

# TOUCAN TALK

DISCOVER YOUR ZOO!



## WILD LIGHTS AT METROZOO

November 22 - December 31

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Photo: Roy Magill

AFRICA THROUGH THE  
EYES OF A CHILD  
PAGE 4



Photo: RICARDO STANOS

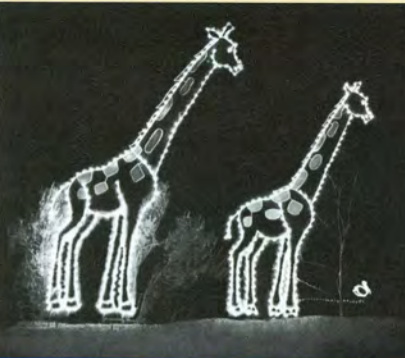
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY  
PAGE 5



Photo: Ricardo Stanos

AN ECOADVENTURE IN  
COSTA RICA  
PAGE 6





Cover: Wild Lights At Miami Metrozoo

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Toucan Talk  
Volume 27, Number 6  
November / December 2000

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

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Zoo Visitor Information  
(305) 251-0400

# Wild Lights at Miami Metrozoo

**Presented by City Furniture****November 22 – December 31, 2000**Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday, 6:30 – 11:00 p.m.Closed on Monday evenings. **Open Christmas Night, Monday, December 25.**

**ZSF MEMBER DISCOUNT ADMISSION: Adults \$6 Children (ages 3-12) \$3, plus tax**  
(Newspaper coupons are not necessary for ZSF members; just show your ZSF membership card at the Ticket Booth. NOTE: you will have to get your ticket at the ticket booth to be admitted.)

**General Admission: Adults \$8 Children (ages 3-12) \$4, plus tax**  
Free for kids two and under

**Discount Coupons** will be available in *The Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald*.  
Ticket booth closes one hour before closing time.

**ZSF Member Preview Night**

Tuesday, November 21, 2000

6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

**Free Admission For Members On This Night Only**

(You will need to show your membership card at the admission gate.)

Kick off the holiday season with a blaze of lights, music and great fun at Miami Metrozoo. Treat the entire family and your friends to an evening of enchantment with spectacular illuminated displays of exotic animals, snowmen, animated trains and giant teddy bears. Carolers, Santa, entertainers and refreshments will make you want to come back again and again.

See page 8 for special member discount coupon  
at the Toucan Trader Gift Shop.

**Bring An Unwrapped, New Toy for TOYS FOR TOTS**

We need your help to make this holiday season bright and cheery for disadvantaged children who would not otherwise have a gift.

**Discover How the Holidays Are Celebrated Around The World**

See the wonderful North Pole Village in the exhibit window of the Austin Weeks Center, courtesy of The Christmas Shoppe. A brief description of holiday traditions around the world is a gift to you from **The Christmas Shoppe**.

Don't miss the charming Christmas Village in the lobby of the Austin Weeks Center that was donated to the Zoological Society of Florida by Lee Bynum and Betty Miller.

**Miami Metrozoo's Gift Shops:** a great place to do your holiday shopping!

Wild Lights at Metrozoo is brought to you by *The Miami Herald/El Nuevo Herald* and the Zoological Society of Florida/Miami Metrozoo.

**Displays Sponsored by:** Gibraltar Bank, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Knight Ridder, The Christmas Shoppe

# COME SEE THE NEW SQUIRREL MONKEYS!



Photo: Ron Magill

By Steve Conners

For many years squirrel monkeys have been a popular zoo attraction, and we are very pleased to add them to our ever-growing animal collection.

The scientific name for these monkeys, *Saimiri sciureus*, literally means "monkey squirrel" in Latin. The name is an obvious reference to the speed and agility with which they can move through the rainforest canopy in their native Panama, Costa Rica and South America. Squirrel monkeys are known to inhabit areas of secondary forest as well as cultivated areas, and nearly always prefer to live close to water.

The species of squirrel monkeys found in Costa Rica and Panama is endangered with perhaps less than 1,000 individuals remaining. The monkeys in our group are of the South American "variety". I use this term because there is still some confusion as to how many types (species or subspecies) of squirrel monkeys there are. It's possible that there are new species that have yet to be described.

The dexterity of these monkeys enables them to catch insects, a mainstay of their diet. In the foliage they find berries, fruit, flowers and nuts to round out their menu. Unlike some other New World monkeys, squirrel monkeys don't have a prehensile tail. Grasping vines and branches is work that only their hands and feet are capable of, but their long tail is a useful balancing organ when leaping.

Squirrel monkeys are social animals living in groups of over a hundred on occasion, but usually much smaller groups are seen. Researchers have learned that separate male and female groups form during much of the year. During breeding season, the males display and may battle among themselves. The more dominant individuals join the female group temporarily for breeding. Afterwards the males rejoin their own group again. About six months following breeding the pregnant females separate themselves from the others and form a group of their own with sub-adult females. Babies are cared for by their mothers, with some help from the sub-adults, the "aunts." Males are actively excluded from the mother/aunt group and hang out by themselves.

Squirrel monkeys have contributed to progress in the field of aerospace medicine. Were it not for squirrel monkeys that had the "right stuff" many years before John Glenn orbited the earth, the Mercury space program never would have begun. The flights undertaken by these small primates showed scientists that the G-forces and other stresses encountered during space travel could be safely endured. In short they paved the way for our modern manned space program.

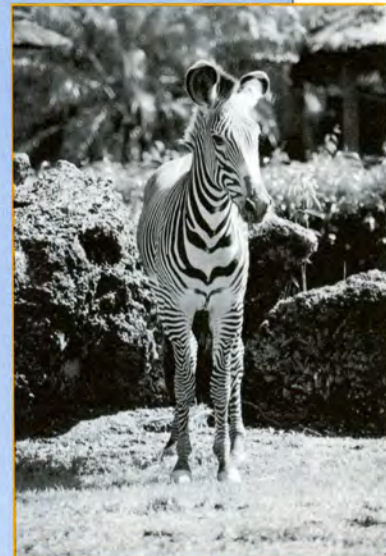
## NEW ANIMAL BABIES

### Births

- 1 Male greater kudu – July 29
- 1 Female greater kudu – August 1
- 1 Ruddy duck – August 3
- 2 Male kudus – September 5 and 8
- 1 Female dama gazelle – August 7
- 1 Female gemsbok – August 18
- 1 Female grant's gazelle – September 5

### Acquisitions

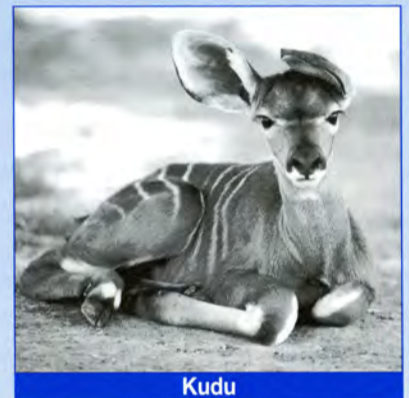
- 1 Male grevy's zebra – July 17
- 4 Male and 4 female mandarin ducks – July 28
- 1 Bahama pintail – July 28
- 1 Male and 3 female eurasian wigeon – July 28



Grevy's zebra



Mandarin duck



Kudu



Gemsbok



Eurasian wigeon



Dama gazelle



Grant's gazelle

Photos: Dolara Batchlor

# WHY I DREAM OF GOING TO AFRICA

By Ruth Cason



Ron Magill and Ruth Cason with two orphan lions at the Sun City Animal Orphanage.

*We are very proud to feature the grand prize winner of our "Africa Through The Eyes Of Our Youth" contest that was part of an "Earth Day 2000" project for middle school students. Ruth Cason was an eighth-grader at Miami Springs Middle School this past May when she submitted her essay entry. It was written so well, we want to share excerpts with you.*



Zulu children dancing in ethnic dress, celebrating Metrozoo's donation to their school.

**A**frica... the mystical land that whispers freedom and screams life... the wondrous place so alive it almost seems to breathe... the amazing land that has a heart beat in the rhythm with the creatures that live upon it... the extraordinary place where the adversities of life seem so much simpler—the incongruent land that hums with danger, yet has an essence of peacefulness.

Africa has so many different aspects to explore. All of those aspects so intriguing, it's impossible to resist further perusal. The details of Africa being so pondering, they intrude on sleeping and waking moments alike. Africa has an aura of tranquility, yet also an underlying core of menace. Yes, Africa has definitely been in the major portion of my dreams. Yet, Africa is not just attractive to me because it's so beautiful and enchanting; I am also drawn to the realness—the truth at the root of Africa's nature...

When I think of Africa, I think of beautiful land and amazing souls, be they human or otherwise...

Africa is almost like a fantasyland for the untouched and unhampered which I wish to live in; a place where I can be myself and

not have to change to be at the world's standards...

Africa to me is the most natural place there is and to be there one day is my goal. I believe that in Africa I will find my peace, my honest peace, a peace that will last me years.

*Thanks to the partnership of WTVJ-NBC/6, The Miami Herald, Conservation Corporation Africa, South African Airways, SATOUR, Sun International and a generous gift from an anonymous donor, Ruth and her uncle, Tex Ziadie, were treated to a luxury safari to Africa with Metrozoo's Communications Director, Ron Magill. They were accompanied by NBC/6 news anchor Michael Williams and award-winning photographer, Jeff Guerra. NBC/6 is producing a 30-minute documentary that will soon be broadcast to all of South Florida and nationally.*

**How was the trip? Here is Ruth's account:**

## Return From Africa

Have you ever had the feeling that your heart was just full, and that if anything good ever happened to you again, that you would just explode from the pure joy of it? Well, that's the kind of feeling I had on the morning of the second day I was in South Africa. You see, it was just about that time it really sank in—that I was actually in the place I had

spent so many hours, and even days dreaming about! There is no way for me to really describe how I felt then, except it was a sense of complete and absolute fulfillment. It was a feeling I would guess only a scant few have ever experienced.

I can safely say that Africa, and all it entails, has had the biggest impact on me of anything in my life. The things I have seen, have for the most part, left me with an impression of awe. Just being there was enough, but to be able to have the experience of being within touching distance of a real live wild lion is absolutely phenomenal. Neither can I imagine a more spectacular sight than witnessing a baby rhino nursing.

If a teenager, such as myself, can understand and appreciate the beauty in such events, then anyone can. It is no easy feat to ignore the majesty in a place where these are everyday occurrences. The easiest way to see Africa is through the appreciative eye; so all of us should learn to appreciate Africa more for its wildlife, its environment, and most of all, its beautiful people.

How can I ever thank enough those who have made this trip possible for me? I will have to just say thank you to Ron Magill and all the corporate sponsors and supporters of Metrozoo. I will always be grateful for what you have done for me, by fulfilling my dream of going to Africa!

**Zoodler Academy**

**3-4 year olds**

**Dates:** Thursday, November 2 – Scales and Tales  
 Thursday, November 16 – The Little Red Hen  
 Thursday, December 7 – Barn Yard Helper

**2-3 year olds**

**Dates:** Thursday, November 9 – Our Feathered Friends  
 Thursday, November 30 – Leaping Lizards  
 Thursday, December 14 – The Tortoise and the Hare

**Times:** 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Cost:** (Price includes one adult and one child; \$4.00 per each additional child)  
 Members \$8.00  
 Non-members \$10.00  
*Children must be accompanied by an adult.*



**Member Programs**

**"Wild Nights" at Metrozoo**

**Families (children 6 and older)**

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

**Dates:** Wednesday, November 15  
 Wednesday, December 13

**Times:** 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Members \$20.00, non-members \$25.00



**Wildlife Photography at Metrozoo**

**For adults only**

If you are a photography buff and you love animals, come and enjoy the best of both worlds. You will start your day with a class taught by Dr. Ricardo Stanoss\* on equipment, exposure, composition and lighting. Then it's off to see the animals, and chatting with the keeper's. Lunch will be provided.

**Date:** Saturday, November 11

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Members \$35.00, non-members \$50.00



\*Since 1987, Ricardo Stanoss has photographed the spectacular wildlife and scenery of Brazil, Argentina and South Florida. His work has appeared in *Select*, a photography showcase magazine, distributed worldwide, in our own *Toucan Talk* newsletter and in foreign publications. Ricardo was a professor of Basic and Advanced Photography in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His work has been displayed in six photographic exhibitions in various South American fine arts museums.

**Winter Break Camp**

**Ages 4-12**

Be a part of the excitement as we kick off another year of fun with our winter break camp. Our counselors will guide you through six days packed with unique and enjoyable experiences especially designed to cure the winter blues!

**Dates:** Session A: December 20-22  
 Session B: December 27-29

**Times:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Members \$130.00 (for both sessions A and B)  
 Non-members \$150.00 (for both sessions A and B)



**Kids Holiday Craft Workshop**

**Ages 4-12**

What could be better than hand-made decorations for the holidays! Our youngest Zoo fans are invited to bring their creative minds and busy hands to our Craft Workshop. Make seasonal decorations, crafts and gifts for family and friends. Imagine your tree decorated with koalas, geckos, lions and Komodo dragons! Or special holiday memory books decorated with paw prints! Don't miss this chance to create your own "wild holiday." All supplies and a morning snack included.

**Date:** Saturday, December 16

**Times:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Cost:** Child members (12 and under) \$15.00  
 Non-members (12 and under) \$20.00



Photos: Ricardo Stanoss

**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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Studying New World Monkeys in The Forests of Costa Rica

By ZSF Scientist & Educator: Anthea Lavallee

**G**rowing up in the Northeastern United States, I spent many cold winter days dreaming of warm tropical forests teeming with exotic wildlife. As a college student, I chose a course of study that would enable me to experience the tropics first-hand. My focus was on the behavior and ecology of New World monkeys inhabiting forests throughout Costa Rica. In preparation for my first trip to the field, I designed a research project that explored the connections between free-ranging primate populations and the rainforest resources upon which they depend. I was determined to develop a rigorous method of scientific study, and for weeks I agonized over my data collection techniques. In spite of this very analytical approach, my initial reaction to the rainforest was totally emotional; I was completely overwhelmed by the colors, textures, and sounds of the forest. It exceeded all of my expectations, and I spent the first several days wandering along the trail system, admiring the wildlife that included monkeys, toucans, sloths, lizards, and the most beautiful butterflies I had ever seen. I felt like Alice in Wonderland!

Although capuchin and howling monkeys were the main subjects of my thesis, my goal was to understand them as members of a rainforest community. I began to recognize the vital role that plants play in a dynamic forest ecosystem. As a direct source of food and shelter, rainforest plant species support an incredible diversity of reptiles, mammals, birds, and amphibians. I appreciated both the beau-

ty and practical purpose of rainforest plants every time I watched a hummingbird sip nectar from a Heliconia flower. I was equally enchanted by Costa Rican culture and enjoyed spending time with the local people and taking part in social activities in town. I had

expected to feel isolated at my remote field site and was amazed at the warmth and friendliness of the people I met. They made me feel like part of their community and expressed a genuine interest in my project. Local farmers were happy to help collect plant specimens, and children from the nearest village often came into the forest with me looking for monkeys.

I have returned to Costa Rica many times to continue ongoing projects and to start new ones. It will always be a very special place for me.

**Join Anthea For An Ecoadventure In Costa Rica!  
December 27, 2000 – January 6, 2001**

Costa Rica's tropical rainforests have more animals, more color, more trees, more life than just about any place else on earth. You literally have to see it to believe it. This holiday season, up to 20 travelers will venture with Anthea into the dense rain forests to discover its hidden mysteries and amazing wildlife. Come celebrate the beginning of a new year in one of the most beautiful lands in the world, and get ready for an unforgettable ecoadventure!

For more information or to register for the trip, please call: Lori Tubaug at Park East Tours (800) 223-6078 ext. 343.



## Wanted: Surrogate Mother Flamingos

By Michelle Goostree, Metrozoo Avian Zookeeper

**O**ne of the most beautiful sights to behold is a colony of thousands of flamingos. These graceful birds exude a sense of serenity and peace as they balance on one leg and tuck their long necks into their wings. The serenity was shattered one night this past May when a lone jaguar began marauding the only nesting colony of Caribbean flamingos in the Americas, located at the Reserva de la Biósfera Río Lagartos near El Cuyo in the state of Yucatán, México. Several adults incubating their eggs were killed and a number of eggs were damaged or destroyed. Before the colony's biologists realized what was happening, almost 1,000 flamingos had abandoned their nests.

Dr. Rodrigo Migoya von Bertrab, a biologist studying the colony, and Alberto Bache Zaruaz of the Xcaret Biological Park decided to pull approximately a thousand eggs for artificial incubation. While they

were collecting the eggs, some began to hatch before they could be placed into incubators. They were faced with a thousand chicks and no mothers! Bertrab and Zaruaz called Chris Brown of the Dallas Zoo, who in turn contacted zoos across the country for help.

Fellow zookeeper Pam Monseur and I broke open our piggy banks and flew to Xcaret to the rescue, embarking upon an adventure we will remember for a lifetime. We became surrogate mothers to one hundred and fifty fluffy flamingo chicks! The goal of the project was to release the

chicks back into the wild flock; therefore, it was of the utmost importance that humans handle the chicks only when absolutely necessary.

As zookeepers practiced in working with birds, we knew what was in store for us. Our workdays started at 7:00 a.m. and ended at 11:00 p.m. We began each morning checking on all of the chicks, feeding them and moving them to exercise pools. While the chicks played we broke down, scrubbed, rinsed and disinfected their holding pens, along with the entire floor and walls of the area. Then it was feeding time again at 11:00 a.m.

Without their mothers, chicks do not know when to stop eating, so we monitored them closely to prevent their overeating. Before we knew it, it was 4:00 p.m. and time to begin the moving, feeding and re-moving procedure all over again. All the chicks had to be returned to their brooding area before we could break for dinner, to be followed by

their final feeding at 9:00 p.m.

By the time we left two weeks later, the chicks were on their way to being weaned and relocated to the reserve for reintroduction into the wild colony scheduled for October, 2000.

What an experience we had! Not only did we provide basic labor assistance, we also served in a training capacity for the Mexican locals caring for the chicks. In return, we gained a wealth of knowledge and helped to ensure the survival of the Caribbean flamingos.



Charlene Brown (L) and Pam Monseur(R)  
Photo: Michelle Goostree



Flamingo Nests at Río Lagartos  
Photo: Pam Monseur

# METROZOO HAS SOME GREAT FRIENDS

It is time to express our grateful thanks to the following wonderful supporters:

- Once again to the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Science Museum Program for supporting ZSF's Education Department and Children's Zoo Program;
- Peacock Foundation, Inc. for its grant to strengthen the Children's Zoo program;
- The School Board of Miami-Dade County for supporting ZSF's conservation education programs for public school teachers and students;
- Ron Esserman for his gracious donation and long time service on the Board of Directors;
- Ryder Systems Charitable Foundation for its gift to support ZSF's mission and work;
- Union Planters Bank for its generous donation;
- The Hasbro Children's Foundation for a grant to develop ZSF's outreach to exceptional needs children and their teachers;
- Austin Weeks for the donation of camera equipment to help document and publicize the Zoo's progress and achievements;
- Dr. Arnold Mannis, Ron Book, Keith Gray of Gray & Sons Jewelers, Rae Lynne Kolter, Thea Katzenstein, Gibraltar Bank, Merrill Lynch & Company Foundation and many others for their support of the Zoological Society of Florida.

We are very grateful that Metrozoo has friends like you!

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## Damien Kong Jamaican Iguana Exhibit Fund Raiser September 16, 2000



Photo: Sherrie Avery

## Ron Magill Is Named Outstanding South Dade Leader



The Perrine-Cutler Ridge Rotary Club named Ron Magill, Metrozoo's Director of Communications, as this year's Outstanding South Dade Leader. Magill is the Zoo's goodwill ambassador, and is a frequent guest on many local and national TV shows, including the 6 a.m. local news on WTVJ/NBC6.

## Adopt An Endangered Species!

For many animals on the Endangered Species List, survival is a rare gift. You can give them that gift. Sponsoring an animal through Metrozoo's Adopt-An-Animal Program will help Metrozoo participate in conservation and preservation programs fighting for the survival of these species. This holiday season, give the gift of survival and make a bold statement of your commitment to our planet's wildlife by sponsoring an animal on the Endangered Species List. It makes a wonderful gift for any animal lover, and everyone will take great pride in knowing they've done their part in saving these irreplaceable animals.

### Examples of Some of Metrozoo's Endangered Species:

Cape hunting dog, Galápagos tortoise, Indian rhinoceros, black rhinoceros, clouded leopard, komodo dragon, siamang, chimpanzee, gibbon, Malayan tapir, onager, Grevy's zebra, koala, orangutan, sable antelope, Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, lowland gorilla.

For complete details, please call James Roman at (305) 255-5551 ext. 129.

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## Ask Peggy



**Dear Peggy,**  
Do elephants swim?  
Your pal,  
*Gustavo Olivares, age 8  
Miami*

**Dear Gustavo,**  
Yes, elephants swim. We are among the best swimmers in the animal kingdom. In the wild, we are capable of swimming several miles off shore in the ocean to graze on islands. I like the questions you Zoofari Campers give me!

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 best question 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

## COUPON

ZSF MEMBER PREVIEW DAY  
**WILD LIGHTS  
AT METROZOO**  
MEMBER VIP SHOPPING SPREE



Get an additional  
**10%**  
Off  
regular priced  
merchandise

\*Valid November 21, 2000 ONLY

**FREE TASTE OF OUR  
Café de Toucan**

**NOVEMBER 2000**

**NEW! Wild Lights at Miami Metrozoo**

Admission gate closes one hour before closing time

Wednesday 11/22 - Sunday 12/31  
 Hours: Sunday & Tuesday - Thursday, 6:30 -10 p.m.  
 Friday & Saturday, 6:30-11 p.m. Closed Mondays.  
 Open December 25, Christmas



**MEMBER PREVIEW NIGHT: Tuesday 11/21**  
 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. FREE to Members

ZSF Member Discount Admission: Adults \$6 Children (3-12) \$3  
 General Admission: Adults \$8 Children (3-12) \$4  
 Children 2 and under Free. Free Parking

See the animated North Pole Village, courtesy of The Christmas Shoppe

**DECEMBER 2000**

**JANUARY 2001**

**Kids Fun Fest at the ZOO**

Saturday 1/13 - Monday 1/15  
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



**FEBRUARY 2001**

**JUNGLE JOG 5k Race and Fun Walk**

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



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

**MARCH 2001**



**BALL OF THE WILD**  
 OF THE WILD  
 Saturday 3,  
 7:30 p.m.-midnight

**Third Annual Big Bug Out**  
 Friday 23 - Sunday 25

**APRIL 2001**



**THE GREAT METROZOO EGG SAFARI**  
 Sunday 15

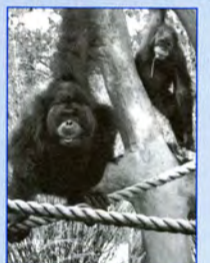
**MAY 2001**

**Mother's Day at the Zoo**  
 Sunday 13



**JUNE 2001**

**Father's Day at the Zoo**  
 Sunday 17



**JULY 2001**

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



**COOL ZOO SUMMER**  
 Misterys & Water Play Entertainment

**AUGUST 2001**



**SEPTEMBER 2001**

**Back to School Fun Time at Metrozoo**

**OCTOBER 2001**

**MetroBoo!**

Saturday 27-Sunday 28  
 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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.



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

**TOUCAN TALK**

**DISCOVER YOUR ZOO!**



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**NEW! Wild Lights at Miami Metrozoo**

**MEMBER PREVIEW NIGHT**

Tuesday 11/21 • 1:30-10.00 p.m.  
 Free to Members

