

TOUCAN TALK

DISCOVER YOUR ZOO!



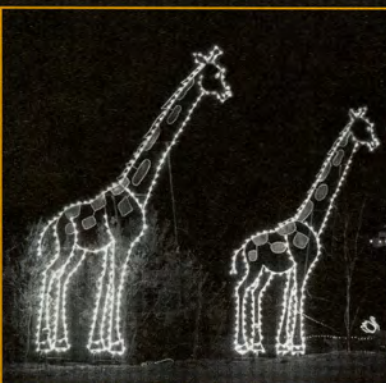
Photo: Ron Magill

**COMING SOON!
SQUIRREL MONKEYS
PAGE 4**



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

**EARL WARFORD, VOLUNTEER
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**MIAMI INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
PAGE 8**

**PJ THE TREE
KANGAROO...**
is out of Patty's pouch!
PAGE 2



Cover: Tree Kangaroo
Photo by: Dolora Batchelor

Editor

Sherrie Avery

Creative Director

Maribel Moure-Medina
Moure Graphic Design, Inc.

Photos

Hector Alvarez
Sherrie Avery
Dolora Batchelor
Barbara Crutchfield
Ron Magill
Ricardo Stanoss
Claudia Steadman
Adam Stern

Contributors

Carla Baker
Steve Conners
Annmarie Cupo
Anthea Lavalley
Carol Lang
Elisabeth Koncza
Ron Magill
Mayra Gonzalez Rey
Maria Roberts
James Roman

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Toucan Talk

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Zoological Society of Florida
Glenn Ekey, Executive Director
Edward Soto, President

Miami Metrozoo
Eric Stephens, Director
12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33177-1499
Phone: (305) 255-5551
Fax: (305) 255-7126
www.zsf.org

Zoo Visitor Information
(305) 251-0400

PJ the Tree Kangaroo



By Steve Conners and Carla Baker

Two curious eyes, a large pale pink satin nose, and the softest gold and russet furry face look inquiringly from behind Patty's back. Mommy's nibbling on the leaves of a ficus branch she's holding with her paws. A tiny paw reaches around from behind and PJ (Patty's Joey) decides to have a share of mom's snack.

PJ is almost a year old and is on exhibit in the Australian Lobe in the Tree Kangaroo/Koala Building. He's one of the most adorable animals you'll ever see, and he was born at Miami Metrozoo. Native to the rainforest of Papua, New Guinea, the rare Matschie's tree kangaroos (*Dendrolagus matschiei*) are arboreal marsupials. This is one of ten known tree kangaroo species, eight of which are native to New Guinea rainforests, and two identified in Queensland, Australia. Logging and mining industries in New Guinea are encroaching upon and destroying previously inaccessible areas of tree kangaroo

habitats. Farming and the hunting of tree kangaroos add to the threats to the survival of these animals.

As a member of the Species Survival Plan, Miami Metrozoo has joined zoos around the world in a program to assist in the conservation of the tree kangaroo species. Metrozoo is Conservation Fund assisted with the financing of a survey conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation of Papua, New Guinea to determine the number of these animals in the wild.

The Zoo purchased two adult tree kangaroos and tried for two years to breed them. When it became painfully obvious that they were not the least bit interested in each other, the Zoo purchased a second female, Zipper. The pressure of competition spurred Patty to breed with Spike after all! Baby PJ not only enchants visitors to the Zoo, he also ensures another strong bloodline in the conservation program. *Continued on page 3*



Photo: Sherrie Avery

PJ's favorite snack is a raw sweet potato

Continued from page 2

A baby kangaroo is called a "joey." There seems to be no specific breeding season for tree kangaroos, and the gestation period is 43-45 days, with the joey living in the pouch for up to fourteen months after birth. The joey begins peeking out of the pouch when he's about five to seven months old. PJ is now completely out of his mother's pouch. Tree kangaroos remain in the pouch longer than ground kangaroos due to their much slower

metabolism. As an arboreal species, this behavior is an adaptation to the danger of falling out of the trees.

When the keepers discovered that Patty had a joey in her pouch, Patty and Spike were separated. Males have been known to remove and kill developing pouch young or cause enough stress in the females to lose the joey. While Patty and PJ are together on exhibit, Spike and Zipper are housed behind-the-scenes. Their keepers are hoping that Spike and Zipper will produce another joey.

All kangaroos are meticulous in keeping their pouches clean. Like koalas, tree kangaroos have scent glands on their chests that they use for rubbing against tree trunks and branches to alert other tree kangaroos (and the zookeepers) of their presence. When interested in or alarmed by something unusual, they will jerk their tails back and forth, somewhat like a cat getting ready to pounce.

Tree kangaroos move quickly and easily through the trees. Their long, muscular tails serve as a balancing bar as they sit on the branches and chew on their favorite hibiscus and ficus leaves. The thick pads on the bottoms of their feet, and long, curved nails enable them to easily grasp tree branches as they climb and move about in the trees. Unlike their larger cousins who hop along the ground, tree kangaroos move with a combination of short hops and pushes with their forearms. Although they are unable to jump very high up into the air, they can safely jump as far as 60 feet to the ground from a tree.

You can watch PJ eat greens, fruits, sweet potatoes, carrots and grapes right in front of the viewing window. Don't delay, because PJ is growing quickly, and this is one adorable baby animal you won't want to miss!



Photo: Sherrie Avery

PJ and Patty

NEW ANIMAL BABIES

Births & Hatchings

- 2 Bat-eared foxes – June 9
- 1 Red footed tortoise – June 6
- 2 African spurred tortoises June 10
- 1 Male kudu – June 27
- 1 Female bactrian camel – June 30
- 3 Abyssinian ground hornbills – July 3, 7 & 12
- 1 Male guanaco – July 10

Acquisitions

- 2 Male and 2 female mouse opossums – May 10
- 1 Male rhinoceros iguana – May 19
- 2 American alligators – May 22
- 1 Female Komodo dragon – July 10

Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Bat-eared fox

Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Kudu

Photo: Sherrie Avery



Guanaco

Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Abyssinian ground hornbill

Photo: Sherrie Avery



Bactrian camel

Photo: Dolora Batchelor



African spurred tortoises

Photo: Dolora Batchelor



Rhinoceros iguana



Photo: Dolora Batchelor

American alligators

Photo: Sherrie Avery



Gemsbok

COMING SOON! Squirrel Monkeys

By Steve Connors, General Curator



Squirrel monkey

Photo: Ron Magill

Squirrel monkeys are native to Central and South America. There are a number of different subspecies found over this vast region, distinguished by slight variations in fur color.

These small primates average about a foot in head and body length with an even longer (but not prehensile) tail. Squirrel monkeys have white faces, dark eyes and short muzzles that look as if they've been dipped in blueberry jam. If jam were available they'd probably do just that, since fruits along with seeds, leaves, buds and tree sap are all on their menu. Insects, spiders, frogs and lizards are also eaten with great gusto.

Rarely descending to the ground, squirrel monkeys seek their food in tropical forest canopies where they travel with surprising speed and agility. Our group of three males and two females came to us from the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

DAMIEN KONG FUNDRAISER

FOR JAMAICAN IGUANA EXHIBIT



Damien Kong headed the ZSF Education Department from 1998-1999; however, to our great sorrow, he died in April 1999. Damien had plans to work with the Hope Zoo in Jamaica on their iguana education projects. As a tribute to his love of animals and his active concern for wildlife preservation, we are planning to

build a Jamaican Iguana Exhibit at Metrozoo.

Join ZSF and the Kong Family for an evening of great food and entertainment to raise funds to build the Damien Kong Jamaican Iguana Exhibit, Saturday, September 16, 5-8:30 p.m. in the concert field. Cost: \$20 per person (\$13 is tax deductible). For tickets and information, call (305) 253-0212.

Photo: Ricardo Stamos

A MYTHICAL BEAST MATERIALIZES

By Damien Kong

As a child in Jamaica, I grew up with stories of an elusive creature called the Jamaican iguana, a mythical dragon that had not been positively sighted since 1948, and was declared extinct 14 years before I was born. But when I was eight or nine years old, my dad showed me a newspaper article about the possible survival of the Jamaican iguana in the cactus and agave-covered Hellshire Hills. My family often went to the beaches in that area. So I would scan the hills in hopes of seeing one.

At over five feet long, this iguana would be the largest land animal on the island.

I left Jamaica in 1975, never having spotted one, and never dreaming that someday I would see this

creature that had filled my youthful imagination. In 1990, a local hunter dragged a Jamaican iguana out of the thorny scrub and out of myth, back into the real world. Edwin Duffus rescued the iguana from his dogs during a boar hunt, and took the badly bitten reptile to the Hope Zoo in Kingston.

The ZSF sent me to Jamaica to look into the prospect of sponsoring ecotours and to offer assistance with the iguana project. The Hope Zoo collects eggs from wild iguana nests, then incubates and hatches the iguanas at the zoo. The young are zoo-raised to a size and age where they are no longer susceptible to predators such as pigs and mongooses, and then they're released back into the wild.

To be surrounded by the dragons of my childhood imagination was a dream come true.

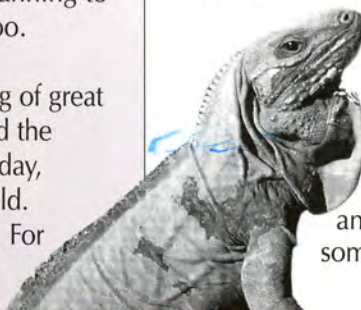


Photo: Adam Stern

ADOPT A MEERKAT!

Receive a **FREE meerkat plush toy** when you adopt a meerkat or any other animal from Metrozoo's animal collection for only \$50.

This cute little bundle of playful energy is not only hilarious to watch, but is a perfect animal for you to "adopt." Metrozoo has four male and three female meerkats; all are eager for you to get to know them as only a "parent" can.

Your adoption package includes:

- Meerkat plush toy
- A 4"x 6" color photograph of your animal
- Adoption certificate suitable for framing
- Exciting facts about your animal
- Adopt-An-Animal auto decal



Photo: Ron Magill

To adopt, call James Roman at (305) 255-5551.

Ask Peggy!

Dear Peggy,

How many muscles are in your trunk?

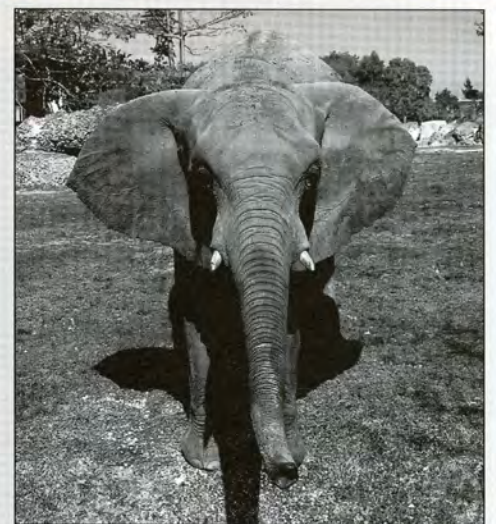
Love,

Chris Antonelli, age 10
Summer Zoofari Camp

Dear Chris,

There are between 40,000 and 60,000 muscles in my trunk. Personally, I've never given it much thought, but I'm always amazed at all the things I can do with my trunk! I can give myself a bath, pick up a penny, and carry a tree trunk, just to name three. What can you do with your hands?

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

Photo: Sherrie Avery

Meet The Volunteers

By Carol Lang, Director of Volunteer Services

What inspires someone to wake up at 5:30 a.m. on her day off, drive to Metrozoo, and be on her hands and knees by 7:30, scrubbing the bottom of a rabbit cage?

It's the dedication Linda Lecoque shares with her 197 fellow volunteers, who donate their time and talents to Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida. These committed individuals donate over 27,000 hours a year in a variety of capacities. That's the equivalent of almost 13 full time employees!

Who is the "typical" Metrozoo volunteer? Well, it's hard to come up with a prototype. They range from 18 years of age to 93. Seventy-two percent are women, but the number of men continues to rise. About half of the volunteers are retired, and the other half are police officers, teachers, doctors, secretaries, students, computer programmers, homemakers and salespeople, to name a few. What they do have in common is an appreciation of wildlife, a penchant for people, and a desire to "make a difference."

You've probably met some of them. Nancy Hembree, a docent since 1993, often stands in front of the Tiger Exhibit, talking to visitors about Carlita, Lyric, and Roshe (our young Bengal tigers) and showing visitors a replica of a tiger's tooth. "It's so exciting to be that close to a wild animal and watch the things they do," says Nancy, "and to share that excitement with others."

One of Earl Warford's favorite spots to work is the Information Booth. Earl started volunteering at the Zoo a little over 5 years ago. "My primary interest is in the people," Earl says. "The friends you get to make and the stories you share." That's a sentiment echoed by docent, Mary Wetterer, "The people are fascinating. I've made such good friends in the volunteer force." "I initially volunteered because of the animals, and I'm staying with it because of the people," says Helen Donaldson who first began volunteering at Crandon Park Zoo, and later returned to Miami Metrozoo after she retired.

Interested candidates don't need any special knowledge to be accepted as Zoo volunteers. Training classes

and other activities help our new volunteers get up to speed and perhaps to overcome some fears. "I was scared to death of snakes when I started," says Bev Wiesner. "During the class on reptiles, which Ron Magill taught, he asked me to stand in front of the class and hold out my hands, palms up. He put a snake on them, and I thought, 'eeuuuhhhwww!!!!' Then the snake started moving and I thought, 'this is Cool!'"

Learning is an important part of volunteering at Metrozoo, and it doesn't stop after the training is over. Guest speakers at monthly meetings, talks with the zookeepers and other programs provide volunteers with new information on a regular basis. "I always take home more than I bring. I learn something every day," says docent, Mary Rose. "I can learn from the keepers, the staff, and the children with whom I interact." Barbara Crutchfield enjoys "working with animals, people and children, and the Zoo provides opportunities for all three. It's a great place to learn."

Zoos are natural places for children, and the volunteers who spend time in the Children's Zoo Contact Yard have plenty of opportunities to interact with them. "I like seeing the children's reactions to the animals," reflects Linda Jacobs, a volunteer since 1998. "Particularly children who have had no experience with animals, and there are so many, except perhaps a guard dog. I help them learn that animals can be gentle creatures." Indeed, showing children how to properly groom a sheep, or to feel the soft feathers of a chicken or duck, is a rewarding experience for many of the volunteers who spend time in the Children's Zoo. "I like the animals, and working with the keepers," says Ginny Pave, who works two to three days a week in the Contact Yard.

Volunteers can be found in every part of the zoo. Some work behind-the-scenes, while others interact with our visitors. You'll find volunteers at Metrozoo seven days a week, every day of the year. Why? As volunteer Kathryn Medford says, "Metrozoo is like home. Where could you go and meet so many nice people: the volunteers, the keepers, and the staff? They really go out of their way to make you feel welcome."



Dottie Erbel in the Contact Yard
Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



Linda Crutchfield
cleaning in the ARC
Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



Nancy Hembree at
the Big Bug Out
Photo: Barbara Crutchfield



K.T. Taylor doing an animal close-up



Michael Robert at an Outreach program
Photo: Claudia Steadman



Josh Randall at Egg Safari
Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

THINK YOU'D LIKE TO BE A METROZOO VOLUNTEER?

The ZSF Volunteer Program is an important component of Miami Metrozoo. Volunteers provide valuable services to the daily operations of the Zoo and the public education programs. They are a diverse group of people who are committed to our Zoo's mission of conservation and education and take pride in a job well done.

All volunteer candidates must be at least 18 years of age and become members of the Zoological Society of Florida. A minimum of 72 hours of service per year is required. All new volunteers must attend a basic orientation class before they begin their volunteer work. Most positions call for additional training. Here is a sampling of some ways that volunteers help the Zoo:

- **Children's Zoo Volunteers** prepare the diets for the animals used in education programs, clean cages, or work in the Contact Yard, monitoring the interactions between the children and the animals.
- **Gift Shop Volunteers** work in one of the Zoo's two gift shops by

assisting customers, tagging merchandise or operating a cash register.

- **Administrative Volunteers** provide clerical assistance to the office staff.
- **Zoo Hosts** meet and greet school groups on field trips and other zoo visitors. They provide information about the Zoo's facilities and activities, and help visitors find their way around the Zoo.
- **Docents** are interpretive volunteers who educate the visiting public about the Zoo's animal collection and present conservation education programs to various audiences throughout the community.

Learn more about the volunteer program and its requirements by attending the next **Open House on Saturday, September 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Classes will be offered for Fall 2000. To reserve a spot, call 305-255-5551, ext 124.

Volunteering at the Zoo is really *wild!*

"Wild Nights" at Metrozoo

Join us for a pizza party and a fun behind-the-scenes adventure!

Families, Children (6 and older)

Wednesday, September 20, 2000, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18, 2000, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Cost: Members \$20 Non-Members \$25

Pre-registration required



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

Zoodler Academy

2-3 year olds

Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

September 14, 2000 – The three little pigs

September 28, 2000 – The ugly duckling

October 12, 2000 – Miniature marvels

October 26, 2000 – Brushing up: from teeth to tusks

3- 4 year olds

Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

September 7, 2000 – Backyard buddies: a nature walk

September 21, 2000 – The secret garden

October 5, 2000 – Itsy bitsy bugs

October 19, 2000 – Animal wrappers

Cost: Members \$8 Non-members \$10 price includes one adult and one child; \$4 per each additional child)

Pre-registration required



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

Big Cats in the City

Ages 7 and up

You'll be seeing stripes and spots as you venture through the zoo to see tigers, lions, and leopards. Learn what these cats like to eat, how they live and how much they have in common with our house cats.

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2000

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Members \$8 Non-Members \$10

Pre-registration required



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

Zoo Babies

For adults with children ages 3-5

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Metrozoo's family is growing fast, so come and meet some of our newest residents. Children will embark on a "safari-style" tram tour to discover zoo babies and learn about their family lives.

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2000

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Members \$10 per adult with one child, additional child \$4

Non-Members \$15 per adult with one child, additional child \$4

Pre-registration required



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

Creepy Crawly Creatures!

Children ages 7 and up

Get into the spirit of Halloween! Join us as we explore the spooktacular creatures that crawl among us.

Goodies will be served!

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2000

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Members \$8 Non-Members \$10

Pre-registration required



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY THEATERS

Two different settings offer opportunities to see the animals up close. The Wildlife Show in the Amphitheater features exotic and endangered animals in a program on the fascinating adaptations of birds, mammals, and reptiles. Closer to home, Ecology Theater in PAWS/Children's Zoo provides programs on "Pets with Consequences," or "Backyard Neighbors." Don't miss these presentations!

Wildlife Presentations
12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

Ecology Theater Presentations
11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

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

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

TOTAL: \$ _____

WE LOVE SAYING THANK YOU!

- The Zoological Society of Florida is grateful to the Miami-Dade Department of Parks and Recreation and the Board of County Commissioners for a grant to fund the purchase of light fixtures for some of the Metrozoo walkways.
- Our appreciation goes to Sue Cobb and the Cobb Family Foundation for their faithful support of ZSF's mission at Metrozoo.



• Many, many thanks to Publix Super Markets Inc. for funds to help initiate Dr. Wilde's World and to Publix Super Markets Charities for their general support of ZSF's work.

L-R Glenn Ekey, Executive Director ZSF; Sunny Scobell, Children's Zoo Keeper holding Sam the Boa; Carmen Millares, Community Affairs Manager, Publix Supermarkets, Miami Division

- A big Thank You to the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges for supporting the work of the ZSF and Metrozoo.
- Finally, to Judith and Paul Radice, our friends at Angels Hatchery – Thank you for your donation for the Zoological Society's children's programs.

The world is a more welcoming place for wildlife because of your help!

Meerkat/African Festival Weekend...Thrills All!

Photos: Sherrie Avery



25 tons of Meerkat: Sand Sculpture

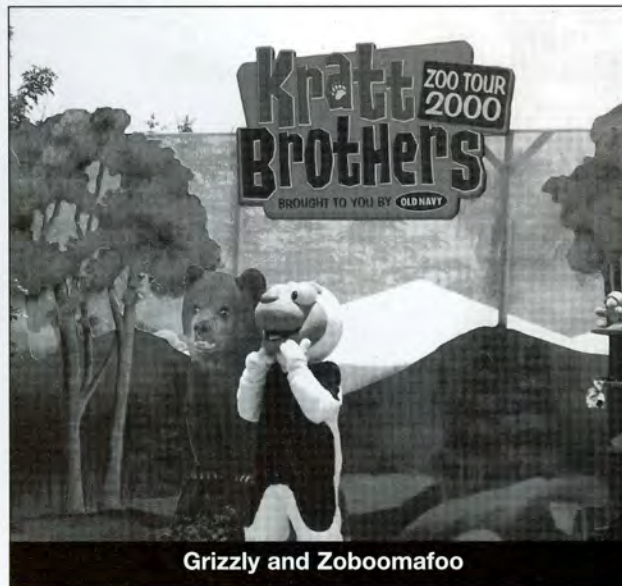


Meerkats spend most of their time digging or standing sentry



Mocko Jumbie Stilt-walkers

KRATT BROTHERS



Grizzly and Zobo

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COUPON

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!



***20% Discount off all purchases**

Hey Parents!
While you and the kids enjoy Metroboo, stop by, visit our giftshop and save.

*Excluding clearance items and any other discounts. Coupon good for one-time purchase. Expires October 31, 2000

SUMMER CAMP



Humane Society Presents: Learning ability in dogs and being safe around cats and dogs



Animals at work: K-9 dog

SEPTEMBER 2000

Barbecue Fundraiser for Damien Kong Jamaican Iguana Exhibit

Saturday, September 16



Time: 5 - 8:30 p.m. in the Concert Field. An evening of music, games, magic, clowns, and a scrumptious barbecue to raise money to build the Jamaican Iguana Exhibit. There

will be concessions offering orchids, flower bouquets, T-shirts, posters, paintings and crafts.

Cost: \$20 per person, (\$13 is tax deductible). For tickets and information, call (305) 253-0212. Make checks payable to the Zoological Society of Florida. Payment by credit card is available (American Express, MasterCard and Visa) through the ZSF.

OCTOBER 2000

MetroBoo!

Saturday/Sunday, October 28/29

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



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

Trick-or-Treat at the Zoo for ages 12 and under. Costume contests, fabulous prizes and safe, fun trick-or-treating at South Florida's "Wildest" party. There will be plenty of delicious treats for the kids.

Free to members. Regular Zoo admission for non-members: Adults \$8, children (ages 3-12) \$4.

NOVEMBER 2000

DECEMBER 2000

NEW! Miami International Festival of Lights at Metrozoo

Monday 11/20 - Saturday 12/30

Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 6-11 p.m.



COMING IN 2001: DR. WILDE'S WORLD AND MUCH MORE!

JANUARY 2001

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Friday 26, 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

FEBRUARY 2001

JUNGLE JOG 5k Race and Fun Walk

Sunday 11, 6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

MARCH 2001



BALL OF THE WILD

Saturday 3, 7:30 p.m.-midnight

Third Annual Big Bug Out Friday 23 - Sunday 25

APRIL 2001



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

THE GREAT METROZOO EGG SAFARI

Sunday 15

MAY 2001

Mother's Day at the Zoo

Sunday 17



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

JUNE 2001

Father's Day at the Zoo

Sunday 17

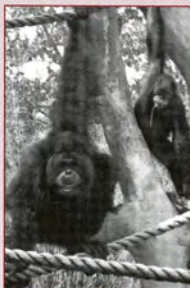


Photo: Sherrie Avery

JULY 2001

SUMMER ZOOFARI CAMP · June 18 - August 17 · (305)255-5551



Photo: Sherrie Avery

COOL ZOO SUMMER · Misters & Water Play · Entertainment

For information on any of these events, please call the Zoological Society of Florida at (305)255-5551

TOUCAN TALK

DISCOVER YOUR ZOO!



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

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Monday, November 20- Saturday, December 30

Hours: Sunday - Thursday, 6-10 p.m.

Friday - Saturday, 6-11 p.m.



Nonprofit Organization
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