

# TOUCAN TALK

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A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!

**ZSF AND METROZOO WISH YOU A  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**



**MIAMI METROZOO  
HATCHES KOMODO DRAGONS**

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Komodo dragon hatching.  
Cover photo by Ron Magill

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Toucan Talk  
Volume 25, Number 6  
November/December, 1998

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

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# MIAMI METROZOO HATCHES KOMODO DRAGONS!

By Steve Conners

Miami Metrozoo's General Curator



Photo: Ron Magill

love it when a plan comes together! When literally years of effort, planning, observing, decision making, researching, and educated guesswork lead to the reproduction of a priority species, it makes a person glad to be in the Zoo business. Miami Metrozoo has succeeded in breeding its Komodo dragons—only the third Zoo in the U.S. to have achieved this feat. It is truly an exciting and proud moment for everyone.

The first hurdle to overcome in breeding monitor lizards (or any other animal) is getting them to mate. The factors influencing mating behavior include the pair's compatibility, temperature, hormone levels and location of mating attempts. Upon their arrival in 1995, "Jack," the male and "Lubier," the female had been housed together and seemed to have a harmonious relationship. If anything, Jack was a bit too amorous in his advances. His repeated courtship scratches with his hind foot caused a wound on Lubier's leg. We learned that the female was not receptive to mating at that time of year (spring), no matter how persistent the male was in his attempts. We spoke with both the Cincinnati and National Zoos, the only other places in the U.S. where dragons have reproduced, to find out when dragon bred there. It turned out that fall was the mating season at those locations, but with such a different climate in Miami we wondered if the timing would be different here. During the fall and winter of 1996 Jack and Lubier were re-introduced to each other in the holding cages of their building. Jack made his usual courtship attempts, but Lubier was not impressed. On a couple of occasions they had to be separated due to aggressive interactions. The closest we came was one instance in February '97 when Lubier actually lifted her tail in a receptive fashion, but Jack was too slow and uncoordinated to take advantage of this opportunity.

This brief observation did give us a clue that indeed Lubier's reproductive cycle was timed differently from what other zoos had experienced with their females. Staff discussions resulted in some changes in our management scheme for late '97 and early '98 introductions. Reptiles, being "cold blooded", are affected by temperature more so than birds or mammals. All of their physiological processes, including hormonal control of

reproduction, are influenced to some degree by temperature. For this reason, we thought that adding supplemental heat to Lubier's enclosure might be beneficial. The Falcon Batchelor Komodo dragon exhibit has a number of heat sources to keep the lizards comfortable in cool weather. To augment these, we aimed several infrared lamps in one section of her enclosure to provide a hot spot of 100+ degrees and give her the opportunity to warm herself above the ambient temperature of 85°F.

We also decided to try placing the two dragons together in the outdoor exhibit yard if the weather cooperated. There was some risk involved in this plan, since they would be difficult and dangerous to separate if the courtship degenerated into a battle. Previously, they had been placed together in the holding cages where separating the dragons is facilitated by shift doors. But, our observations in this area indicated that the smooth concrete flooring may have hampered Jack's mounting attempts by providing poor traction; the grassy exhibit yard would give him a better surface for his long claws to grip during the courtship routine.

Finally, we felt like everything was "right", and Jack and Lubier were released together on exhibit. With great anticipation we watched the tender courtship of the Komodo dragon. It begins with gentle flicking of the long forked tongue of the male on the head, neck, and back of the female. Lubier remained mostly passive or slowly walked out of tongue range. The next phase involved Jack delicately stroking her back and shoulders with his scaly forefoot. At the same time he used his hindfoot to induce Lubier to raise her tail. All seemed peaceful in lizard love land, but unfortunately no mating occurred. Encouraged by the lack of aggression, we continued with the outdoor introductions for several days. Gradually, Lubier showed increasing signs of receptiveness and by the end of the week we had observed numerous successful (or so we hoped) matings. The couple had also reached the point of blissful exhaustion by this time and spent their last day outside together sleeping. It was mid-January '98 and our first hurdle had been crossed!

*Continued on page 3*

Continued from page 2



Photo: Ron Magill

Preparation of a nesting site for Lubier to lay her clutch had begun months earlier. We wanted her to have an outdoor burrow that she would consider her territory and where she felt secure. A large amount of sand was added to her outdoor holding pen and she proceeded to dig a burrow. The sand didn't have

much structural integrity so we made a roof to the burrow using bricks and plywood. Lubier excavated a cozy cubbyhole beneath this structure. Of course even in Florida, winter temperatures can be chilly for a Komodo dragon so we placed additional heat lamps in this outside pen. In spite of this we felt it best to keep her inside until we were sure she was getting close to a possible laying date. Early in February the keepers noticed a slight decrease in her appetite and a slight increase in girth—both good signs. Our information indicated that we still had probably three weeks before she would lay eggs. Finally, on the evening of February 14 we felt that the weather was mild enough that we would at least let her have access to her outdoor burrow. The following morning the staff arrived to find that where there was once a burrow, was now a large pile of sand! Did she lay the eggs already? It sure looked like a nest mound.

Lubier was brought inside and before we could investigate the nest she laid three eggs in the holding cage. Fantastic! There had to be many more outside. Like a bunch of excited kids on Christmas morning we crawled on our bellies through the shift door to her outside pen to dig up the nest. (The crawling was necessary because her mound blocked the only human-sized door to the pen.) Slowly and carefully the sand was gently scooped from above and then below the plywood roof. Eventually a beautiful clutch of white, leathery-shelled eggs was revealed nestled a foot deep in the

sand. This was undoubtedly what a wild Komodo dragon nest looked like, and our female was behaving exactly the way we had hoped she would.

The eggs were taken to the Brooder/Hatcher building for incubation. We felt it was essential to incubate them in a controlled environment even though they may have hatched if left where they were. After being weighed and measured, the eggs were placed on a bed of vermiculite with a precise amount of water added. We had a total of 30 eggs and the plastic containers we used held three eggs each, so we had 10 containers that required the space of three incubators. This was good insurance in case any one of the incubators malfunctioned. Over the course of their seven month long incubation period, we used six different incubators due to mechanical malfunctions or other problems we encountered. Religiously, we weighed each container every week and replaced any water that had been lost through evaporation. After about six weeks, it was obvious through candling (shining a bright light into the egg) that 29 of the 30 eggs were fertile. Excellent! Hurdles 2 (eggs) and 3 (fertile eggs) had been overcome! Now all we had to do was get the suckers to hatch.

Hatching monitor lizard eggs is a rather inexact science, and the long incubation period leaves plenty of time for things to go wrong. Between the subsequent power outages, nearby brushfires, incubator malfunctions, and other concerns, the sum total of gray hair on staff members' heads (or was it just mine?) increased exponentially during this time. I personally get very superstitious in these situations, refusing to even talk about the possibility of eggs hatching. As weeks passed, we were surprised and pleased when the eggs remained "good." Reptile eggs regularly die part-way through their incubation period due to improper incubation conditions or other poorly understood reasons, and therefore we expected to "lose" part of the clutch. Luckily, all of the eggs remained healthy as the months passed, giving us a positive feeling about prospects for a good hatch.

Finally, after 212 days of incubation 3 baby Komodo dragons hatched. Hot dawg!!! The final hurdle cleared! We are anxiously waiting for the remaining eggs to hatch. Hopefully by the time you read this, that will have happened. It is difficult to put into words the ecstasy we all felt at the discovery of these hatchlings. This event is not only important to Miami Metrozoo, but also to the captive population of dragons. An entirely new bloodline will be added to the captive gene pool through these babies. All previous hatchings in the U.S. were as a result of matings between one female and two different males. Therefore, all of those offspring are related to one another. With this in mind, it becomes obvious that babies from our unrelated, wild-born parents are extremely important for the future breeding prospects of the species.

STAFF PROFILE

**TOM "THE TREE GUY" TRUMP**  
Supervisor of Maintenance/Horticulture



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**T**om Trump, born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, attained his B.S. in Forestry from Michigan State University. While in college, Tom worked for the U.S. Forest Service in northern and southern California, and on the north rim of the Grand Canyon during the summers. After graduation, Tom moved to South Florida for one year, where he raced sailboats around the state's waters and in the Bahamas. During Spring Break of that year, he met his wife of 25 years at the Elbow Room Bar in Fort Lauderdale. The following year, Tom moved back to California and attained a M.S. in Forest Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1976, Tom returned to Florida and began working with Dade County. He was in charge of the Landscape Agency, Park and Recreation department. "I have been involved with landscaping the Zoo grounds and the pre-storm aviary since 1976, but began working at the Zoo in November 1997. The maintenance crews have been working hard to upgrade grounds maintenance standards and, hopefully, people have noticed the improved look. I look forward to rebuilding the aviary and making it into the big draw that it was prior to Hurricane Andrew," says Tom.

Tom will be setting up and working cooperatively with groups such as the Palm Society, Tropical Flowering Tree Society, Fairchild Tropical Garden, and so forth to further plant and beautify the Zoo. Future plantings will emphasize colorful plant materials, unusual specimens and endangered plants. Tom envisions the Zoo becoming the best Zoological/Botanical garden in the world, for our climate allows us to be able to grow many tropical species outdoors.

When not working around the Zoo, Tom enjoys sailing, golf and triathlons. Next time you visit the Zoo, feel free to stop and ask Tom to tell you about the work that he and his crew are doing to make Metrozoo beautiful.

AT METROZOO

**NEW TREES PLANTED AT METROZOO**

**T**wenty three (*Bucida buceras*) Black Olive trees, donated by ZSF, were planted on the following paddocks: lion, orangutan, colobus, black rhino, grant's zebra, cape hunting dog, serval, gemsbok, African elephant, and in the quarantine pens.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**PESKY NEIGHBORS**

Have you ever had a close encounter with a snake in your backyard? How about a raccoon that keeps tearing up your garbage? Well, now it is time to "put ourselves into their shoes." You might be surprised and even start to like them. Adam Stern will teach you all about their slithery, creepy crawly ways.

**Adults**

**Date:** Saturday, December 5  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members \$8  
 Non-Members \$12



Opossum

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**WINTER BREAK CAMP**

**B**e a part of the excitement as we kick off another year of fun with our series of winter break day camps. Our counselors will guide you through six days packed with unique and enjoyable experiences especially designed to cure the winter blues.

**Ages 4-12**

**Dates:**  
 Session A: December 21-23  
 Session B: December 28-30  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members \$125  
 (for sessions A & B)  
 Non-Members \$150  
 (for sessions A & B)



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

**SCHOOLS OUT, ZOO'S IN**

School is out on these two "teacher workdays" in November. So why not spend your time off with us? Our mini Zoofari Camp is a full day of wildlife adventures that will take you to the wilds of Africa, Australia, Asia and our own backyard of Florida.

**Ages 4-12**

**Dates:**  
 Session A: Friday, November 6  
 Session B: Wednesday, November 11  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members \$45  
 Non-Members \$55

**SUGAR, SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE**

**Meet Santa at the Children's Zoo!**



We have just received a telegram from the North Pole saying that Santa will be making a special appearance at the Children's Zoo! The evening will include hot chocolate and tasty holiday cookies, cakes and candies. Come join us and have your picture taken with Santa as we

spread holiday cheer throughout Metrozoo. Child must be accompanied by an adult.

**Families**

**Date:** Saturday, December 19  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Adult Members \$12  
 Adult Non-Members \$17  
 Child Members (12 and under) \$8  
 Child Non-Members \$10

**EDUCATORS DAY**

**For Teachers of Children with Special Needs**

On November 7, ZSF's education department will conduct a Teacher Educational Certification Program (TEC) for teachers of children with special needs. Teachers will receive curriculum materials full of zoo and follow-up class activities, as well as helpful tips on how to maximize their classrooms visits to Miami Metrozoo. This program, which introduces teachers to programs and accommodations available at Metrozoo, has been sponsored through the generosity of Dade Community Foundation. For more information, call (305) 255-5551.

**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.

# The ELIPSE Program Is Born!

By Ricardo Stanoss D.V.M.

ZSF Education Specialist

**E**ight middle-school science teachers completed the first phase of the Environmental Latino Initiative Promoting Science Education (ELIPSE) program. This joint effort between five collaborating organizations: the Smithsonian Institution, the Zoological Society of Florida, the Miami Museum of Science, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and the South Florida Water Management District, consisted of a five-day workshop August 17-21. The intensive workshop helped develop an awesome multi-organizational core group of environmental educators. By focusing our efforts on teachers, we believe that a multiplier effect will occur, and large number of Hispanic students, parents, and community leaders will be reached. The end of the workshop series represents the birth of a very determined group, ready to move to the next two phases of the program—four field trips to different locations in South Florida to study environmental concerns, and the implementation of an extra-curricular, teacher-developed and community-based environmental project.

Ten collaborators from four different institutions served as workshop instructors: **Dr. Steve Monfort**, with the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center, **Adrián Cerezo**, with the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, **Mark Haddon** with the Smithsonian Institution's Environmental Research Center, **Chris Ros**, with the Smithsonian Institution's Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program, **Donna Lea Needham** with the South Florida Water Management District, **Brian Mealey**, **Greta Parks** and **Suzi Stewart** with the Miami Museum of Science, and **Damien Kong** and **Ricardo Stanoss** with the Zoological Society of Florida. Everyone involved in the project is proud of our eight teachers and "partners of venture." They are **Sherrye Troy** (Hammocks Middle School), **Rosemarie Bailey** (Hammocks Middle School), **Suzanne Banas** (Cutler Ridge Middle School), **Luz-Mariel Nazario** (ASPIRA of Florida, Accolade



ELIPSE participants and instructors during a pineland walk on Miami Metrozoo's grounds.



South Florida ecology session.



ELIPSE participant holds modeling clay manatee during ecology demonstration.

Alternative Middle School), **Stefano Pagani** (Ruben Dario Middle School), **Jerry Turner** (Miami Central Middle School), **Susie Skelly Collins** (Norland Middle School), and **Alina Carey** (Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center).

Photos: Ricardo Stanoss

## IN WITH THE NEW



From left to right: Merrett R. Stierheim, Miami-Dade County manager; William J. Gallwey, III, ZSF past president.



From left to right: Edward Soto, ZSF president; Eric Stephens, Miami Metrozoo interim director; Bill Cutie, Miami-Dade County director of park and recreation department.



From left to right: Diana Udel, ZSF vice president/ development committee; Jorge L. Arrizurieta, ZSF member at large; Jennifer Getz, ZSF board member.



From left to right: Edward Soto, ZSF president; Eric Stephens, Miami Metrozoo interim director; Bill Cutie, Miami-Dade County director of park and recreation department; Dr. Steven Monfort, Smithsonian Institution research veterinarian.

## Zoological Society of Florida Installs New Board Members

**Z**SF held its Board installation dinner and celebration on Saturday, September 19, at The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. The evening honored and thanked the volunteer members of the Board of Directors for their countless contributions to the Zoological Society of Florida throughout the year.

The officers of the 1998-99 Board of Directors are **Edward Soto** (Weil, Gotshal & Manges LP) as president; **William Gallwey, III** (Gallwey, Gillman, Curtis, Vento & Horn P.A.) as past president; **Jason Israel** (American Bankers Insurance Group) as secretary; **Lynn M. Cambest** (SunTrust Bank, N.A.) as treasurer; **Cynthia Curry** (Florida International University), **Diana Udel** (Broadcast Quality, Inc.), **Ralph de la Vega** (BellSouth), **Andrew H. Weinstein** (Holland & Knight, LLP), **David Konfino** (Union Planters Bank), and **Dan J. Licciardi** (Miami Jai Alai) as vice presidents; **Jorge L. Arrizurieta** (Huizenga Holdings, Inc.), **Sue M. Cobb** (Cobb Partners, Inc.), and **Courtney Cunningham** (Barreto, Cunningham, Inc.) as members at large.

New members to the Board this year are: **David L. Klein** (Liberty Financial Associates); **Alan J. Pekar** (Lennar Financial Services, Inc.); **Manuel J. Rodriguez** (FPL); and **Anthony F. Sierra** (BMI Companies).

# GIVE A GIFT OF THE WILD FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



## \*MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL\*

# Get 14 months for the price of 12!

### (OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1998)

During this holiday season, the Zoological Society of Florida is offering members a special offer on gift memberships when you share the magic of Metrozoo with family and friends. Our special offer ends December 31, so hurry and order your gift membership today. We will send the "Metrozoo Gift for You" card directly to you (or the gift recipient) with space to write a special message. Why give an ordinary gift when you can give that special someone the entire zoo?

Introduce someone NEW to Metrozoo! For information, contact membership services (305) 255-5551.

- Individual \$29     Dual \$40     Family \$45     Family Plus \$55     Sr. Individual \$29
- Sr. Dual \$35     Supporting \$75     Contributing \$125     Sustaining \$250     Gift
- Yes, please add a subscription to the Wildlife Conservation magazine at an additional \$15

**GIFT TO:**

**\*GIFT FROM:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT CARD MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

- Send gift card to recipient     Send gift card directly to me

**Method of Payment**

- Check (Payable to the Zoological Society of Florida)
- American Express     Mastercard     Visa

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder (not valid without signature): \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL OR FAX TO:**

Member Services Department/Zoological Society Of Florida  
 12400 SW 152 Street/ Miami, FL 33177-1499 / (Fax) 305-255-7126

**NOTE:** Please allow 2 weeks for processing. This special offer is also good for renewals through December '98 and cannot be combined with any other promotional offers. MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE.

# GIVE TO YOUR ZOO

**R**eceive a maximum charitable deduction on your 1998 income tax return when you give to ZSF. Your year-end support in 1998 will mean that we can provide the Zoo with more education programs, more volunteer services, exciting new capital improvements, and many other enhancements throughout 1999.

The best news is, your gift will not only give you the satisfaction of knowing you helped Metrozoo-it will also give you a more tangible return in the form of tax deductions for 1998!

There are many ways you can give to the Zoological Society of Florida.

- Give an unrestricted cash gift to support ZSF's constant work to improve Miami Metrozoo.

There are many other ways to help the Zoological Society of Florida (for additional information on charitable giving, contact your attorney or estate planning professional):

- Transfer appreciated assets. Stocks or other investments that have increased in value and have been held for longer than a year can become an impressive gift to the Zoological Society at a negligible cost to you. By donating shares directly to ZSF, you do not only avoid paying capital gains taxes-you can deduct the full-market value of the shares (on the day of transfer) from your 1998 taxes as a charitable contribution.

- Help ZSF plan for the future by putting us in your will. If you're drawing up a will or just updating one, consider providing for the Zoological Society. Donors will receive life Membership in the Zoological Society of Florida, invitations to special events, and more.

- Make a deferred gift. There are a number of planning devices you can use in addition to a will. You can make the Zoological Society of Florida the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, benefit the Zoological Society of Florida through a charitable remainder annuity trust, a charitable remainder unitrust, or a pooled income fund. (In all three of these, the income is paid annually to you with the remainder going to the Zoological Society of Florida).

If you have time to devote to ZSF, we welcome volunteers anytime. For more information on how to give a gift to ZSF or volunteer, call (305) 255-5551.



# THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HORNBILL

By Susan Kong

Lead Bird Keeper

**W**hat is as smart as a raven, the size of a turkey, steals like a packrat, and is the color of a crow? An Abyssinian ground hornbill.

The ground hornbill, which ranges over the northern part of Africa, is named for its habit of spending most of its time on the ground. The sexes are distinguished by the color of their throat sacs — bright red in the male and metallic blue in the female. The young males look like the females until they are about 3 years old, at which time their sac changes from blue to red.

The parents nest in cavities under-ground. Unlike other hornbills, the females are not walled into the burrow with mud. They normally lay 3 eggs about 5 days apart. They start incubating with the first egg. After about 38 days, the first egg will hatch and the parents will only raise one chick. The extra eggs are laid in case something happens to the first chick.

Here at Metrozoo, we let the parents raise one chick and we hand raise the remaining eggs. This is when the fun begins...

The hornbill chick hatches out pink, blind and helpless. We give the first feeding 24 hours after hatching. This gives the chicks time to absorb the yolk sac. They start out eating pinky mice, crickets and white mealworms and are fed 5 times a day. At hatching, the average weight of a hornbill is about 68 grams and after 6 days, they double in size.

By day 7, their skin color has changed from pink to black and starts to peel. They grow so fast their skin can not stretch fast enough, and thus peels off. At this age, hornbill chicks can be very vocal, especially around feeding time which occurs 4 times a day.

By day 12, their eyes are opening; they are now 3 times the size they were on the first day they hatched. Day 15 brings a chick that is 8 times the original weight (About 550 grams) and whose throat sac is starting to be more visible. Chicks are now given 3 feedings of adult mice per day.



On day 22 we can expect to see pin feathers pushing through the skin making the chick look like a pin cushion. By the 25th day, the chick's feathers start to open and fluff. It can eat about 9 mice per feeding. It is now 22 times the hatching size. By day 38, the feathers are much more developed and the chick will grab its own food out from the forceps, but is still not eating on its own.

On day 43, the hornbill starts to flap its wings and vocalizes to its food in order to encourage the food to jump into its mouth (it doesn't know the food is not live). Weight gain starts to slow down because the bird is almost full size, though it continues to grow feathers.

By day 50, food is left in its brooder to tempt the bird to eat on its own. Weight is 3300 grams. Day 55 is moving day; now it goes to the large walk-in enclosure where it has room to fledge. Wing flapping and bouncing occurs and it gets enrichment (i.e., toys) to encourage growth and development. The end weight varies with the sex of the chick, with males weighing approximately 4000 grams and females 3300 grams.



On day 80 the chick is full sized and fully feathered, and is ready to leave the nest. It will eat on its own, but still needs some enticement to eat. Once the chick is comfortable outdoors, we let the bird stay out continuously. Though the hornbill seems to be a fully fledged juvenile, it will not reach maturity until its 3rd year.



Photo: Ron Magill

Photos: Susan Kong





## Zoological Society of Florida Members and other Friends

As many of you know, October 1 signals the end of my presidency of ZSF. It has been a very interesting two years. The Society has done much over this period to bring to the attention of the appropriate individuals that Metrozoo has been neglected for too long and that change is needed if it is to grow to its potential. As I write this, the proposed agreement is complete and is being presented to the Board of County Commissioners for ratification.

Though the past two years have been fraught with problems and presented seemingly unscalable hurdles, I knew that our members were always behind me. Your calls and letters were a source of encouragement. As Ed Soto moves into the job as President, I know you will show him the same support.

I believe that great days lie ahead for the Society and Metrozoo. I look forward to continuing to serve you in my new position as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

**William J. Gallwey, III**  
Past President



## What A Foundation!

As I begin my term of service as the President of the Zoological Society of Florida, I cannot help but reflect back on the great foundation laid by those who labored here before me. The unselfish and often times thankless efforts of my predecessors to improve both ZSF and Metrozoo sometimes seemed to go unnoticed. At this time of transition, it is important to note the following:

1. **Bill Gallwey** made the creation of a better working relationship between ZSF and Metrozoo a priority, and then labored for two years to make it happen!! He did this at the same time he and his partners started a new law firm...and his level of commitment to ZSF only increased. We must continue to build on that foundation!
  2. Past Presidents like Sue Cobb, Sherrill Hudson, Frank Hawkins, Sandy Miot, Lester Goldstein, and Ron Esserman have continued to serve and support ZSF years after the "glory" of any "title" they had held passed away. I am inspired by their continued commitment to the improvement of Metrozoo and to spread the message of animal and environmental conservation in our community. What a great foundation to build on!
  3. The commitment of the staffs of both ZSF and Metrozoo during this period of budgetary and administrative transition has set a high standard for all of us to strive for – this too is part of the foundation on which we must continue to build. There have been many staff changes since I first came on the ZSF board, but that has not diminished the individual efforts of those remaining who continue to serve our community. Eric Stephens, Ron Magill, Steve Conners, ZSF staff and volunteers are examples of the tireless effort I have witnessed over time.
  4. The constant support of our benefactors helps strengthen our foundation and ensure its future. With such consistent commitment and generosity, ZSF has been able to build and develop structures and programs that educate our community about wildlife and conservation issues.
- I look forward to working with all of you during the coming months. Let us keep the current momentum going now and in the new millennium as ZSF and Metrozoo move toward a partnership of promise and success.

**Ed Soto**  
President

## Zoological Society of Florida Receives \$56,500 in Grants

ZSF has received \$56,500 in gifts from the following local foundations: **The Folke H. Peterson Charitable Foundation, the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation, Peacock Foundation, Boyer & Meyrovitz Charitable Foundation, Texaco Corporation, and Burger King Corporation.**

The **Folke H. Peterson Charitable Foundation** has awarded ZSF \$10,000 to support its children's programs. The funds will be used for purchase, development, updating and replication of instructional materials for school programs, Zoo-inn presentations, Ecology Theater, outreach programs and informal presentations, as well as biofacts and supplies used in all of these programs.



From left to right: Glenn Ekey, ZSF executive director; Rafael Colon, Texaco International Marketing; Maria Roberts, ZSF associate director of development.

Board member **David Klein** was honored with a \$1,000 "Quality of Life" grant to ZSF from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation in recognition of his volunteer service and support. Mr. Klein accepted the award on behalf of ZSF.

**Peacock Foundation Inc.** has awarded ZSF a grant of \$20,000 for quality Children's Zoo programs, including Ecology Theater presentations and teaching interactions with visitors. This grant enables ZSF to build upon children's sense of wonder and fascination with animals to teach important concepts about conservation of the natural world.

**The Boyer & Meyrovitz Charitable Foundation** has granted \$10,000 for general support of ZSF's conservation education goals and mission. This award will enhance ZSF's ability to develop its programs and improve its service to the people of our South Florida community.

In July, **Texaco Corporate Contributions** in White Plains, NY donated \$5,000 to support the ZSF education programs. They also gave us an in-kind gift in the form of printing the endangered African Elephant cards that are used with children by ZSF volunteers, Children's Zoo staff and education staff. The in-kind gift is valued at \$2,000. Also, in August we received a \$3,500 gift from Texaco Overseas Holding, Inc. in Coral Gables, which is to fund work associated with the Ecology Theater.

The **Burger King Corporation** made a grant for \$5,000 to sponsor ZSF's monthly Volunteer Professional Development Program.

A big thank you to each of these kind benefactors!

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Phone To Benefit ZSF

With the Holidays around the corner...give a loved one the Call of the Wild through a Special Edition Zoological Society of Florida cellular phone. The accompanying value plan includes 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 call (800) 930-1106. Quantities are limited, so sign-up today!



## CHILDREN'S ZOO CHANGES

Construction is underway in the PAWS Children's Zoo Area! Progress is being made and the new contact yard is taking shape. We are looking forward to re-opening this fall.



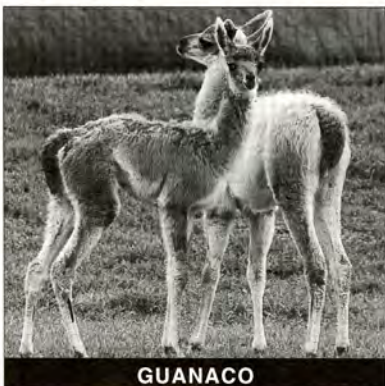
PAWS - a work in progress!

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

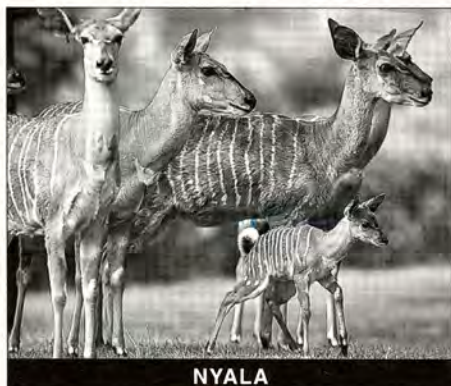
## RECENT BIRTHS AT METROZOO

This female nyala was born on August 18. This is the first Nyala birth we have had in a number of years. Mother and baby are doing great.

We have had two guanaco births recently. The youngest one, pictured here, was born on September 5. Newborn Guanaco, like other ungulates, are able to stand and even run within an hour of birth.



GUANACO



NYALA

Photos: Ron Magill

## Attracting Hispanic Audiences NSF Grant Update

By Ricardo Stanoss, DVM

Education Specialist

The Zoological Society of Florida received a planning grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for developing marketing strategies and programs to attract Hispanic audiences to Metrozoo. One opportunity that will draw Miami's rapidly growing Hispanic population is the Zoo's new education court. Scheduled to open in 1999, the center will receive traveling exhibits and offer educational programs.

As part of the final phase of the National Science Foundation project, dissemination of the findings and recommendations and summary papers have been presented at several different conferences around the United States, and a final report was prepared for NSF.



RENDERING OF NEW EDUCATION COURT

The "Attracting New Neighbors" paper, prepared in connection with ZSF's National Science Foundation project, was presented by Ricardo Stanoss at the VSA (Visitor Study Association) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. August 4-8, 1998. Those involved with the completion of the paper about audience diversity at Miami Metrozoo are Robert MacWest and Robert



Ricardo Stanoss presents his paper at the VSA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Russell, Informal Science, Inc., John Scott Foster, Consultant; Nancy Hotchkiss and Ricardo Stanoss, ZSF; and Barbara Butler, National Science Foundation. The audience response was excellent and a productive question-and-answer period took place at the end of the session.

Information about the "Attracting New Neighbors" concept, methodology and recommendations was also discussed informally with Dr. Steve Monfort, Research Veterinarian, Dr. Chris Wemmer, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center, Mr. David Jenkins, Associate Director of the National Zoo, Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Special Assistant to the Director of the National Zoo, and Mr. Clinton Fields, Executive Director of Friends of the National Zoo.

Photo: Mayra González-Rey

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## NOTES

- ZSF education specialist, **Elisabeth Koncza**, was appointed the Tasmanian Devil Studbook keeper at the Marsupial and Monotreme Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) September meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Elisabeth has been with ZSF for the last two years and holds a M.S. in Biology from Florida International University.
- BellSouth encourages the community to bring old phone books to Metrozoo for recycling on Saturday, November 21.
- The Zoological Society of Florida has won one national and two state printing awards for the January/February and March/April 1998 issues of Toucan Talk. Also, the 1998 Feast With The Beasts posters and programs won state printing awards.

## "I COULD HAVE BEEN A STAR"

J.J. the Lowland gorilla views the movie "Planet of the Apes" as part of a promotion with the American Movie Classics celebration of the film's 30th anniversary. American Movie Classics made several generous donations to Metrozoo in support of our gorilla family.



Photo: Ron Magjill

## Tiger Euthanized After Long Battle With Cancer

"Kanpur," a 15 year old female white Bengal tiger born at the Cincinnati Zoo, was euthanized on Friday, August 28, after a 6 year battle with cancer. She was anesthetized for an exam following several days of very depressed behavior and the procedure revealed excessive fluid build-up in her chest and heart failure was suspected.

Kanpur did not show any signs of regaining strength or comfort following her exam and her breathing became extremely labored. This, combined with the fact that she had refused food for several days, led to the difficult, but humane decision of euthanasia.

Though we are all saddened by Kanpur's death, we are grateful that the special care and medically advanced treatments that she received after her initial diagnosis were able to extend her life years beyond what she would have normally been able to survive.



Photo: Ron Magjill

## Savannah Makes Her Debut

The community had an opportunity to meet Metrozoo's very own animal ambassador, Savannah, the South African cheetah. On September 20, the public was invited to the zoo for the animal's official unveiling at "Fastest Feline Day." Families had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Savannah, enter the cheetah costume contest, watch clowns, magic and cheetah shows, participate in water games, and dance to DJ music. If you have not met Savannah yet, visit Metrozoo's Amphitheater for the Wildlife Show presented every day at noon, 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

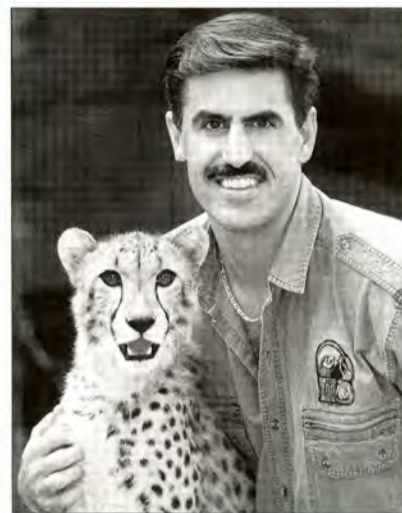


Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## ZSF and Zoo Staff Make Visit to Local Radio Stations

On Thursday, August 6, ZSF and Zoo staff visited two local radio stations with Metrozoo's cheetah, Savannah. Family memberships were given away on air to promote ZSF and the Zoo.

Top: Love 94 morning show hosts Joanne Rice and John Hutchinson

Right: 94.9 ZETA morning show hosts Paul Castronovo and Ron Brew



## SHOW THEM HOW MUCH YOU CARE!

**F**east With The Beasts '99 is only a few months away (March 5, 1999) and, once more, it will be the "wild" event of the season. What better way to show your appreciation to business partners and employees, or to express your love to family and friends, than with tickets to the fun-filled **Feast?** Call 305-255-5551 for more information or to purchase your tickets. We will send a gift certificate and tickets to the fortunate people you choose. Remember: Feaster tickets are \$150 per person and Beastkeeper tickets are \$500 per person. Proceeds from the fun-filled evening will benefit ZSF's programs and activities.



Photo: Ron Magjill

## PLAY BALL!

**Z**SF's 2nd Annual Member Night at the Florida Marlins in July was a day to celebrate, for the Florida Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves and BellSouth gave Zoological Society of Florida a donation of \$3,500. Thank you BellSouth and the Florida Marlins!

From left to right: Glenn Ekey, ZSF executive director; Eloisa King, ZSF director of membership; and William J. Gallwey, III, partner, Gallwey, Gillman, Curtis, Vento & Horn, P.A. and ZSF past president.



### Adopt-An-Animal

You "otter" adopt me! The perfect gift for the person who has everything - one that lasts 365 days. Your holiday adopt kit includes a photo, fact sheet and adoption certificate, all in a colorful gift stocking. Surprise someone with the gift of zoo parenthood for just \$35.

For information call (305)255-5551.



Photo: Dr. Anthony Genelle

## HEY LOOK, I'M TWO!



Photos: Ron Magill

Moka, the baby gorilla is getting bigger and more independent every day. She turned two in October and really enjoys playing with her dad, J.J. She is also learning to enjoy hamming it up in front of the camera.

# TOUCAN TALK



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