

SPECIAL EVENTS: METROBOO, HOWLING BASH, BOO-DLER'S HALLOWEEN PARADE

# TOUCAN TALK



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2004

Your Vote is Critical:  
General Obligation Bond

Taking Conservation to Heart

# New at the Zoo

## BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS

- 1 Male, 1\* Red-crested Pochards .....May 21
- 10 Male, 1 female Rosybills .....May 20  
*1st 11 of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared at front lake*
- 1 Male, 4 female,  
4\* North American Ruddy Ducks .....May 18 & 21
- 7 South American  
Red-footed Tortoises\* .....Apr 30, May 03, 06, 10, Jun 02

## ACQUISITIONS

- 2 Male Green Broadbills .....Jun 04
- 1 Female Vulturine Guineafowl .....Jun 03
- 1 Male, 1 female Mariana Fruit-Doves .....Jun 01 & 03
- 1 Female Jambu Fruit-Dove .....Jun 01
- 1 Male Nilgai .....May 28
- 2 Female Tiger Ratsnakes .....May 27
- 1 Female, 1 male Arabian Goitred Gazelles .....May 26 & 28
- 2 Male, 2 female Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrots .....May 26
- 1 Male Secretary Bird .....May 14
- 1 Male, 1 female African White-backed Vultures .....May 14
- 1 Western Desmarest's Fig Parrot\* .....May 06
- 20 Florida Lubbers\* .....Apr 28
- 3 Female Javan Bantengs .....Apr 28, May 19

## AVIARY HATCHINGS

- 3 Javan Whistling Ducks\* .....May 28
- 1 Pied Imperial-Pigeon\* .....May 27  
*4th of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 1 Painted Stork\* .....May 25  
*1st of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 1 Straw-crowned Bulbul\* .....May 23  
*2nd of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 4 Crested Wood-Partridges\* .....May 15  
*67th-70th hatchings since 4/26/84; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 1 Nicobar Pigeon\* .....May 13  
*23rd of species hatched since 4/11/87; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 2 Pink-necked Green-Pigeons\* .....May 12  
*14th & 15th of species hatched since 10/27/02; parent-reared in Aviary*



Goitred Gazelle

PHOTO: SHERRIE AVERY

## AVIARY HATCHINGS (Continued)

- 1 White-winged Wood Duck\* .....May 09
- 1 Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon\* .....May 03  
*2nd of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 2 Common Shama Thrushes\* .....May 02 & 03  
*1st & 2nd of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 2 Oriental Magpie-Robins\* .....May 01, 02  
*1st & 2nd of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*
- 2 Black-browed Barbets\* .....Apr 27 & 29  
*First of species hatched at Metrozoo; parent-reared in Aviary*  
***First-ever captive breeding!***

## NEW IN DR. WILDE'S WORLD: FISH

- Convict Cichlid\* .....May 07
- Pacu\* .....Apr 28

## NEW IN DR. WILDE'S WORLD: ARTHROPODS

- 2 Giant Centipedes\* .....May 25

\* Gender undetermined

# Our Botanical Gardens

The Miami Metrozoo Botanical Gardens now has close to 700 species of trees, shrubs, groundcover, wild flowers, vines, palms and orchids.

Miami Metrozoo is one of 69 institutions that are qualified to accept CITES-listed plants confiscated by the USFWS Plant Rescue Center (PRC) program. In 2003, we received many confiscated orchids, representing 30 species, originating from Guatemala. You can read more about this program at the USFWS Web page: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) or by accessing the web page: [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org).

The Richmond Pineland covers 850 acres of which 215 acres are on Zoo grounds. This is a mere fragment of the nearly 185,000 acres that once existed in Miami-Dade County! Three new plant species have recently been identified in this area: Graceful Sandmat, Lesser Florida Spurge and Green Antelopehorn.

*Jacaranda tree blossoms*



PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR

# Contents

## On the Cover:

Early South American explorers named the Harpy Eagle after the Harpies of Greek mythology (half-woman, half-bird) whose duty it was to seize dead souls.

PHOTO: RON MAGILL



New At The Zoo! .....2

Volunteers Extraordinaire! .....4

Be A Dream Builder .....5

Taking Conservation To Heart .....6



A Bird's-Eye View Of Conservation .....8

Monarch of the Canopy .....9

Building A Zoo For The World .....10

Africa's "Painted Wolf" .....11

What Can I Do? .....12

**KIDZOODLE** .....13

Member Programs .....14

Zoo Events .....15



Service Project for Conservation .....16

# TOUCAN TALK

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*Our mission is to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations.*

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# Volunteers Extraordinaire!

By Nora Robbins, Manager of Volunteer Services

What does a couple look forward to after being a successful two-income, no children couple with more than 75 years of work experience between them? Sailing the seven seas? Playing rounds of golf daily? Raising African violets? How about getting up at 4:30 A.M. to arrive at a very utilitarian kitchen with no window over the sink, so they can begin chopping fruits and vegetables at 5:30 A.M.? And doing this seven days a week!

Meet Ron and Kathryn Medford, ZSF Volunteers Extraordinaire! Ron and Kathryn met in Washington, D.C. while Ron worked with the US Naval Observatory and Kathryn at the Aerospace Industries Association. They married and moved to Miami in 1962, where Ron joined the Time Service Division at the Coast Guard Station next to Metrozoo. "As technology advances, the need for more accurate and smaller increments of time increases," explained Ron. "I worked with the constant retuning of the official clock."

Kathryn began a long career in social services by volunteering first with the Red Cross then with Haven Center. Haven Center recognized a great find and Kathryn served as the Administrator for the next thirty years. After retiring from Haven she served as a social worker at Hope Center where Ron joined her after retiring from "watching the clock".

They both completely retired in 1997 and looked for their next joint effort. They wanted opportunities for new experiences daily with possibilities for indoor and outdoor activities. What better place than Metrozoo? So the Medfords came to the Zoo in 1997 and have enjoyed every day since!

What do they do after preparing meals for 1530 animals? Well, Ron's favorite assignment is journeying way out to the African Plains paddock to interact with Zoo visitors. Children are enthralled when he pulls out a giraffe vertebrae or piece of hide for them to touch. The huge animals become kid-size and accessible. Ron is attracted to the diversity of animals at this exhibit. Kathryn declares she wants to partake of as many different and unusual experiences as possible, and confesses to a love affair with Jordan, a Bactrian camel born at Metrozoo, now living in Ohio.

Volunteering at Metrozoo has introduced the Medfords to a wide variety of new friends, both human and animal. Ron declares, "The best people come to the Zoo, both volunteers and visitors." Kathryn and Ron look forward to each day bringing a new opportunity. So far each has logged over 20,000 hours of experiences, and are still counting and enjoying.

Come out and meet  
Ron and Kathryn "Zoo" Medford!



PHOTOS: RON MAGILL

## From the President

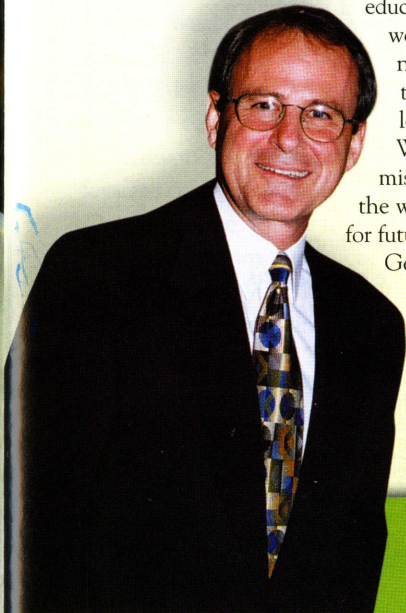
As Election Day approaches, we ask that you carefully familiarize yourself with the General Obligation Bond that will appear on the ballot. Miami Metrozoo is depending on a significant amount of money from this bond to fund our 20-year Master Plan. The Master Plan will ensure that the Zoo accomplishes its goal of becoming the best zoo in the United States and possibly in the world.

We see our Zoo as a living museum, a legacy of fur, feathers and scales. It is a monument to our responsibility to the world's wildlife and to our ability to preserve it. It is an oasis for the family, a chalkboard written with a zebra's stripes, a leopard's spots and the unmistakable grin of a child. When you enter the gates of Miami

Metrozoo, you have begun a continuing education course on the wildlife of the world. But one session of this course is never enough - it will take repeated visits to study, learn and appreciate the living lessons that the Zoo has to offer.

We need your help to continue our mission to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations. Please support the General Obligation Bond on the November 2nd ballot!

**Glenn W. Ekey**  
President and CEO  
Zoological Society of Florida



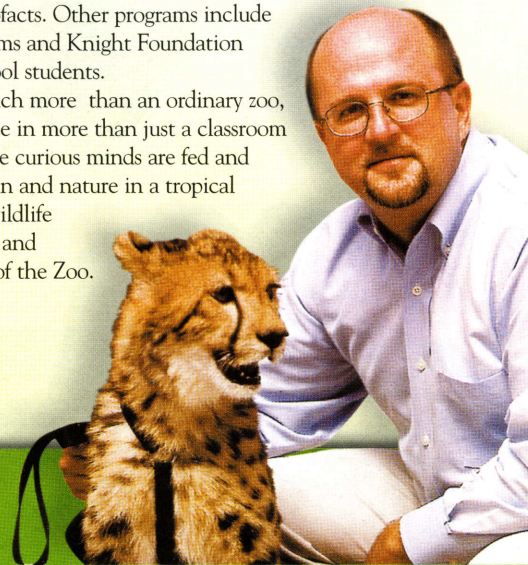
## From the Director

The moment a visitor enters the Zoo, education begins! Interactive displays interpret fascinating information on animals and their habitats in exciting ways. Dr. Wilde's World, ToadStool, the Children's Zoo and the Wings of Asia plaza exhibits encourage hands-on, interactive exploration of the world's wildlife.

Miami Metrozoo reaches out to students - from toddlers through the college years - providing camps, overnight Zoo Inns and student internships. The Zoo even has a school on grounds, the Richmond Heights Middle School Zoo Magnet program: Children learn animal behavior and even help the zookeepers. Miami Metrozoo is one of only 11 zoos in the U.S. to offer such a program. The very popular Zoodler Academy gives toddlers their first exposure to wildlife and is just as important as more advanced adult lectures. Two-to four-year-olds learn that lions are "pvedators," see animals up close, and touch skins, shells, bones and all sorts of biofacts. Other programs include camps, overnight programs and Knight Foundation internships for high school students.

Miami Metrozoo is much more than an ordinary zoo, and education takes place in more than just a classroom setting. It's a place where curious minds are fed and families enjoy a day of fun and nature in a tropical botanical paradise and wildlife safari. We welcome you and appreciate your support of the Zoo.

**Eric J. Stephens**  
Director  
Miami Metrozoo



# Be a Dream Builder

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM

### 1. Make your voice heard.

The county commission and staff are forming the makeup of the bond issue right now. Your voice is needed to make sure that Miami Metrozoo receives a fair share of the funding that it will create. To do this, you have several options:

- **Online** - Visit [www.miamidade.gov/bond2004](http://www.miamidade.gov/bond2004). Visit the Citizen's Suggestion Form page and provide your input online.
- **Email** - You can email your comments to [bond2004@miamidade.gov](mailto:bond2004@miamidade.gov)
- **Phone** - Call 305-375-2756
- **Mail** - You can mail your comments to: General Obligation Bond 2004, 111 NW 1st Street, 10th Floor, Miami, FL 33177

**2. Register and vote.** If you have not registered to vote, do so now. If you will be traveling on election day, ask for an absentee ballot or take advantage of early voting locations. You can do both by visiting <http://elections.miamidade.gov> or by calling at 305-499-VOTE. Registration for the November 2 election closes on October 4.

**3. Participate in the campaign.** Campaign work can be a fulfilling process and it's a great way to make your community a better place. As we near election day, the Zoological Society of Florida will be working hard for the passage of the general obligation bond referendum and your help will be needed. (We promise to make it fun, too!) To have your name placed on our campaign volunteer list, call Paul Vrooman at 305-255-5551 or by email at [pvrooman@zsf.org](mailto:pvrooman@zsf.org).



# Miami Metrozoo Taking Conservation to Heart



Story by  
 Chriss Miller, DVM Miami Metrozoo Veterinarian  
 and Paul Vrooman, Marketing Director,  
 Zoological Society of Florida

A visit to the Zoo is fun for the whole family but when you visit, it's good to know that Miami Metrozoo is so much more than that. As a fully accredited member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, your Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida are heavily involved in wildlife conservation both here and in the wild.

At the Zoo, you can see a number of endangered species on exhibit that are part of captive management programs coordinated across the country and, in some cases, across the world. These animals are members of various Species Survival Programs (SSP's) or studbooks (internationally coordinated breeding programs), working to maintain healthy, genetically diverse captive populations, in instances where the species' future in the wild is greatly at risk. Your Zoo participates in 120 of these programs, which are listed with this article.

PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR



## Some of the species at the Zoo which are included in these programs are:

- Asian & African Elephants
- Indian and Black Rhinoceroses
- Addax
- Arabian Oryx
- Bongos
- Okapi
- Malayan Sun Bears
- Sloth Bears
- Malayan and Baird's Tapirs
- Tree Kangaroos
- Koalas
- Asian Small-clawed Otters
- Gorillas
- Orangutans
- Komodo Dragons
- Galápagos and Radiated Tortoises
- Bali Mynahs
- Kori Bustards
- Greater Indian Hornbills
- Red-knobbed Hornbills
- White-winged Wood Ducks
- Red-legged Seriemas
  - Harpy Eagles
  - And many others.

But Miami Metrozoo's conservation efforts reach far beyond the Zoo itself. True to our mission promoting education and conservation, we also make contributions to many programs involving conservation in the wild – or *in situ* – and to educational programs that help promote these efforts. Through money raised for our Conservation & Research Fund, we have provided funding for programs such as tree kangaroo conservation in Papua New Guinea. This program has played a direct role in educating and empowering native people to set aside land as wildlife preserves and to conduct research as to the status of several species of tree kangaroo, as well as other animals and plants in that region. The March-April, 2004 issue of *Toucan Talk* featured an article on the Komodo dragon research and education efforts to which we have contributed.



Indian rhinoceros, an endangered species on exhibit at the Zoo.

PHOTO: RON MAGILL

Beyond providing funding for critical conservation programs, Miami Metrozoo's staff is comprised of professionals who conduct hands-on research and assistance on projects around the world. These include working with flamingos in Mexico, various endangered iguana species in the Caribbean, Komodo dragons in Indonesia, fruit doves and other birds in the South Pacific islands and Papua New Guinea, harpy eagles in Panama, and in research projects right here at the Zoo involving nutrition, reproduction and medical concerns of tapirs, rhinoceroses, great apes, and bears. The Zoo staff is also active in surveys and observations of native and migratory wildlife that use habitat here at Metrozoo as their rest stops or homes.

We have also forged an exciting partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to cooperate on bringing attention to critical areas of the world where the future of wildlife is in jeopardy. This unique agreement will trade expertise and expand the ability of the Zoological Society and WWF to raise funds for conservation. Already, WWF experts have lent expertise in the development of the Zoo's next major exhibit, focused on tropical America.

As you can see, Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida are committed to conservation and we want you to be, too! Each time you visit or renew your membership, you are enabling this important work. The next time you visit, please

take some time to observe and appreciate the exotic animals and the native creatures as well. Make the effort to learn a little more about some of them, and to see what you might do to help keep them around to share the future with us!

If you wish, you may contribute directly to our Conservation & Research Fund by making a monetary donation as you exit Dr. Wilde's World.

A major step forward in your Zoo's future expansion as a conservation facility will happen on November 2, 2004. That's when Miami-Dade voters will have the opportunity to approve the county's General Obligation Bond (GOB). Without raising taxes, voters can designate \$87 million to the Zoo's master plan. This plan will expand our ability to house endangered animals, educate children and families about wildlife and conduct additional research. (For more information, see the story that accompanies this article.)

A visit to Miami Metrozoo is always a fun time. Now that you know how much more is going on at your Zoo, you may look at the animals in a different light. Not only are they amazing to see when you visit, they are critical representatives that ensure the survival of their species.

...and through your membership, you have helped make sure that they succeed.



### A few more examples of the varied programs to which Miami Metrozoo has provided funding include:

- A program for conservation of the clouded leopard and fishing cat in Thailand
- A study on the recovery of giant river otters in Brazil following damming of a major river
- Surveys of Malayan tapirs in their native habitat, of jaguars in Mexico, maned wolves in Argentina
- A project to conserve the golden frogs in Panama and Costa Rica
- A survey of small mammals in India
- Equipment for care and post-release tracking of rehabilitated wildlife in Belize
- Studies of the effects of poaching on specific populations of African elephants and on Nubian ibex
- And on two owl species in an agriculturally-disturbed habitat in Africa



Bird keeper Michelle Goostree and Supervisor of Birds Carl Burch gather and pack 60 Caribbean flamingo eggs donated by Hialeah Park to be shared by a consortium of zoological parks. The project was spearheaded by AZA Stork Tag and Miami Metrozoo in an effort to inject new blood into long-term captive flocks. Photo: Ron Magill



L-R: Joe Wasilewski, Natural Selections of South Florida; Steve Conners, General Curator, Miami Metrozoo and Don Boyer, Curator of Reptiles, San Diego Zoo. Working together on a research project on the Island of Komodo to mark and recapture komodo dragons to survey the population and to determine how each institution can best assist with the conservation efforts at the National Park on Komodo. Photo: Tim Jessop



Miami Metrozoo donated this truck to the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Center in South Africa and has raised over \$40,000 in direct aid for the Center. Miami Metrozoo is working closely with De Wildt in the preservation of cheetahs and African wild dogs. Photo: Vanessa Bauer, De Wildt

# A bird's-eye view of conservation at Miami Metrozoo

By Jeff Sailer, Curator of Birds

The Bird Department at Miami Metrozoo is engaged in projects around the world and here in South Florida to help conserve this planet's avian diversity. Our staff has helped in the protection of Caribbean Flamingo flocks and Harpy Eagles in Central America, worked to help conserve pheasants and partridges in Asia, and uncover the biology and behavior of little known bird species in the American Bankers Family Aviary, *Wings of Asia* here at the Zoo.

Since the opening of the new *Wings of Asia*, we have had several important first breeding events with some rare and little known bird species. Banded Rails, Javan Pond-Herons, and Black-browed Barbets have all reproduced successfully in the *Wings of Asia*. Each of these successes has added greatly to our knowledge of these species.

Prior to our work here at Metrozoo, none of the reproductive biology was known for the heron and barbet. Statistics as basic as incubation period or days to fledging of chicks were unknown. We now have that data along with much more. The rails, though having reproduced overseas, had not bred in the U.S. Our rail-breeding project has given us greater insight into the reproductive plasticity of the Banded Rail. We now have data on the interval length between clutches of eggs, variations in rearing technique, and nest structure.

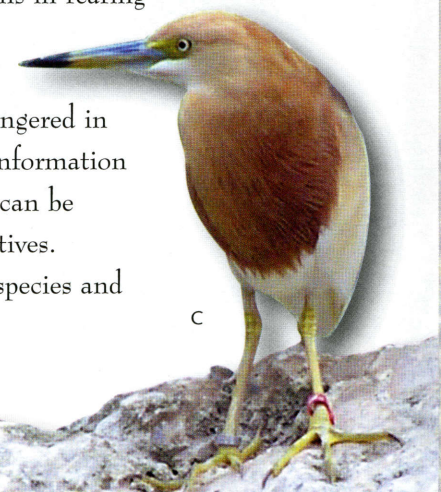
Though these three species are not endangered in the wild, they are still important. The information and experience we gain on these species can be applied to some of their endangered relatives. Also, we add to our knowledge of these species and the incredible diversity of birds.



A



B



C

A. Banded Rail

B. Black-browed Barbet, 27-days old. First-ever captive breeding!

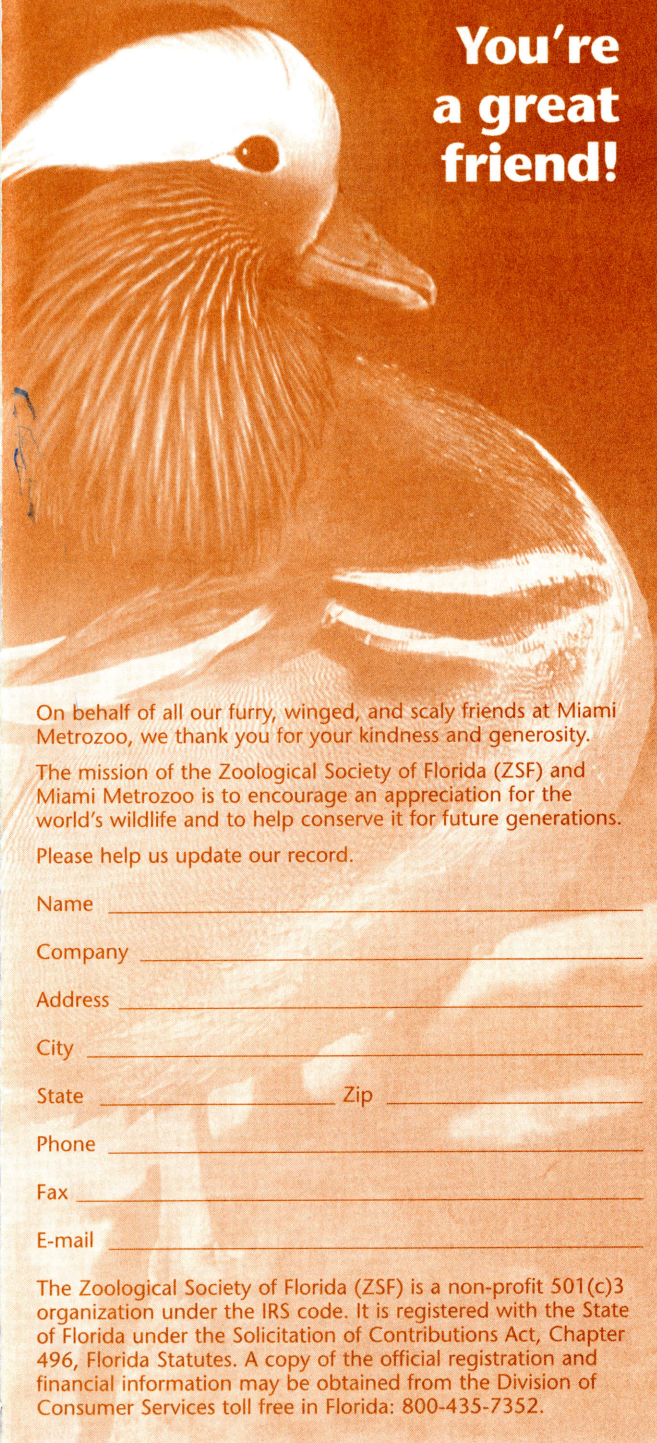
C. Javan Pond-Heron

Photos by Dolora Batchelor



# Thank you!

## You're a great friend!



On behalf of all our furry, winged, and scaly friends at Miami Metrozoo, we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

The mission of the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) and Miami Metrozoo is to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations.

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AFFIX

**YES!** I want to support the Zoological Society of Florida's work at Miami Metrozoo.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

- \$1,000                       \$500  
 \$250                         \$100  
 \$50                             \$25  
 Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We are grateful for donations of any amount and ask that you be as generous as possible.

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 ZSF's Adopt-An-Animal program  
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MIAMI, FLORIDA 33177-1499

AFFIX  
PROPER  
POSTAGE

# CAMPERS!

IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF FORM.

## CAMPERS ONLY/CAMPER'S MEDICAL INFORMATION

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NAME OF PERSON(S) WHO WILL PICK UP THE CHILD

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Second name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\* A registration is complete upon receipt of a confirmation from the Education Department.

For reservations, call 305-255-5551 and mail registration form to  
**Zoological Society of Florida/Education Department**,  
12400 SW 152 St, Miami, FL 33177-1499 or fax to 305-255-7126

# HARPY EAGLE

## MONARCH OF THE CANOPY

By RON MAGILL, METROZOO GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR



As part of its ongoing commitment to wildlife conservation around the world, Miami Metrozoo has played a major role in supporting the Harpy Eagle Conservation Project in the Republic of Panama. In addition to raising nearly \$1 million for the design and construction of the Harpy Eagle Center just outside of

Panama City, a Metrozoo staff member also sits on the Board of the Panamanian nonprofit organization, "Friends of the Harpy Eagle," which is dedicated to promoting conservation and education about the harpy eagle throughout Central America. In addition, Metrozoo has donated thousands of dollars towards, and participated in, research and community education efforts in Panama designed to protect this magnificent raptor.

The harpy eagle is considered by most experts to be the strongest bird of prey on earth and one of the largest, sometimes approaching 20 pounds. To put this in perspective, a bald eagle rarely exceeds 12 pounds. One of the harpy's most distinguishing characteristics is its impressive crest, which it raises when alarmed or focusing on potential prey.

The home of the harpy is restricted to undisturbed lowland tropical forests in Central and South America where it primarily feeds on medium to large arboreal animals. Over much of its range, its favorite food seems to be sloths, followed by a variety of monkeys, reptiles, and even prehensile-tailed porcupines. This majestic eagle will hit prey at speeds sometimes exceeding 50 mph, using talons the size of grizzly bear claws to quickly incapacitate its victim.

The harpy eagle nests in the tallest emergent trees of the rainforest, nestled 100-120 feet off the ground. Their nests consist of large sticks lined with soft green sprigs and are used repeatedly by the same pair in successive breeding seasons. An older nest can be over 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Though harpy eagles normally produce 2 eggs per clutch, usually only one chick hatches. The chick is reared for approximately 2 years before there is another nesting attempt, making the reproductive rate of this species very slow.

Miami Metrozoo presently houses a pair of captive-hatched harpy eagles in an off exhibit area that will hopefully become part of a future captive breeding program. It is a species that will be featured prominently in the Zoo's Tropical America expansion slated for opening in early 2008.

*Ron Magill, resting on edge of Harpy Eagle nest 120 feet above ground in the Panamanian rain forest, examines 10-week-old chick.*



NEST PHOTO: RAFAEL ALVAREZ

PHOTO: RON MAGILL



# Building a Zoo for the World

FIRST LOOK AT THE TROPICAL AMERICA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

By Doug Ray, Principal, Panas, Linzy & Partners, Chicago; Director, Tropical America Campaign

**It began in 1948.** The owner of a tiny traveling circus was passing through Miami when his truck broke down. Someone who worked in the County motor pool said he could fix the truck for \$270. But the circus owner didn't have the cash. So he made a deal. He would trade a few of his animals for the repairs.

And that's how Dade County became the owner of two spider monkeys, a chimpanzee, a billy goat and two bears, one pregnant. The county was the proud owner of a zoo.



For three generations, Miami's Zoo has been a place of birth and new beginnings, of challenges met and opportunities seized. "Tropical America," scheduled to open in early 2008, is Metrozoo's greatest opportunity since moving from Key Biscayne 24 years ago.

A world-class exhibit, the \$35 million Tropical America project will help focus local, national and international attention on Miami Metrozoo as a leader in conservation, education and cultural enrichment and will bring thousands of visitors from Florida and outside the state to see one of this planet's finest displays of tropical fauna and flora.

Tropical America is the next step in a 20-year Master Plan that calls for innovative, informative and entertaining exhibits to be unveiled approximately every two years until 2022. The expanded Zoo will provide unprecedented educational opportunities for students from grade school through graduate school. It will focus the attention of the world on the plight of endangered species, helping ensure their survival. This will be a place for families to celebrate and for weary urbanites to find rest and respite. It will be at the center of a major development initiative, an economic engine that will bring jobs and resources to South Florida for years to come.

How will we raise the money? We will do it with careful planning and with the commitment of a few leaders and a large number of dedicated volunteers. The Capital Campaign will be led by a Campaign Vision Committee, reporting to the Zoological Society Board of Directors.

We are now in the "Pre-Campaign" phase of the project, recruiting volunteers and forming committees while seeking major challenge gifts. The launch date for the Tropical America Campaign is November 17, 2004.

**In 2004 and 2005,** the Zoological Society of Florida will mobilize the private and public funding necessary to bring the wonders of Tropical America to the people of South Florida and to the world. The Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo are building one of the world's great zoos. It will be, indeed, a *Zoo for the World*.

RENDERINGS: JONES AND JONES



# The Cape Hunting Dog

## Africa's "Painted Wolf"

By Ron Magill

The Cape Hunting Dog's Latin name, *Lycaon pictus*, translates into "painted wolf" and is attributed to its distinctive black, white and tan to orange coloring. Also known as the African Wild Dog, this is one of Africa's most endangered carnivores, second only to the Ethiopian Wolf.

Originally numbering in the hundreds of thousands and found throughout Africa, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) now estimates that there are less than 6,000 wild dogs in 600 – 1,000 packs in isolated pockets of the Sub-Sahara. Although natural predators such as lions and hyenas affect the overall population of wild dogs, loss of habitat and illegal killing by farmers and ranchers are the primary reasons for their decline.

PHOTO: RON MAGILL

Not nearly as large or powerful as its distant canine cousin the hyena (for which zoo visitors often confuse it), the wild dog is nevertheless one of the most successful and efficient hunters in Africa. This is attributed to the very closely-knit social structure of the pack, which usually numbers between 5 and 20 animals but on rare occasions has been known to exceed 40. Feeding on everything from small hares to large zebras, these tenacious hunters depend on carefully coordinated attacks and incredible endurance to track down and kill their prey. They are able to sustain speeds of 35 mph for sometimes over 3 miles with different members of the pack taking over at different portions of the chase, in effect creating a relay race that inevitably overcomes the exhausted prey. Once captured, the prey is quickly devoured – sometimes within seconds!

Miami Metrozoo has played an important role in the captive breeding of this endangered species with nearly two-dozen puppies being born here. The litters of wild dogs can be very large, sometimes numbering up to 14 individuals. In the wild, only the dominant female and male

reproduce with the rest of the pack contributing to the raising of the puppies. Unlike other social carnivores such as lions, the wild dog social structure puts priorities on the puppies and allows them to eat first at kills.

The pair of wild dogs at Metrozoo has close ties to the De Wildt Wildlife Center in South Africa. Our male was born there and the female comes from parents that were born there. De Wildt is considered one of the most important conservation centers in South Africa and has been the recipient of thousands of dollars in support from Metrozoo which has provided new vehicles for field work and remote cameras to track wild populations. In addition, Zoo staff has traveled to South Africa to work with De Wildt on a variety of conservation and management projects. At the time of this writing, Metrozoo associate veterinarian Dr. Stephanie Monnier and I will again be traveling to De Wildt to participate in a special workshop, working among experts with wild dogs and cheetahs and gaining invaluable experience with these highly endangered animals.

# Conserving Wildlife: What Can I Do?

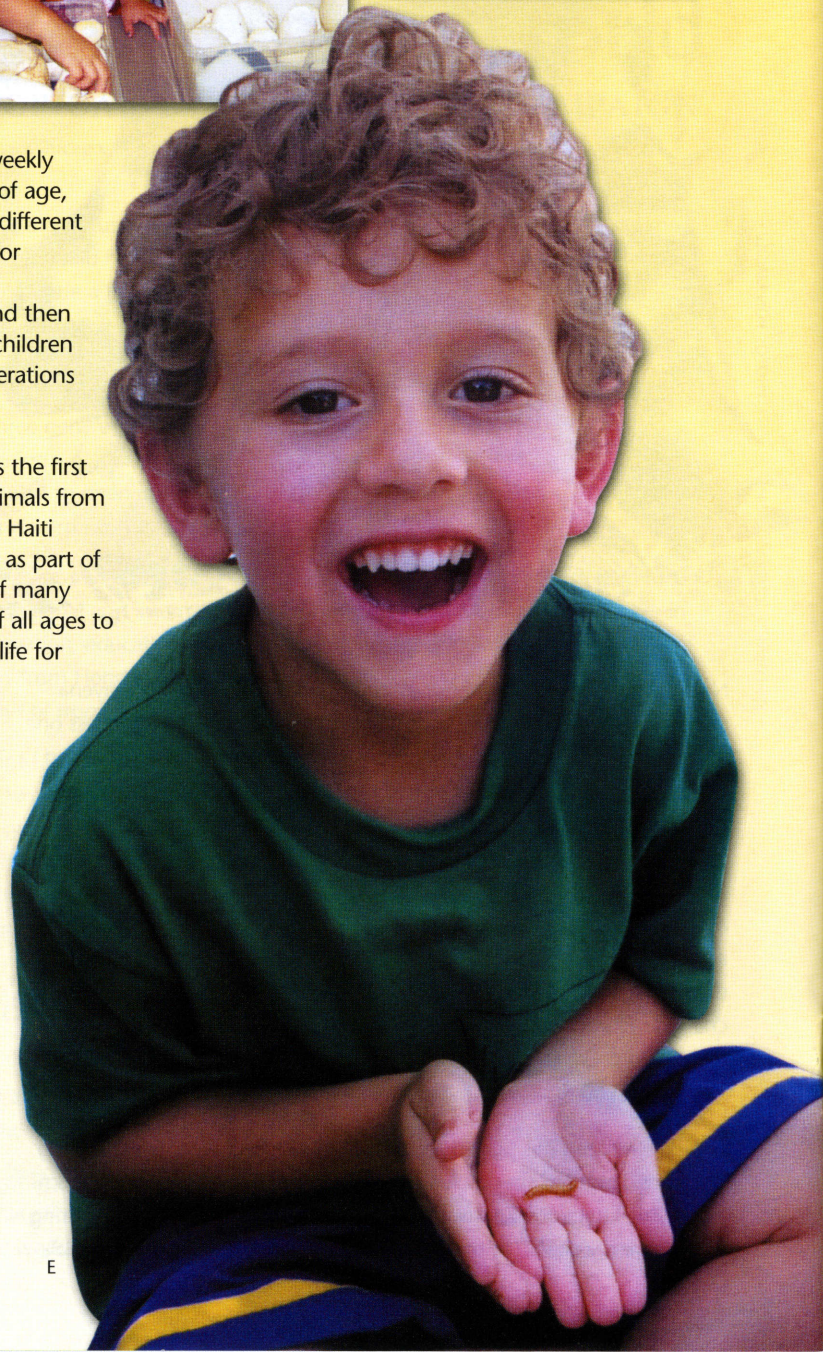
**What is conservation?** To many people it is just a concept. For the 55,000-plus children that visit the Miami Metrozoo each year it means much more. Can you imagine what it is like for these children to get to see endangered animals up close and personal? They get to meet Nellie and Dahlip, our Asian Elephants, and to understand why they and so many other animals are endangered. In our Education programs, the children get to touch animal skins and other biofacts that help bridge the gap from concept to reality.

**We** offer a wide range of educational programs for large and small groups that cater to a variety of interests. There are behind-the-scenes tours that are led by experienced keepers to selected animal exhibits and sleepovers that allow kids and adults to spend the night at the Zoo. We have a weekly parent/child program that introduces children, starting at 2 years of age, to nature and animals. There are special programs that highlight different aspects of animal behavior, taxonomy, ecology and conservation for interested participants. Kids of all ages can experience wildlife presentations that are provided on a daily basis in theatre style. And then there are our traditional educational sessions and field studies for children on school trip outings. These children are the future hope for generations of animal species.

**What can we do?** For many children visiting Miami Metrozoo, it is the first time they have ever seen a wild animal, much less endangered animals from around the world. Children from the East Little Havana and Little Haiti communities were amazed to visit our "living classroom" this year as part of their school curriculum, and to discover that Florida is the home of many endangered species as well. At the Zoo, we encourage children of all ages to discover our wondrous world of animals and to appreciate its wildlife for generations to come. When presenting the issues surrounding conservation and endangered animals, we try to create a positive learning experience for the kids so they know that everyone can help in the fight against extinction.

**The really great thing about being a part of the Zoo is that we have an opportunity to share our knowledge and passion about the animals with which we share this earth. We truly believe that, "If we want children to flourish, to really feel empowered, let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it."**  
Anonymous

- A. LEARNING AT THE ZOO IS FUN. - PHOTO: SHERRIE AVERY
- B. CAMPERS MADE AN ICE POP FOR NELLIE - PHOTO: GUCCI SARNO
- C. SCHOOL FIELD STUDY - PHOTO: GUCCI SARNO
- D. ECOLOGY THEATER, CLOSE-UP ANIMAL ENCOUNTER - PHOTO: GUCCI SARNO
- E. IF I WERE A MEERKAT, I'D EAT THIS MEALWORM! - PHOTO: GUCCI SARNO



# KIDZOODLE



## Creature Feature

Below are clues to help you identify some of the animals at Miami Metrozoo. Look at the pictures, read the clues and identify the animals. Give the letter on the photo, name the animal and put an "E" after the name of the animal if you think it is endangered. To see the entire animal, go to our website at [www.miamimetrozoo.com](http://www.miamimetrozoo.com) and click on Animals and Exhibits.

Clues may include:

- Location
- Habitat
- Diet
- Characteristics
- Uniqueness

- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lives in forest canopy, flies and hops sideways
  - Bill crushes food and makes loud resounding calls
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Adaptation to conserve body water
  - Nomadic mixed herds
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Makes a "watering hole"
  - Powerful reptile
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Dwells, feeds, breeds in trees
  - "Person of the forest"
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Stands vertically on hind legs
  - "Giraffe-gazelle"
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Aquatic and wading ability
  - Armor-plated appearance
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Wetlands, swamps, marshes, streams
  - Snorkel-like nose to breathe under water
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - One of heaviest antelopes
  - Dashes to water to escape predators
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Builds nests in trees
  - Facial expressions and emotions
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Feeds by day on shoots, fruits, plant parts
  - Elusive and shy – "forest zebra"
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - S.W. Africa
  - Adaptation for moisture conservation, no panting or sweating
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Nocturnal
  - Charges backward for defense
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lives in small matriarchal family groups
  - Needs lots of space
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Eats leaves, buds, flowers, fruits
  - Non-prehensile tail for balance
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tall species, but can perch in trees
  - Courtship dances
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - World's largest of this species
  - Large flight feather with "eye" design

 A	 B	 C	 D	 E
 F	 G	 H	 I	 J
 K	 L	 M	 N	 O
 P	Sixteen photos along with sixteen names that match the clues; to help you fill the blanks. Good luck!		American Alligator African Elephant Cape Porcupine Chimpanzee	Crowned Crane Gemsbok Gerenuk Great Argus Pheasant
Greater Indian Hornbill Indian Rhino Matamata Turtle Okapi		Orangutan Scimitar-horned Oryx Tree Kangaroo Defassa Waterbuck		

ANSWERS: CREATURE FEATURE: 1. M/Orangutan; 2. A/Scimitar-horned Oryx; 3. E/American Alligator; 4. K/Chimpanzee; 5. J/Gerenuk; 6. L/Indian Rhino; 7. O/Matamata Turtle; 8. I/Defassa Waterbuck; 9. C/Chimpanzee; 10. P/Okapi; 11. G/Gemsbok; 12. B/Cape Porcupine; 13. H/African Elephant; 14. N/Tree Kangaroo; 15. F/Crowned Crane; 16. D/Great Argus Pheasant





# ZSF Member Programs



## ZOODLER ACADEMY

Bring your toddler to our popular parent and child program for two. Story telling, featuring lovable animal characters with an arts and craft session is followed by an opportunity to meet live animals in our Zoo classroom. The Zoodler Academy provides a safe

and friendly environment for children to meet animals and learn about nature. *Pre-registration is required for all participants (adults and children) and class size is limited.*

**2-3-Year-Olds: Tuesdays: 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

- September 7** Numbers by Animals
- September 14** Tortoise and the Hare
- September 21** Colors by Animals
- September 28** Animal Opposites
- October 5** Dinnertime
- October 12** Busy Bee
- October 19** Home Sweet Home
- October 26** BOO-lder's Halloween Parade  
(Dress as your favorite animal)

**2-3-Year-Olds: Thursdays: 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.**

**3-4-Year-Olds: Thursdays: 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

- September 9** Numbers by Animals
- September 16** Tortoise and the Hare
- September 23** Colors by Animals
- September 30** Animal Opposites
- October 7** Dinnertime
- October 14** Busy Bee
- October 21** Home Sweet Home
- October 28** BOO-lder's Halloween Parade  
(Dress as your favorite animal)

**Fees:** (per session)

**Members:** \$13 per child with one adult; \$5 per additional person (child or adult)

**Non-Members:** \$15 per child with one adult; \$6 per additional person (child or adult)

**Alumni of Zoodler Academy 2003-2004 Season:** \$2 discount per session

Note: The Zoodler Academy program is for one adult and one child. Class sizes are limited and pre-registration **is required** of all participants. Registration forms must be filled out completely with full payment. For more information call 305-255-5551, ext. 125. There are no refunds or credits for missed classes.

PROGRAM EVENTS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For more information, please call the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551 or visit the Zoo's website at [www.miamimetrozoo.com](http://www.miamimetrozoo.com).

## ZOO INNS

Bring your scout troop, youth group, biology class or adult group to spend the night! In this sleepover program, you'll have a walking behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo after dark and a special morning activity. Zoo Inns are available for adults and children at least six years of age and include pizza dinner, continental breakfast and souvenir patch. Program varies according to animal availability. *Pre-registration is required.*

**Dates and Times:** Fridays and Saturdays, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 A.M.

**Capacity:** Minimum group size is 15; maximum group size is 30  
**Call 305-255-5551, ext. 125 for fees and more information.**



## WILD NIGHTS

Join us for a special 2-3-hour walking behind-the-scenes tour led by a zookeeper to selected animal exhibits. This Wild Night begins with a pizza party and is available for adults and children at least six years old. *Pre-registration is required.*

**Dates:** Call for available dates. **Time:** 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

**Fees: Members:** \$25 per person. **Non-Members:** \$30 per person.

**Capacity:** Minimum group size is 15; maximum group size is 30.

## JUNIOR REPTILE CLUB

This program is for kids who want to get up close and personal with some of our scaly friends, the reptiles. Discover what it takes to be a creepy crawly critter through interactive experiences and a behind-the-scenes visit to the reptilian inhabitants of our Children's Zoo. *Pre-registration is required.*

**Ages:** 6-12 years old

**Date:** Saturday, October 9

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**Fees:**

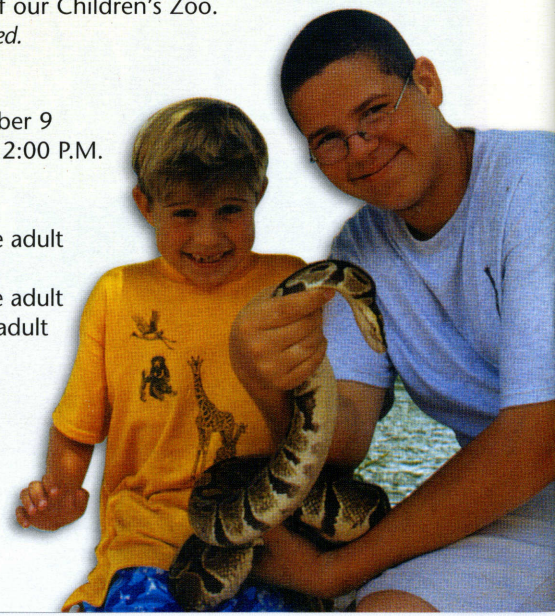
**Members:**

\$18 per child with one adult

**Non-Members:**

\$22 per child with one adult

\$5 additional child or adult





# At the Zoo

## FOURTH ANNUAL HOWLING BASH

**ADULTS ONLY**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29,**  
**8:30 P.M. – 12:30 A.M.**

Be an exotic animal and party wild style at the Fourth Annual Howling Bash, presented by the Wild Bunch. Young professionals are throwing this Halloween costume party to raise funds to support the Zoo and the Zoological Society of Florida's education and conservation programs. Featuring complimentary bar and hors d'oeuvres, music, dancing and a few wild, interactive and scary surprises...!

**DRESS:** Halloween costume chic (animal costumes encouraged!)

**COST:** \$45.00 per person. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Anna Hudson at (305) 255-5551, ext. 117 or ahudson@zsf.org. RSVP by Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at (305) 255-5551.

## METROBOO

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
**11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

It's Trick-or-Treat at the Zoo for ages 12 and younger. Come dressed for costume contests, fabulous prizes and have a safe, fun day of Trick-or-Treating with plenty of delicious treats for the kids.

## THE AMERICAN BANKERS FAMILY AVIARY, WINGS OF ASIA

**FREE FLIGHT AVIARY**  
**DAILY,**  
**10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

Encounter rare and exotic Asian birds close-up and in free flight. Watch them build their nests and care for their young.

### Bird Feedings

**Daily, 10:30 A.M. & 2:30 P.M.**

Follow the bird keepers for fun and information while they go throughout the aviary feeding the birds.



### Indoor Activities

**Daily, 9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Observe ducks swimming on top of and under the water with fish and turtles through the viewing glass of the indoor, air-conditioned Observation Center. Step out behind two waterfalls to see the aviary from a duck's-eye view, and learn how you can participate in local conservation efforts in the Potamkin Conservation Center. Gift shop features Asian gifts.

### Dinosaur Encounters

**Daily, 9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

View a film showing the link between dinosaurs and birds at the Field Research Center, then search for the skeleton of a 40-foot-long carnivorous dinosaur in a mock fossil excavation dig pit.

## WONDERS OF TROPICAL AMERICA: AMAZON ALIVE!

**AT DR. WILDE'S WORLD,**  
**10:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Enjoy a unique hands-on, interactive adventure into the very heart of Tropical America. Back by popular demand, this fun exhibit features new animals from giant centipedes to the goliath birdeating tarantula, to Amazonian fish and funky-looking turtles. Awaiting you at the George

Batchelor Theater is a movie with surround sound to immerse you into the tropical rainforests of Panama, Central America and northern South America. Inspect the artifacts and crafts made by the indigenous rainforest people, marvel at the live animals, and be challenged to identify hidden wonders throughout the exhibit. There are storybooks, puzzles, puppets and rubbing stations for children. Future exhibit plans include a working beehive and a corral where children can climb in and interact with tortoises (sorry, no adults inside the corral).



## HOW TO REACH US

### Educational Programs

305-255-5551, ext. 123

### Membership /

### Adopt An Animal

305-255-5551, ext. 136

### Corporate & Individual

### Gift Giving

305-255-5551, ext. 138

### Volunteering /

### Walking Tours

305-255-5551, ext. 124

### General Information

305-251-0400

### Group Sales / Picnics

305-251-0400, ext. 230

### Birthday Packages

305-233-8389

### Email:

[www.info@zsf.org](http://www.info@zsf.org)

### Web site:

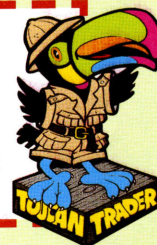
[www.miamimetrozoo.com](http://www.miamimetrozoo.com)

The Membership Department is updating its records, so please be sure to send your EMAIL address to [gbaquero@zsf.org](mailto:gbaquero@zsf.org). We want to keep you up-to-date with the latest Zoo News and Special Events.

## TOUCAN TRADER GIFT SHOP COUPON FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL MIAMI METROZOO PENCIL

Kids, get your free Miami Metrozoo pencil!  
 One pencil per student per family while the supply lasts!

**OFFER EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, 2004**



Calendar events and dates are subject to change. For more information, please call Miami Metrozoo at (305) 251-0400 or visit the Zoo's website at [www.miamimetrozoo.com](http://www.miamimetrozoo.com).

# By Helping Eagles, Scout Becomes One.

Life Scout Aids in Conservation of Harpy Eagles and Great Indian Hornbills

By Brandon Peters, Life Scout, Troop 599, Miami

I am currently 16 and a Life Scout, striving to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, I had to plan, develop, and carry out a service project that benefits the local community. A friend, Mrs. Dolora Batchelor, a birdkeeper in the American Bankers Family Aviary, *Wings of Asia* at Miami Metrozoo, suggested I apply to help at the aviary. I met with the Curator of Birds, Mr. Jeff Sailer, who introduced me to two harpy eagles temporarily residing off exhibit. The eagles needed a place where they could safely and comfortably build a nest, a platform about six feet off the ground that would allow drainage for water from the nest, and provide a safe place to perch.

The project sparked my interest and I eagerly accepted. I also offered to construct a special nesting box for the two great Indian hornbills inside the aviary. I met frequently with Mr. Carl Burch, Supervisor of Birds, and Mr. Sailer to review the specific requirements for the projects.

After much paperwork, signatures, and designing the structures, I was authorized by the Boy Scouts of America to proceed. I held a fundraising car wash and we raised the money to buy the materials. A volunteer group at Miami Metrozoo kindly donated over \$100 to help fund the projects.

Mr. Gerry Parlato, with my troop, helped me immensely in configuring the design and with carrying out the project. We decided on a simple design, consisting of a 4'x4' platform held by 4 legs. Since we were working with live animals, we couldn't use any pressure-treated wood on the platform because the chemicals could harm the birds. The base of the platform was made of naturally weather resistant wood ipe, and the legs were made from greenhart poles donated by the Zoo. We made both the platform and nesting box on one Saturday, and delivered and installed them the next weekend.

Many volunteers donated many hours of hard work and in the end, we had made a sturdy harpy eagle nesting platform, and an efficient hornbill nest. The harpy eagle platform rises close to six feet off the ground, which is more than enough room for the eagles to perch comfortably. I am proud of the finished project and look forward to seeing the birds nest for years to come!



**Harpy eagle tests nesting platform construction**

PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR



PHOTO: RON MAGILL



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA  
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Miami, Florida 33177-1499

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