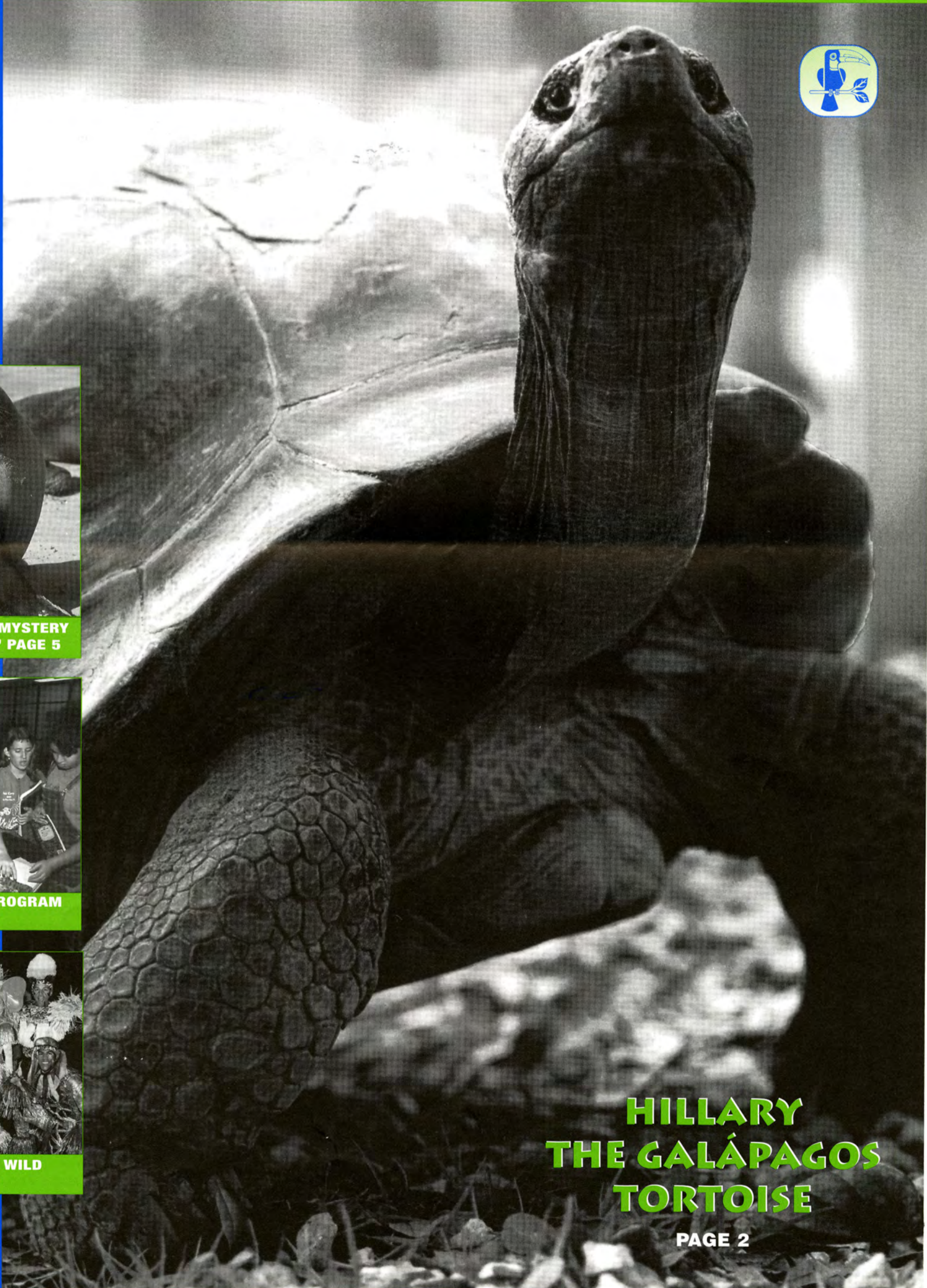


TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



DISCOVER "THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES" PAGE 5



ZOO MAGNET PROGRAM PAGE 9



BALL OF THE WILD PAGE 6

HILLARY THE GALÁPAGOS TORTOISE

PAGE 2



Cover: Galápagos Tortoise
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Toucan Talk
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Hillary, The Galápagos Tortoise

The Galápagos Tortoise

Story by Steve Conners

General Curator



Emerging from the Pacific Ocean 650 miles from the coast of South America is a group of volcanic islands harboring wild animals that have had a profound impact on human history. The Galápagos Islands, a remote Ecuadorian outpost on the equator, is home to penguins, iguanas that feed on seaweed underwater, flightless cormorants, and tortoises that can weigh over 500 lbs. These creatures and many others evolved there in the absence of mammalian predators. This made it possible for the course of evolution to follow unusual pathways, and also for individual animals to lose their fear of predators including humans.

In 1835, a ship named the *Beagle* stopped in the Galápagos Islands carrying a man named Charles Darwin. The unique wildlife Darwin observed on the islands was a major inspiration for his theory of evolution, published some years later in the *Origin of Species*. His theory, something that those of us in the zoo profession take for granted, was revolutionary for its time and is still a source of much debate. Later scientific discoveries and inquiry would have pro-

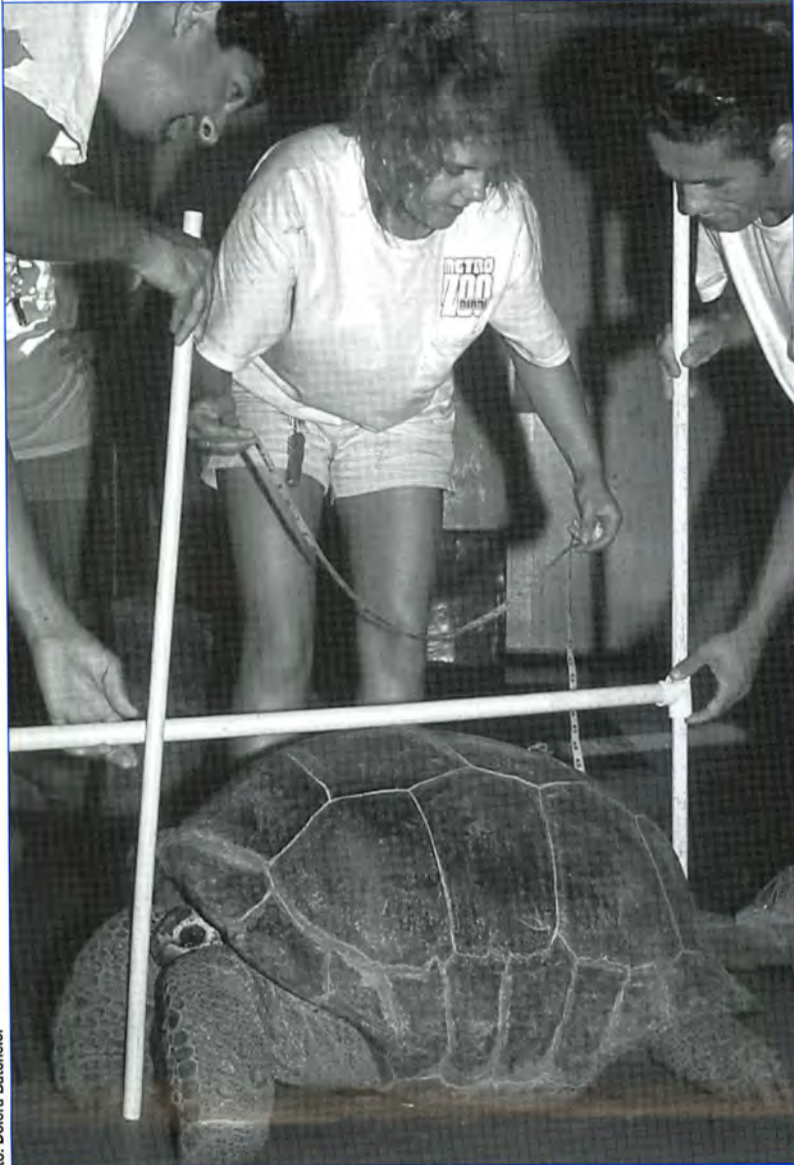
gressed at a snail's pace were it not for the acceptance of this "radical" theory. From this point of view, Galápagos wildlife indeed changed the course of human history.

Before humans arrived on the scene there were over a dozen different islands harboring populations of tortoises in the Galápagos. Each of these populations of tortoises was a separate subspecies of *Geochelone elephantopus*, isolated and evolving independently. Some developed tall, arched shells that allowed them to reach very high with their necks in order to eat pads from the treelike prickly pears growing on certain islands. These so called saddle-backed tortoises are not handicapped by such a shell, because there are no predators around that could take advantage of their heads and necks being so exposed from their shells. At the same time other islands nearby were home to subspecies with the more familiar domed shell like the ones you can see at the Zoo. This is a clear indication of how the tortoises evolved to adapt to the living conditions on a particular island. In fact, some experts feel that each of these forms should be considered distinct species.



Keeper Martha Thaden with one of Hillary's eggs

Continued on page 3



Zookeepers measure a Galapagos Tortoise

Photo: Dolores Batchelor

Continued from page 2

When people began visiting these islands it meant trouble for the tortoises. By the mid 1800's sailors were stopping at the Galapagos regularly on their way to other destinations. A stop on the islands allowed a ship's crew to pick up tortoises to carry aboard for later consumption. These reptiles could survive in the ship's hold for many months without food or water, and were therefore a ready and welcome source of fresh meat for the mariners.

Tortoises that weren't captured to be eaten, had to deal with strange new animals introduced to the islands by the sailors. Rats, goats, donkeys, dogs and cats flourished to the detriment of the endemic wildlife. The tortoises suffered on two fronts. The rats, dogs and cats preyed upon eggs and hatchlings, while the goats and donkeys were in direct competition for the plants available for the tortoises to eat.

Four subspecies of

Galapagos tortoises native to some islands became extinct even before they were scientifically described. Five others are now in danger of extinction. The case of the Abingdon Island tortoises illustrates how this happens. Whaling ships heading south would often stop at Abingdon in the Galapagos Archipelago to pick up tortoises. Although reduced in numbers, the tortoises managed to survive years of exploitation by the whalers. Then in 1959, three goats were introduced to the island, multiplied, and of course decimated the vegetation. In 1971, in an effort to begin a captive breeding program, Abingdon was searched for surviving tortoises. Only one male was found and no others have turned up since. This tortoise, named "Lonesome George", now resides at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island where captive breeding some of the other sub-species of tortoises has been ongoing for years. Unfortunately, unless a mate turns up for Lonesome George, he is destined to be the last Abingdon Island tortoise anyone will ever see.

The Ecuadorian government now protects the islands and their wildlife as a National Park. The problems posed by introduced species aren't overcome simply by declaring a place protected. Efforts are currently underway to remove feral goats and donkeys from the islands. The prospects of eliminating smaller animals, especially rats, appear impossible on islands of this size. Captive breeding and rearing are helping to maintain populations of tortoises that are unable to reproduce naturally, and this is of great value in ensuring their survival.

Giant tortoises have always been popular zoo exhibits. In years past, adult Galapagos tortoises were imported primarily for exhibit purposes with little thought given to future breeding. Exact locality records were not kept to indicate from which island a particular tortoise originated. In the 1970's the tortoises finally began breeding in zoos, but in many cases hybrids of different subspecies were produced due to the lack of locality data. Today we've become more concerned about the genetics of these animals. Through DNA analysis we've learned the origin of most of the captive tortoises in the country. By comparing samples from animals whose origin is known, to those for which there is no data, we can pinpoint their island of origin. Prior to having Metrozoo's tortoises analyzed we kept a mixture of animals from three different locations. Thanks to DNA analysis, and loans from other zoos, we now exhibit two pairs of Galapagos tortoises that originated on Santa Cruz Island - animals that would naturally have bred with each other. But wait, you saw more than four tortoises the last time you were at that Zoo exhibit. That's because we have two pair of Aldabran tortoises on the same display.

We hope that one day both of these species will reproduce at the Zoo. We've seen some encouraging signs, and we're now incubating six Galapagos tortoise eggs. The incubation period is three and a half months, so, keep your fingers crossed! Maybe we'll have good news for you in our July-August Toucan Talk.

NEW ANIMAL BABIES

Stork Makes Rare Special Delivery - To Itself!

A very momentous event has occurred at Metrozoo and in the United States: an African Marabou Stork has hatched in captivity. The extremely rare event is believed to have occurred sometime on February 2nd. The parents incubated the egg for approximately 30 days in a nest built on public exhibit.



Photo: Ron Magill

Marabou Storks are very large birds, reaching a height of nearly five feet with a wingspan that can approach ten feet. They are found throughout much of the African continent where individual pairs or colonies nest in trees or rocks. They feed primarily on carrion while also taking occasional

fish, reptiles, and small mammals. Although Marabou Storks are not uncommon in the wild, successful reproduction in captivity is extremely rare. This hatching represents a significant achievement for the Zoo and its captive breeding programs. Be sure to see this special baby!



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

Male Nile Lechwe
Born January 3, 2000

Male Nile Lechwe
Born March 8, 2000
(not photographed)



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

Female Gerenuk
Born January 11, 2000

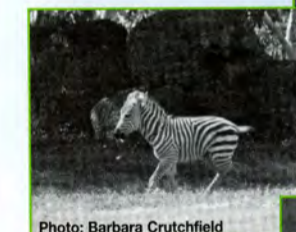


Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

Male Grants Zebra
Born January 12, 2000

Male Grants Gazelle
Born February 7, 2000



Photo: Dolores Batchelor



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

Male Bongo
Born February 24, 2000

5 Cape Teal Ducklings
Hatched March 5, 2000
(snuggled against pygmy hippo)



Photo: Dolores Batchelor

BEHIND-THE-SCENES WITH ZOOKEEPER ADAM G. STERN

A Florida native, Adam Stern spent most of his childhood "mucking" around canals and waterways looking for all kinds of creatures, which he took home and promptly dropped into an awaiting tank. His fascination with anything sporting scales led to a job on a fish farm. Fish were not all he raised on that fish farm. He cared for alligators, cows, monkeys and parrots. At home, his menagerie includes reptiles, fish, insects and, of course, his cat.

Anyone interested in reptiles up close and personal can find Adam in the Ecology Theater at the Children's Zoo sharing all he knows about his fascinating charges. Adam talks about lizards and snakes that are both native to Florida and exotic.

He spends a good part of his day caring for snakes, lizards, ferrets, guinea pigs, birds and other animals in the Zoological Society's education animal collection. He also cares for the sheep, potbelly pigs, donkeys and chickens that delight children and adults in the Children's Zoo.

The Butterfly Garden is another area

where you will find Adam explaining and interpreting the metamorphosis of the beautiful winged insects from egg to caterpillar to



Adam at Ball of the Wild

pupa to butterfly, and providing tips on how you can raise butterflies in your own back

yard. Metrozoo's Butterfly Garden is located adjacent to the food concession in the Children's Zoo. On any given day you can see seven to eight species of butterflies, including gulf fritillaries, swallowtails, zebras and monarchs.

Adam recently returned from a trip to Kingston, Jamaica where he has been helping the Hope Zoo to set up their children's zoo, volunteer program and educational programs for school children who visit the Hope Zoo. He gave an animal presentation to a local school and established a foster program for future petting zoo animals. He hopes to implement a fund raising effort for the Hope Zoo here in Miami.

"I'm pleased to be part of the effort to continue working on the Hope Zoo and Jamaican Iguana projects that were initiated by (Metrozoo's late) Damien Kong," said Adam. "I hope to be able to get tools donated for the Hope Zoo because they are badly needed and not very easy to find in Kingston." If you have tools you don't need, Adam would like to send them to Jamaica. You can reach Adam at (305) 255-5551.

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

"PORKÉMON"-MANIA HITS METROZOO

Not just kids are going "hog" wild over Pokémon; apparently so have our keepers. During Metrozoo's Pokémon League Series last fall, an African Warthog baby was born at the Zoo. The coincidence was appropriate, as the event inspired a clever name for the newborn warthog, "Porkémon." Visitors can watch playful little "Porkémon" run circles around his mother, Charlotte (pictured above), on the warthog exhibit. Now, YOU can take part in raising young "Porkémon" for just \$50 through Metrozoo's Adopt-An-Animal program. Become a parent this Mother's Day, and enjoy watching him grow...while he's still cute!



Charlotte and "Porkémon"

When you adopt "Porkémon," you will receive the following:

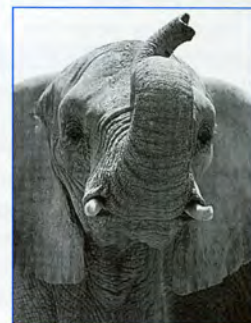
- An adoption certificate suitable for framing
- Exciting facts about your animal
- An Adopt-An-Animal auto decal
- A color photo of Charlotte and "Porkémon"

Anyone can adopt an animal - individuals, families, school groups, businesses, social or service clubs, even sports teams. Adopt-An-Animal sponsorships also make wonderful gifts for any special occasion like birthdays,

wedding gifts, anniversaries, promotions, graduations, births and memorials. The best part of adopting an animal is that you can match "adoptees" and personalities. Adopt a team mascot, give a stork to an expectant mother, or monkey to a climber.

Call (305) 255-5551 to adopt "Porkémon" today! When you become an annual sponsor, your tax-deductible donation is used for programs that support Metrozoo.

ASK PEGGY!



Dear Peggy:

• How do you and the other elephants eat? And,

• Do elephants like bananas?

Love, Andy Zaff

Visiting from Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Andy:

Many people want to know how we eat.

• I eat by using my trunk to grab food, just like you do with your hands. I pull grass and plants out of the ground with my trunk and place them in my mouth. I have four very large teeth called molars for chewing my food. Did you know that elephants lose their teeth like children? We lose and get all new teeth SIX times in our lifetime! Each new set of teeth is slightly larger than the set we just lost. I'm an African elephant, and my trunk has two "fingers" at the end, making it easier for me to pick up small objects, like peanuts. My Asian cousin only has one "finger" at the end of her trunk.

• Elephants love bananas ... peels and all. I even love the whole banana tree! Elephants, just as humans, have a wide variety of food likes and dislikes. Not all elephants care for the same things.

Thanks for your questions and for visiting me, all the way from Massachusetts.

Love, Peggy

Twenty-two-year-old Peggy, one of our African elephants, is answering any animal questions our young readers may have. Peggy will select the two best questions to be printed in the next *Toucan Talk*, and the children will receive a photo of Peggy herself, along with an autographed copy of her answer.

Questions may be sent by mail to: Ask Peggy • c/o Zoological Society of Florida • 12400 SW 152 ST. • Miami, Florida 33177-1499.

In the Footsteps of Charles Darwin

Discover "The Mystery of Mysteries" The Galápagos Islands

Trip To Be Led by ZSF Executive Director, Glenn Ekey
October 26 – November 6, 2000



Galápagos Sea Lion

Charles Darwin confirmed his theory of evolution based on the inhabitants of the unspoiled archipelago known as the Galápagos Islands. The islands themselves are the result of an evolutionary process, emerging from the ocean floor during 9 million years of volcanic activity. As you explore the islands, you will discover the most unique trait of the Galápagos: the animals and birds

are not intimidated or inhibited by your presence. Since the wildlife has never had any reason to fear people, you can stroll the shores accompanied by native animals!

You'll explore Genovesa Island, formed by the remaining edges of a large crater that is now mostly submerged and is the most dramatic bird island. Masked and Red-Footed Boobies await you on Prince Philip's Steps. Pass through the dry "Palo Santa" forest to witness Storm Petrels flying over the extensive lava fields. All along Darwin Bay, male Frigate birds indicate their readiness for mating with a brilliant red-throated display, and once-endangered Galápagos Doves grace the sky.

Marine Iguanas crowd the beach of Fernandina, and fiery-red Sally Lightfoot Crabs scramble about as Pelicans and the Galápagos Hawk soar the air currents off Punta Espinoza. Isabela, the largest island, with five volcanic mountains is home to the Flightless Cormorant – an awkward-looking bird that teeters along the beach with its shriveled wings. Galápagos Penguins and Sea Lions also amuse you as they pop in and out of the waters.

On Isabela's Urbina Bay, you can walk on what was once the sea floor, and see the dried corals and remains of a variety of mollusks

and other sea organisms that were stranded by the sudden uplift. In the midst of this bizarre setting where the sea became land, massive Marine Iguanas wander along with the Flightless Cormorants and perhaps the Giant Tortoises.

Your adventure continues to James Island and Puerto Egas, one of the only places in the Galápagos where Fur Seals can be seen. In Puerto Ayora on the main island of Santa

Cruz, you will have an opportunity to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station at Academy Bay.

Other sites included along this fascinating journey are: Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador; several mainland Ecuadorian towns: Calderon, Cotacachi, Otavalo; also in the Galápagos: Black Turtle Cove, Baltra, Elizabeth Bay, Tagus Cove, Bartolome Islands, Hood (Espanola) Island, Punta Suarez, Gardner Bay, and South Plaza Island.

Optional Trip to Peru: This bonus trip will take you to Lima, Cuzco, Pisac, Ollantaytambo, Uycay and Machu Picchu. November 7-13, 2000.

Please note: Itinerary sequence is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Cost: Galápagos Trip: \$4,595 Per Person, Double Occupancy
Peru Option: \$2,195 Per Person, Additional

For more information or to make a reservation, call: the Zoological Society of Florida: Glenn Ekey at (305)255-5551 or Park East Tours: Lori Tugaugh at (800)223-6078, Ext. 343.



Photo: Ron Magill

AFRICA THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR YOUTH

By Ron Magill

I have had the privilege of visiting the continent of Africa on several occasions, and its wonders never cease to amaze me. I wish that everyone, especially children, could experience the overwhelming sensations that are felt when visiting this magnificent region of the world.

Now, thanks to the partnership of WTVJ-NBC/6, *The Miami Herald*, Conservation Corporation Africa, South African Airways, and a generous gift from an anonymous donor, a South Florida middle school child will have the special opportunity to take this trip of a lifetime. As part of an "Earth Day 2000" project, middle school students (grades 6-8) will be invited to participate in an essay contest entitled, "Why I Dream of Going to Africa." *The Miami Herald* and NBC/6 will officially launch the contest on Earth Day, April 22nd.

Schools from Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties will pick one winner from each school and forward the winning essays to a panel of judges from *The Miami Herald*, NBC/6 and Miami Metrozoo. Twenty-five semi-finalists will win a special behind-the-scenes tour of Metrozoo that I will host. The tour will include unique opportunities to feed and touch animals normally off limits to the general public. Five finalists will give their essays orally before the panel of judges and be interviewed individually. All finalists will receive a special gift from Sony Corporation.

The grand-prize winner will receive an all-expenses paid safari to Africa with me and a parent or guardian of his/her choice! In addition, NBC/6 will send news anchor Michael Williams and award-winning photographer Jeff Guerra to accompany us throughout the entire trip. NBC/6 will produce a 30-minute documentary with the working title, "Africa Through the Eyes of Our Youth." This documentary will be heavily promoted on NBC/6 and broadcast to all of South Florida.

The finalists and winner will be announced in June, and the trip is scheduled for August. *The Miami Herald*, through their Newspapers in Education program, will feature the children's essays in *The Miami Herald* along with special columns on African wildlife and cultures. Watch NBC/6 and read *The Miami Herald* for further details of how you or someone you know may be able to live the dream of an African Safari!



AN EXOTIC EXPERIENCE IN PARADISE



1. Eric Stephens, Director, Metrozoo; Clyde McFarland, Corporate Counsel for Latin America & Caribbean, Lucent Technologies; Glenn Ekey, Executive Director, Zoological Society of Florida; Commissioner Dennis Moss
2. Cocktails & hors d'oeuvre served in the Atrium
3. Exotic Animal Dancers
4. Anne-Marie Partridge & William Peacock, Organizers of the Silent Auction
5. Daiku Drummers
6. Emcee Ron Magill, Director of Communications for Metrozoo
7. Diana Udel, Broadcast Quality, Inc. Presenting award to honoree George E. Batchelor
8. Keeper Jennifer Nelson with George E. Batchelor and King George
9. Juggling Cyclist, Splendid China
10. Jennifer Getz, *Ball of the Wild* Chairperson Presenting award to honoree R. Kirk Landon
11. Dragon Dancer
12. Henna Hand Painting

HONORED AT BALL OF THE WILD



George E. Batchelor

Miami Metrozoo has benefited greatly over the past decade from the generosity of George Batchelor and the Batchelor Foundation. Our gorgeous King Cheetah, King George, was one of George Batchelor's gifts to the Zoo.

Equally impressive is the Falcon Batchelor Komodo Dragon Encounter, named in memory of his son. The Komodos felt so very much at home here that in the fall of 1998, the Zoo experienced the unprecedented birth of 27 baby Komodo Dragons. Batchelor's most recent gift is the 100-inch "BatchelorVision" video wall that will enthrall visitors in the new education center, *Dr. Wilde's World*, currently under construction in between the Flamingo and Gibbon/Siamang exhibits.

George Batchelor serves on the Board of Directors of the Zoological Society of Florida.



R. Kirk Landon

Exotic Asian birds will fly again at Miami Metrozoo! Retired American Bankers Insurance Group (ABIG) board chairman R. Kirk Landon's \$2.5 million gift is helping

Miami Metrozoo to rebuild the Aviary that was lost to Hurricane Andrew. "ABIG and Metrozoo shared the experience of Hurricane Andrew's devastation in 1992," Landon said. "I know the challenges of recovering from such a blow, and I want to see the Aviary rebuilt for the enjoyment of our community." South Floridians eagerly await the new "American Bankers Family Aviary."

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Lucent Technologies
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We are grateful to Lucent Technologies for being the presenting sponsor for Ball of the Wild. During the more than 100 years that it was a part of AT&T, Lucent Technologies invented the transistor, satellite, cellular radio, and countless other innovations that have forever changed the way people live, work and play. Today, Lucent Technologies is one of the fastest growing telecommunications companies in the world. Their goal is to be the global leader in providing wireless networks and services.



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* We deeply mourn the passing of our good friend, Landon Knight, the day of Ball of the Wild. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family.

Thanks to Anne-Marie Partridge and William Peacock for their commitment and work on the Silent Auction.

Our very special Thanks to Jennifer Getz, Ball of the Wild Chairperson and a wonderful Zoo friend. Jennifer's creativity, energy and perseverance are unparalleled!

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SUMMER CAMP 2000



ANIMAL MINDS AT WORK - SESSION A

How do different animals deal with daily challenges? How do they learn? Can humans learn from "other" animals? Can they learn from us? In the first session of Summer Camp we are going to explore the answers to these and other questions while interacting with the most amazing animals in the world.

SENSATIONAL ANIMALS - SESSION B

Animals have different skills and strengths that allow them to have a unique place in nature. In the second session of Summer Camp we are going to investigate how animals use their senses to their best advantage. We are going to learn interesting animal facts, such as, how keen the eagle's sight is, how fast cheetahs can run, or how powerful elephants and tigers can be, and much more to challenge the most inquisitive of minds!

Ages 4-6

KINDERCAMP- SESSION A

Dates: June 26 - 30
July 10 - 14
July 24 - 28

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

KINDERCAMP- SESSION B

Dates: July 3 - 7
July 17 - 21
July 31 - August 4

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost:
Member: \$125 per week
Non-member: \$145 per week

Ages 7-10

ZOOFARI CAMP SESSION A

Dates: June 19 - 23
July 3 - 7
July 17 - 21
July 31 - August 4
August 14 - 18

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

ZOOFARI CAMP SESSION B

Dates: June 26 - 30
July 10 - 14
July 24 - 28
August 7 - 11

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost:
Member: \$125 per week
Non-member: \$145 per week

Ages 11 - 13

ZOOLIFE CAMP SESSION A

Dates: August 7 - 11

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

ZOOLIFE CAMP SESSION B

Dates: August 14 - 18

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost:
Member: \$125 per week
Non-member: \$145 per week

Ages 14 - 17

TEEN ZOOLOGIST

Hey teens!

If you are 14 to 17 years old and the animal kingdom seems irresistible to you, it may be time to become a Teen Zoologist! The first two weeks of summer camp are dedicated to the training of teen volunteers who assist with different areas of the Zoo, such as the Children's Zoo, the Zoo Camps, and public events at Metrozoo. Upon completing this training program, teens are eligible to join the Zoo Volunteer Team. Teens must apply and will be interviewed and evaluated. Each volunteer is required to assist with one week of Summer Zoofari Camp. Join us for a thrilling experience!

Dates: June 19 - 23

Times: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost:
Member: \$125
Non-members: \$145

Early morning drop-off 8:30 a.m.
additional \$10.00 per week per child
After camp care 3:30-5:30 p.m.
additional \$25.00 per week per child

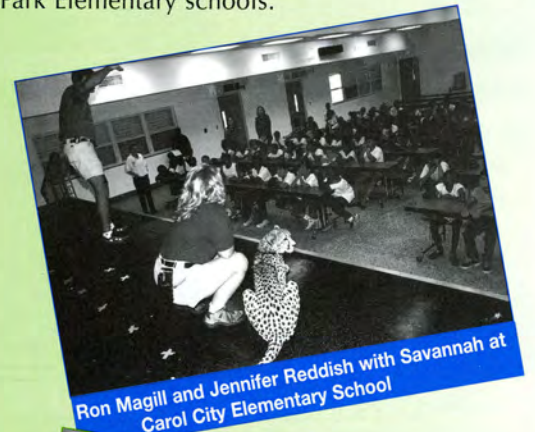
- \$10.00 discount with 2 or more weeks registration, or
- \$10.00 discount with 2 or more siblings.

Please, only one discount per family
Please provide your child with lunch.

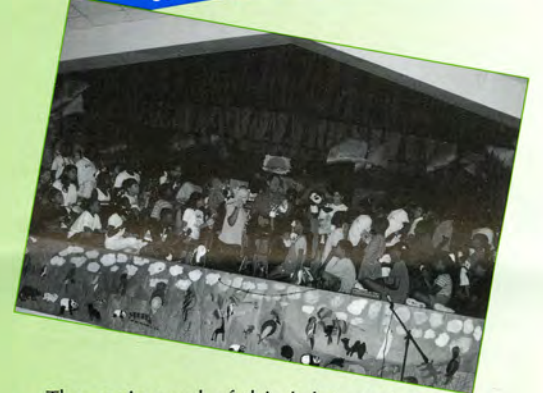
All Summer Zoofari Camp programs are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee.

Carnival Kids Program

The Carnival Kids Program is a comprehensive conservation education program, sponsored by Carnival Cruise Lines and the Carnival Foundation, and implemented by the Zoological Society of Florida/Miami Metrozoo. This program is being offered for a third consecutive year to 370 fourth-graders from Carol City Elementary, Liberty City Elementary, and Miami Park Elementary schools.



Ron Magill and Jennifer Reddish with Savannah at Carol City Elementary School



The main goal of this joint venture program is to heighten environmental awareness among children who may have few chances for trips to environmentally significant areas beyond their neighborhoods. Special presentations at the schools give the participants an introduction to the animal kingdom, animal adaptations to different environments, food webs, endangered species, and wildlife conservation. By the end of the program, the "Carnival Kids" can apply this knowledge toward the local natural environment, the Florida Everglades.

Two field trips to Miami Metrozoo, one field trip to the Everglades, transportation, lunches, colorful custom-made T-shirts with the school's logo and "Carnival Kids" printed on the shirt, books, videos, and a myriad of other educational materials are provided to the students and teachers to make this program not only a success, but also a memorable experience.

At the end of the program, the "Carnival Kids" will share their experiences and new knowledge with the third-graders in their schools. The Carnival Kids Program represents one of the many projects that fulfill Metrozoo's educational mission. Keeping in mind that today's children are tomorrow's citizens, scientists, environmentalists, and public policy-makers, it is incumbent upon us to give them the widest possible perspective on environmental concerns, conservation issues, wildlife careers, and community responsibility. An early exposure to nature and relating this experience to careers and life skills can kindle lifelong interests.

COME TO SCHOOL AT THE ZOO: OUR MAGNET PROGRAM PROVIDES A UNIQUE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE FOR JUNIOR ZOOLOGISTS

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

The Zoo Magnet Project is a program of zoological studies for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students with trained instructors applying a variety of hands-on strategies. Richmond Heights Middle School was the first in the public school system to implement a magnet program with an academic theme. Since its inception, the number of participants has increased from 50 students and 2 teachers to 308 students and 5 teachers.

The curriculum ranges from the historical role of zoos in the community to the scientific classification of animals and their habitats. The sixth- and seventh-grade students come to the Metrozoo classrooms on a daily basis and further apply their knowledge during field trips to Parrot Jungle and Monkey Jungle. Under the supervision of Zoo Magnet teachers, eighth-grade students work on activities designed by educators from Metrozoo, Parrot Jungle and Monkey Jungle. A scheduled field trip to the San Diego Zoo and Wildlife Park promises to be an unforgettable experience.

Magnet students regularly attend classroom presentations. Guest speakers, such as animal keepers, trainers, and animal clinic and maintenance department personnel, have shared their unique experiences with the students. Future student projects include the design and construction of "enrichment" items for ani-



mal use behind-the-scenes and on exhibit. Enrichment items are intended to enhance the animals' quality of life by stimulating natural behaviors.

Most children participating in the Zoo Magnet Program are science-lovers, eager for the opportunity to spend part of their day learning about and interacting with animals. Students attending 5th grade in any of the 24 target schools are welcome to apply for the program. In addition to the application form, candidates should submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher or counselor. Acceptable grade scores, good conduct and excellent attendance are also required from the prospective magnet student. After screening the applicants to insure their eligibility, the School Board chooses the final participants by ran-

dom selection.

Richmond Heights Middle School holds regular meetings with parents and the Zoo Magnet Program staff. During a recent meeting, the ZSF Director of Education, Elisabeth Koncza, was invited to give an overview of the role of Metrozoo in the program. During this presentation, the parents had a short version of what a middle school classroom presentation is like. The parents and school staff present at the meeting had a chance to interact with a zoo animal frequently used in our educational programs.

Besides doing well in Zoological Sciences, Zoo Magnet students must obtain good grades in a wide range of subjects. In order to provide the students with additional support, Richmond Heights Middle School offers a tutoring program called the Saturday Academy. In this program, students have an opportunity to work through difficult concepts presented in class and to prepare for the FCAT test. The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test is given with the objective of evaluating the students' high thinking skills. When answering questions on the test, students are required to explain how they arrived at their specific results and conclusions.

The goal of the Science Zoo Magnet Program is to nurture the students' love and understanding of nature. This is just the right motivation for taking action toward conserving it.

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

REGULAR PROGRAMS



The "Bear" facts

Everything you wanted to know about our bears. A special presentation on our very own Florida black bear will be given. Also join us for a unique behind-the-scenes tour of the sloth bear exhibit where you will meet our sloth bear family! Refreshments will be served.

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2000
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Cost: Adult Member (ages 13 and over) \$8
 Adult Non-Member \$10
 Child Member (age 6-12) \$4
 Child Non-Member \$6



Asia will amaze ya!

Come and explore the many wonders of Asian river life. Animals like the outrageous otters, marvelous muntjac, the king of lizards the Komodo dragon, and the elegant clouded leopard are some examples of the beautiful wild life that exist in Asia. In this program we will discover interesting facts about these animals, followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the Asian River Life exhibit.

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2000
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Cost: Adult Member (ages 13 and over) \$8
 Adult Non-Member \$10
 Child Member (age 6-12) \$4
 Child Non-Member \$6



"Wild Nights" at Metrozoo

Be our guest for one of the wildest adventures in town! We'll start out with a pizza dinner and orientation, and then it's off on a behind-the-scenes flashlight safari. The Zoo seems totally different at night, so you'll need to use all of your senses to take in the experience. Bring your best walking shoes, and a spirit of adventure. We'll bring the pizza and animals. A fun evening to be shared by the whole family! Families, Children (6 and older)

Dates: Wednesday, May 10, 2000
 Wednesday, June 14, 2000
 Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Cost: Members \$20
 Non-Members \$25

RESERVATIONS FOR ALL EDUCATION AND MEMBER PROGRAMS ARE REQUIRED.

There was not enough space in this issue to print the registration form, and we apologize for this inconvenience to you. For reservations please call the Education Department at (305) 255-5551, and we will mail or fax a reservation form to you immediately.

Space is limited for all our education programs, so be sure to call and register early to secure your spot. All program registrations are subject to a \$10 cancellation fee.

ZOODLER ACADEMY

For Children Aged 2-3

Leaping Lizards

Do dragons really exist? Let's unlock the mystery and take a peek at many likable lizards.

A lizard will visit our class.

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2000
 Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Cost: (price includes one adult and one child; \$4 per each additional child)
 Members \$8
 Non-Members \$10

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Our Feathered Friends

Birds come in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. In this class we will investigate these differences by focusing on some of our unique birds. Birds will be present during class.

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2000
 Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Cost: (price includes one adult and one child; \$4 per each additional child)
 Members \$8
 Non-Members \$10

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Photos: Ricardo Stanoss

Jungle Jog 5K Run & Fun Walk: a "Running" Success! February 20, 2000

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



MEMBERS' BREAKFAST DECEMBER 18, 1999



The 2000th Visitor in February, 2000



Tom, Kathy and Sylvia (age 6) Salyer
of Miami Shores

Kids' Fest 2000 February 26-27, 2000



WINTER CAMP DECEMBER 20-22 AND 27-29, 1999



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jessica Browning, Age 10 February 20, 2000



Annual Volunteer Dinner January 28, 2000



Glenn Ekey; William J. Gallwey, III; Kathy
and Ron Medford; "Henry Fonda" (rear);
"Elizabeth Taylor"; Eric Stephens

Our Sincere Thanks

The Zoological Society of Florida is most grateful to all our donors.

Many, many thanks to our anonymous donors for their generous support of the "Africa Through the Eyes of Our Youth" program.

We extend our appreciation for a very special bequest from the estate of Evelyn Shelley, a member of ZSF since 1984. We remember her for her steadfast friendship and her generosity.

We are very grateful to the Lennar, American Bankers Insurance Group, Livingston and Peck Foundations for their kindness in supporting the work of the Zoological Society and to Texaco, Inc. for their corporate philanthropy. We appreciate Ruth and Jack Admire and the Leigh Foundation – they expedited a grant for a special project that arose with little advance notice.

We appreciate the support of our Jungle Jog 2000 sponsors:

CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR: Price Waterhouse Coopers

SUSTAINING SPONSOR: Butler Buckley & Deets, Home Financing Center

PATRON SPONSORS: Concepción & Sexton; Dollar Rent A Car; Esslinger, Wooten & Maxwell; First National Bank of South Miami; Gulliver Schools; Zap Courier

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Thank you to Executek Printing and Duplicating for graciously providing the Disney bug character "Flik" posters for our second annual Big Bug Out.

Thanks to Color Me Mine for donating a gift certificate for our first annual Kids Fest 2000.

All of you are making a difference for wildlife and for our community!

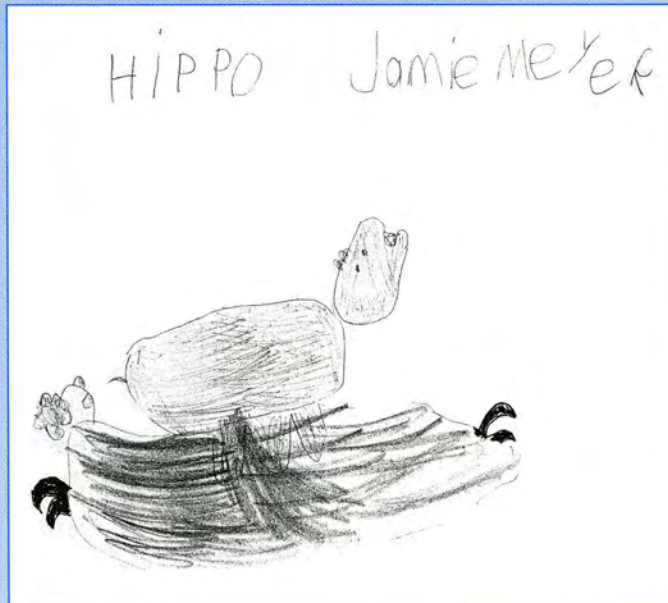
Final Winner of the Metrozoo Scavenger Hunt

Brian Zei, age ten and a fourth-grader at Saint David Catholic School was the winner of the final installment of the Metrozoo Scavenger Hunt.



Photo: Gucci Sarno

Children's Drawing Competition



Six-year-old Jamie Meyer says she drew the pygmy hippo because she likes "the way the hippo's skin shines when she lies in the sun. It looks like she's always wet." The clouded leopard is her favorite animal at the Zoo. "I came to the Zoo to find the animals I saw in the Tarzan movie," she said. "I found the gorilla, elephant and the lemur." Jamie says she likes the playground, and that's one of the reasons she comes to the Zoo almost every week (she's been a member since she was born). Jamie attends Whigham Elementary school in Cutler Ridge.

ANIMAL SERIES CONTEST

Congratulations to Valorie L. Ralich of Pembroke Pines, the winner of the Toucan Talk Animal Series Contest!

The sum total of the gestation period for all six animals is 1,580 days or 52 months. Thanks to all our friends who entered the Toucan Talk Animal Series Contest. We wish to apologize for not having included the gestation period for the African elephant in the July/August, 1999 issue. That gestation period is 22 months.

WISH LIST

Thanks to all of you who have responded to our previous Wish List. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

- Mowers
- Weed-eaters
- Flight kennels
- Pole saws
- Chain saws
- Long-handled dip nets, or pool skimmer nets
- Long pieces of heavy-duty PVC pipe, 12" in diameter
- Hemp rope
- Hand tools – drills, hammers, etc.
- New or used softballs (for use in animal enrichment activities)

Please bring donations to the ZSF front desk or call (305) 255-5551 to arrange for a pick-up.

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- Immediate Past President**
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GIFT SHOP MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL



***20% Discount off all purchases**

Hey Kids! Give Mom her very own ZOO BABY

*Excluding clearance items Expires May 31, 2000

"Wild Kingdom"

Jim Fowler talks about Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom," "Animal Planet," and other interesting stories about his life.

Saturday, May 6, 2000 at 7 p.m. in the Amphitheater.

Cost: Members \$3.00 Non-members: \$5.00
R.S.V.P. a MUST: Seating is limited and requires tickets. Call: Education Department, (305) 255-5511.

MOTHER'S DAY

Celebrate Mother's Day with our Animal Moms

Sunday, May 14, 2000

Plan a family outing to celebrate Mom's special day. Visit our animal moms and their babies.

Bowling For Rhinos

Sunday, June 4, 2000, 7:00 p.m.
Don Carter Kendall Lanes
13600 N. Kendall Drive

Cost: \$15.00 per person or \$75.00 per Team /5 persons per team (includes shoes and 3 games)

Come bowl with Animal Keepers and help us raise money for Rhinos. After bowling, buy some goodies from our special bake sale and silent auction.
R.S.V.P. to Animal Keeper, Kresho at (305)233-7446.

Volunteer Open House

Saturday, June 3, 2000, 10 a.m.-Noon

Learn about the many opportunities available to prospective volunteers and enjoy a complimentary walking tour of the Zoo. Adults only (ages 18 and older). RSVP to: Volunteer Services Department, (305) 255-5551.

Koi Pond Workshop by Angel's Hatchery

Saturday, June 3, 2000, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Fruit and Spice Park 24801 S.W. 187th Avenue

Cost: \$15.00 per person
Proceeds are donated to Metrozoo

Lecture covers all aspects of Koi health and pond management, including: nutrition, filtration, disease prevention and construction. There will be a question and answer period, followed by an ornamental fish farm tour. To register, call (305) 248-7777.

DAD AND ME

Sunday, June 18, 2000

It's Dad's turn to have his special day at the Zoo. Bring the entire family to Metrozoo to celebrate Father's Day.

KRATT AT METROZOO

Meet the people who bring you Kratt's Creatures and Zoomoobafoo on WLRN TV.

Saturday, June 24, 2000, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Call 305-255-5551 for more information.

COOL ZOO SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Enjoy misters, mister fans, even more shady umbrellas and the new water-play area next to the Children's Zoo, across from the Asian elephant exhibit. Come to the coolest place in town to chill out.

Families

All summer long.

Times: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday through Saturday.

Meet "PJ"

This adorable tree kangaroo baby is in and out of his mommy's pouch. At eight months, "PJ" (Patty's Joey) is almost too big for the pouch, but he's still one of the cutest babies at the Zoo. You will find "PJ" and his mother, "Patty" in the exhibit next to the Koala Bear (behind and east of the Giant Land Tortoises and the Amphitheatre). This is one Zoo baby you will not want to miss!



Photo: Wayne Fleisher
Sun-Sentinel Community
News Group

Carole Cotton & Happy Balloons

Present

LET'S BOOGIE FOR THE ANIMALS!

Saturday, June 3, 2000

7:30 p.m. - Midnight

The Country Club of Coral Gables
(997 N. Greenway Drive)

A Dance Party To Raise Money For Animal Enrichment Puzzle Feeders For The Animals At Miami Metrozoo

Come join an INCREDIBLE group of dancers and the OUTRAGEOUS music of South Florida's HOTTEST DJ Jerry Munson in a night to get up and let it go for a rip roarin' ANIMAL party time. The décor is by Happy Balloons, so you know it's going to be WILD. DANCE to your favorites: swing, top 40, big band, salsa, line dancing, disco, boogie. A night of high-energy music and fabulous people!

Cost: \$35 per person or \$60/couple. Includes finger foods. Cash bar available.

Dress: Let's dress in BLACK or ANIMAL stripes, spots or designs for an "eye-catching" dancing experience! It'll be too much fun to sit, so wear your dancing shoes!

You are going to have a blast!!

R.S.V.P.: Space is limited, so make your reservations early. Call the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551.

TOUCAN TALK



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

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