

# **Zoo Welcomes International Field Conservationists at Ritz-Carlton**

**Caribbean Gardens welcomes key staff of Madagascar Fauna Group and announces *Pianos for Primates* event for the benefit of the Group**

**What:** The key American staff of a dedicated conservation organization, the Madagascar Fauna Group (MFG), are being welcomed by Caribbean Gardens at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. The reception is to announce the November 10<sup>th</sup> *Pianos for Primates* event at the home of international conductor and pianist William Noll. The zoo has arranged this special opportunity for the MFG staff to be in Naples before they return next month to continue their mission in Madagascar. The zoo has supported the non-profit MFG for several years. And the dedicated staff, a husband and wife team and their 9-year-old daughter, have lived and worked in Madagascar for more than a decade saving endangered wildlife including the lemurs. Invited guests include those who attended last year's successful *Pianos for Panthers* event.

**When:** **Thursday, August 15, 2002 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Where:** Bella Vista Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort  
2600 Tiburon Drive in Naples.

**Why:** The zoo has been supportive of the Madagascar Fauna Group for years. When William Noll graciously offered to repeat last year's successful *Pianos for Panthers* event, the MFG was a natural choice. The event will assist the MFG carry out their programs in Madagascar. In addition, an educational display will be installed at Caribbean Gardens to create a permanent educational presence for the MFG as well as generate additional revenue.

**Photo Ops:** **7:45 p.m.** Endangered black & white ruffed lemur arrives with keeper to greet guests at the Ritz-Carlton. Andrea Katz and Charlie Welch can also be filmed with lemur.

**Interview Ops:** **Interviews** can be arranged with the MFG's Charlie Welch and Andrea Katz in addition to the zoo's director, David Tetzlaff, and director of education, Tim Tetzlaff.

**Media Contact:** Ron Friedman, Marketing Director, Caribbean Gardens  
**Office:** (941) 593-3352 **Mobile phone:** (941) 571-5585

**CARIBBEAN GARDENS**  
**The ZOO in Naples**

# Pianos For Primates

## An Evening of Elegant Music for the Benefit of the Endangered Lemurs of Madagascar

- The event:** Following on the success of last year's *Pianos for Panthers*, Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples is partnering with the Madagascar Fauna Group (MFG) to host *Pianos For Primates*, an evening of musical delight with special guests on the pianos, harpsichord, and organ as arranged by conductor William Noll. Endangered lemurs themselves will also be among the guests so that everyone can meet the type of creatures they are helping. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and champagne will be served. Guests should dress in safari and khaki attire for a fun evening.
- When:** Sunday Evening, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002 from six to nine p.m.
- Where:** Conductor William Noll has once again graciously opened his private home in Naples for the evening. In addition to his worldwide performances, Mr. Noll has served as the Music Director for The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company for over twenty years.
- Why:** More than 8 out of 10 animals on the island nation of Madagascar are found nowhere else on earth. Its unique plant life has already provided a lifesaving treatment for leukemia. But less than 20% of the forest still stands, and every species of lemur is threatened with extinction. *Pianos for Primates* will raise funds to help conservation efforts on Madagascar and provide ongoing local awareness of the issues. Funds raised will go directly to the MFG for their programs in the wild with additional funds raised going to create the *Primate Pavilion*, an educational display inside the 52-acre Caribbean Gardens. *Primate Pavilion* will help zoo guests learn about and become involved in the preservation of Madagascar.
- Tickets:** \$150 per person (tax deductible as allowable by law, payable to MFG)
- Reservations:** Toll Free 888.520.3756
- Media Contact:** Ron Friedman, Marketing Director, Caribbean Gardens  
**Office:** (941) 593-3352    **Mobile phone:** (941) 571-5585
- More on MFG:** Tim Tetzlaff, Director of Education, Caribbean Gardens  
**Office:** (888) 520-3756 or click [www.NAPLESZOO.com](http://www.NAPLESZOO.com)



*the*  
**ZOO**  
*in NAPLES*  
**CARIBBEAN GARDENS**

# The Madagascar Staff

The husband and wife team of **Andrea Katz** and **Charlie Welch** has lived and worked in Madagascar for over 12 years. Together, they manage the Madagascar Fauna Group's programs at Parc Ivoloina and Betampona. They also hold staff positions at the Duke University Primate Center where Katz is Staff Specialist for Madagascar Programs and Welch is a Research Scientist.

Although formally trained in zoology, the collective experience of Katz and Welch is much broader. They develop and implement the MFG's programs at Ivoloina and Betampona including captive breeding, ecotourism, environmental education, and lemur reintroduction. They also manage personnel and budgets, write grants, prepare scientific papers, make presentations, and represent the MFG in negotiations with the Malagasy government. Much of the MFG's success is attributable to their persistence, dedication and expertise.

Their 9-year-old daughter, Alena, has attended the Lycee Francais de Tamatave since preschool. She's going into the equivalent of 4th grade this September. The family speaks English at home but her school and most of her friends speak French. She is also learning Malagasy as a third language. Her school is quite diverse: Malagasy, Chinese, Indian, French with Alena being the only American.

## What is the Madagascar Fauna Group?

The Madagascar Fauna Group is an international consortium of forty zoos and related organizations from Africa, Australia, Europe, and the United States. These facilities pool their talents and resources to work together for the benefit of one of the world's most endangered places. Madagascar is legendary for its levels of biodiversity and endemism, and many of its species are so bizarrely beautiful that the whole island seems improbable, a mythical biological wonderland.

Unfortunately, the island is now home to fragmented populations, burned forests, vast stretches of unpalatable grasslands, people struggling to survive, and rivers of red topsoil bleeding into the Mozambique Channel and the Indian Ocean. The problems are numerous and can overwhelm both Malagasy government agencies and conservationists. At the request of the Malagasy government, the Madagascar Fauna Group was formed by zoos so that they could effectively apply their particular expertise to some of these problems.

In the US, the MFG works closely with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), which counts the MFG among its Conservation Action Partnerships. This is highly beneficial in terms of logistical support, collaboration with other conservation committees and funding opportunities. The MFG values its strong relationship with the AZA while still being cognizant of its multi-national status and is diligent about the importance of recognizing all partners. The MFG was one of the first major multi-zoo, region-based conservation initiatives and as such served as the model for the AZA's Conservation Action Partnerships program.