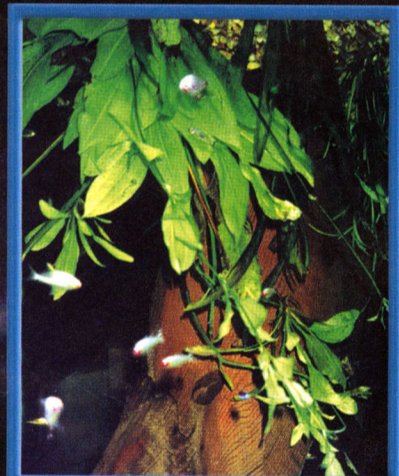


# TOUCAN TALK

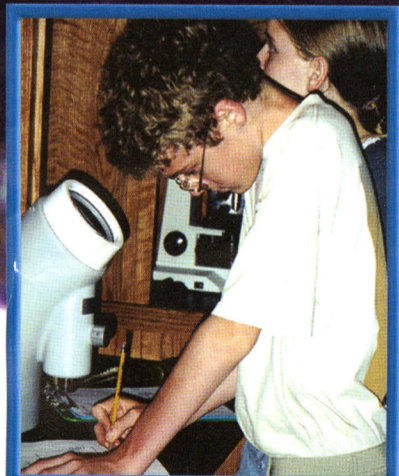
IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD!



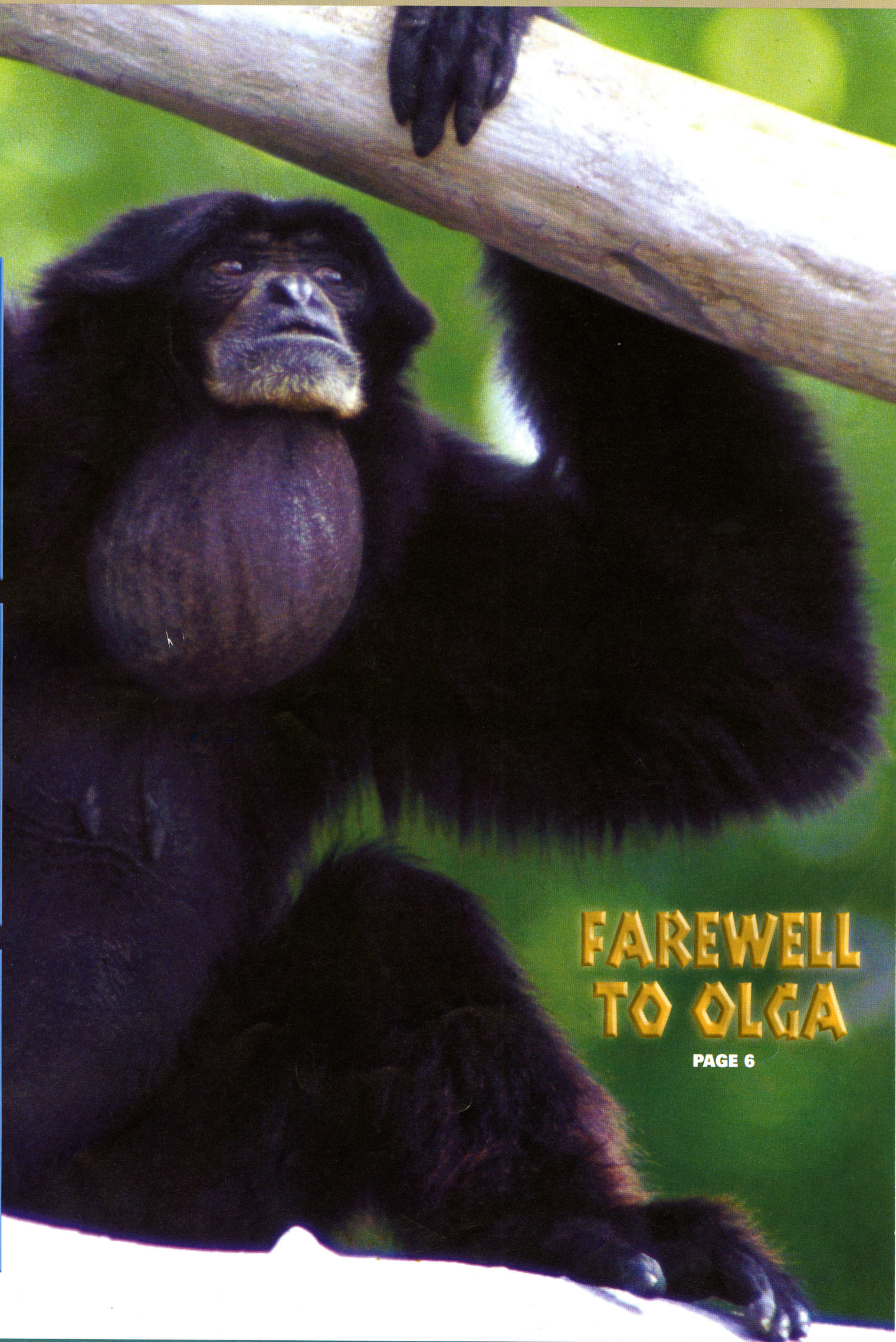
**BARNEY COMES TO METROZOO PAGE 11**



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**ZOO EDUCATION PAGE 9**



**FAREWELL TO OLGA**

**PAGE 6**





Cover: Farewell to Olga  
Photo: Siamang by Ron Magill

**Editor**

Sherrie Avery

**Creative Director**

Maribel Moure-Medina  
Moure Graphic Design, Inc.

**Photos and Artwork**

Sherrie Avery  
Dolara Batchelor  
Cecilia Betancourt  
Barbara Crutchfield  
Ron Magill  
Raul Rubiera  
Ricardo Stanoss  
Adam Stern  
Dr. Kathleen E. Turner, DVM  
Bill Tuttle  
Austin Weeks

**Contributors**

Sherrie Avery  
Cecilia Betancourt  
Steve Connors  
Melissa De Jesus  
Glenn Ekey  
Mayra Gonzalez-Rey  
Cristina Heredia  
Elisabeth Koncza  
Carol Lang  
Jamie Lassonde  
Anthea Lavallee  
Ron Magill  
Kathryn Medford  
Debbie Mucarsel  
Dr. Mark A. Norell  
Ariel Owens  
Judy Radice  
Maria Augusta Sarno  
Ron Stayton  
Adam Stern  
Dr. Kathleen E. Turner, DVM  
Rachél Watkins Rogers

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Glenn Ekey, Executive Director  
Daniel J. Licciardi, President

**Miami Metrozoo**  
Eric Stephens, Director  
12400 SW 152nd St., Miami, FL 33177-1499  
Tel: (305) 255-5551 • Fax: (305) 255-7126  
www.miamimetrozoo.com

**Zoo Visitor Information: (305) 251-0400**

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**NEW ANIMALS**

**Births and Hatchings**

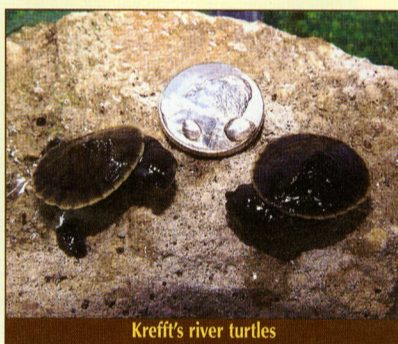
- 4 Krefft's river turtles (gender undetermined) – May 19
- 1 Female dama gazelle – May 23
- 2 Demoiselle cranes (gender undetermined) – May 27 & 28
- 1 Female Grant's zebra – May 31
- 1 Male chimpanzee – June 21

**Acquisitions**

- 1 Malayan water monitor (sex undetermined) – May 9
- 1 Male white-fronted wallaby – May 23
- 1 Female radiated tortoise (on loan) – June 1

**Fish at Dr. Wilde's World**

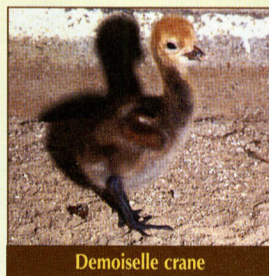
- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Catfish              | Bristlenose               |
| Marbled hatchetfish  | Blue tetra                |
| Silver hatchetfish   | Buenos Aires tetra        |
| Cardinal tetra       | Glowlight tetra           |
| Rummynose tetra      | Loreto tetra              |
| Gold tetra           | Bloodfin tetra            |
| Bleeding heart tetra | Head-and-tail-light tetra |
| Banded puffer        | Penguin tetra             |



Krefft's river turtles



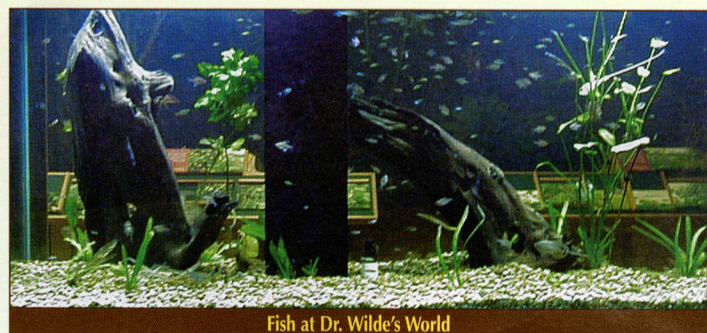
Grant's zebra



Demoiselle crane



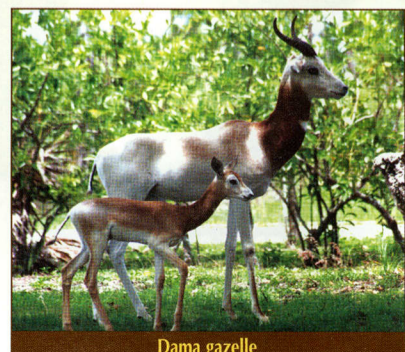
White-fronted wallaby



Fish at Dr. Wilde's World



Chimpanzee



Dama gazelle

Photos: Dolara Batchelor

Photo: Adam Stern

Photos: Barbara Crutchfield

## Dear Friends:



Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

Our brand new air-conditioned exhibition and education center, Dr. Wilde's World enables us to offer our members and visitors a whole new world of adventure. Come explore and experience the wonders of the Tropical American rainforest at your Zoo.

The concept for Dr. Wilde's World evolved as Metrozoo and ZSF staff worked closely together to design new classroom space to accommodate our expanding education programs. The one premise everyone agreed upon was that we want to offer more hands-on interactive activities – and that learning at the Zoo should be fun.

The design gradually evolved into an exhibition gallery that enables the Zoo to offer seasonal, changing and temporary exhibits on any and every imaginable topic. New classroom space has been provided in Dr. Wilde's World, and the exhibit area becomes an integral part of the classroom experience, allowing students and visitors to have fun while they learn.

Dr. Wilde's World embodies our mission, which is to educate and foster an awareness of the importance of protecting the world's wildlife and natural habitats. As a valued member, you hold the key in making this mission possible. Your friendship and support enables us to continue providing quality educational programs to children in our community. Whether you support ZSF and Metrozoo through your membership, through an annual contribution, or adopting a Zoo animal, your gift makes an invaluable difference in what we do, and we thank you for being a valued member of the Zoo family.

I hope you will make Dr. Wilde's World a part of your leisure and recreational family time.

**Glenn Ekey**

Executive Director  
Zoological Society of Florida

## VOLUNTEERING AT THE CHILDREN'S ZOO

By Carol Lang, Director of HR & Volunteer Service and Kathryn Medford, Volunteer Docent

For those unfamiliar with the roles of volunteers at Metrozoo, volunteering at the Zoo may conjure up images of working behind the scenes with tigers and gorillas. Working with the exotic animal collection is left to the zookeepers. However, at the Children's Zoo, our volunteers perform hands-on work with a variety of domestic animals that serve as educational ambassadors for Metrozoo. In the petting yard, volunteers help our littlest visitors learn the proper way to touch a chicken, or groom a sheep. Behind the wall of the yard, our collection of parrots is displayed. Volunteer docents often stand in this area to show the parrots individually to our visitors and teach them about these colorful birds.

Out on the walkways of the Children's Zoo, or sometimes at the Information Booth located inside the front entrance of Metrozoo, you may encounter a volunteer holding a small animal and performing a "Close-up." This is an opportunity for our visitors to touch and learn about an animal that they don't necessarily see every day.

In the Animal Resource Center, volunteers arrive early in the morning to help the keepers prepare the diets for the education animals or clean their cages. It's a great opportunity for volunteers to practice their animal handling skills.

One of the most rewarding opportunities for volunteers who work with the education animals is to take them "out on the road" as part of our Outreach Programs. Docents and the animals visit schools, libraries and other facilities to teach children and adults about the natural world.

So who are these animal ambassadors? Docent, Kathy Medford, delights in acquainting you with them:

- **Thumper**, a domestic rabbit, is a goodwill ambassador in our *Zoo Express* outreach program for very young children (ages 2 - 6). Thumper helps children learn the proper way to pet an animal, using two fingers and stroking her back in the direction her hair grows. We also teach children that Thumper needs the same things they need - food, water, a home, and a time and place to play.
- **Herman**, our ball python snake, is a goodwill ambassador both on Zoo grounds and off. Many people have a fear of snakes. Seeing Herman (who is quite a mellow fellow) being handled by a volunteer, neatly curled around an arm or a waist, usually encourages visitors to touch him. They learn that he is not slimy and is only cold if he is in an air-conditioned spot. We want to teach children that there are *good* snakes, and that snakes help to control the rodent population.
- **Pyrex**, a European glass lizard, gives us an excellent opportunity to talk about the differences between snakes and lizards. Often mistaken for a snake (because he has no legs and moves like a snake), we point out his lizard characteristics: eyelids, ear openings and a long tail (which he can break off and shatter in many pieces). Pyrex is one of our most interesting ambassadors.
- **Jack, Jill and J.J.**, three domestic ferrets, are wonderful ambassadors. Everyone seems to instantly like these furry little guys with their bright eyes and inquisitive expressions, and they will say, "I want one!" These ambassadors present an opportunity to explain (especially to children) the responsibilities of pet ownership.
- Finally, no profile of our goodwill ambassadors would be complete without mentioning our St. Croix Sheep, **Lambchops** and **Roxanne**. Long-time residents in the Zoo's petting yard, they enjoy being petted and having their backs brushed or combed. In fact, if they are not getting enough attention, they will take a foot, place it on top of a visitor's shoe, and rub up against the visitor; a clear sign they would like to be petted some more.

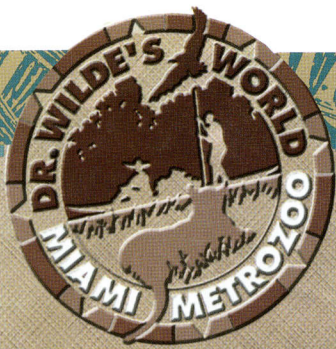
We have many more goodwill ambassadors, both at the Children's Zoo and in our Outreach Programs. Working with them is the highlight of many of our volunteers' experiences here at Metrozoo.

Interested in becoming a Metrozoo Volunteer? We're now recruiting for Fall classes. Call our Volunteer Services Department at (305) 255-5551, ext. 124 for more information.



(L-R): Dottie Erbel in the Contact Yard, K.T. Taylor giving an animal close-up, Linda Crutchfield cleaning a cage, Thumper

Photos: Ricardo Stanoss and Sherrie Avery



# THE ANIMALS OF THE TROPICAL AMERICAN RAINFOREST

By Cristina Heredia, Exhibits Specialist and Melissa De Jesus, Education Specialist

From the top of the rainforest canopy to the shady forest floor, tropical forests are teeming with life. Rainforest animals have developed unique and interesting ways to survive in the wild. Different species live and feed in different levels of the forest in order to find food, avoid predators, and attract mates.

Adaptations are specialized characteristics animals have evolved in order to survive in their natural environments. One of these special adaptations is coloration. For instance, the poison dart frogs' brilliant colors of red, yellow, green or blue are used as a warning against predators. An animal that attempts to eat one of these frogs will come into contact with poisonous skin secretions that can be deadly to the predator. The emerald tree boa also uses color for protection. As hatchlings, they are a stunning yellow or red, which may confuse predators into believing that they are poisonous. These beautiful boas are bright green by the time they reach maturity.

Come explore the zoology discovery area at Dr. Wilde's World and investigate the unique fauna of the Tropical Americas. Examine skulls and play interactive games focused on different animal species and their specialized adaptations. Be sure to spend time at each drawer and learn about the web of life or determine which animals are predators and which are prey by comparing their anatomic features. The camouflage drawer will reveal the function of spots, stripes, and specific coloration on different animals' coats. The rainforest may seem deserted, but remember, an animal's camouflage helps it blend into its surroundings, hunt, and protect itself.

Get up-close to the real, live rainforest natives in the zoology discovery area. Can you identify the Honduran milk snakes, tarantulas, mata mata turtles, Cuban knight anoles, scorpions, poison dart frogs and emerald tree boa? Become familiar with a variety of Amazonian fish swimming in the 500-gallon aquarium containing plants native to the Amazon. Look inside the Galápagos tortoise shell (hanging on the wall) and see its spinal column. Galápagos tortoises can weigh up to 500 pounds and live over 100 years! These are just a few of the interesting creatures you will encounter.

The Tropical American rainforest is home to thousands of plant and animal species that coexist and depend on one another for reproduction and survival. Although rainforests occupy a mere 7% of the Earth's land mass, more than half of all living things can be found in this environment. Forest destruction is responsible for eliminating thousands of plants and animals each year, many of which have yet to be identified or studied! These disturbing statistics are reasons why we should work together in conserving the Tropical American rainforest and learn more about its amazing flora and fauna.



Photos: Dolara Batchelor and Adam Stern

## LIVE WILDLIFE INHABITING DR. WILDE'S WORLD

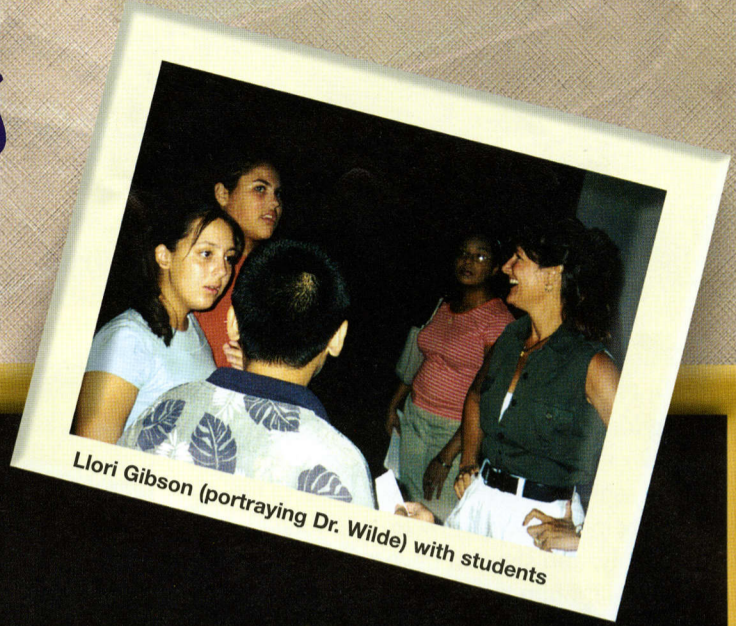
By Steve Conners, Metrozoo General Curator

There are many fascinating exhibits in Dr. Wilde's World, and some of the most popular will include a diverse selection of living creatures from the Tropical American rainforest stretching from Mexico to southern South America. Below is a brief description of the live animals that you can see in the zoology discovery area in Dr. Wilde's World.

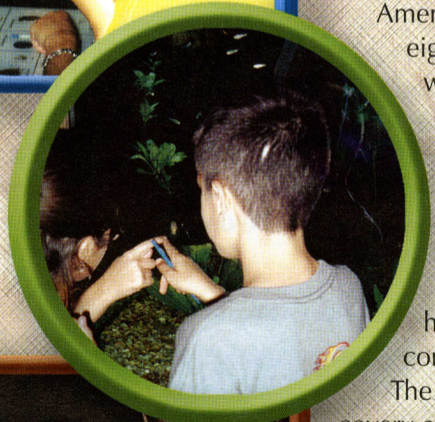
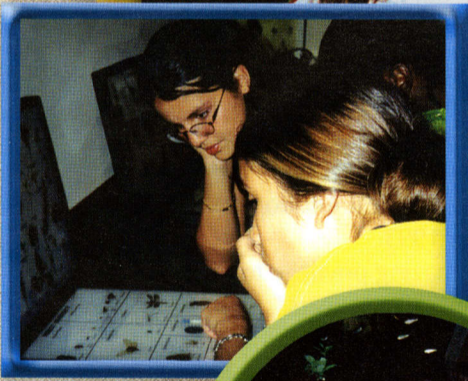
- **Centuroides Scorpion** (*Centuroides gracilis*). Florida is considered to be the only sub-tropical area in the continental U.S., so we've included one native Floridian species in the group. These scorpions can be found beneath logs and other cover where they hunt for insects and other invertebrates. The stinger on the end of the tail contains venom for immobilizing prey and is also used in self-defense. Some scorpion species are dangerous to humans, but this one is not.
- **Costa Rican Tarantula** (*Aphonopelma seamanni*) and **Black Bird-Eating Spider** (*Pamphobeteus sp.*). Large species of tarantulas are often called bird-eating spiders, although they rarely eat birds. Typical prey includes insects, lizards, and frogs. In spite of their large, venomous fangs, they pose no danger to people. New species of tarantulas are being discovered in the tropics on a regular basis.
- **Fish of the Amazon Basin** are far too numerous to mention them all, but that's appropriate because the Amazon boasts more fish species than any other river on earth! The 500-gallon aquarium in Dr. Wilde's World holds 25 different species (literally a drop in the bucket) of mostly tetras, an extremely diverse fish family. Some of these are favorites in the aquarium trade, such as the resplendent cardinal tetras. Also of note is the rummy nose with its red nose and checkerboard tail, as well as the hatchet fish a.k.a. freshwater flying fish. These fish are capable of ten-foot leaps out of water! Fish are another group in which many new species await discovery.
- **Poison Arrow Frogs** (*Dendrobates azureus*, *D. tinctorius*, *Epipedobates trivittatus*). Dr. Wilde's World gives us an opportunity to display some of the earth's most beautiful amphibians. These small frogs may be pretty, but their skin toxins pack a wallop. Indigenous people use a few species of these frogs to poison blowgun darts. Some species actually lay infertile eggs to feed their tadpoles!
- **Mata Mata Turtles** (*Chelus fimbriatus*). The mata mata is probably the most bizarre looking turtle on earth, and you'll get a fish-eye view of them in their new aquarium. Their tube-like noses serve as snorkels. Fleshy bits of skin on their necks and heads provide camouflage as they lie in ambush at the bottom of a pool. When a fish wanders too close, it is vacuumed into the turtle's mouth by the suction caused when the mata mata suddenly expands its throat. Don't blink or you'll miss it!
- **Cuban Knight Anole** (*Anoles equestris*). These lizards are among the largest members of their family. They are native to Cuba where they spend most of their time in the treetops searching for insects, frogs and small birds. Toe pads that enable them to cling to smooth surfaces, even glass, enhance their climbing abilities. Like a number of other exotic species, Knight anoles have become established in South Florida, thanks to our warm climate.
- **Honduran Milk Snake** (*Lampropeltis triangulum*). Milk snakes have one of the largest ranges of any snake species, occurring from Canada to Ecuador in two-dozen color phases or subspecies. Although nonvenomous, many of these milk snakes are colored with red, black and white bands similar to the dangerous coral snakes. This mimicry may deter predators from attacking what they think is a deadly snake.
- **Emerald Tree Boa** (*Corallus caninus*). A true jewel of the rainforest, these boas are spectacular! When first born, their color can be bright red or yellow. As they grow, a bright green hue takes over, interspersed with white spots or a zigzag line down the back. Their lips are bright yellow and contain heat-sensing pits to help them zero-in on warm-blooded birds and mammals in the jungle darkness. Prey is secured with long, sharp, re-curved teeth and killed by constriction. Capture and swallowing are performed while the boa is hanging in a tree. Not bad for a creature without arms or legs.

So there they are, the animal stars of Dr. Wilde's World. This diverse group can only provide a tiny taste of the diversity of life in the Tropical American rainforest. Be sure to explore the rest of Dr. Wilde's World for a more complete picture of this ecosystem and all its inhabitants – people, plants and animals.

# ZOO MAGNET STUDENTS MEET DR. WILDE



Llori Gibson (portraying Dr. Wilde) with students



**By Maria Augusta Sarno, Education Specialist**

"My favorite part [of the visit to Dr. Wilde's World] was the mural with the animals, plants, and people of the forest," said Raul Manzano, one of the 90 seventh-grade students from Richmond Heights Middle School. Raul and fellow classmates had a first-hand opportunity to explore the wonders of the Tropical Americas during a pre-opening test tour of Dr. Wilde's World on May 4th. Selected sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from Richmond Heights Middle School participate in the Zoo Magnet Program, which currently offers educational opportunities at Metrozoo, Parrot Jungle and Monkey Jungle to nearly 300 students each year.

At Metrozoo, these students learn about the role of zoos in the community, animal classification and adaptations, and the conservation of endangered species. Zoo Magnet students also interact with ZSF and Zoo staff on a regular basis.

At Dr. Wilde's World, the Zoo Magnet students learned about the Tropical Americas by solving puzzles, observing the rainforest depicted in a mural, and watching banded puffer and bleeding heart tetra fish swimming gracefully in the 500-gallon fish tank. "I saw fish I've never seen before," commented Hector Arroyo, a student participating in the event.

The students appreciated the fact that the items displayed in the anthropology, botany, and zoology discovery areas were authentic; and they were thrilled to meet Llori Gibson, a U.S. naturalist and conservationist living in Panama, who portrays Dr. Beatrice Wilde. Dr. Wilde was treated as a celebrity as she answered students' questions about life in the rainforest and signed autographs.

ZSF and Metrozoo staff members were delighted to watch the children busily trying to solve the puzzles, peering into microscopes, touching and exploring everything in sight. "That's exactly what we want them to do!" exclaimed Dr. Kathleen Turner, Zoo Exhibits Manager of Dr. Wilde's World. "We want them to see, touch, smell, hear, and experience all the wonderful things that have been assembled in this unique hands-on exhibit. Their minds have been challenged, and they're curious. That's wonderful!"

For information on the Zoo Magnet Program and other educational programs at Metrozoo, call (305) 255-5551.

# Farewell to Olga

By Ariel Owens, Zookeeper and Rachél Watkins Rogers, Zoo Registrar

"It is never easy to lose an animal at the Zoo, and even harder if it is one under your care," said a very saddened Ariel Owens. "On May 7, 2001, I lost a very special friend. Olga, a female siamang (*Hylobates syndactylus*) in her mid thirties, passed away after suffering a stroke."

Olga was wild-born and four to five years old when she went to the Mannheimer Primatological Foundation in 1974. She was placed on a permanent breeding loan to Miami Metrozoo on June 26, 1980, under the care of Walter DuPree, a former Metrozoo senior keeper. Olga was one of the preview animals in 1980 when Metrozoo opened for weekends only, and she had been one of the Zoo's more popular animals.

Siamangs are lesser apes (due to their small size in comparison to the great apes). Their lack of a tail and their ability to walk in an upright position distinguishes them from monkeys. Their mode of locomotion is called "brachiation," which is a hand over hand movement. The design of the siamang exhibit enables the visitor to watch the siamangs in a simulated upper canopy environment in which the animals display their natural form of locomotion. Every day around 10:00 or 10:30 a.m., Olga and her mate Festus would vocalize to establish their territory in concert with their neighboring white-handed gibbon family. When vocalizing, the throat sac fills up like a balloon, and the sound is unlike anything else you will hear at the Zoo. If you have not experienced the siamang call, you must make a point to do so at your next visit, and watch Festus teach his son Loki to establish their territory.

Olga was an individual animal filled with personality plus. "There was no doubt she wore the pants in the family!" exclaimed Ariel. "She made sure she always had first choice at meals and snack times. She was extremely protective of her family and an excellent mother. If there ever was a time when the keepers spent too much time with Festus, Olga would swing over, push him out of the way, and demand a grooming session for herself."

She loved to be pampered and groomed as long as she was made the center of attention. She also kept an extremely close eye on the keepers whenever we were near Loki, her baby. Loki was hand-raised for a short time after Olga had complications with her milk production. Since the keepers had to separate her from Loki in order to hand-feed him, Olga remained on the defensive when we were around him."

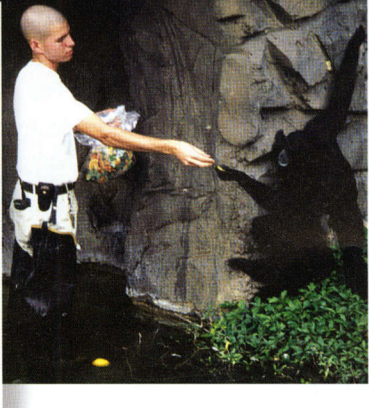
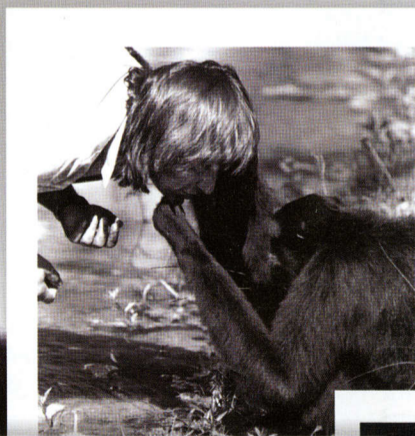
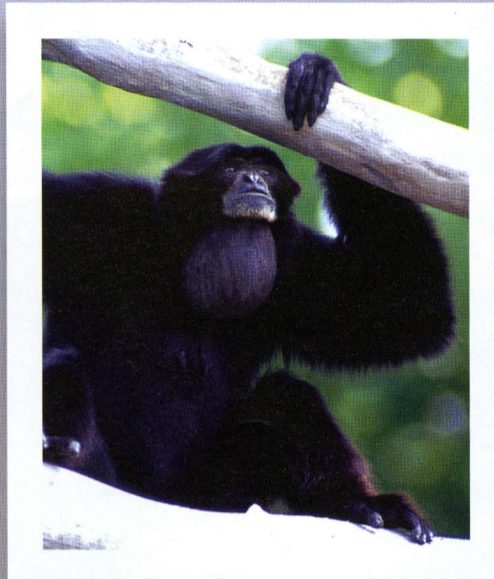
In addition to cohabitating with her family, Olga had several unique experiences with the native and introduced species that frequented her island from time to time. Iguanas, moorhens, ducks, geese, doves and the occasional rabbit served as "playmates," and more often than not, meals for her. Siamangs in the wild do eat some meat – and eggs that they rob from birds' nests. "After watching her catch and snack on several wild birds, and having to rescue ducks and geese from our own Zoo collection, we learned that she could not be trusted with our fine feathered friends," said Ariel. "Festus never participated in any of these escapades. However, little Loki watched with a keen eye, and captured his very

own moorhen just recently."

Olga produced ten offspring of which five are still living. They are exhibited at Metrozoo (Loki), Lion Country Safari in West Palm Beach, Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield Park, Arizona and the San Diego Zoo. Her grandchildren are at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Lion Country Safari in West Palm Beach and the San Diego Zoo.

In addition to being a wonderful exhibit animal, Olga was instrumental in a very important scientific study. In 1990, primary investigator and zookeeper Rachél Watkins Rogers conducted a hormone assay project with Olga under the guidance of Dr. Scott Citino. This was the first-ever documented progesterone levels of a siamang pregnancy. The endocrinologist that reviewed and supervised the hormone assay of the urine samples was Dr. Nancy Czekala-Gruber (currently with the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species of the Zoological Society of San Diego). The work was published by an anthropology student, Cheryl Knott, as a poster for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference in 1993.

"I had an amazing privilege to work with Olga for the past three years," said Ariel. "We have shared many great times together, and I will always treasure them. From time to time in a keeper's life, there is always that special animal that changes his/her life for the better. Olga was that special 'someone' for me. She'll be deeply missed, and never forgotten."



(Top) Rachel Watkins Rogers with Olga in 1990

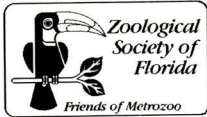
(Bottom Left) Olga

(Bottom Right) Ariel Owens feeding treats to the siamangs

Photos: Ron Magjill



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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Business (if applicable) Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

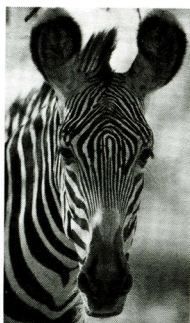


## Adopt An Endangered Species!

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.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU



Photo: Austin Weeks

- We thank all our **Wild Bunch members** for their dedication and commitment to ZSF and Miami Metrozoo.
- We are most grateful to **BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.** for their support of ZSF's programs and for joining the Pink Flamingo Corporate Circle.
- To **Joyce Kory** for her continued support of the Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo.
- To **Thea Katzenstein** for her generous gift and dedication to serving on the ZSF Board of Directors.
- To the **employees of MTV Networks Latin America** for volunteering their time and making Miami Metrozoo more beautiful this summer.
- To **Brenda Castellanos, Lewis Levin, Arnold Mannis** and **Ronald Book** for their continued involvement on our Board of Trustees and their long-time support of ZSF and Metrozoo.
- To **Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.** for their generous donation to support ZSF's education programs.
- To **Jorge Gross** for his generous donation and service to the Board of Directors.
- To **Glenn and Diane Ekey** for their love of ZSF and the Zoo.
- To **Navarro Discount Pharmacies Stores** for donating crayons and paper for children to make "rubbings" of rainforest specimens at Dr. Wilde's World, and to **Spiral Nazca** and **Oshka Tarazona** for donating their musical talents to the opening celebration of Dr. Wilde's World.
- We wish to acknowledge those whose efforts and generosity made the Dr. Wilde's World exhibit possible: **Anonymous Donor, Artmosphere, Associated Photo, Betty Avery, The Batchelor Foundation, Borrelli and Associates, Carivon Construction Company, Harrison Construction, Knight Ridder/The Miami Herald/El Nuevo Herald, Miami Museum of Science, Publix Supermarkets, Sarah H. Woodruff Foundation, Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department, Miami Metrozoo Oversight Board, Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade, County, Miami Metrozoo, ZSF Staff and US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.**
- Special acknowledgements and thanks to the staff of Miami Metrozoo and the ZSF for creating the opening exhibit at Dr. Wilde's World, "The Wonders of the Tropical Americas": **Steve Conners, Steve Fuller, Llori Gibson, Cristina Heredia, Kristin Jimenez, Elisabeth Koncza, Anthea Lavallee, Ron Magill, Adam G. Stern, Dr. Ricardo Stanoss, DVM, Tom Trump, Dr. Kathleen E. Turner, DVM and William Tuttle.**
- To **Dolphin International, Inc.** for donating the catfish, marbled hatchetfish, silver hatchetfish, cardinal tetra, rummynose tetra, gold tetra, bleeding heart tetra, banded puffer, blue tetra and the penguin tetra for the 500-gallon fish tank in Dr. Wilde's World.
- Thank you to the **Heckscher Foundation For Children** for their generous support of ZSF and Miami Metrozoo. A special pat on the back for **Gail Meyers**, Trustee of the Foundation and a ZSF member, for making it happen.
- We thank the **Miami-Dade County Public School System** for their continued support of ZSF and Miami Metrozoo's educational programs.
- To **Ryan Ventimiglia** for organizing the Eagle Scout tree-planting project. On May 19, eighty volunteers assisted Ryan in planting 100 trees and palms along the Zoo's entrance road, in the parking lot, and the picnic field. They also mulched existing trees on Zoo grounds.

## HATS OFF TO THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES CREW AT DR. WILDE'S WORLD

By Ron Magill, Metrozoo's Director of Communications



(L-R) Gilbert Cole, carpenter; Fred Galan, electrician; Buddy Watkins, warehouse and trades supervisor; Nestor Cabrera, lead worker

Thanks to the tremendous effort of many individuals, Dr. Wilde's World has opened to fantastic reviews from the thousands who have already had the pleasure of experiencing the Zoo's new hands-on interactive indoor air-conditioned gallery and classrooms.

No group played a more important role in the successful opening of this exhibit than the team from maintenance and trades. So often the unsung heroes during and after major events at the Zoo, these guys truly gave extra effort and invaluable support in preparing Dr. Wilde's World for the public.

**Buddy Watkins**, along with **Nestor Cabrera** and **Elston Lawrence** always found a way to coordinate their crews for last-minute requests ranging from pick-ups and deliveries to moving and installing furniture.

Enough cannot be said to thank **Fred Galan** and **Gilbert Cole**, Metrozoo's staff electrician and carpenter, and their crews who dedicated many extra hours to ensuring that everything was accom-

plished in a safe manner and reflected the highest professional standards.

So, our hats are off to all who went the extra miles in producing an exhibit that we can all be very proud to say, "we built it!" Though we don't say it often enough, thanks for a great job. We couldn't have done it without you!

# THE WINGS OF ASIA

This is the second in an on-going series of articles to keep you informed of the creation and development of the American Bankers Family Aviary: The Wings of Asia.

As we began planning the new aviary, we realized that we have a golden opportunity to build a state-of-the-art free flight facility for birds, and also to greatly enhance the visitor's experience. We want to have an air-conditioned building where people can escape the hot sun and be able to closely examine some of the unique characteristics of birds. We also want children to have fun while learning about birds and their ancestors.

While researching the origins and characteristics of the birds we will be featuring in the aviary, we discovered that many paleontologists have scientific evidence that...

## Birds Are Living Dinosaurs!

Last year, farmers from the Liaoning Province in northeastern China discovered a dinosaur fossil of a well-preserved skeleton resembling a duck with a tail, looking somewhat like half-duck and half-reptile. The rock-embedded fossil preserved in a spread-eagle pose was almost completely intact.

The two-legged dinosaur belonged to a predator group known as advanced theropods (a group including *Tyrannosaurus rex*). The skeleton is about three feet in length, and is estimated to be about 130 million years old!

A Chinese/American research team identified the theropod as a carnivorous dromaeosaur (which means "swift lizard"), a relative of the much larger velociraptor. Dromaeosaurs were small, fast-running, flightless creatures with sharp teeth and bones similar to those of modern-day birds. Dr. Ji Qiang, director of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences in Beijing, and Dr. Mark A. Norell, chairman of paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City led the discovery team.

Some paleontologists consider this evidence that modern birds are descendants of dinosaurs. The fossil, they say, clearly shows traces of being covered with downy fluff and primitive feathers from head to tail. Except for its hind feet and lower hind legs, the animal's body appears to have been covered with fibers that were most likely primitive feathers. Its forefeet are shorter than the hind feet and are covered with what could have been feathers like those of modern birds.

Dr. Norell claims the fossil makes it "indisputable that a body covering similar to feathers was present in nonavian dinosaurs. Modern birds are

warm-blooded and their feathers play an integral role in keeping them warm, so a reasonable idea is that non-avian dinosaurs developed primitive feathers at the same time that they developed warm-bloodedness. It's conceivable that smaller dinosaurs

like this one and even the young of larger species like *Tyrannosaurus rex* may have needed featherlike body coverings to maintain their body temperature." Dr. Norell contends that studying theropods that lived later than the earliest birds will yield insight into the evolution of birds

from dinosaurs. "If nothing else," he said, "the fossil of the dromaeosaur shows us that theropod dinosaurs may have looked more like weird birds than giant lizards."

The link between dinosaurs and birds was first noted in the mid-1800s by naturalist Thomas Huxley, who observed that birds were built much like reptiles, but with a beak instead of teeth and with three reptilian fingers hidden inside their wings.

Some paleontologists claim that theropod dinosaurs and birds share more than 100 anatomical features, including a wishbone, swiveling wrists, and three forward-pointing toes.

Dr. Mark A. Norell is one of several consultants working with the ZSF and Metrozoo to ensure the scientific accuracy of the aviary's storyline. Currently Dr. Norell is working on the relationships of small carnivorous dinosaurs to modern birds, naming new dinosaurs, and attempting to develop new ways of looking at fossils using CT scans and imaging computers. Dr. Norell has been accompanying scientific expeditions since he was 14 years old and has taken part in over 20 international scientific expeditions. He has worked actively in the last few years in Patagonia, Cuba, the Chilean Andes, the Sahara, West Africa and Mongolia. The Mongolia project (now in its twelfth year) has received worldwide attention.

Information for this article was provided by Dr. Mark Norell and the American Museum of Natural History. For more information on the amazing discovery of the fossil found in China, go to their website at [www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org).

Our excitement is soaring as we work to bring you the most exciting, state-of-the-art free flight aviary and hands-on interactive, air-conditioned avian gallery you will find anywhere. It's a whole new world at Miami Metrozoo!



Eric Stephens and Elisabeth Koncza examine the newly discovered dromaeosaur prior to its unveiling at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.



(L-R from yellow chair) Charles Mayes & Jan Coleman, The Portico Group; Elisabeth Koncza, ZSF; Mark Norell, AMNH; Sandy Miot, ZSF Board of Directors; Maggie Tawil, Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Dept.; and Eric Stephens, Metrozoo, brainstorming at the American Museum of Natural History.

Photo: Glenn Ekey

# ZOO CLASSES FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

By Cecilia Betancourt, Education Program Coordinator



Are you a teacher? How about a student? Are you a PTA parent or room mother? If so, let us fill you in on Metrozoo's best-kept field trip secret. Every day throughout the school year, Zoological Society of Florida Education staff members teach classes that are fun, educational, and free!

We've developed programs that are geared toward specific grade levels, so that every group enjoys a learning experience ideally suited to the children's abilities and interests. Topics are brought to life through the use of biofacts such as skulls, bones, furs, fangs, shells, and feathers illustrating animal adaptations. These items are passed around or placed on "touch tables," so that every student has the opportunity for hands-on, interactive learning.

Kindergarteners enjoy *Mothers, Babies, and Dads*. In this class, participants compare their own family lives to those of the animals. Your students are bound to be fascinated when they learn that seahorse fathers carry babies around in their bellies, or that siamangs sing in family choruses straight out of "The Sound of Music."

Teachers of third through fifth grade students can sign up for *Bug Buzz*, which covers bird-eating spiders, among other creepy crawly things. Another popular class is *Predators vs. Prey* in which children learn about the tooth-and-nail (and horn-and-beak) challenges of the food chain.

For high school students, *The Dating Game* makes adolescent love troubles look like a picnic. While oryxes need three-foot horns to fend off rival males, praying mantids literally lose their heads over girls—for a valuable protein boost before egg laying, the female mantis eats the male's head!

For students working on a conservation unit, *Endangered Treasures* can be adapted to any grade level. The biofacts used in this class came from U.S. Customs agents, who routinely confiscate elephant tusks, leopard skins, and

other illegal items from smugglers. Students will truly understand the plight of endangered species when they get the chance to handle ivory, tortoise-shell, and furs, for which people pay thousands of dollars and animals pay with their lives.

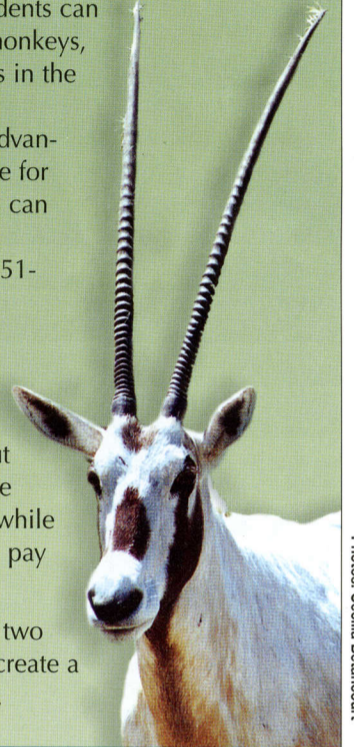
With the opening of the first exhibit at Dr. Wilde's World, additional classes will be available, focusing on the natural treasures of Central and South America. After exploring the exhibit space, students can learn about toucans, jaguars, sloths, macaws, monkeys, and countless other Tropical American creatures in the new facility's classrooms.

Don't let a school year go by without taking advantage of a learning experience that's unforgettable for students and effortless for visiting teachers! You can sign up for these and other classroom programs through the Zoo's Group Sales Office at (305) 251-0400.

**Regular Classroom Schedule: 10:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

Maximum class size is 50 students at a time, but multiple classes can be scheduled. Miami-Dade County public schools pay nothing for classes, while private schools and schools from other counties pay a nominal fee of \$25.00 per class.

Can't find the topic you were looking for? With two weeks advance notice, our Education staff can create a classroom program to meet your specific needs.



Photos: Cecilia Betancourt

## Zoodler Academy

**Bring your little one to our popular toddler program! Zoodler Academy provides a safe and friendly environment for small children to meet animals and learn about nature. The program includes a story, craft project, touch table, and live animals.**

### 2-3-year-olds

Tuesday, September 4: *Everyone Poops*  
 Tuesday, September 11: *Aesop's Fables 1*  
 Tuesday, September 18: *The Tortoise and the Tree*  
 Tuesday, September 25: *Baby Animals*

Tuesday, October 2: *Strictly for the Birds*  
 Tuesday, October 9: *Dr. Wilde's Adventures*  
 Tuesday, October 16: *Aesop's Fables 2*  
 Tuesday, October 23: *Snappy Little Numbers*  
 Tuesday, October 30: *Trick or Treat*

### 3-4-year-olds

Thursday, September 6: *Everyone Poops*  
 Thursday, September 13: *Aesop's Fables 1*  
 Thursday, September 20: *The Tortoise and the Tree*  
 Thursday, September 27: *Baby Animals*

Thursday, October 4: *Strictly for the Birds*  
 Thursday, October 11: *Dr. Wilde's Adventures*  
 Thursday, October 18: *Aesop's Fables 2*  
 Thursday, October 25: *Snappy Little Numbers*  
 Thursday, November 1: *Trick or Treat*

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Members: one adult and one child, \$10.00; additional children, \$4.00 each.

Non-members: one adult and one child, \$12.00; additional children, \$6.00 each.

Alumni of Zoodler Academy's 2000-2001 program receive a \$2.00 discount.

## Zoodler Weekend

**Perfect for grandparents, aunts and uncles, working moms and dads, or anyone who wants to do something special with a favorite toddler!**

**Topic:** *Everyone Poops*

**Date:** Saturday, September 22, 2001

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Cost:** Members: one adult and one child, \$10.00; additional children, \$4.00 each.

Non-members: one adult and one child, \$12.00; additional children, \$6.00 each.

Alumni of Zoodler Academy's 2000-2001 program receive a \$2.00 discount.



Photo: Sherris Avery

**Big Cats**

Visit our beautiful big cats in this exciting program. Upon arrival, you'll have breakfast and a short classroom talk on fascinating and sometimes ferocious felines. Afterward, we'll take the group to the Amphitheater for a close-enough-to-hear-it-purring visit with one of our two cheetahs, Savannah or King George. Did you know that cheetahs are the only big cats that can purr? See, you learned something already! Come to our "Big Cats" program and learn even more!



Photos: Sherrie Avery

**Date:** Saturday, September 8, 2001  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** Members: one adult and one child, \$10.00; additional children, \$4.00 each. Non-members: one adult and one child, \$12.00; additional children, \$6.00 each.

**Zoo Babies**

Metrozoo's family is growing fast, so come see the newest members! You'll have a classroom talk about animal babies and parents, and then a narrated tram ride. As the tram winds through the Zoo, you'll discover all kinds of animal babies and learn about their family lives. Program geared to children ages 3-5.



**Date:** Saturday, October 13, 2001  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** Members: one adult and one child, \$10.00; additional children, \$4.00 each. Non-members: one adult and one child, \$12.00; additional children, \$6.00 each.

**Bats in the Belfry**

Start the Halloween festivities early! A zookeeper from the Children's Zoo will present this program on some of Florida's most misunderstood creatures. After a class exploring myths and misconceptions, you'll go out on Zoo grounds as the sun sets. The program leader will bring along a bat detector, which allows you to hear the usually inaudible chirps and squeaks bats make as they hunt. Join us for an unforgettable evening adventure!



Photos: Dolora Batchelor

**Date:** Sunday, October 28, 2001  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members: one adult and one child, \$10.00; additional children, \$4.00 each. Non-members: one adult and one child, \$12.00; additional children, \$6.00 each.

**Wild Nights**

Find out what goes on at the Zoo after all the animals are tucked in for the night. This program includes

dinner and a behind-the-scenes tour with a zookeeper guide. Because all the animals you encounter are in their night houses, you can safely view them at close range. You haven't lived until you've seen a tiger from five feet away! Suitable for adults and children six years and older.



Photo: Cecilia Belancourt

**Dates:** Wednesday, September 12, 2001  
 Wednesday, October 17, 2001  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members: \$20.00 per person; Non-members: \$25.00 per person.

**Zoo-Inn**

Join us for a fun, educational overnight adventure behind the scenes! Our sleepover program is offered to scouts, youth groups, church or temple groups, and runs from September through June. The program includes a nighttime walk through the Zoo and a morning presentation with live animals. T-shirts, patches, and three meals are provided. Children must be six years old and in first grade to attend.

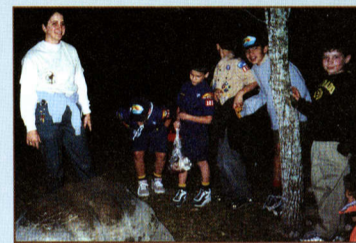


Photo: Cecilia Belancourt

**Dates:** Friday and Saturday nights throughout the school year.  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$39.00 per person.

**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

## Celebrate Grandparents' Day

Sunday, September 9, 2001

Show your grandparents how much you love them by giving them a very special day at the Zoo. Attend the Keeper talks throughout the day, and hear interesting anecdotes about some of the special animal grandparents.

Cost: General public, one grandparent free with a paid child. \$8 adult, \$4 child (ages 3-12), plus sales tax, children under 3 and ZSF members and their grandparents free.

## RADIO DISNEY'S BIRTHDAY BASH AT THE ZOO

Sunday, September 16, 2001  
12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Come celebrate two years of Disney magic! Pajama Jen and the Radio Disney Fun Squad will be celebrating Radio Disney AM 990's second birthday right here at Miami Metrozoo. Musical and variety acts on stage will include TMarie and her dancers, Seein' Double, twin brothers from New Jersey and their dancers, magician Jason Dylan Ace, and up and coming pop vocalist Nelson. There will be all kinds of awesome games, contests, prizes and other exciting interactive entertainment.



## BARNEY COMES TO METROZOO!!!

Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30  
11:00 a.m. in the Concert Field

Kids, come and see Barney at Miami Metrozoo and join him for a 20-minute sing-along with your favorite songs as well as some new ones from Barney's latest video, "Barney, Let's Go To The Zoo."

Barney will be here to help us celebrate the rebuilding of the Zoo's aviary, the American Bankers Family Aviary, The Wings of Asia. Did you know that birds might be living dinosaurs?

There will be lots of neat fun things to do, as well as giveaway prizes from the WLRN FM Radio Booth. Stay tuned to WLRN Public Radio 91.3 FM.

Cost: Free to members. General public: \$8 adult, \$4 child (ages 3-12), plus sales tax, children under 3 free. Free parking.

## A HOWLING BASH AT MIAMI METROZOO

Friday, October 26, 2001  
8:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Be an animal and party wild style at the Howling Bash. The Wild Bunch Young Professionals Club sponsors this goulish event. For information call Debbie Mucarsel at (305)255-5551



## METROBOO AT MIAMI METROZOO!

Saturday, October 27 & Sunday, October 28, 2001  
10 a.m. – 4 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. There will be plenty of delicious treats for the kids. Free to members and one free child dressed in costume with one paid adult. Regular Zoo admission for all others.



## ANGELS HATCHERY KOI POND WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 20, 2001  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Fruit & Spice Park  
24801 SW 187th Avenue

Enjoy a fascinating presentation on Koi health, pond management, nutrition, filtration, disease prevention, and construction. A question and answer period will be followed by a tour of an ornamental fish farm.

Cost: \$15 per person (Proceeds are donated to Metrozoo.)

To register: Call Angels Hatchery at (305) 248-7777.



## DR. WILDE'S WORLD GRAND OPENING... ENTERTAINED THOUSANDS!

1. Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas and Juan Carlos Navarro, Mayor of Panama City, signing an Intent to Enter Into a Sister Zoo Agreement
2. Artisans demonstrating their crafts for the public
3. Filadelfia Ismare Conquista, basket weaving
4. Octaviano Membora Chamarra, carving a tagua nut
5. Arnold Newman author of "Tropical Rainforest", signing his book
6. Sharon Belkin, mural artist signing the inaugural posters
7. Guests enjoying the Zoology Discovery Area
8. Guests strolled throughout the River Plaza, while the children played on the animal sculptures
9. The Game Wall was a source of entertainment for all
10. Children enjoyed their Reading Room

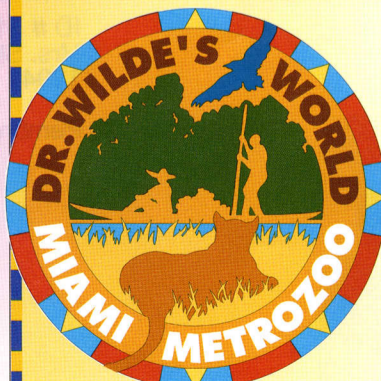
COUPON

**SPECIAL OFFER!**

**FREE**

**WITH A PURCHASE OF \$10.00 OR MORE, A DOCTOR WILDE'S WORLD LOGO MAGNET.**

**GOOD IN DOCTOR WILDE'S WORLD GIFT SPOT ONLY.**



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

SEPTEMBER 2001



**BARNEY  
COMES TO  
METROZOO!!!**

Saturday 29 - Sunday 30  
11:00 a.m.  
in the Concert Field

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY**  
Sunday 9

**Radio Disney Birthday Bash**  
Sunday 16

OCTOBER 2001

**MetroBoo!**

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



NOVEMBER 2001



**Damien Kong  
Jamaican  
Iguana  
Fundraiser**  
Sunday 11

The Zoo will be open on  
**Thanksgiving**  
Thursday, 22

DECEMBER 2001

**CELEBRATE  
THE HOLIDAYS AT  
METROZOO**



JANUARY 2002

**COME SEE THE  
KEEPER TALKS**

Daily, 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



FEBRUARY 2002

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

Sunday 10



MARCH 2002



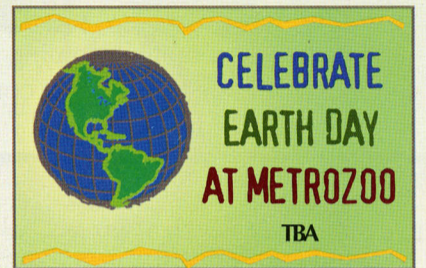
**BALL OF THE WILD**  
OF THE  
Saturday 2

**THE GREAT  
METROZOO  
EGG SAFARI**

Sunday 31



APRIL 2002



MAY 2002

Fourth Annual

**BIG BUG OUT**

Saturday 4 - Sunday 5



**Mother's Day at the Zoo**  
Sunday 12

**BOWLING FOR RHINOS**  
TBA

JUNE 2002

**SUMMER  
ZOOFARI CAMP**

June 18 - August 17



**FATHER'S DAY  
AT THE ZOO**

Sunday 16

JULY 2002

**COOL ZOO SUMMER**

**Dr. Wilde's World and Summer Camp**

July - August



AUGUST 2002

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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