

SPECIAL EVENTS: ANIMALS IN ART, TURKEY TRAIL, GIFTS FOR THE ANIMALS AND MORE...

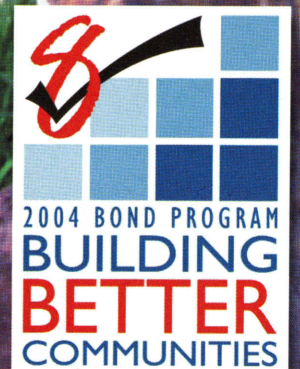
TOUCAN TALK

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2004



We need
your vote
November 2nd,
2004!

TOUCH
190



NEW at the ZOO

Births Hatchings Acquisitions

BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS

2*Plumed Whistling Duck.....	September 18
5* North American Ruddy Ducks	August 27, July 6, June 23
2* Lesser/ Indian Whistling Ducks.....	August 9
1 Male, 2 female Southern Gerenuks.....	July 28, June 21
1 Female Addra Gazelle	July 25
2* Common Emperor Scorpions.....	July 18, 19
2 Male, 2 female Rosybills	June 22
4 Male, 3 female Mandarin Ducks.....	June 13
1* South American Red-footed Tortoise.....	June 12

AVIARY HATCHINGS

2* West African Crowned Crane.....	September 7
4* Banded Rails	August 25, June 15
1* Red-legged Seriema.....	August 23
3* Nicobar Pigeons.....	August 21, July 28, June 24
4* Crested Wood Partridge.....	August 19
4* Javan Pond Herons.....	July 27, June 14
1 Female Pink-necked Pigeon	July 26
2* Stanley Cranes	July 23
4* Magpie Robins	July 22
1* White-spotted Laughing Thrush.....	June 27
3* Magpie Robins.....	June 12,13
7* Common Shama Thrushes	June 8,9, July 12
5* Common White-eye	June 7
1* Liocichia	June 5

ACQUISITIONS

1 Male, 1 female Indian Pygmy Goose	September 14
1 Male, 1 female Javense Collared Dove.....	September 2
1 Male, 1 female Temminck's Fruit Dove.....	September 2
1 Male, 1 female Green-winged Dove.....	September 2
2 Male, 3 female, 5* Red-throated Parrot Finch.....	August 18
1 Male Hooded Pitta	August 18
198* Jamaican Fruit-eating Bats.....	August 8
1 Male Banteng.....	July 31
1 Male Nyala	July 28
1*Tricolor Sharkminnow	July 21
6* Mississippi Gopher Frogs.....	July 20
1 Male Crested Wood Partridge.....	July 20
1 Female Crested Guineafowl	July 14
1* Cuban Tree Frog	July 5
1*Pirapatinga	June 24
1* Krefft's River Turtle	June 17
3 Female Marabou Storks.....	June 17
1 Female Secretary bird.....	June 15
1 Female Indian Rhinoceros.....	June 10
1*Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat	June 8

NEW BIRD FOR THE AVIARY

1 Male Bleeding heart pigeon	July 20
2 Female Hoopoes.....	July 20
1 Male Grosbeak Starling.....	July 20

* Gender undetermined



Mississippi Gopher Frog

The Mississippi Gopher Frog is an endangered amphibian that is now found in only one small pond where less than 40 animals breed. Miami Metrozoo is one of only eight other zoos working to rear young Mississippi Gopher Frogs for future breeding and release into the wild.

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On the Cover:

Zoological Society of Florida education programs provide animal encounters and life-long memories for your children such as this encounter with the Galapagos Tortoises.

PHOTO: RON MAGILL



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TOUCAN TALK

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER, 2004 Volume 31, Number 6

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

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Zoological Society of Florida
Toucan Talk, November / December, 2004

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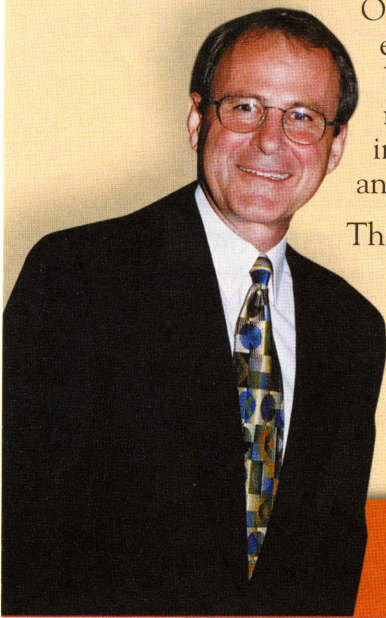
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From the President



On November 2, 2004, we will elect the next President of the United States and decide on a number of pressing issues impacting the way we live, work and play in Miami-Dade County.

The General Obligation Bond will be presented on the local ballot and will provide significant funding for Miami Metrozoo.

Glenn W. Ekey
President and CEO
Zoological Society of Florida

Already a major attraction and cultural designation for national, international and local visitors, we are creating a new and improved Zoo that will make important economic impacts to the Miami-Dade community. While we have structured our Zoo as a living museum dedicated to education, conservation, and an appreciation of the world's wildlife, we have much more to accomplish.

We are counting on your support. Please vote for the General Obligation Bond on November 2, 2004. Help us make Miami Metrozoo the world's greatest Zoo!

Bringing the Wild World to the Inner City

By Ron Stayton, Director of Foundation and Government Relations

A short drive west from Miami, a mere 30 miles, is the Everglades National Park, home to some of the most exotic and endangered wildlife on Earth, not to mention one of the most imperiled habitats found anywhere.

Yet for many inner-city children in Miami, this might as well be halfway around the world. Financial and other limitations preclude many of these youngsters from ever having the opportunity to enjoy this natural wonderland found right in their own backyard. Now, thanks to a grant from HSBC in the Community (USA), Inc. to the Zoological Society of Florida, a group of students from Little Haiti's Comstock Elementary School will have that opportunity of a lifetime.

Sponsored for a second year by HSBC in the Community (USA), Inc., fourth graders from Comstock, an "F" designated school with

children scoring some of the lowest standardized test scores in the county, will be transported into a brand new world of adventure and discovery. Through a program called *Nature, the Zoo, and You*, these children will discover endangered animals at every turn as they walk through the narrow and virtually unprotected pathways of the Everglades, surrounded by hissing alligators and slithering snakes below, and bald eagles soaring above. The children will also visit Miami Metrozoo where they will encounter endangered animals from all corners of the globe.

Earth measures roughly 25,000 miles around the Equator. But thanks to HSBC, this world has been wrapped around the fingertips of some very fortunate underprivileged children.



Photo: Thom Wolek - Senior Vice President & Managing Director of HSBC, Alejandro Perez - Principal Comstock Elementary School, and Elisabeth Koncza - ZSF Deputy Director & Director of Education with students from Comstock Elementary School

Not Just a Meerkat

(*Suricata suricatta*)

By Adam Stern

Meerkats have become a household name with the *Lion King*TM movies and the loveable character, Timon, singing and dancing throughout the film. Unfortunately, no matter how much training takes place, meerkats don't have the capability to portray as cartoon characters, but they do have their own ways of singing.

Meerkats have a large vocabulary consisting of grunts, barks and whines. With these noises, they are able to communicate danger, playfulness, eating time, warning alerts and status within their group.

Groups of meerkats are called "gangs" or "mobs" and can be made up of about 30 animals. While their life spans range from 8 to 12 years, they are able to reproduce within one year of age.

Found in the savannas of southern Africa, meerkats are known to dig burrows in the ground where they are apt to have approximately 15 different entrances with various levels and chambers in their tunnel system. They constantly dig new tunnels and chambers and abandon old ones in search of food.

Meerkats are omnivorous, so their diet primarily consists of plants and animals including insects, small mammals, birds (if they can catch one), roots and various fruits. At the Zoo, their diet is quite varied as they eat a mixture of dry dog food, raw meatballs, sweet potatoes, carrots, mealworms and crickets.

Meerkats are known for their guarded behavior, somewhat like security guards, as they take turns keeping watch for predators such as hawks, eagles, vultures and jackals. To protect

themselves within their "gang," meerkats stand on their hind legs propped up by their tails like a tri-pod. Each member of the gang takes a turn as it stands guard to keep their homes secure, and there is often more than one meerkat on duty at any time. They frequently place themselves on areas of higher ground within the desert to keep watch for anything that may come their way.

The meerkats are very well equipped for the desert with specific traits like dark patches around their eyes which keep glare at bay when looking into the sky.

Their layered hair keeps them cool in the hot sun while their black bellies absorb heat from the sun on cold mornings.

Miami Metrozoo, has 6 slender-tailed meerkats on exhibit that are related, but from two separate litters. While quite unique, this makes the meerkats here one big happy family.

Miami Metrozoo acquired our meerkats on June 27, 2000 from the Hogle Zoo in Utah where they were born exactly one year earlier. They arrived in Miami with a "recipe" for the best sand and clay mixture for tunnel digging and drainage of water. Our exhibit allows the meerkats to constantly dig new tunnels as they would in the wild. In order to keep them comfortable within their exhibit, the keepers here at the Zoo oftentimes dig up the tunnels in the morning to give the meerkats an opportunity to continuously build new tunnels.

We invite you to observe the meerkats in action, especially at the daily 12:30 P.M. Keeper Talk when we offer them some of their favorite foods, including mealworms and crickets.

Meerkats are unselfish, sharing animals as they will oftentimes share their homes with other animals like ground squirrels, mongoose and other small mammals.



SAY "CHEESE!"

A Chimpanzee "Family Album"

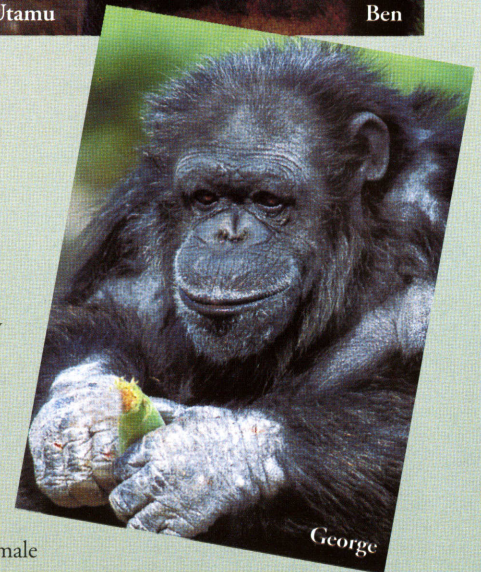
Photos and Story by Ron Magill

Of all the animals at Miami Metrozoo, few are more interesting to watch than our family of Chimpanzees. Ninety-eight percent genetically identical to human beings, they are the closest living relatives we have in the tree of animal life and because of this, they display many of the same behaviors we see in ourselves. Just like human beings, each of their personalities is individual and distinct. And, though at first glance, most people think that they all look alike, a closer look reveals that their physical appearances are as different as their personalities. So that you can better enjoy our wonderful chimpanzee family, we have created a "family album" that will hopefully help you identify each individual when you next visit the Zoo!

"George" is the "Alpha male" and was born in the wild in 1971, distinguished by his increasingly graying hair. "Bubbles" is the oldest chimp in the group, a female born in the wild in 1967 and best known for her "smiles." She is the mother to "Ben," a male born at Metrozoo on July 31, 2002. "Samantha" is a female, born in the wild in 1969, and is

distinguished by her ability to stand straight up on her legs like a human while looking for food from her keeper. Her offspring are:

"Niger," a male born at Metrozoo on November 18, 1990 and "Sokoto," a male born at Metrozoo on June 21, 2001. "Rosebud," a female born in the wild in 1970, has 4 offspring born at Miami Metrozoo still living in the group: "Binti," the first chimpanzee born at Metrozoo on June 26, 1980; "Bocco," a male born on March 22, 1990; "Kutosha," a male born on June 13, 1998; and "Utamu," a female born on December 20, 2001. "Binti" is the mother of "Hondo," a male born on March 20, 1994 and "Lance," a male born on October 13, 2001. Now see if you can tell them apart and place the mothers with their offspring!



BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES WILL BUILD A BETTER ZOO

ZOO FUNDING LOCATED IN PARKS QUESTION

You can see the future from here!

On November 2, you will have the opportunity to bring the best Zoo in the world to Miami. It's a decision that will improve the lives of children and adults in our community for generations, define our community's commitment to world-class status, help the world's wildlife while also keeping your tax rate at the same level it is today.

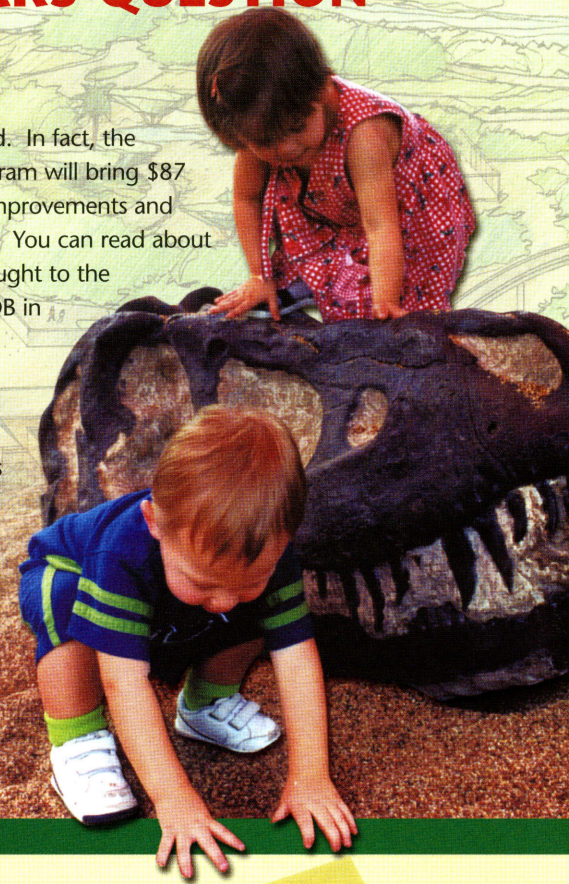
When you go to the polls on November 2, there will be 8 questions at the end of the ballot in the *Building Better Communities* bond referendum. These questions cover a variety of community improvements like stormwater drainage, road improvements, libraries and parks. Each question focuses on a specific area of need.

Within these 8 questions, **Miami Metrozoo is included in the parks and recreation item**, which will be the second *Building Better Communities* question. With a long range of projects and improvements planned within the parks question, it is important to know that **the Zoo is not specifically**

mentioned on the ballot.

But the Zoo is definitely included. In fact, the *Building Better Communities* program will bring \$87 million worth of new exhibits, improvements and renovations to Miami Metrozoo. You can read about more details of what will be brought to the Zoo with the package of the GOB in the adjoining story.

The Zoological Society of Florida urges you to **VOTE YES** on the *Building Better Communities* items on November 2. For your kids, for yourself and for your community, these 8 questions will pave the way for a world-class future.



BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is *Building Better Communities*?

A: *Building Better Communities* is a General Obligation Bond (GOB) referendum. GOB's are a common way for local governments to build major developments (known as capital projects) in a community and these projects are all designed to leave major, long-term community impacts.

Q: How does Miami Metrozoo benefit?

A: The Zoo is included in the GOB program for \$87 million in funding. These dollars will be used to build exciting new exhibits, renovate existing exhibits and improve visitor amenities.

Q: When will we see these improvements?

A: Once the GOB is passed, things will move quickly. Exhibits will go into design and other improvements that require less planning will begin. In fact, some of the most famous exhibit design firms are standing by to immediately begin. Construction will follow soon afterward with an ambitious schedule for completion.

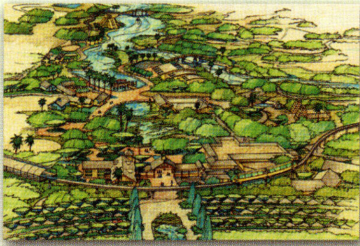


[Q&A Continued Page 8]

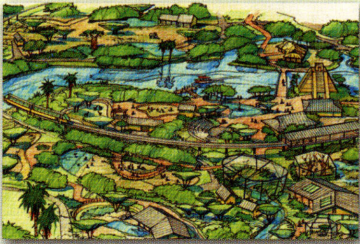
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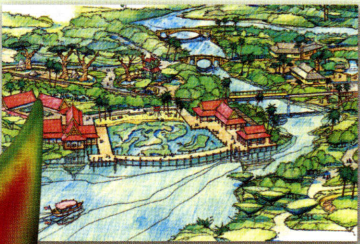
BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



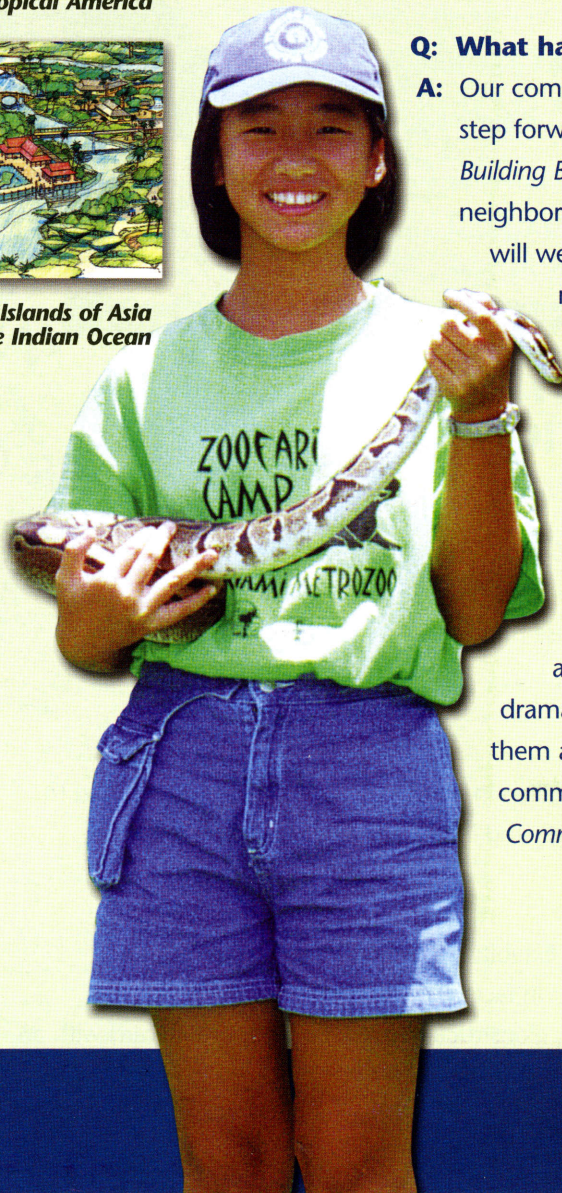
Front Gate:
A new look. A new experience.



Tropical America



**The Islands of Asia
and The Indian Ocean**



Q: Will my taxes increase?

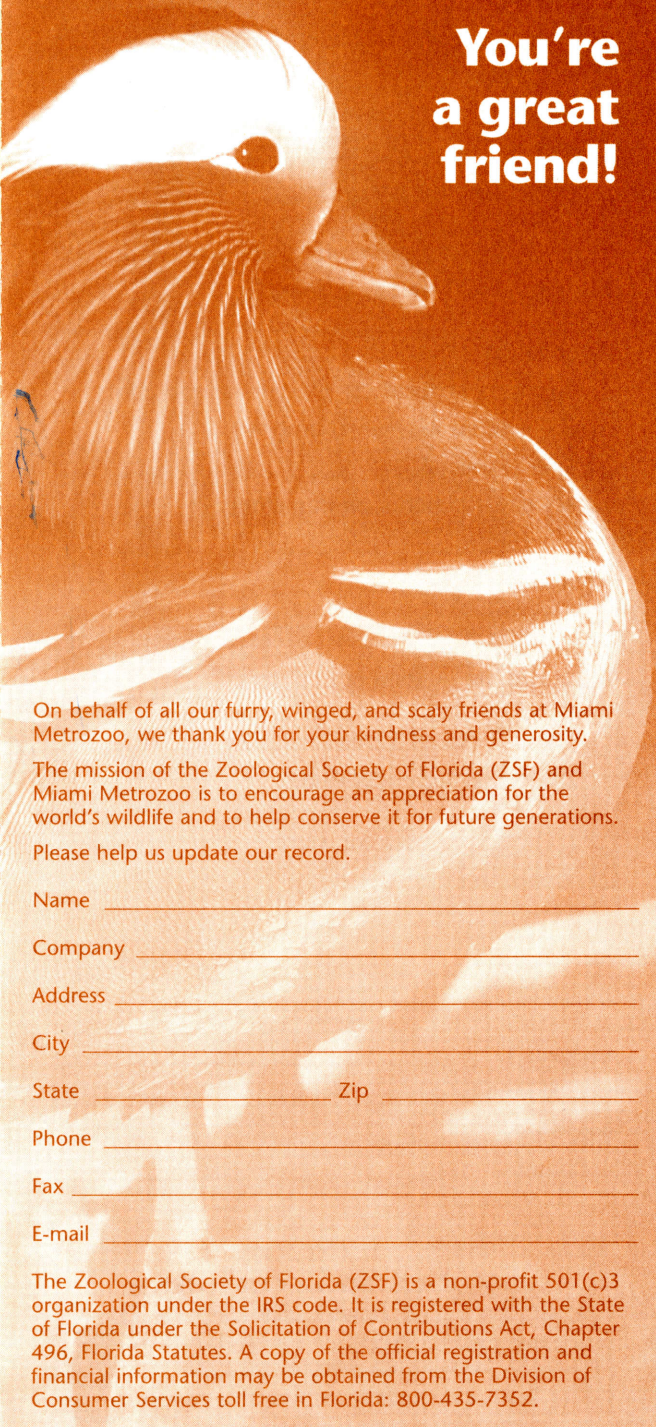
A: The *Building Better Communities* program is designed to fund all of these critical projects within the current tax (millage) rate on your bill. For the average homeowner, this amounts to approximately \$24/year. Taxes may increase over the years because your home is likely to increase in value. This bond replaces existing bonds that are being paid off (retiring) so, unless there is a major negative event that lowers regional property values, the bond issue should not cause taxes to rise.

Q: What happens if it does not pass?

A: Our community has the opportunity to take a great step forward. The package of improvements in the *Building Better Communities* items will allow our neighborhoods to become better places. Not only will we benefit from things like stormwater drains, road repairs and parks, the economy of the county will be propelled as well. In fact, an economic impact statement commissioned for the zoo states that the buildout of the Zoo's master plan would create a \$1.1 billion economic impact. With items such as beach renourishment added in, it is easy to see that the GOB will create jobs. Without passage, our citizens and our economy may not see these dramatic improvements and will certainly not see them as soon. The best way to improve our community is a YES vote on all 8 *Building Better Communities* questions.

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.

Please help us update our record.

Name _____

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State _____ Zip _____

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

DD001ED
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.

My donation is for:

- Support of critical ZSF educational programs
 ZSF's Adopt-An-Animal program
Specify animal _____
 My gift is in honor, or in memory of

Notification to _____

Please indicate method of payment:

- I have enclosed a check made payable to Zoological Society of Florida.
 I wish to pay by credit card:
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Amount: \$ _____

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AFFIX
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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 _____

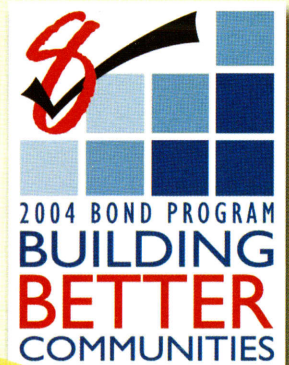
* A registration is complete upon receipt of a confirmation from the Education Department.

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

VOTE YES ON THE GOB AND WATCH US GROW!

What will happen to your Zoo with a yes vote:

- 1. FLORIDA EXHIBIT** You've told us over the years that you want a Florida experience when you visit your Zoo. A "yes" vote on November 2 will make that happen with exhibits depicting some of our state's most amazing and endangered animals. Conservation work to protect these endangered animals will be greatly enhanced by this new exhibit and Floridians will learn what they can do in their own back yards to make a difference.
- 2. NEW ENTRANCE** The \$87 million in funding from the GOB will result in a new Florida-themed entrance with new education, dining and retail experiences. The entrance will introduce visitors to the Miami Metrozoo experience and announce that you are passing into the world's greatest Zoo.
- 3. AUSTRALIA** Did you know that your Zoo is one of a small handful of zoos in the US that houses koalas? Funding from the GOB will lead to an all-new Australian exhibit, making a new home for some of the world's most diverse species.
- 4. LAKE RENOVATION** You told us that you want more water at the Zoo, so that's exactly what will happen. The Zoo's 4 lakes will be connected, creating an opportunity to see parts of the Zoo by boat.
- 5. FACELIFT** Talk about an extreme makeover! GOB funding will be used to improve the visitor experience through new amenities, more landscaping (that means shade) and unique themes that will make the Zoo even more fun. Improved food, retail and restroom facilities will be added as well.



ARE YOU EXCITED?

You can make these improvements happen. Miami Metrozoo will receive the funding for these projects when the parks and recreation question (2nd GOB item) passes on November 2.

VOTE YES ON THE BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES QUESTION!

TOUCH
190

VOTE
YES!

Feel, Smell and Touch...

The Sensory Plant Garden at the Children's Zoo

By: Cindy David, Horticulturist



Take a trip past the refreshment stand and step into a garden for the senses! Under the big shade tree known as the Apple Blossom Cassia (*Cassia javonica*) you'll find all kinds of fun things to feel, smell and touch. The aromatic Butterfly Ginger (*Alpina*) plant with its white flowers waving in the wind will catch your eye, but it's not there just for the beauty. Go over and smell the Ginger. The scent is intoxicating and invigorating.

As I was leaning over to smell the Ginger, I brushed against a little plant close to the ground and all the leaves gently folded and closed. As I watched the leaves slowly open again, I smiled. It must have been many years since I have seen a sensitive plant (*Mimosa strigillosa*). Overjoyed with amazement, I touched the leaves again and watched them close once more. I was waiting for them to re-open, but my attention was distracted as something flew by and caught my eye. What a rare treat! Two Atala Butterflies flitted about with their bright blue dots and red edges shining in the sun. This is not a common sight; to see one is unusual but having two fly right by me was a once-in-a-lifetime moment. As I followed them, they led me into a wild garden area filled with different types of butterflies in an array of various colors. As I enjoyed the aerial ballet of these butterflies, I realized, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the main Zoo, was a little Butterfly Sanctuary.

Wow! What a colorful surprise to see such an assortment of butterflies. There were yellow Sulphurs, orange Monarchs, and Zebras. Yes, flying Zebras! Flying Zebra Longwing Butterflies that is; which just happens to be our official state butterfly. There were little flying "flowers" dancing all around me. What a feast for the eyes.

As I turned around and headed back to the shade tree to see what other surprises were in store, I was not disappointed.

Nestled in between the tall Queen Palms across from the meerkat exhibit are two small trees known as Allspice Trees (*Pimenta dioica*). I grabbed a leaf from the bottom, what a sweet, spicy smell...how delicious. This is a wonderfully fragrant small tree whose leaves can be used in cooking to add flavor and a lovely aroma. Located and planted just beneath the Allspice trees are Coffee plants. Their little white flowers will soon turn into coffee beans. Although these are not the coffee beans that we have come to know for brewing, the birds oftentimes enjoy them.

The last thing I noticed before heading on to the petting area, were the colorful Salvia along the fence. They give the garden a whimsical feel.

What a nice surprise right in the middle of everything and almost hidden away. A garden for the senses; it's a nice spot to sit and take time to relax.



Making Friends with Butterflies

Don't forget to sign up for the special program, *Making Friends With Butterflies* on Saturday, April 9, 2004. Bring your family to enjoy these fascinating insects in our Butterfly Garden and learn what plants will attract them to your yard. You'll have the opportunity to taste some of the butterflies' preferred treats and take home, as a gift, a favorite butterfly plant!

For more information on this program and other educational programs, please contact the Zoological Society's Education Department at (305) 255-5551.



PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR



*(Above) Red Ruffed Lemur
lounging on a high tree limb.*

*(Below) Ring Tail Lemur
with her young on piggyback.*

Photos by Ron Magill



Lemur Island

By: Crystal LeMaster, Primate Keeper

Lemurs are native to the island of Madagascar. Millions of years ago, lemurs migrated to the large island before it drifted from the African mainland. Today there are at least thirty-five known living species.

Here at Miami Metrozoo, we have three species of lemurs living together on one island exhibit, black, ring-tailed and red ruffed lemurs. Currently, black and ring-tailed lemurs are vulnerable, but the red ruffed lemurs are critically endangered. These three species share a few of the same traits. They all feed primarily on fruits with a few insects thrown in for some variety, and they live for the most part in a female-dominated society. That's right, **GIRLS RULE!**

On our island, the black lemurs, Johnny and Pearl, are at the top of the hierarchy. The ring-tailed lemurs, Zuri, and her two male companions, Zeke and Zoro, are second in command, with the red-ruffed lemurs, Ralphie and Tumbler, bringing up the rear. Hierarchies can change sometimes when Ralphie decides to show some dominance; but unfortunately, Tumbler has always been at the bottom of the totem pole. You can recognize Tumbler by his Olympic ability to "tumble" up and down the tree branches. The black lemurs may be deceiving since they are a sexually dichromatic species. The male is jet black like the name, but the female is brown in color with long white ear tufts.

When visiting Lemur Island, don't forget to look from the ground level to the tops of the trees. Ring-tailed lemurs spend a lot of their time on the ground while the red ruffed is almost totally arboreal.

You will usually find them semi-conscious in the afternoon since most species rest during midday. And occasionally, you can catch them on their backs sun bathing in the beautiful Florida sun.

Totally Tasty Treats

Get in the mood for Thanksgiving by celebrating it with your family the Zoo way! Learn what makes up the animals favorite "entrees", enjoy some of their tasty ingredients, and even make your own decoration to take home!
Recommended for children 4 years and up

Date: Saturday, November 20

Time: 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Fees: \$18 per child with one adult; \$6 additional child or adult **Members' Fees:** \$16 per child with one adult; \$5 additional child or adult



Going Crafty For Animals

During this busy Holiday season, your children will have a good time making a present for their favorite Zoo animals and watching them unwrap it! Snacks and Holiday decorations are also included in this program where kids will learn some of the animals' best-kept winter secrets. **Pre-registration is required.** Morning and afternoon sessions will focus on different animals and presents. Children who are signed up for both a morning and afternoon session should bring their lunches.

Children in 1st - 3rd Grade

Morning Sessions

I. December 20, Monday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 II. December 27, Monday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Afternoon Sessions

III. December 20, Monday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
 IV. December 27, Monday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Children in 4th – 6th Grade

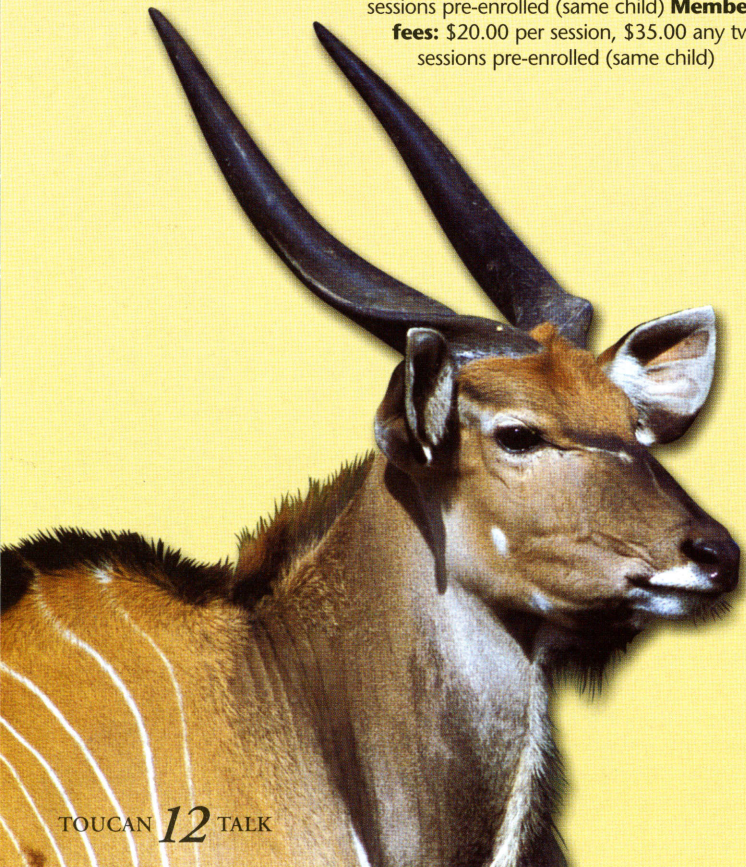
Morning Sessions

V. December 20, Monday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 VI. December 27, Monday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Afternoon Sessions

VII. December 20, Monday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
 VIII. December 27, Monday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Fees: \$25.00 per session, \$40.00 any two sessions pre-enrolled (same child) **Members' fees:** \$20.00 per session, \$35.00 any two sessions pre-enrolled (same child)



Rudolph And Friends

Besides allegedly having a very shiny nose, Rudolph also has lots of relatives currently residing here at Metrozoo! During this bubbly season your children will have a wonderful time at the Zoo visiting with the famous reindeer's extended family, enjoying Holiday songs, stories and much more! **Pre-registration is required.** Morning and afternoon sessions will focus on different animals and activities. Children who are signed up for both a morning and afternoon session should bring their lunches.

Children in 1st - 3rd Grade

Morning Sessions

IX. December 22, Wednesday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 X. December 29, Wednesday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Afternoon Sessions

XI. December 22, Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
 XII. December 29, Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Children in 4th - 6th Grade

Morning Sessions

XIII. December 22, Wednesday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 XIV. December 29, Wednesday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Afternoon Sessions

XV. December 22, Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
 XVI. December 29, Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Fees: \$25.00 per session, \$40.00 any two sessions pre-enrolled (same child) **Members' fees:** \$20.00 per session, \$35.00 any two sessions pre-enrolled (same child)

KIDZOODLE

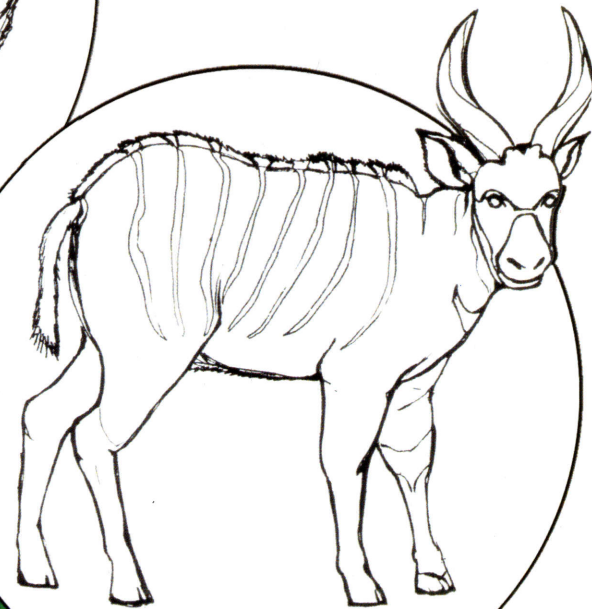


WILDLIFE AT MIAMI METROZOO

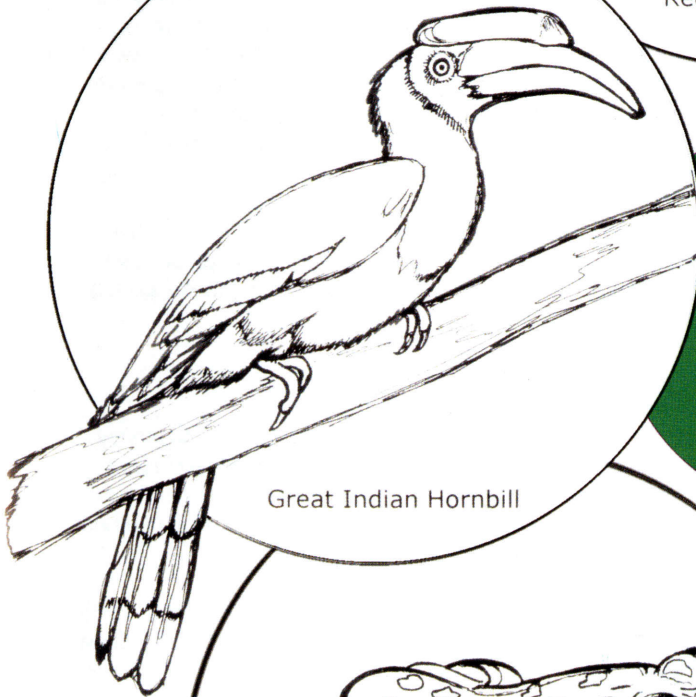
Color these
endangered
species.



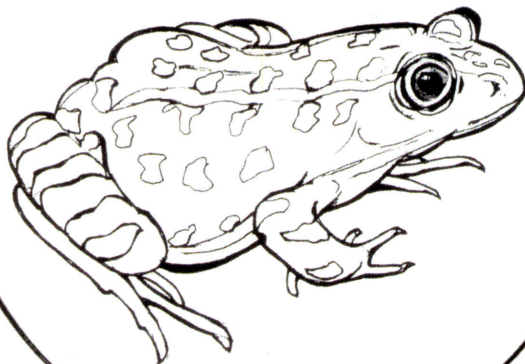
Red Ruffed Lemur



Bongo Antelope



Great Indian Hornbill



Gopher Frog



Sloth Bear

See
you
at
the
Zoo!



ZSF Education Programs for Teachers

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.

PINE ROCKLAND GUIDED TOUR

Have your students walk through this fire dependent habitat that the gopher tortoise, great horned owl and the Florida panther call home. Learn about the county's largest remnant of the rare native pinelands that exists nowhere else on earth and enjoy a fun game with your students. Walking tours are scheduled through the Education Department at 305-255-5551.

FIELD TRIP CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

Miami-Dade County Public School classroom programs are grant-supported and free for grades K-12. For private schools and non-Miami-Dade County public schools, the cost is \$30 per program. Class length is 30 minutes. For more information call: The Education Department, 305-255-5551, or visit our website at www.miamimetrozoo.com.

EDUCATOR'S DAY: TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

November 13, 2004

8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

This workshop is designed to show teachers how Miami Metrozoo can serve as an educational resource with an emphasis on our newest exhibits. Participants are awarded ten (10) Master Plan points upon completion. To register, call the Teacher Education Center at 305-887-2002.

Programs for Members

ZOODLER ACADEMY

November – December 2004

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.*

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

November 02 *Dinosaurs*
November 09 *Backyard Garden*
November 16 *Goodnight, Zoo*
November 23 *Thankful Friends*
November 30 *Stripes and Spots*
December 07 *In My Farm*
December 14 *Holiday Surprise*

2-4-Year-Olds: Thursdays: 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.

November 04 *Dinosaurs*
November 11 *Backyard Garden*
November 18 *Goodnight, Zoo*
November 25 *Thankful Friends*
December 02 *Stripes and Spots*
December 09 *In My Farm*
December 16 *Holiday Surprise*

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.

Fall Special 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 behind-the-scenes walking 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 a souvenir. Programs vary 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

Fees: Members: \$40 per person **Non-Members:** \$45 per person

WILD NIGHTS

Saturday, December 4

6:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Take an adventuresome Behind-the-Scenes tour to see wild animals up-close in their night habitats! Guided by a knowledgeable Zoo Keeper, you will experience the roar, scent, and behaviors of the great beasts under an evening sky. Guests are served a pizza dinner before a trek into the wild!

*Children must be at least 6 years old and in first grade to participate. Pre-registration is required. Or select a special date for a private group.

Fees: Members: \$20 per person; **Non-Members:** \$25 per person

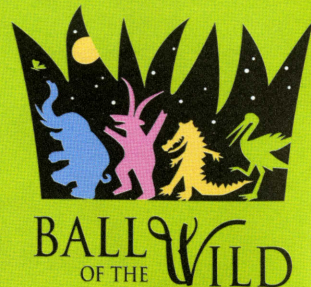
Mark Your Calendars BIG CAT-NAP CAMP OUT

Saturday, March 19, 2005

6:00 P.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Participate in Miami Metrozoo's Second Annual Big Cat-Nap Campout! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19, 2005, pack up your camping gear, and come on over to experience a night of wilderness, complete with sound effects (provided by Zoo animals)!

Call for details and registration materials, (305) 255-5551 ext. 125.



At the Zoo

...It's Holiday Season!

ANIMALS IN ART

NOVEMBER 5, 2004 - JANUARY 7, 2005

AT DR. WILDE'S WORLD

10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

REGULAR ADMISSION

The Miami MetroZoo is pleased to present ANIMALS IN ART: a special holiday exhibition curated especially for the Miami MetroZoo by animal art expert, Dr. David J. Wagner. The exhibition will be displayed in Dr. Wilde's World, the zoo's state-of-the-art exhibit facility. Some 85 masterpieces by 32 of the world's leading animal artists will be featured in the exhibition.

TURKEY TRAIL

NOVEMBER 27 - 28, 2004

9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

REGULAR ADMISSION

There's one thing that just about everyone indulges in, and that's Thanksgiving dinner. When you arrive to the zoo, you'll be given a chart that tells you how many calories are in each item of a typical Thanksgiving meal. Starting at the entrance gates, the zoo will be marked with mile, half and a quarter mile markers so you can keep track of the miles you need to walk to burn off your Thanksgiving dinner!

GIFTS FOR THE ANIMALS

DECEMBER 6 - 25, 2004

10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Every day different animals will open their holiday gifts. You'll laugh at the antics as the animals try to get to the food treats inside their gift boxes wrapped with non-toxic paper glued with honey and peanut butter. They put on quite a show, and this is one experience you won't want to miss this holiday season. The grand finale is on Christmas Day, December 25, at 2:00 p.m. when the chimps and gorillas will steal the spotlight. Holiday gifts are part of the regularly scheduled Keeper Talks. Check at the Ticket Booth for the feature animal exhibit of the day.

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.

THE AMERICAN BANKERS FAMILY AVIARY, WINGS OF ASIA (CONTINUED)

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 move 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

BALL OF THE WILD

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005

7 P.M. - MIDNIGHT

Metrozoo's annual fundraiser held among the beasts, providing elaborate costumes, music, dancing, gourmet food, and special entertainment to benefit Miami Metrozoo. For information and reservations, call Anna Hudson at (305) 255-5551. or visit the Zoo's website at www.miamimetrozoo.com.



HOW TO REACH US

Educational Programs

305-255-5551, ext. 124

Membership

305-255-5551, ext. 136

Adopt an Animal

305-255-5551, ext. 109

Corporate and

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

Website:

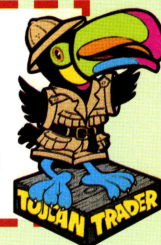
www.miamimetrozoo.com

The Membership Department is updating its records, so please be sure to send your EMAIL address to www.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



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VOTE "YES" FOR THE BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES QUESTIONS ON NOV. 2nd.



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