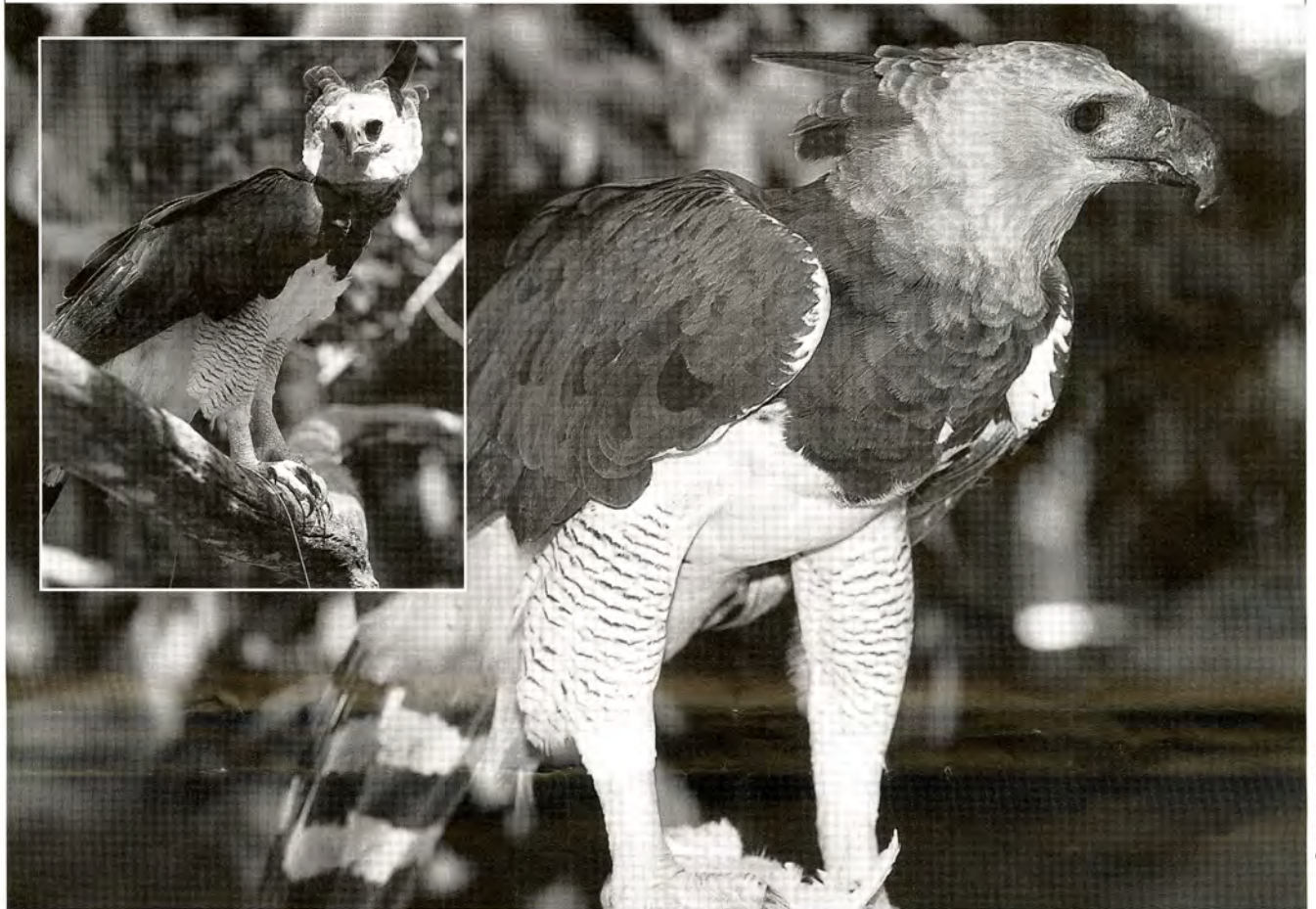
12400 SW 152nd Street  
Miami, FL 33177-1499  
Phone: (305) 255-5551  
Fax: (305) 255-7126

Zoo Visitor Information  
(305) 251-0401

# HARPY EAGLE PROJECT: PANAMA – A SUCCESS STORY

By Ron Magill

Miami Metrozoo's Communications Director



Photos: Ron Magill

**T**he harpy eagle is the most powerful bird of prey on earth, but it is extremely endangered. With talons the size of grizzly bear claws and weighing up to 18 lbs., these raptors are at the top of the food chain in tropical forests. For an eagle as big as the harpy, the 6-7 foot wingspan is surprisingly modest. But

that compact wingspan serves a purpose in the dense forests, where the bird depends on shorter wings and a long tail to maneuver in close quarters. Like most eagles, the harpy has superb eyesight, but visibility can be obstructed by the jungle canopy. Therefore, the birds have developed a fascinating form of auditory compensation: a bowl-shaped crest of feathers framing their face that creates a parabolic effect, funneling the faintest sounds of prey directly into their ears.

The harpy feeds on a variety of prey species, most of them arboreal (tree-dwelling). Animals commonly taken are a variety of monkeys, kinkajous, coatimundis, tamanduas, macaws, and their favorite - two and three-toed sloths. The prey can weigh as much as 15 lbs.

Four years ago, Miami Metrozoo initiated a project to help protect the harpy eagle in the Republic of Panama. The objective was to use this magnificent raptor, the National Bird of Panama, as the flagship animal for all of the fascinating wildlife found in the country's tropical rainforests, while raising awareness of the desperate need to protect this most diverse of habitats.

The initial goal of the project was to build a new facility in Panama at a facility named Summit Gardens to maintain a pair of harpy eagles housed at the time in a small and inadequate chain link cage. The hope was to

create a world class exhibit at Summit Gardens that would become a unique window to the tropical forests of Panama. After meeting with the Mayor of Panama City, Mayin Correa, Metrozoo was given permission to develop the project and to spearhead a development campaign to acquire sponsorships. **American Airlines** became the first corporate sponsor and has provided many thousands of dollars in transportation related to the venture. Soon afterwards, **Sony Corporation of Panama** became the name sponsor by committing over \$150,000 toward the effort. **VISA International** became an official sponsor by providing state-of-the-art bilingual graphics and signs throughout the exhibit. In addition, a well-recognized clothing company in Panama called "**My Name is Panama**" became a sponsor by creating a line of clothing in support of the project. Several significant private donations were also key to the project's success. And now thanks to a very generous donation by the **Stanford Group Company**, a special fund called the **Stanford Group Company Harpy Eagle Fund** has been established to provide ongoing support to this very important effort.

Metrozoo, with the guidance of several world-renowned experts, designed the state-of-the-art facility including an air-conditioned interactive center along with a large free-flight aviary that reaches heights of nearly 100 feet. The Sony Interactive Center takes the visitor on a tour of the rainforest and gives intimate views of this spectacular biome from the harpy eagle's point of view. Never before seen documentary footage, along with world-class dioramas, stunning photographs,

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

cultural displays, and exhibits which show the visitor what it takes to study the harpy in the wild, combine to make this facility truly unique.

The free-flight aviary, which is connected to the Sony Interactive Center, houses not only a pair of harpy eagles, but also a variety of other wildlife commonly found naturally in their habitat. Included are keeled-billed toucans, blue and gold macaws, greater curassows, pacas, agoutis, collared peccarys, and iguanas. The visitor can observe the aviary's inhabitants from the ground and from canopy levels. The exhibit was built around existing mature trees which provide a lush and beautiful environment for the exhibited wildlife. Additional plantings of palms, heliconias and other native foliage contribute to the ambience representing Panama's tropical forests.

On April 27, 1998, this exhibit opened to the public with considerable fanfare. The ceremonies were attended by Mrs. Dora Boyd Balladares, the First Lady of Panama, Mayor Mayin Correa of Panama City, United States Ambassador William Hughes, and a host of other distinguished guests. This award-winning project is being recognized as precedent-setting and a role model for international conservation education projects around the world. To commemorate the exhibit opening, a series of four postage stamps depicting the harpy eagle was released by the Postmaster General of Panama during the opening ceremonies. These stamps were designed by children during a national art contest designed to help generate awareness about the harpy eagle. It was partially through Metrozoo's suggestion to Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares that the images painted by the contest winners were converted into national postage stamps for the Republic of Panama.

This project exemplifies the outstanding achievements that can be attained with the proper cooperation. There is an old saying, "In the end, we will protect only what we love; We will love only what we understand; And we will understand only what we are taught." In the last four years, awareness of the harpy eagle has soared and the national symbol has become a recognized and revered symbol throughout Panama. It is hoped that this newfound understanding will lead to better conservation efforts for this monarch of the rainforests. By getting directly involved within the countries that are home to some of our world's most endangered wildlife, Metrozoo and other U.S. Zoos make a tremendous impact on preserving that wildlife for generations to come.

## MORE HUMPS AT METROZOO

You may have noticed some new additions to the Dromedary Camel Exhibit. Two male calves (Ramses and Moses) were born this past April and have since been placed on exhibit with the three adults. Everyone is getting along splendidly!

Over in the Bactrian Camel Exhibit, baby Julia, born in March, has had some difficulties with both her parents and is being hand raised off-exhibit. The keepers enjoy helping her consume close to a gallon of milk daily!



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## STAFF PROFILE

### Bill Tuttle...The Artist

William "Bill" Bosman Tuttle, a native Floridian, began his employment at Miami Metrozoo on February 22, 1979. A graduate of the University of South Florida with a degree in Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Miami, Bill has been the Zoo's supervisor of graphics and design for the past 12 years.

When Bill was in college majoring in printmaking, he envisioned a career as a college professor. Working at the Zoo was not in his plans until he found out that he was going to be a father. He then joined the Zoo Design



Team (ZDT), a staff of 20, who was responsible for creating a new look for the Zoo through projects that included developing, designing and building the rockwork used as a backdrop on the paddocks. All signage around the Zoo, as well as the Tiger Temple were totally designed and modeled by the ZDT members. "Our graphics medium included everything from original watercolors of our animals to handmade ceramics that adorn the paddock signs around the park. There is always work to be done in the Graphics Department — from developing new signage to restoring older exhibits, especially since Hurricane Andrew. I hope that in the near future, I will be able to design the graphics for the aviary — an important part of Miami Metrozoo," says Bill.

Besides art, Bill's interests cover many subjects including arts and crafts, furniture, architecture, competitive pistol shooting and photographing auto races.

Bill and his wife Patricia Ann have been married for 25 years and have two children Bill and Katie.

## ZOO CHANGE

### Metrozoo Director Steps Down

Miami Metrozoo's Director, Al Fontana, has resigned for personal reasons. Fontana, who worked at the Zoo since 1977, was appointed interim director in December 1994. After a national search, he landed the permanent job in April 1995. William Gallwey, III, president of the Zoological Society of Florida, said Fontana has "done a fine job as director of Metrozoo, particularly in light of budget cutbacks."

"There is still a tremendous positive sense that Miami Metrozoo and ZSF can put together an agreement that will be good for the Zoo and good for the community," said Glenn Ekey, ZSF executive director. "We love the Zoo and we want to see it grow and come to its full potential."

In Fontana's place, Metrozoo Business Manager Eric Stephens has been appointed interim director.

## AVIARY UPDATE

In June, the County Commission gave approval authorizing the County to seek qualified bidders to provide design options for our new aviary. We finally are moving closer towards replacing our most popular exhibit that has left an empty part of the Zoo and an empty feeling in our hearts. Prospective bidders will submit their designs which will be evaluated through the County's selection process. Please stay tuned for more information.

**FAMILY NIGHT SAFARI**

**Families**

Sleeping over at the Zoo is a novel experience! It can be both soothing and exciting. The soft rustling sounds at night are replaced with the early morning animal ruckus that makes you feel as if you just woke up on a different continent.

Your safari begins at 6:00 p.m. when you are greeted at the West Ped Gate by one of our MegaZoo Educators. A special pizza party will keep you entertained until after dark when it is time to explore the Zoo at night! Your program ends the following day at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast. So bring your sleeping bag and get ready for a wild adventure!

**Cost per person:** Members \$25  
Non-Members \$35

**When:** Friday, September 11th  
Saturday, September 19th

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

**FLYING HIGH AT METROZOO**

**(16 and over only)**

Birds are in the air, on the ground and in the water at our very own Zoo! So, join our lead bird keeper, Susan Kong, who will share her passion and love for birds with you. Early bird watchers should come and explore the world of our feathered friends! Learn why flamingoes are pink, why storks do not fly away, and all about the spoonbill's funny beak! Take a hike through our very own pineland and bring your binoculars for a fantastic tour of our bird collection on and off the beaten path!

**Cost Per Person:** Members \$15  
Non-Members \$20

**Date:** Saturday, September 12th

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**LIONS, TIGERS AND BEARS...OH MY!**

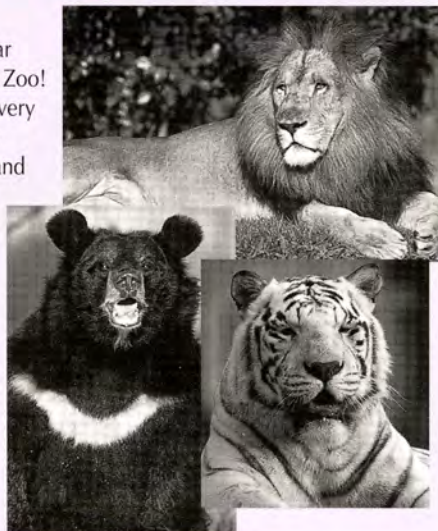
**Adults (16 and older only)**

Meet Joe Darcangelo, the lion, tiger and bear zookeeper in our very own land of Oz...the Zoo! This exciting new program begins with our very special zookeeper educating us about these exotic creatures from their natural habitats and relating his own exciting and sometimes scary experiences. After the classroom orientation, it is off to a night tour where you will meet the fabulous animals in an up-close and personal manner. Refreshments and snacks will be served following the evening tour.

**Cost Per Person:** Members \$15  
Non-Members \$20

**Date:** Saturday, September 26th

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



**MONKEYING AROUND!**

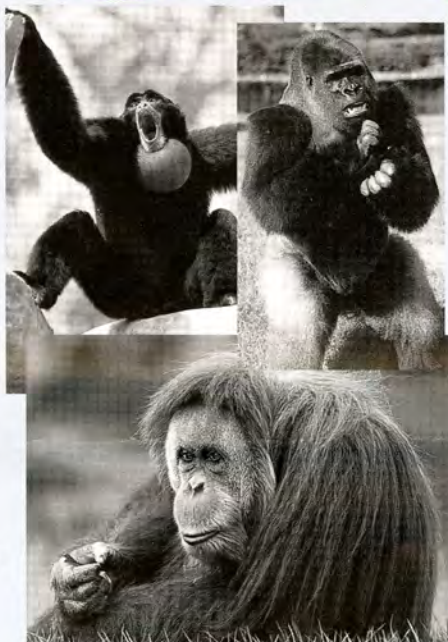
**Families**

Come meet Scott Fuller, an entertaining zookeeper, who has had a great deal of experience working with our primates. He will introduce you to some of our favorite primate friends here at Metrozoo! Learn why gorillas beat their chest, why colobus monkey babies are white at birth, or which primate is the most closely related to humans! Come and join us for a light breakfast of coffee, tea, juice and monkey biscuits!

**Cost Per Person:** Members \$8  
Non-Members \$10

**Date:** Saturday, October 17th

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**VOLUNTEER GRADUATES**

This summer, 27 graduates were welcomed into the Zoological Society of Florida's volunteer program. Congratulations! Volunteer trainings are held three times a year. For more information, please call (305) 255-5551.

Rosamari Amezaga	Miami
Kevin Amodeo	Miami
Annette Balboa	Miami
Belkys Banegas	Miami
Anastasia Boike	Hialeah
Lina Chiappone	Miami
Debra Epstein	Miami
Marisol Grau	Miami
Carolyn Greenwood	Miami
Linda Hoffman	Miami
Connie King	Miami
Cathy King	Miami
Tina La-o	Miami
Gina Lazzeri	Miami
Martin Levin	Miami
Beverly Levin	Miami
Lorelei McNeill	Miami
Renee Medina	Miami
Andrew Neilson	Miami
Frances Oliva	Miami
Alfonzo Oliva	Miami
Rita Reagon	Pompano Beach
Carl Stewart	Miami
Mary Teed	Miami
Eleanor Van Iersel	Miami
Janet Worsham	Miami
Tracey Zack	Miami Beach

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President**

William J. Gallwey III

**President Elect**

Edward Soto

**Past President**

Sue M. Cobb

**Secretary**

Jason Israel

**Vice Presidents**

Lynn M. Cambest

Cynthia Curry

David Konfino

Daniel J. Licciardi

Ralph de la Vega

Sam Verdeja

Andrew H. Weinstein

**At Large**

Jorge Arrizurieta

Courtney Cunningham

**Executive Director**

Glenn Ekey

**Interim Director**

Eric Stephens



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

José Argamasilla Bacardi

Joaquín Aviñó

Rodney Barreto

Sandy Batchelor

Vince L. Berkeley

Kerry Clemmons

Alfredo R. Durán

Ron Esserman

Jennifer Getz

Lester Goldstein

Sherrill W. Hudson

Hon. James Lawrence King

Mario López

Sanford B. Miot

Vicki A. O'Meara

Marc Osheroff

Marshall R. Pasternack

Robert Paul

Gonzalo Ruiz

Diana Udel

Stephen A. Weber

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Space is limited for all our education programs...so call (305) 255-5551 and register early to secure your spot.

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.

# SUMMER CAMP '98... A DIFFERENT WAY TO LEARN

Another Summer Zoofari Camp is over and we miss our wonderful campers already! During nine weeks of camp, our Education Department became immersed in teaching children about wildlife and enabling them to experience nature first hand. Through demonstrations of various skulls, bones and hides, playing games, making arts and crafts and talking to zoo keepers, our campers are now animal experts! They embarked on such adventures as feeding rhinos and elephants, holding snakes and roaches, and petting possums, ferrets, rabbits and baby camels.

So, if you missed out on all the fun this past summer, be sure to register for Zoofari Camp next year.

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



## WILD NIGHT AT THE ZOO

### ENJOY AN EVENING WITH SAVANNAH!

(18 years and older)

Come dressed for an African theme night at Miami Metrozoo, where you will dance and dine the evening away. You also will have a unique opportunity to meet an exotic and endangered cheetah, Metrozoo's very own "Animal Ambassador," Savannah! Enjoy a taste of Africa with live entertainment of African drums and dancers.

Also included is an exclusive photo taken with Savannah!

**Cost:** \$60 Members/\$70 Non-Members

**Where:** Metrozoo's Lakeside Grille

**When:** Saturday, October 10th, 1998

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Space is limited, R.S.V.P. to the Education Department at (305) 255-5551.

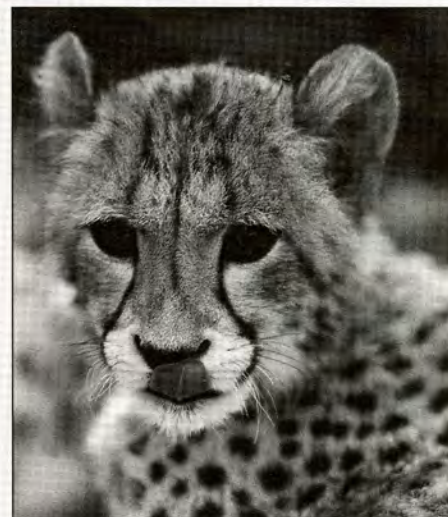


Photo: Ron Magill

## "SUCCULENT" SUCCESS

By Mayra González Rey

ZSF's Associate Director of Development/Special Projects

Guests at the Zooperb Brunch at Ruth's Chris Steak House, celebrated on July 12, had a great time and enjoyed a gorgeous waterfront setting! Guests savored eggs benedict, chicken with lobster sauce, prime rib au jus, penne pasta with cajun salmon and an array of desserts. We thank Brett Boulmay, general manager, Ray Rutenis, chef, and the wonderful staff for opening their doors exclusively for ZSF's guests.



Guest Shirley Marks celebrated her birthday at the brunch with husband Herman and family members Paulette and Eric Lebowitz (not shown in photo).



Raffle winner Corinne Kraver receives a \$75 gift certificate courtesy of Ruth's Chris Steak House from Brett Boulmay. Also present: William Galloway, III, ZSF president (left) and Glenn Ekey, ZSF executive director (right).

## Zoological Society of Florida Teams Up With the Smithsonian

The Zoological Society of Florida has formed a creative partnership with the Smithsonian Institution to spearhead an environmental education program targeted at Hispanic middle school children in Miami-Dade County. The E.L.I.P.S.E. (Environmental Latino Initiative Promoting Science Education) program is funded by a newly constituted Smithsonian Institution's grant called Latino Initiative's Fund. This partnership is a joint effort that includes the Miami Museum of Science (a Smithsonian Institution affiliate) and the Miami-Dade County Public School System as collaborators in a ground-breaking program of teacher-training, teacher-developed curriculum implementation, and mentoring by the four organizations involved.

## BELLSOUTH PHONE TO HELP ZSF

Watch for a great promotion in August and September! BellSouth Mobility helps you answer the call of the wild through a Special Edition Zoological Society of Florida phone, and value plans that include 100 bonus minutes (a \$40 value) and no activation fee (a \$50 value). Plus BellSouth Mobility will make a \$25 donation to the Zoological Society of Florida for each phone purchased. Stop by a BellSouth Mobility store or order by phone (800) 930-1106. Quantities are limited so sign-up today!



## GET READY FOR NEW ZSF BOARD

ZSF Trustees were invited to a Meet-the-Candidates Happy Hour graciously hosted by The Capital Grille. As part of their responsibilities, Trustees elect the Board of Directors for the following year. This was an opportunity to meet the nominees in attendance, network with other Trustees and Board members, and enjoy the delicious hors d'oeuvres served that evening. Our appreciation goes to Marissa Suarez, sales and marketing manager for The Capital Grille and the rest of the staff for a wonderful evening.



Trustee Kayce King, Northern Trust Bank, Board candidate Allan Pekor, Lennar Financial Services, and Board member Sam Verdeja, Verdeja Marketing.

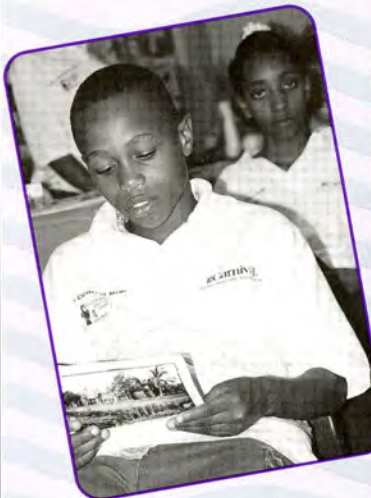


William Galloway, III, ZSF president, Board member, Jennifer Getz, Mayor's Jewelers, and Glenn Ekey, ZSF executive director.

## CARNIVAL KIDS ENDS WITH STYLE

On June 13, a lunch was served on Carnival's MS Imagination to celebrate the success of Carnival Kids' first year. Staff from Carol City Elementary, Miami Park Elementary, the Zoological Society of Florida and the Carnival Foundation dressed up to eat incredible food and toast everyone who was involved with the amazing Carnival Kids initiative.

Thank you Carnival for the fantastic program!



Carnival kids from Carol City Elementary and Miami Park Elementary present their final program projects to Linda Coll, president of Carnival Foundation and Ricardo Stanoss, Carnival Kids program coordinator.



# RAMBLING RHINOS

By Steve Conners

Miami Metrozoo's General Curator

**M**iami Metrozoo participates in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) for both black and Indian rhinos. As a participant in these programs, we agree to follow the recommendations of the SSP propagation group for the betterment of the entire captive population — even if that means sending some very popular animals to other Zoos. Recently, it was recommended that we send Mohan, our older male Indian rhino, to the National Zoo in Washington D. C. and Keesha, our young female black rhino, to the Jacksonville Zoo.

Mohan has been in Miami since 1970! He was captured in Nepal at just under a year old and shortly thereafter arrived at the Crandon Park Zoo. Over the years, his personality has made him popular with both employees and visitors. Most captive rhinos can become quite tame and friendly. Breeding attempts revealed the flip side to his personality. Male and female rhinos commonly spar with each other prior to mating, but usually the result is just a few minor scrapes and bruises and hopefully a pregnancy. Mohan's interactions with our female, Shanti, were dangerously violent, and therefore he has never bred. Yet, as a wild-born animal, his genes are extremely valuable to

the captive population. For this reason, it was decided to place him with a different female in hopes that it would make a difference in his behavior. Mohan has settled into his new home in our nation's capital and has been getting acquainted with his new mate.



Indian rhino

Our success with breeding black rhinos has been much better. We have had eight births over the years and are expecting another next year (black rhino pregnancies can last up to 18 months). Keesha, born in May 1996, is our most recent birth. In order to make her move to Jacksonville relatively stress-free, we are training her to feel comfortable inside her shipping crate. It is secured to her holding cage in such a way as to allow her to go inside to eat and become acclimated to the close quarters. When we feel the time is right, the door will be secured behind her and she will be on her way.

As you know, the status of wild rhino populations grows more precarious every day. This unfortunate fact makes the successful breeding of our captive animals more significant for the rhinoceros' continued survival. It is apparent that the persistent cooperation of Zoos to further the responsible management of rhinos will be an important ingredient in their future existence.



Black rhino

## Congratulations to the following ZSF staff members:

**Mayra González-Rey**, associate director of development/special projects, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of Leadership Miami and will co-chair the Facilitators Committee.

**Eloisa King**, who has been with ZSF for four years, is now our new Director of Membership.

**Harriet Koffman**, who has been with ZSF for two years, has been appointed Controller of ZSF.

**Maria Roberts**, associate director of development/grants, was elected second vice chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission on the Status of Women, and program vice president of American Association of University Women – Miami Branch.

**Caroline Côté**, associate director of media and public relations was appointed assistant chair of public relations for the Junior League of Miami and vice president of external relations for the National Society of Fundraising Executives.

## STUDENTS ADOPT LION

Ms. Gwen Baker's 5th grade and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students at Leisure City Elementary School decided to help their community by adopting a Miami Metrozoo animal. They all worked very hard selling animal erasers and earned \$65. After much research, the students chose a lion as the "adoptee."

For more information on how your school or club can become "Zoo Parents" call (305) 255-5551.



## ADOPT AN ANIMAL

Single Male Wart Hog (SMWH) looking for a "soul mate." I'm not hard to please — just give me a cool mud puddle and I'm in hog heaven!

To adopt a wart hog or any animal call (305) 255-5551. Remember, for \$50 you receive the animal's photo on a t-shirt, which makes a great conversation piece!

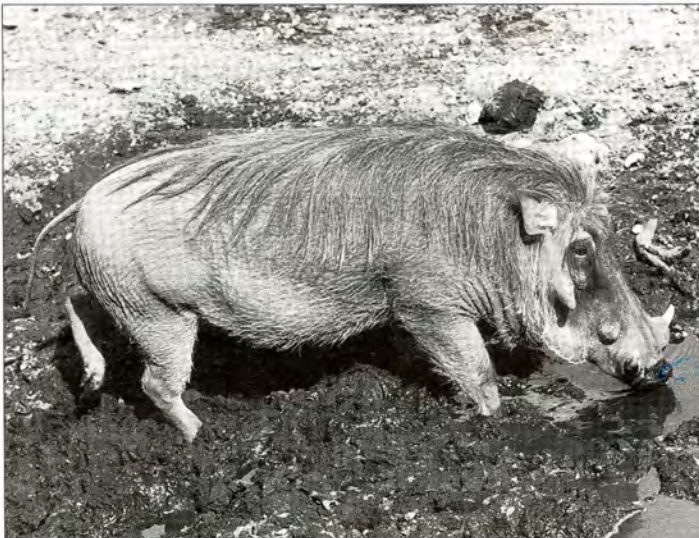


Photo: Laura Morris

## CONTEST

### WIN FABULOUS PRIZES IN BEAUTY AND THE BEAST ESSAY CONTESTS AT METROZOO

Miami Metrozoo, PTG Florida, SunTrust, WLRN and the Zoological Society of Florida invite the community to participate in Disney's Beauty and the Beast essay contest. The contest is part of the promotion of Disney's award winning performance at the Broward Center for Performing Arts beginning October 16. Visit Miami Metrozoo or any SunTrust office to pick up a brochure with discount coupons to the Zoo. Drop essays off at the Zoological Society of Florida (at Miami Metrozoo) or mail before the end of the contest period. A random drawing will take place at the Zoo for five \$250 scholarship bonds (courtesy of SunTrust), various Disney's Beauty and the Beast items and your tickets to the performance.

**The contest is as follows:**

"BEAUTY AND MY FAVORITE BEAST"  
Essay Contest (Ages 5-12)

Visit Metrozoo between September 14—October 16 and write about yourself and your favorite "beast." Drop off your submission at the Zoological Society of Florida or mail by October 17 to:

Beauty and the Beast c/o WLRN  
Development Department  
P.O. Box 01-2500  
Miami, FL 33101-2500

ESSAY & ART CONTESTS

# TOUCAN TALK



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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 4358  
Miami, Florida