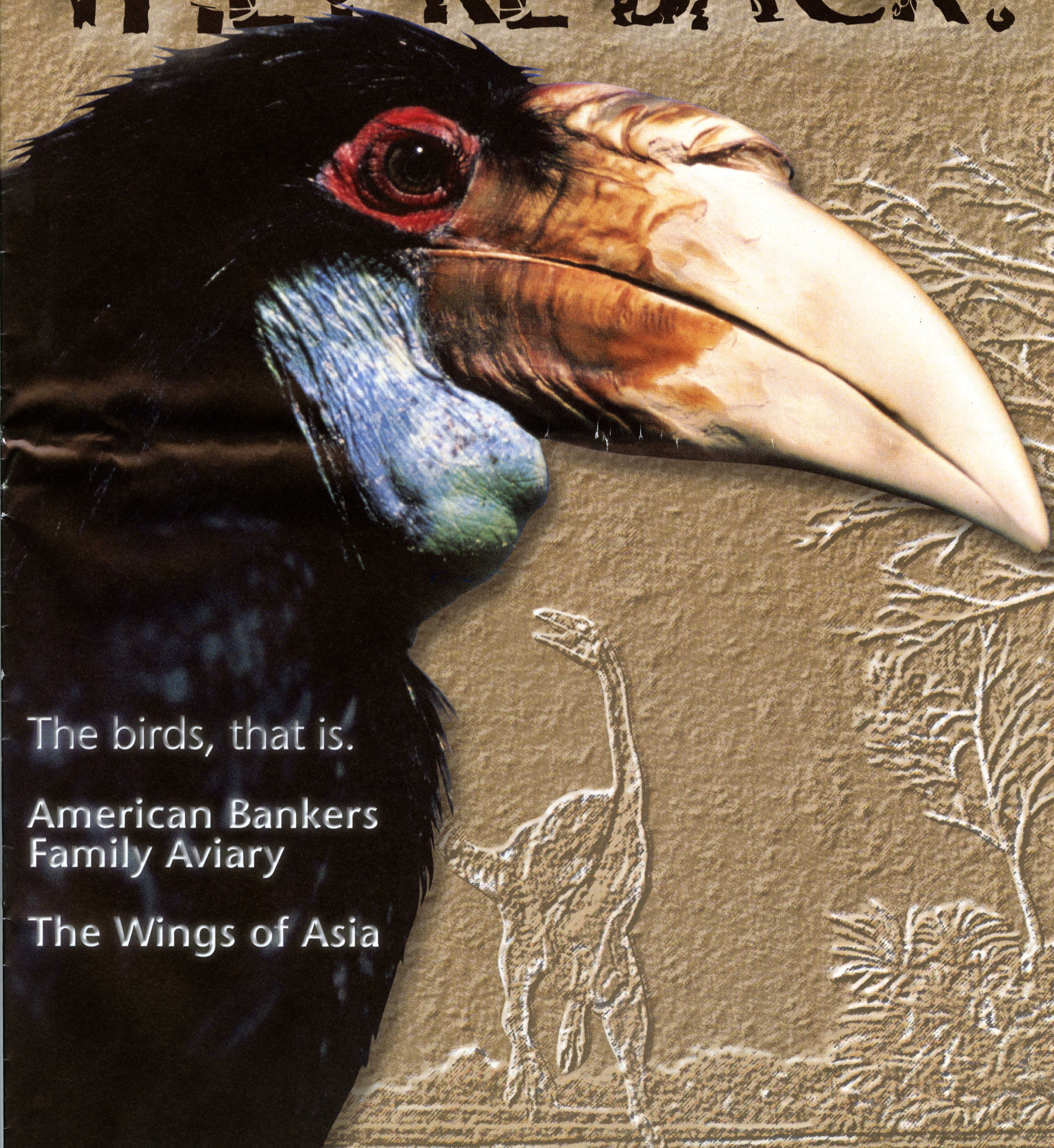


TOUCAN TALK

IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD!

THEY'RE BACK!



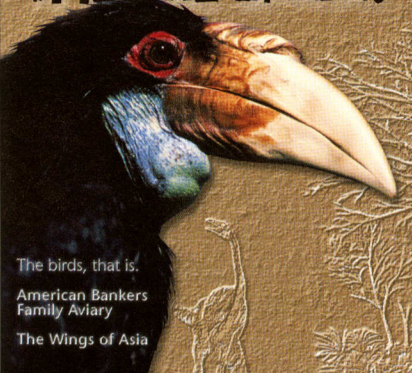
The birds, that is.

American Bankers
Family Aviary

The Wings of Asia



THEY'RE BACK!



The birds, that is.
American Bankers
Family Aviary
The Wings of Asia

Cover: Wrinkled hornbill and Tyrannosaurus Rex
Photo: Lance Turner

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Toucan Talk
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NEW ANIMALS

Births and Hatchings

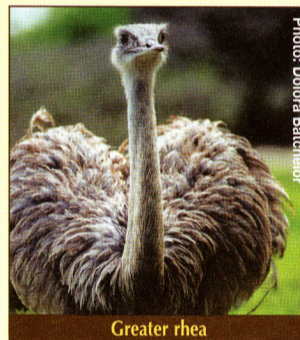
- 1 Nile lechwe (gender undetermined) – March 28
- 1 Dama gazelle (gender undetermined)– April 12
- 5 Bat-eared foxes (genders undetermined)– April 13

Acquisitions

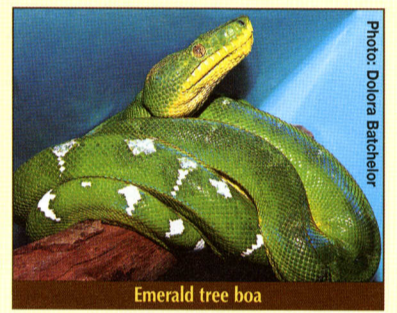
- 1 Male and 3 female greater rheas – March 22
- 1 Male and 1 female knight anole – April 1
- 2 Male and 2 female emerald tree boas – April 10
- 1 Male Eastern bongo – April 12
- 1 Male Honduran milksnake – April 18

On Loan

- 1 Female bearded dragon – March 19



Greater rhea



Emerald tree boa



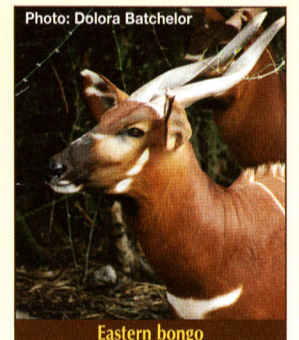
Knight anole



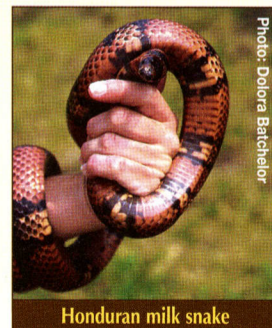
Dama gazelle



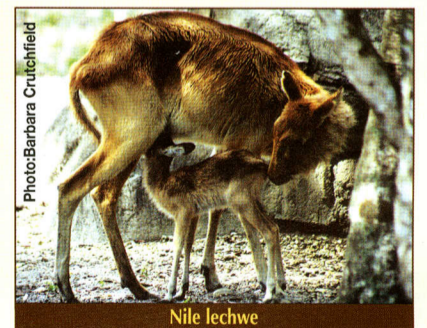
Bat-eared fox



Eastern bongo



Honduran milk snake



Nile lechwe

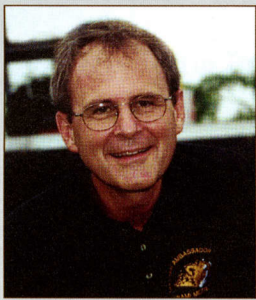


Bearded dragon

ON LOAN

Dear Friends:

Photo: Barbara Crutchfield



This fall we will begin construction of the American Bankers Family Aviary: The Wings of Asia. Miami-Dade County officials and staff along with ZSF Board members and staff are combining their expertise to

ensure a much more exciting visitor experience in the more complex and expanded aviary that will cover approximately 2.6 acres. The new aviary will include interactive exhibits, an air-conditioned gallery for educational presentations and a free-flight zone where visitors can observe birds in a naturalistic environment.

It is a very exciting time here at Metrozoo! I invite you to stop by the ZSF building to look at the American Bankers Family Aviary model. The project will be completed by the end of 2002. Depending upon the period of acclimatization by the birds and any final details, the Aviary will open in the winter of 2002 or Spring 2003.

I hope you and your family will get to know and enjoy our newest and very first indoor air-conditioned gallery, Dr. Wilde's World. There's a lot happening at your Zoo. It's a whole new world at Miami Metrozoo, and I hope you will share it with family members and friends. Your support in spreading the good news is very important to the continued growth and expansion of your Zoo.

Glenn Ekey

Executive Director
Zoological Society of Florida

THE WILD BUNCH PROFESSIONALS CLUB
Discover the Untamed Side of Community Service!

By Debbie Mucarsel,
ZSF Associate Director of Development
for Corporate and Individual Gift Giving

Feast and frolic, music and wildlife, describe the *Wild Bunch* kick-off happy hour that took place on April 26th at the Miami City Club. More than 200 prominent young professionals attended the event sponsored by the Miami City Club and Chivas Regal. The *Wild Bunch* is a newly formed group of young volunteer professionals who support the work of Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) by acting as community advocates and goodwill ambassadors for wildlife and conservation. Young friends of the Zoo enjoy camaraderie and a common sense of mission by actively participating in projects, committees and events. And where else can upward mobile young professionals engage in "wild" works, fun and social activity but at Miami Metrozoo.

Among the guests was Metrozoo's own goodwill ambassador cheetah King George. Ron Magill, MC for the event, introduced the leaders of the *Wild Bunch*: Stephane Gressier, Guillermo Levy, Sallie Anne Marvil, Monika Mucarsel and Benjamin Wolkov.

Benjamin Wolkov invited young professionals to get involved, "What the *Wild Bunch* offers is an opportunity for young professionals to be imaginative and irreverent in their community mindedness. *Wild Bunch* events do not center on the traditional wine and cheese format. *Wild Bunch* members stretch the bounds of their creativity to come up with intriguing activities that catch the attention of the community and help promote the educational and preservation activities of the Zoological Society of Florida and the Miami Metrozoo."

Sallie Anne Marvil, *Wild Bunch* Chairman, stated, "The objective of the *Wild Bunch* is to create a network of young professionals who can meet in social settings and have a little fun, while supporting the important initiatives of ZSF."

Being a member of the *Wild Bunch* is the newest rung on the charitable corporate ladder. Members will plan at least one "wild" party, and participate in committees and social events. For more information or to join the *Wild Bunch*, call Debbie Mucarsel, at (305) 255-5551.



Left to Right: Guillermo Levy, Debbie Mucarsel, Ron Magill, Ben Wolkov, Sallie Anne Marvil, Stephane Gressier, Monika Mucarsel



Left to Right: Jennifer Nelson, Metrozoo; Mariella Saavedra, Chivas Regal; Mitchell Rubin, Miami City Club; Wendy Kallergis, Miami City Club; Debbie Mucarsel, ZSF

Photos: Sanchez & Levitan Advertising

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WHEN TWO OR MORE
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JOIN THE ZSF!

Zoological Society of Florida
BE A FRIEND AND REFER A FRIEND!

Be a friend of Metrozoo and encourage your friends and family to become new members of the Zoological Society of Florida. When your friends or family join, they will receive **10% off their new membership!** They will also enjoy all the benefits of membership just like you do. Like free daytime admission to the zoo, free subscription to our newsletter, *Toucan Talk*, free admission to some of Metrozoo's best events, free admission to over 150 zoos in the U.S. and Canada. And much, much, more!



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For information call the ZSF Membership Dept. at 305-255-5551

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Just include your name and membership # on the coupons and give them to your friends or family. When we receive two coupons, you will have the option of 50% discounted on your renewal or an additional 6 months added to your membership. Thanks for being a friend!

In Loving Memory of Betty Miller



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

The passing of Betty Miller on April 3, 2001 saddened the Zoological Society of Florida and the Miami Metrozoo family. "Betty was a kind, caring and intelligent lady with a huge heart. She was a true philanthropist who always spoke of 'giving back to the community' which had given so much to her," said Glenn Ekey, ZSF Executive Director.

Betty and her life-long companion Lee Bynum were devoted supporters of Miami Metrozoo. In the late '80s they funded a special perimeter fence around the Zoo so local animals could not dig under the fence and endanger the Zoo animals. In 1988 they set up a Florida Endangered Species Endowment Fund, primarily for the Florida Panther Captive Breeding Project to which they contributed annually. "Lee and I feel that [a contribution to] the existence of Metrozoo is a large contribution to the future of South Florida. Not only in tourism and jobs, but also in the education of the children for [a] better understanding of the preservation of our animals," Betty said after setting up the endowment fund. "Extinction of our animals also means the extinction of mankind."

Support was not only given in money. Betty and Lee could always be counted upon to support special events such as Feast With the Beasts. Every Christmas season staff and visitors enjoy the charming Winter Village they donated for the ZSF lobby. Their love for animals was constantly demonstrated through their volunteer efforts.

In the spring of 2000, Betty and Lee were honored at the grand opening of the Miller Bynum Knight House at the Children's Zoo. Their generous donation made it possible to replace the original Animal Resource Center that was destroyed during Hurricane Andrew. The animals of the Education Animal Collection had been living in a trailer since the hurricane. The Miller Bynum Knight House now provides a safe, efficient, comfortable environment for the animals, as well as for the staff and volunteers who care for them.

Betty and Lee had a very special passion for reptiles, and Betty arranged a trust to support the construction of new reptile exhibits at the Hidden Ruins of the Tropical Americas, the newest lobe to be built at the Zoo. Lee Bynum passed away on October 5, 2000. Betty and Lee will be remembered fondly and missed deeply by all who knew them.

Meet the Medfords!

A Volunteer Couple Who Make A Great Deal Of Difference



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

When they retired almost four years ago, Ron and Kathy Medford looked for a volunteer opportunity. Ron (who is an astronomer and was the Assistant Director of the U.S. Naval Observatory) and Kathy (who is a Social Worker and was the Chief Operating Officer of Haven Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults) were interested in volunteering together and preferred to work close to home. Their love of animals (they currently share their home with two dogs and five cats) plus the short distance from their home made Metrozoo a natural. They became specialists, too, and after the Docent training found they wanted to be at the Zoo as often as possible.

"Volunteering at Metrozoo has opened up a whole new world of opportunities," said Kathy Medford. In addition to working in the Zoo Kitchen, helping with administrative work and working on Zoo grounds interpreting the exhibits to the visitors, Kathy has lots of opportunities to do the computer work she enjoys by entering new and renewed Zoo memberships into the ever-expanding database.

Ron, who really prefers being outside, has been a one-man "Sparkle Patrol," cleaning and painting the various signs and helping to maintain the grounds. "Being Metrozoo Volunteers is one of the greatest experiences we've had. The staff, members, zookeepers, and other volunteers have made us feel so welcome. Every day is a new experience," declared Ron.

"Where else could we have so much fun and go home feeling like we've made a positive contribution to the welfare of the wonderful animals at Metrozoo?" asked Kathy. "We are looking forward to the many activities planned for the coming months, and to meeting and greeting many new visitors to the Zoo!"

The Medfords are at the Zoo seven days a week and just about every day of the year. They never miss a special event, and you can find them hard at work when you come to MetroBoo, the Great Egg Safari, Earth Day and all the other special events and programs at the Zoo. When you see them, be sure to say "hello" for they will always have something interesting to tell you!

If you are interested in learning how you can join the Medfords along with the other members of the volunteer team, contact our Volunteer Services Department at (305) 255-5551, ext. 124. Training classes are scheduled to begin in September.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

- A loving thank you to **Betty Miller** for her bequest to ZSF to build a reptile exhibit at the Hidden Ruins in the to-be-built Tropical American lobe of the Zoo. We will miss you, Betty.
- We thank **Pollo Tropical** for joining the Emerald Boa Corporate Circle and sponsoring the Flamingo exhibit.
- We are most grateful to **American Express** for their continued support of ZSF's programs.
- A very special thank you to **SunTrust Banks of Florida Foundation** for their generous support of ZSF's work, and especially to **Jay Pelham** for making this gift a reality.
- Our sincerest gratitude to the **Jefferson Lee Ford III Memorial Foundation** for their continued support.
- We thank the **Citigroup Foundation** for their annual support of ZSF and Metrozoo.
- A heartfelt thank you to **John Seykora, Jr.** for making the Citigroup Foundation donation possible.
- Thank you **Sue Cobb** and the **Cobb Family Foundation** for your generous support. Congratulations, Sue, as you embark on a new endeavor as Ambassador to Jamaica!
- Thank you **Bank Atlantic Foundation** for your generous support of our education programs.
- A special thank you to the **Miami City Club** and **Chivas Regal** for sponsoring the *Wild Bunch* event, and **Hilda Rodriguez** and **La Tropical Brewing Company** for their contribution.
- Metrozoo and the animals send a great big thanks to **Wayne Barkett** and **Pine Island Farms, Inc.**, and to all their wonderful employees who donate hundreds of pounds of fresh produce for the Zoo animals during the "U Pick" season. Thanks Effie, Ray, Cliff, Bill, Woolleena, Gladys, Alma, Bill and Wayne, Betty, Ann and Georgia.
- We are grateful to all who made this year's Egg Safari a big success: **COAST 97.3 FM** for sponsoring the Goodie Patch, and **Toys "R" Us** for the toys to create "Bunny Land" at the Zoo's entrance.
- Our thanks to all who made the Third Annual Big Bug Out a great success: Entomologist **Adrian Hunsberger**, **University of Florida County Extension Office** for her presentation on "beneficial bugs"; **Butterfly Mystique of Miami, Inc.** for the beautiful butterflies for our Butterfly House; **The Clemson University Department of Entomology**, **Cooperative Extension Service** and **Ricardo Stanoss DVM** for donating the use of some amazing images of bugs; Entomologist **Dak Seal**, **University of Florida Tropical Research Station** for identifying bugs that people brought to the Bug Out; the **Exciting 4-H Club** for their puppet shows; **HotLix** for the edible bugs; the **Palmetto Bug Volkswagen Club** for exhibiting their Beetles; and all the **staff** and **volunteers**.
- A very special resounding and heartfelt Thank You to **all the volunteers** who give of their time and friendly service to Zoo visitors and Zoo and ZSF staff. We couldn't do it all without you!

THE FLORAL DIVERSITY OF THE TROPICAL AMERICAN RAINFOREST

By Cristina Heredia, Exhibits Specialist

Step into the botany room of Dr. Wilde's World and you will witness the incredible floral diversity of the Tropical American rainforest. Hot lips. Totuma. Passionflower. Vanilla vine. Tagua palm. Chicle tree. This extraordinary exhibit features various displays, images, and interactive activities describing the importance of plant life in the Tropical Americas.

Tropical rainforests contain many unique species of plants, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. The people and animals of the forest depend on plants for food, shelter, medicine, and clean air. Did you know that rainforest plants provide the world with most of its oxygen supply?

The elevated temperature and humidity of the rainforest allow for an extremely high diversity of plants that have developed specialized strategies and adaptations to help them survive in these hot and humid conditions. Some of these adaptations include tall, emergent canopy trees that can reach 65 feet or higher. This helps their leaves bathe in the sunlight. Epiphytes (air plants) such as orchids, bromeliads, ferns, and mosses take advantage of the tall trees by growing on trunks and branches. Plants in the understory receive little sunlight and may have flat or broad leaves that help them absorb as much light as possible.

Come explore the fascinating world of plants, their adaptations and more. Have you ever wondered why a simple leaf can come in so many different shapes and sizes? Some have "drip tips" which are elongated leaf tips that point down to help get rid of excess water and keep the leaf free of moisture. The fuzzy or "hair-like" surface on some leaves helps protect the plant from invasive insects. Thorns, spines, and distasteful chemicals provide defenses by discouraging plant-eating animals. Large buttresses and stilt roots provide support and distribute the weight of giant rainforest trees.

Test your sense of smell at the sniff stations. Can you recognize some familiar scents from the rainforest? The plants you recognize can probably be found in your kitchen or at the grocery store: Coffee, chocolate and much more.

Products from the rainforest can be seen in everyday life. Tropical

woods are used in construction. Plant fibers are used in packing materials and woven goods. Did you know that rubber is produced from the white sap of the rubber tree? Resins, oils, and gums also come from tropical trees. Some of these resins are used to make varnishes, lacquers, and enamels.

Tagua nuts are hard and very durable, with a similarity to animal ivory. Most taguas in Panama come from the palm tree, *Phytelephas seemannii*. Also called "vegetable ivory," tagua nuts were used in the United States and Europe during the early 1900s to make buttons and jewelry. In the 1920s, 20% of all the buttons produced in the U.S. were made of tagua. Before World War II, Panama, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador exported about five million dollars of tagua to the U.S. and Europe. The commercial use of this nut helps to conserve rare and endangered species and is an incentive to protect the rainforest by providing an alternative for ivory, as well as providing a livelihood for the native peoples of the rainforest.

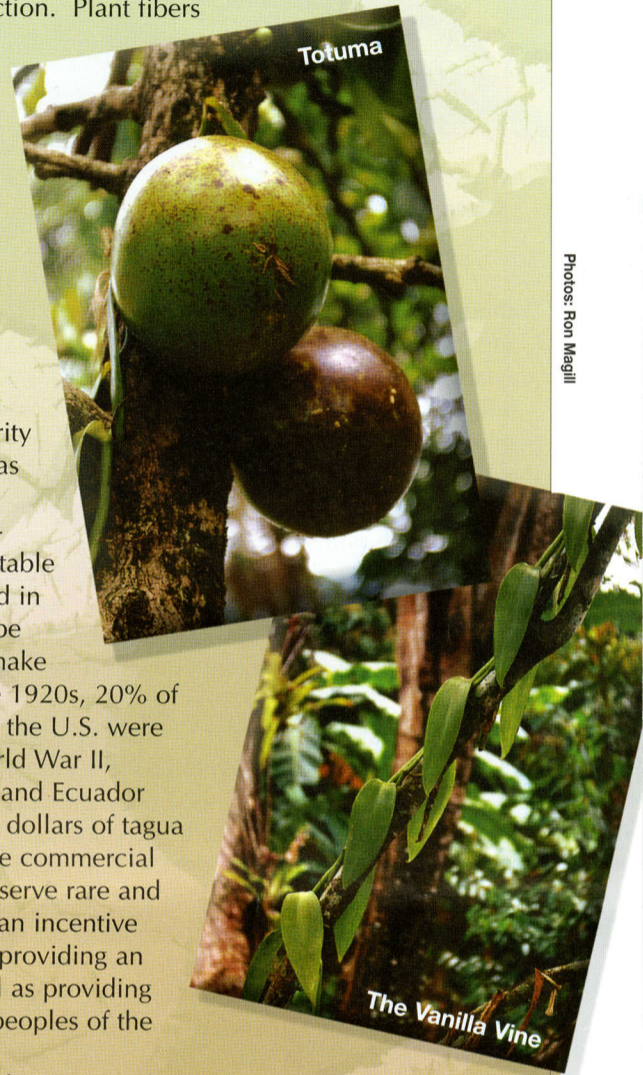
The Wounaan Indians of the Darién-Chocó region of Panama are master carvers of the tagua nuts. Taguas are carved with hand tools and polished with a series of fine abrasives. Many of the carvings are colored with dyes taken from the rainforest. The natural nut has a dark brown outer cover and is ivory white on the inside. Natural inclusions are shades of brown and gray. Other colors come from natural extracts of plants and earth. The artisans use no lacquers or varnishes, and only high quality India ink is used for creating fine details. You will see many fine examples of the carvings at Dr. Wilde's World, and tagua carvings may be purchased in the gift shop.

Tropical rainforests are also gardens for medicinal plants. Twenty-five percent of medicines prescribed today were originally derived from rainforests. For thousands of years plants have served a medicinal purpose for many cultures and will continue to do so. Indigenous people possess a wealth of botanical knowledge and can identify thousands of different plant species. There is a sense of urgency among scientists to gain knowledge of the medicinal properties of rainforest plants before they disappear. With the incredible floral diversity of the forest, imagine what important medicinal compounds remain undiscovered!

You can help protect the environment

Protecting natural resources can be easy! Here are a few things you can do locally to help the environment:

- Plant native trees and bushes that sustain wildlife.
- Participate in neighborhood recycling programs.
- Share environmental concerns with friends, family, and community leaders.
- Conserve energy and water in your home.
- Do not buy products made from endangered species, such as ivory.
- Support your Zoo and conservation organizations.



Photos: Ron Magill



Tagua nut carvings

American Bankers Family Aviary: The Wings of Asia



Cissa

Miami Metrozoo's New Aviary To Break Ground in September 2001

Exotic, rare and endangered Asian birds will fly again at Miami Metrozoo! The design is almost complete, and the Zoo anticipates breaking ground for the bigger and more complex aviary this September. Plans are to open the free-flight aviary with 50 species that will grow to 70 species with about 300 birds. Brilliantly colored pheasants, hornbills and magpies will show off their shimmering, iridescent plumage in a large, lush free-flight enclosure that will give the feeling of an Asian jungle. Tiny and large birds will swoop overhead, perch on branches and even strut and stroll right by the visitor. Aquatic birds will swim in the lake, occasionally diving for fish, and bathe themselves. The air will be alive with beautiful birdsongs, trickling brooks and a waterfall.

The new aviary complex will be larger and will include an air-conditioned space with hands-on activities for the visitor.

From dinosaurs to birds

Did you know that the Tyrannosaurus Rex is a relative of a tiny mandarin duck? It is believed that dinosaurs became extinct some 65 million years ago. Although the magnificent T-Rex and agile Velociraptor are no longer roaming our planet, many scientists believe that there is one lineage of dinosaur thriving today. We call them birds. Visitors are encouraged to learn about the similarities and relationships between birds and dinosaurs in the pre-flight area.

Also in the pre-flight area, a simulated Field Research Camp will give visitors the opportunity to view and manipulate realistic casts of dinosaur fossils and bird skeletons, to roll up their sleeves and search for fossils in a giant sand dig with buried fossil casts, and to make up their own stories with bird puppets.

"We're making the aviary better than it was before!" said Eric Stephens, Director of Miami Metrozoo

"Our goal is for visitors to gain a better appreciation for birds, their diversity and their incredible ancient origins," commented Elisabeth Koncza, Deputy Director of the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) and Director of Education. "Our hope is that young minds (and even older ones) will begin to ask critical questions and to seek answers. If a visitor leaves the exhibit puzzled and heads straight to the library, our goal to inspire our visitors with a hunger for science and a love of nature will have been achieved."

R. Kirk Landon retired Board Chairman with American Bankers Insurance Group (ABIG) – now the Assurant Group – made a \$2.5 million gift in 1999 to Metrozoo for the design and construction of the new aviary that will replace the aviary destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. "ABIG and Metrozoo shared the experience of Hurricane Andrew's destruction in 1992. I know the challenges of recovering from such a blow, and I want to see the aviary rebuilt for the enjoyment of our community," Landon said after making the gift.

Additional funding sources include FEMA, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, private donations made to the ZSF, and private donations held by Miami-Dade County.

The new aviary is being designed by The Portico Group, the internationally renowned Seattle-based architects, landscape architects, interpretive planners and exhibit designers for zoos, aquariums, wildlife sanctuaries, arboreta and botanical gardens, museums and visitor centers. The Portico Group will also work with local architects, designers and engineers such as Spillis Candela – DMJM (SC-DMJM), Curtis & Rogers Design Studio (CRDS) and EAC Consulting.

"Miami-Dade County officials and staff along with ZSF Board members and staff, are combining their expertise to ensure a much more exciting visitor experience in the more complex and expanded aviary that will cover approximately 2.6 acres," stated Glenn Ekey, Executive Director of the Zoological Society of Florida. "The scientific accuracy of the storyline will be assured by the scientific advisory committee comprised of Dr. Philip Stoddard, ornithologist with the Department of Biology, Florida International University (FIU); Dr. Laurel S. Collins, paleobiologist, Department of Earth Sciences, FIU; and paleontologist, Dr. Mark Norell, chair of the Department of Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, New York."

Visitors will become immersed in the sounds, colors and stories of birds.

The visitor will pass through the "Asian cultural gateways," announcing the entry to the aviary. An Asian theme will prevail throughout the Wings of Asia and into the preflight area, a large landscaped environment that consists of the Field Research Camp. A large plaza will have shaded and air-conditioned spaces with activities for visitors of all ages. The site is split by the monorail track that passes outside the netted free flight aviary and continues throughout the Zoo. Under the Monorail the visitor will enter the free flight aviary that will feature underwater viewing, picturesque waterfalls and lakes. The visitor will proceed on an elevated walkway and over a bridge to an Asian temple ruin overgrown with lush, exotic vegetation. Inside the temple the visitor can rest in air-conditioned comfort with a view of the Free Flight Aviary, or browse in the gift shop for dinosaur puzzles and bird feeders.

"We are designing a habitat that will provide an exciting visitor experience and at the same time provide the birds with a comfortable home suitable for breeding and conservation programs," explained the zoological supervisor for birds, Carl Burch.

Groundbreaking will be in September, 2001

Groundbreaking for the new aviary will be in September 2001. "We will have substantial completion of the project by September 2002," said Eric Stephens, Metrozoo's director. "After the aviary is rebuilt, we will have several months of acquiring new birds. All of these birds will have to be quarantined for at least a month before they can be placed into the aviary. Depending upon the period of acclimatization by the birds and any final details, we hope to open in Winter 2002 or Spring 2003."

Future Plans for Metrozoo

With the help of The Portico Group, Metrozoo and the ZSF are in the final stages of completing the Master Plan to continue the expansion of Metrozoo. Plans are to incorporate other themed attractions in the surrounding areas of the Zoo to provide a variety of recreational activities for local and international visitors.

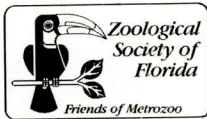
"There is much that is new and exciting at the Zoo these days," commented Ekey. "We turn to our members, friends and supporters for their financial participation in allowing

Metrozoo to achieve its mission to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations. With your support, we can truly be a world class Zoo."



Rhino hornbill

The Zoological Society of Florida
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Miami, FL 33177-1499



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___ Specify animal _____
___ My gift is in honor, or in memory of _____
___ Notification to _____

___ I enclose a check made payable to Zoological Society of Florida.

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Signature _____
Date _____

The Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization under the IRS Code. It is registered with the State of Florida under the Solicitation of Contributions Act, Chapter 496, Florida Statutes. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services toll-free in Florida: (800) 435-7352.

Please Help Us Update Our Records:

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone () _____

E-mail address _____

Business (if applicable) Title: _____

_____ Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone () _____

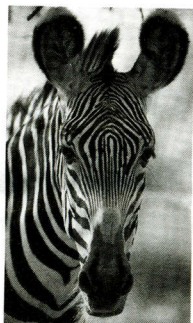
e-mail _____

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. Give the gift of survival and make a bold statement of your commitment to our planet's wildlife.

Adopt-An-Animal 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.

- \$100** Colobus monkey
- Flamingo
- Gerenuk
- \$75** African Cape hunting dog
- Asian small-clawed otter
- Blood python
- European stork
- Galapagos tortoise
- Cuban crocodile
- \$50** African white-backed vulture
- Bactrian camel
- Black-necked swan
- Boa constrictor
- Cuban tree duck
- Leopard tortoise
- \$25** Friend to any animal of your choice



Other endangered animals include the: clouded leopard, Siamese crocodile, Komodo dragon, siamang ape, chimpanzee, gibbon, Grevy's zebra, koala, Malayan tapir, onager, orangutan, sable antelope, Bengal tiger, lowland gorilla, Indian rhinoceros, black rhinoceros, African elephant.



CROCODILE MONITORS

By Steve Conners, Metrozoo General Curator

Now you can see both the longest and heaviest species of lizards in the world at Miami Metrozoo. Everyone knows that Komodo dragons are the world's largest (heaviest) lizards. But few are aware that the crocodile monitor from the tropical forests of New Guinea holds the record length at nearly twelve feet. The exceedingly long, whip-like tail of the croc monitor is responsible for most of this length, hence the distinction between "longest" and "largest."

These striking saurians with their bright yellow spotted, black bodies can be found in the Australian section of the Zoo in front of the Koala House. I can only assume that their common name derives from their rather bulbous snout since they aren't known to be aquatic, but rather live in trees. Or perhaps it has something to do with their nasty reputation. A bite from one apparently forced the hospitalization of a keeper at another zoo. The tail is also a potential weapon that can be used to lash anyone who gets too close. Fortunately our pair has a fairly mellow attitude.

The male, Samson, is the longer specimen at nearly nine feet, while the female, Delilah, is around seven feet. *Varanus salvadorii*, as these animals are known scientifically, were first maintained in captivity in 1960. Since that time we've learned more about this species' natural history from captive specimens than from wild ones. For instance there are no records of wild feeding habits, but it's presumed that they eat birds and their eggs since these monitors are arboreal. Our monitors, on the other hand, never climb the trees in their exhibit. Rather they seem to prefer the stairwell that leads down into the service area of the building. These lizards cer-

tainly aren't confined to birds in their taste for food. They consume mice, rats, fish, horsemat and even an opossum that wandered into their display.

There are also no records of reproduction in the wild. I've heard that the native tribesmen can tell you in which tree the local croc monitor habitually nests. This is an intriguing idea and not difficult to believe. Captives often choose a site high in their enclosure to lay their eggs. Our female has laid eggs in the soil on top of the shelter in her exhibit. Delilah also guards her nest, which is unusual for a lizard. Normally these monitors lay clutches of 3 to 9 leathery shelled eggs, but our female produced seventeen in a clutch last year! This appears to be the largest clutch ever recorded for a crocodile monitor. Incubation can last up to nine months and has proven a bit tricky. So far we've only had one egg successfully hatch (many have been infertile), but we're hoping for better luck in the future.



This rare, poorly known lizard is considered a priority species by the AZA Lizard Taxon Advisory Group. This means that a studbook is being maintained to track the zoo specimens and an effort is being made to manage animals to prevent inbreeding. This is relatively easy at this point since crocodile monitors are only

found in fourteen U.S. zoos, and only five zoos have bred them. As time goes on, this situation will likely change and it will become increasingly important to keep track of which monitors are selected as breeding pairs. The idea is to maintain a healthy, self-sustaining captive population. This will allow zoos to continue displaying crocodile monitors and learning more about their biology far into the future.

KAPOW Kids from Gulfstream Elementary School LEARN WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WORK AT METROZOO

"Today my class and I will go behind the scenes at Metrozoo. We'll also learn about the animals and the [Zoo] people. KAPOW brings Gulfstream students to the Zoo, and I expect to have fun!" stated Kevin Gema of Mr. English's fifth grade class when he arrived at his first workstation for the day.

After lunch, Katarina Villalobos of Mrs. Smith's fourth grade class exclaimed, "I learned to help animals and pass school and go to college and we will go to a good job!" Rafael Quezada of Mrs. Martin's fifth grade class said, "I learned what people do at Metrozoo, like what skills they need and why Metrozoo inspires people to work there as volunteers!"

How do children come to recognize the value of what they learn in school? For many young people this remains a mystery until they become adults. Not for students at Gulfstream Elementary School! On April 19, 186 fourth and fifth grade students visited Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida as part of a yearlong School-To-Career initiative. KIDS AND THE

POWER OF WORK (KAPOW), a program of the National Child Labor Committee in conjunction with Miami-Dade County Public School's Office of School Reform, Department of School-To-Career Initiatives, organized the worksite visit. In this unique program, teachers and business volunteers collaborate to teach lessons that connect learning in the classroom to the real-world workplace and expose students to career options. The site visit gives students hands-on experience with people in the workplace and the skills needed to be successful in real-world jobs.

The students became "millionaires" and then learned how to give endowment funds to the Zoo. As Angel Jones (4th grade) reported, "I learned that Metrozoo calls people and ask[s] them for money." Jonathan Guzman (4th grade) stated, "The 'fun reaser' people collect money to get supplies for the animals."

The purpose of the trip, according to Michael Kjelson (4th grade) was to "find out what education you need to have a job at the amazing Metrozoo. We learned about the cool people who teach educational classes about wildlife." "I learned that it isn't so easy to work at the Zoo," exclaimed Andrew Irizarry (5th grade). "You need many skills to work in the Zoo," he continued. Geoff Turman (5th grade) jumped in and added, "You need math, science, social studies, and more!" How much more? Maria Knowles (5th grade) said, "Working at the Zoo is a lot of responsibility. They [staff] have to use skills like reading, writing, language arts, spelling, social studies and math. It's a lot, huh?"

In addition to office work and animal care, the children discovered a more unusual job. Kaishla Ayala (5th grade) was surprised

that "some people don't do their job for money. Some people do their job because they like to take care of animals or because they volunteered to work!"

Little did the children suspect they would be learning about the conservation of the Pine Rockland that surrounds the Zoo. "I learned that some plants are poisonous," said Jeannine Walford (4th grade). Katarina Villalobos of the same class added, "we have to know science to know about plants; about poison plants and the different kinds of plants."

Not only did the children learn about fundraising, education conservation programs, volunteering, public relations, maintenance, and animal zookeepers, they were given hands-on activities to "experience" the jobs.

Ronnie Baker with the Zoo's Maintenance Department explained to the children how important it is to know all about the plants before putting anything near the animals. He had the children pot 200 bald cypress trees that will months later be planted throughout the Zoo. They were happy to know that one day the trees



they had just potted would provide shade for animal exhibits and along the walkways for the visitors.

Working at the Zoo wouldn't be complete without learning about animal care. Keeper responsibilities include "washing the animals, feeding the animals, and cleaning up the poop!" said Alexis Rivera (5th grade). Miguel Gonzalez (5th grade) exclaimed, "They [the zookeepers] use fractions to feed the animals!!"

The quotes from the children in this story were taken directly from the press releases they were asked to write for this article when they learned about Public Relations. The children learned first-hand of the importance of teamwork as evidenced by the close working relationship between Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida. They were also able to understand how the public reacts to the team efforts.

To sum up an action packed day, Kristen Fitzwilliam of Mrs. Devalle's fourth grade wrote, "Today we have come to the Zoo to go behind the scenes to learn about people and their jobs. When I first came, I thought it was going to be boring; but it was actually fun!"

Gulfstream Elementary School uses the KAPOW program to fulfill school improvement goals. Cross Curriculum Connections, contained in each KAPOW lesson, help teachers integrate KAPOW lesson concepts into areas such as reading, math, science, social studies, writing, art and technology. Students also learn the importance of workplace skills such as teamwork, positive work habits and decision-making.

For more information about KAPOW, go to their website at: www.kapow.org.

SUMMER ZOOFARI CAMP 2001

Session A:

African Adventure

Gorillas, giraffes, lions, cheetahs! These animals and many others will be the focus of this unforgettable experience.

Awesome Australia

Many of the most unusual animals live "down under." In this session, campers will learn all about the behavior and unique adaptations of Australian animals.

Session B:

Explore Asia

In this session campers explore Asian wildlife by visiting and interacting with some of the most rare and fascinating animals of the world!

The Wild Side of the Americas

Campers will learn about the incredible diversity of wild animals in all the Americas and strategies for conserving them.

Kindercamp Session A (4-6 years old)

June 25-29

July 9-13

July 23-27

August 6-10

Kindercamp Session B (4-6 years old)

July 2-6*

July 16-20

July 30-August 3

August 13-17

Zoofari Session A (7-10 years old)

July 2-6*

July 16-20

July 30-August 3

August 13-17

* Camp will be held on July 4.

Zoofari Session B (7-10 years old)

June 25-29

July 9-13

July 23-27

August 6-10

Zoolife (11-13 years old)

June 18-22

Teen Zoologist (14-17 years old):

This session is dedicated to the training of teen volunteers who assist with different areas of the Zoo, such as the Children's Zoo, special events and the Zoo camps. Upon completion of the training program, teens are eligible to join the Zoo Volunteer Team. Teens must apply and will be interviewed and evaluated. Volunteers are required to assist with one week of Summer Camp. Join us for a thrilling experience.

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

Cost: Members \$125, non-members \$145

Early morning drop-off is at 8:30 a.m. There is an additional cost of \$10 per week per child.

After camp care is from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. There is an additional cost of \$25 per week per child.

- \$10 discount with 2 or more weeks registration, or
 - \$10 discount with 2 or more siblings.
- Only one discount per family*

Please provide your child with a bag lunch.

All Summer Zoofari Camp programs are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee if cancellation is made ten days or less prior to the program date.

Zoological Society of Florida All-Program Registration Form

Participant's Name: _____ Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Are you a ZSF Member? Yes ___ No ___ Membership # _____
 Payment Enclosed: Check # _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ AMEX _____ Credit # _____ Expiration Date _____
 Customer Signature: _____ Total Camp or Program Fee: \$ _____

Participant Information

Parent/ Guardian's Name _____ Contact Phone: _____ Age/Grade of Child _____
 Program: _____ Date _____
 Session: _____ Date _____
 Session: _____ Date _____

Campers Only/Camper's Medical Information

Physician's Name _____ Phone: _____ Dentist's Name _____ Phone _____

In an emergency, if the parent, guardian, or designated physician/dentist cannot be reached, I authorize the Zoological Society of Florida to transport and/or obtain medical services from any physician/dentist for my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____
 Please indicate any medical conditions or health problems of which the Camp staff should be aware. Please describe: (if you require further space, please use a separate sheet of paper):

Allergies _____ Handicap _____ Prescribed Medications _____ Other _____
 (your signature below gives permission to Camp staff to dispense only required medications you send with your child. Please provide the prescribed container, paraphernalia necessary for taking medications, and explicit instructions on a separate sheet of paper.)

Name of Person(s) Who Will Pick Up the Child

Name _____ Relationship _____ Second name _____ Relationship _____ Phone# _____

Vehicle Information: Make _____ Color _____ Tag # _____ 2nd Vehicle: _____ Color _____ Tag # _____

I give permission for my child to participate in the Zoological Society of Florida camp or other program as indicated above. I have read the registration and medical sections and have supplied accurate information. My child can be photographed and his/her picture used for public relations purposes.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, and registration cannot be processed unless this form is completely filled out.

For reservations, call (305) 255-5551 and mail registration form to Zoological Society of Florida/Education Department, 12400 S. W. 152nd St, Miami, FL 33177-1499 or fax to (305) 255-7126

Look Out World, Here Come the Zoodler Graduates!

By Anthea Lavalley, ZSF Education Program Director



Photos: Cecilia Belancourt



In a traditional ceremony held on June 7, proud parents and ZSF staff celebrated the graduation of the Zoodler Academy class of 2001. Complete with mortarboards, diplomas, and commemorative photos, the event marked an important milestone in the lives of the Zoo's youngest animal-lovers. Participants had completed a "rigorous" course of study including story telling, coloring, and

gentle animal handling. Familiar animal friends were featured in a program honoring these achievements, and each Zoodler was awarded an official diploma. Newly certified Junior Zoologists and their parents enjoyed refreshments at a reception immediately following the procession. The ZSF congratulates the young graduates and is proud to have given them a head start on the road to animal appreciation.

became one of Metrozoo's most popular programs. Our goal was to design a series of age-appropriate classroom sessions for toddlers and their parents. Through this curriculum, we hoped to create opportunities for early hands-on experience with gentle animals in a comfortable and friendly setting.

Zoodler Academy also proved to be a great way for young children to meet fellow animal-lovers. A corps of regular participants and their parents looked forward to getting together every Thursday in the Zoo classroom for an hour of adventure. "My daughter Nicole just loves going to the program," said Ellen Kapalis. "She particularly likes touching animals she wouldn't ordinarily be able to get so close to. I appreciate the fact that this is done in a safe environment."

Zoodler Academy was established during the spring of 2000 and quickly

Resuming in August for the 2001/2002 academic year, Zoodler Academy will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Spaces for the upcoming semester are filling fast, so register your favorite toddler today. You'll find that, when it comes to fun, the academy has the highest of standards!

Annual graduation ceremonies will be held in the spring. Participation in a minimum of one Zoodler Academy session is required for graduation.

Familiar animal friends were featured in a program honoring these achievements, and each Zoodler was awarded an official diploma. Newly certified Junior Zoologists and their parents enjoyed refreshments at a reception immediately following the procession. The ZSF congratulates the young graduates and is proud to have given them a head start on the road to animal appreciation.

Zoodler Academy was established during the spring of 2000 and quickly

Due to the heavy Summer Zoofari Camp schedule, our regular Zoo programs such as Zoo Inn and Wild Nights will not be held during July. We look forward to your participation in our fun and adventuresome programs beginning again at the end of August.

Zoodler Academy

Our popular toddler program is now available every Tuesday and Thursday! Bring your little one for a story, live animals, crafts, and more, in a friendly learning environment.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

2-3-year-olds

Date: Tuesday, August 28 – *Animal Talk*

3-4-year-olds

Date: Thursday, August 30 – *Animal Talk*

Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

COST FOR ALL ZOODLER PROGRAMS: Alumni are eligible for a reduced rate: \$8 members, \$10 non-members. Regular rate for new participants: \$10 members; \$12 non-members. Prices include one adult and one child. \$4 each additional alumnus, \$6 each additional new participant.

NOTE: Zoodler Academy will not be held in July. We look forward to seeing you again at the end of August!

To enroll for Zoodler Academy, complete and mail the registration form on page 9, or call the Education Department at (305) 255-5551 for information.

"Wild Nights" at Metrozoo

Join us for pizza and an exciting behind-the-scenes tour! For adults and children ages 6 and over.

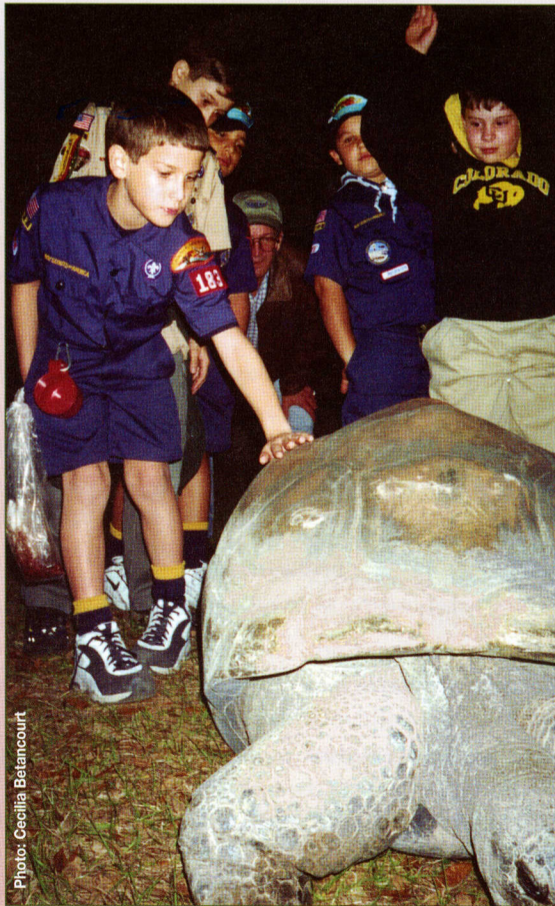


Photo: Cecilia Belancourt

Date: Wednesday, August 29

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Price: \$20.00 per person for members, \$25.00 per person for non-members

Zoo Inn

Our popular sleepover program is resuming on August 31. Bring your scout group, youth group, church group, or sports team to spend the night at Metrozoo for some up-close-and-personal learning! Program offered Fridays and Saturdays throughout the school year. Available for adults and children 6 and over. Price includes T-shirt, badge, two meals and one snack. **Pre-registration required.**



Date: Friday, August 31

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Price \$39.95 per person
Minimum group size: 15
Maximum group size: 30

Photo: Cecilia Belancourt

Celebrate the 4th of July At Miami Metrozoo

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bring your family to the Zoo for good old-fashioned fun and special music to make the day a festive celebration of Independence Day and a visit with the Zoo animals.

For more information, call (305) 255-5551 or visit our website at www.zsf.org.

TROPICAL AG FIESTA

A Taste of the Tropics

Saturday, July 7 & Sunday, July 8
10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

At the Gold Coast Railroad Museum
12450 SW 152nd Street, Miami (next to the Zoo)

All Aboard! Enjoy a taste of the tropics while you step back into history at the 2001 Tropical Agricultural Fiesta at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum. It's Miami's showcase for locally grown produce, plants and trees.

- Come, buy and taste tropical fruits and drinks, choose from a selection of fruit trees, flowering plants and other ornamentals.
- Sample Asian specialty vegetables.
- Watch cooking demonstrations by local chefs, and go home with some samples and great recipes.
- Visit the popular display of mango and avocado varieties and other exotic fruits. Fruit tasting will be available and there will be lots of fresh fruit to purchase.
- Enjoy the art exhibit by the Homestead Art Club.
- Attend special workshops:
"How to Build a Mini Pond For Your Garden"
"Backyard Composting"
"Grafting Demonstration" (in English and Spanish)
- Learn all about your plants at the Miami-Dade County Master Gardeners' plant clinic.
- 4-H Club hands-on activities for kids.
- Ride the Link two-foot gauge train.
- Walk through the many trains on display in the Gold Coast Railroad Museum.

Sense the immensity and power of the train engines!

Discover how this early form of transportation transformed the local agriculture into the industry it is today.

Take a personalized tour of the Ferdinand Magellan, a National Historic Landmark (for an additional charge).

- Bring your questions! Talk with the many experienced people who will be on hand to help you with your gardening questions.

Everything is under cover, so be sure to attend, rain or shine! Parking is convenient and free.

A donation of \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children (ages 6-12) will be requested. Children under 6 are free. Watch for coupons in the paper giving \$1.00 OFF the donation price.

For more information call (305) 253-0063 or visit the Tropical Ag Fiesta website at www.tropicalag.org for a list of the daily events.

CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF DR. WILDE'S WORLD ALL SUMMER!

Be sure to come often to explore the biodiversity of the Tropical Americas in the comfort of air-conditioned Dr. Wilde's World. Enjoy live music and the rhythms from different countries every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Grille! For details call (305) 255-5551 or visit our website at www.zsf.org <<http://www.zsf.org>>



Photo: Raul Rubiera

THE GREAT METROZOO EGG SAFARI... GREAT FUN FOR ALL!



Photos: Sherrie Avery

3RD ANNUAL BIG BUG OUT...

a "Real
Treat" for
Bug Lovers
of All
Ages!



SUN 103.1 WFKZ 5th Annual Kids Show

Key Largo
Elementary School
April 21, 2001




Photo: Dr. Kathleen Turner

COUPON

SPECIAL OFFER!

.....



An Additional
10% off
Dr. Wilde's World
Gift Corner*

*Applicable only with coupon at Dr. Wilde's World • Valid until August 31, 2001

ZOO C A L E N D A R

Dates are subject to change.

JULY 2001

SUMMER ZOOFARI CAMP

June 18 - August 17
(305)255-5551

**4th of July Celebration
With Live Music**
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

COOL ZOO SUMMER

At Dr. Wilde's World
July - August

Live Music at Lakeside Grill Every Sunday, July & August

AUGUST 2001



SEPTEMBER 2001

**Back to School
Fun Time
at Metrozoo**



OCTOBER 2001

MetroBoo!

Saturday 27-Sunday 28
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



NOVEMBER 2001

**WILD LIGHTS AT
MIAMI METROZOO**

Friday 11/23 - Sunday, 12/30

DECEMBER 2001



JANUARY 2002

**Kids Fun Fest
at the
ZOO**

TBA



FEBRUARY 2002

**JUNGLE JOG
5K RUN & FUN WALK**

Sunday 12



MARCH 2002



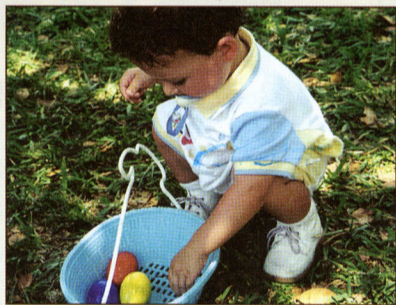
BALL OF THE WILD

Saturday 2

APRIL 2002

**THE GREAT
METROZOO
EGG SAFARI**

Sunday 31



MAY 2002

Fourth Annual
BIG BUG OUT

TBA



**Mother's Day
at the Zoo**

Sunday 12



JUNE 2002

**FATHER'S DAY
AT THE ZOO**

Sunday 16



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

TOUCAN TALK

CELEBRATING METROZOO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY 1981-2001



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

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**THE FLORAL DIVERSITY OF THE
TROPICAL AMERICAN RAINFOREST**

