



To promote and establish good relationships among professional zoo keepers

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To support deserving conservation projects that include educating the general public about the need for preserving our natural resources and animal life through these worthwhile efforts.

To establish materials beneficial to zoo keeper education.

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The Keeper - Summer 2010

The Keeper

The American Association of Zoo Keepers
San Diego Chapter
Quarterly Newsletter – Summer 2010

President's Message

By Yvette Kemp, SD AAZK President

When you are involved with SD AAZK, you are part of a large conservation network that exists in San Diego.

Did you know that there are over 16 environmental organizations in San Diego alone? Those are just based here within the San Diego city limits. Then there are the various animal rehab and conservation organizations. By being a part of SD AAZK, you are part of a large group of people who are interested in making a difference in the world. As a group we can accomplish much more than as individuals.

Your membership in San Diego AAZK really has helped us accomplish our mission. We have been involved in various projects throughout the years: Red Pandas, Bushmeat, and Kibale Fuel Wood just to name a few. Then there's the Grevy's Zebra Trust, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Polar Bears International, Lewa Conservancy, The International Rhino Foundation, and the list goes on. Much of what we do is on an international level. But we've always wanted to make sure we work with local conservation programs too. And we have. There's the CA Wolf Center, San Diego River Park Foundation, Chula Vista Nature Center, San Diego Bird Atlas, the Humane Society, Project Wildlife, Lions-Tigers-and Bears, and more. One way we are making sure we are involved our community is by inviting local conservation organizations to be a part of the 2011 National AAZK Conference.

San Diego has a great conservation community and we all have the same goals: to conserve and educate! The 2011 AAZK Conference will be a great way for all of us to show our accomplishments and how everyone can work together. It also gives us the opportunity to get to know each other better.

We invite you to make a difference. Become an active participant of SD AAZK. Join the board, assist with the different projects, attend the events. San Diego AAZK has a lot to offer, and we know you do too.

Sensitive Species and Habitat Management in California

with Juan Hernandez, Sr. Biologist and Regulatory Specialist for Lilburn Corporation

On January 8th Juan Hernandez, former Humboldt State University graduate and a senior biologist and regulatory specialist for Lilburn Corporation, addressed AAZK members on sensitive species and habitat management in California. His presentation included information on CA policies used to protect endangered and sensitive species, agencies that administer these policies, and tips of what we can do to help.

After covering the general definition for endangered species (a population of organisms at risk of becoming extinct due to changing environment or predation parameters), Juan touched on the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) that was developed to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The act enables species to be noted as endangered or threatened, and all species, except pest insects, are eligible for either of these listings. ESA is administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Services as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service. There is also the CA endangered species act (CESA) that states all CA native species will be protected or preserved and is administered by the CA Department of Fish and Game.

Other regulatory permits and revisions include the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CA Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement Program, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board Clean Water Act and Porter Cologne Act. CEQA is one of the most important mechanisms we have that we should use because it makes environmental protection mandatory.

Every development project has to go through CEQA, thus giving the general public the opportunity to do their part to protect species. It is the lead agency that determines the impact the project it will have on the habitat. Then the public has up to 180 days to challenge the results from the impact study.

Once the CEQA permit goes through, the Streambed Alteration Agreement Program comes into play. This permit looks at impacts to beds, banks, channels, rivers or lakes. If there are impacts, measures must be made to bring them to a level of insignificance.

But there are various causes of habitat decline, people being the most significant. Why? We need housing, commerce, recreation, and many of us are ignorant about how fragile things really are. Politics and economics also influence what happens to habitats.

There is always the struggle between jobs and revenue vs habitat and species. Because relocation programs are not working, head start programs are being developed for desert tortoises, where they are mating, laying eggs, and hatching in captivity then released.

Do agencies stir people towards already developed areas? This usually depends on economics. When it comes to the environment, it is easier to build in already developed areas. But everyone wants to build outwards. It is our job to be aware of reviews and make sure the best outcome is taken.

So who is wrong and who is right? Everyone is. It's really a matter of working together; of figuring out how to protect what we have. For that there is research that teaches us what is

happening, regulations that need to be reinforced, and most important, education. All of these factors need to be looked at when looking at species and habitats.

So exactly what is it that Juan does? Juan worked several years for the National Marine Fisheries Services and CA Department of Fish and Game before working for Lilburn. With Lilburn, Juan gives biological and habitat assessments for initial studies, works on studies for threatened or endangered species, obtains regulatory permits, mitigates planning and implementation, and assists with re-vegetation and enhancement of habitats. Ideally, he would be the guy you sit with before the CEQA process to look for any possible project impacts.

What can we do? We can continue educating the public about environments and species, become aware of laws and regulations, work with local Department of Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service, know your local Fish and Game Warden, and report unlawful environmental changes.

A few resources to learn more are the CA Department of Fish and Game (www.dfg.ca.gov) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Carlsbad office (www.fws.gov/carlsbad). And Juan said you can always email him with questions at Juan@Lilburncorp.com.

Bowling For Rhinos Update

Every year AAZK has hosted a yearly bowling fundraiser called Bowling for Rhinos. Over 60 AAZK chapters participate throughout the US and Canada, raising over \$300,000 annually. BFR funds support Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya, Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and Way Kambas in Sumatra. These sanctuaries not only save rhinos but their entire ecosystems!

This year, our Bowling for Rhinos event will take place on May 22nd at Kearny Mesa Bowl in Clairemont. Because we have been asked to host the 2011 National AAZK Conference, August 24-28, 2011, we will be dividing the monies raised during the event. 50% of monies raised this year will be donated to rhino conservation and 50% will go to support the 2011 National AAZK Conference. We feel that one of the best possible ways to support and defend the environment is to help to promote and develop leaders in the conservation field.

We hope that you can take part in this fun event that supports a great cause. There will be raffles with great prizes (ZSSD is raffling HR days for employees), a silent auction, and a lot more. Be sure to join us that evening. If you don't want to bowl, come anyway. You will enjoy yourself and be able to meet people.

It's fun for a good cause! See you May 22nd at Kearny Mesa Bowl!

Visit www.sdaazk.com for more information.

South Africa Project with Mike Bostwick

By Laurie Brogan, SD AAZK Secretary

Before I even begin this revue, I NEED to apologize! This man is way out of my league! I volunteered to do this review for SD AAZK; little did I know what trouble I was getting myself into. But here goes.

If you have never had the pleasure of meeting our curator of horticulture, let me do the honors. Mike Bostwick has been with the ZSSD since September 1975. He started as a gardener and has worked in most positions of horticulture at one time or another over the years. Before coming to the zoo, he went to college in Tempe, Arizona, at Arizona State University and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Environmental Design. Over the years, he supplemented his education at San Diego State attending adult education programs such as drafting and management classes; and with seminars and independent studies at multiple conferences.

Now here is where the credits get even longer. Mike has been involved with many professional organizations which have given him the opportunity to be involved in an international and national basis. He has worked with the Global Strategies for Plant Conservation-GSPC, through the Botanic Garden Conservation International network and helped develop the 14 strategies that are being rolled out as the corner stone for plant conservation WorldWide. He has attended specialized training in irrigation, water management, and is an in-house trainer for the Fair Employment Training Programs. Mike is certified as a North American Plant Conservation Consortium Reviewer for the NAPCC.

With all of his training and certifying, Mike is able to go to institutions and conduct a formal review of their specific plant collections for inclusion in a WorldWide data bank of plants that are then available for research purposes! Mike is also on the Board of Directors of the Association of Zoological Horticulture. He has held a valid California State Landscaping Contractors License since 1977 and has consulted on projects all over the world. At the ZSSD, he started the orchid collection, traveling to Papua New Guinea for a 6 year period and collected not only orchids but many other plants for our collection here at the Zoo. By using the latest technology in Centralized Irrigation Systems, Propagation Techniques and GIS, he has enhanced our botanical collection in both quantity and quality with better plant records.

Which brings us to March 19, 2010. Mike's presentation on South Africa is being shown as a documentary of current plant conditions in that area of the world. He attended the 7th International Congress on Education in Botanical Gardens, with the theme dedicated to Global warming and climate change and what botanical gardens can do to educate their visitors about these changes. Along with attending this congress hosted by the Durban Botanical Garden, Mike worked with the congress on a mutual project of erythrina research. ZSSD and Durban have a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was developed by Horticulturist ZSSD horticulturist Christy Powell, that is funded by a grant from the Association of Zoological Horticulture making us partners in this project. The Zoo actively trades propagates with them and other partners in this project. Along with the MOUs, Mike went into various zoos, sanctuaries, botanical parks, and reserves to observe the relationship of the animals, plants, and humans. Two of these areas were the last known places that have two specific species of endangered Cycads.

The human population has seriously affected both the status of the animals as well as the plants, which is no surprise to those of us who work conservation. But to actually see it from Mike's slides and to hear him talk so passionately about it, really hit home. You must forgive me, I do not know the names of the villages and towns that Mike visited in South Africa, but he had many slides showing the huge open markets where they sold various species of both plants and animals. Many are so endangered we can not even get them here at the Zoo! But the locals sell them like there is an endless supply. Everything is sold, even animal parts, and much of it ends up in medicines and for human consumption. There are areas that have wiped out native habitats and been re-planted with non-native trees for logging. But there was also beauty in the sanctuaries and reserves. Just like here in the U.S., there are many local organizations and groups around Africa that are trying to save their plants, animals and culture. They know that the only way to save what wilds they have left is through the continuing education of the local peoples and communities.

Here at the Zoo, due in most part to Mike Bostwick, our plant collection is one of the most diverse. It is hard to even put a financial estimate on it, but I hear it is in the millions if not billions of dollars.

As you take your daily stroll throughout the Zoo, take a close look around you, smell the roses, or in this case the Cycads. We work in an incredible place and it is thanks to people like Mike Bostwick who show us passion and dedication to their craft and create the beauty around us.

Oh and one last important item I learned was, every 3rd Friday of the month at 2:00 pm, you can take a botanical tour of the Zoo. One of the horticulturists will speak about and show you the plants through-out the zoo. If you are really lucky, you might even get Mike as your speaker...but be ready with that dictionary. I don't know about you, but that man knows A LOT of big words!

Lions, Tigers, & Bears

By Rochelle Willison, Sr. Mammal Keeper, San Diego Zoo

In a day and age where many people consider exotic animals as throw-a-way pets, there is an increasing need for sanctuaries to take such animals in. In 2002, Bobbi Brinks opened a place called Lions, Tigers and Bears in Alpine.

On April 15, Bobbi was scheduled to be an AAZK guest speaker. However, she was unable to make it at the last minute due to a health issue of one of her tigers. Fortunately, Julie Johnson, their education specialist, was able to come in her place. We were shown a video of the compound and Julie was able to answer all of our questions. Bobbi hopes to soon schedule a day for AAZK members to come to the ranch and share information.

Lions, Tigers and Bear (LTB) is a no breed - no kill federal and state licensed non-profit rescue facility for big cats. Their only goal is to allow their cats the opportunity to live out their lives in a safe and caring home. Bobbie started out with two tigers, Raja and Natasha, who are still with her today. She now has 13 cats: 3 lions, 4 tigers, 1 leopard, 1 serval, 3 bobcats and 1 mountain lion. All of them have their own sad stories on how they came to live here.

LTB is set on 93 acres but only a small portion is currently being used. Their next plan is to open up a Conservation Station that would allow them to house up to four mountain lions. Bobbi does not have the resources to take in all the animals that she is called about but she is expanding as she is able to.

LTB would not be able to exist without the help of generous donors, members and volunteers. It costs about \$20,000 a month to run the ranch. They have several fundraisers a year and are not open to the public. Only members can visit on specific days. Their website www.liontigersandbears.org has all the information plus a list of needed donation items.

San Diego AAZK would like to thank LTB for sharing their story with AAZK members and guests. We will be sure to let our AAZK members know when we visit LTB.

Meet the Keeper/ Trainer lets you meet some of the people who are a part of the San Diego chapter of AAZK. If you would like to be featured, email us at TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net.

Meet The Keeper: Tina Hunter, WAP Mammal Keeper

Name one personal goal? I would love to go back to Africa and travel from Kenya to Botswana studying African wild dogs, lions, hyenas and leopards.

List the states you have lived in? North Carolina, California, Alaska and Tennessee

Farthest place you have ever traveled? Madagascar

List the # of countries you have visited? Belize, England, France, Italy, Spain, Madagascar, South Africa, Kenya, Namibia, Bahamas, Canada and Mexico

List the number and breed of pets you own? 1 grey and white tabby kitty

Dream vacation? Fancy safari lodge overlooking watering hole in Botswana's busy season; with plenty of mosquito netting, of course.

Two hobbies? I love to dance and paint...just wish I had more talent.

Funniest zoo story? Actually it was about a bus driver at the zoo...we had this really impressive male big horn sheep that had very large...male parts hanging down. When the bus driver passed (with a bus full of people) she meant to say "Look at those big, beautiful horns", but instead she said, "look at those big, beautiful...". I kid you not. That happened about 13 years ago and she will never live it down.

Dream job if not a keeper? Research assistant to a carnivore biologist in Africa...or maybe even Asia. They have to deal with all the grant stuff and I can handle the 'other' dirty work.

If you could meet one person, dead or alive? I would like to meet my college professor so I could finally get my Masters. He's in South Africa and we've NEVER met.

Most influential person in your life? I'd say dad. He was very ambitious as a young man and has always been very generous.

Favorite vacation spot? Kruger National Park

Dream animal you've never worked with? Spotted hyena and even though I studied them, African Wild Dogs

List one silly talent you possess? I can accurately dance to just about any era of music and genre. Not very good, but I do like to observe dances from all over.

List the different areas of the S.D. Zoo or WAP you have worked at? Buses (zoo), Ituri Forest (zoo), back 40 (zoo), Care Center (WAP), village (WAP) w/ small mammals and apes, HOA (WAP) with lions, tigers and okapi.

Which animal do you feel represents you the best? I'd like to say the tigers because I can be feisty, but I'm more mellow and sometimes sneaky like the lions.

Name one thing about yourself most of your coworkers would be surprised to learn about? That I sported a mohawk for the last year of high school and I had it a number of different colors.

What is your perfect weekend? Going any place scenic to watch a sunset. I am pretty lazy when off the clock so I'd rather just relax with some beautiful view in front of me.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 5 years older and probably not real happy about it.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years? Running this joint! HA! just kidding...who knows...hopefully traveling.

Meet The Trainer: Maureen Duryee, Zoo Behaviorist

Name one personal goal? To bake more dinners than fry...it is important to me to eat right and feed my family a healthy but tasty meal. Fried foods always taste better, but baking seems to be working out lately.

List the states you have ever lived in? California...a native...a very rare thing and I was born just down the street from the zoo in the old Navy Hospital.

Farthest place you have ever traveled. Africa

List the number of countries you have visited? 26 different countries. Do I need to name them all?

List the number and breed of pets you own? Newfoundland dog or newf for short, a German shepherd dog, an irish setter, a siberian huskey, a golden retriever, a rat, a mouse, a ferret, a chinchilla, and a hamster.

Your dream vacation? England, Ireland and Scotland with my husband.

Two hobbies: Photography, and playing Farmville on Facebook.

Your funniest zoo story: It involves Kya, the clouded leopard. When clouded leopards are young they are super playful, almost wild and careless about their jumps and pounces. I would like the experience to walking a ping-pong ball, always bouncing in high in the air with speed and incredible angles. Well it is fun to say the least, but of course being a trainer I felt the need to get these crazy jumps on cue. Kya would jump from anything to anywhere, so trying to coordinate her desire to jump and land during a show was going to be easy, so I thought. We usually walked the cubs after the daily show, but for some reason we decided to walk/exercise them before the show. It turned out to be a great idea because Kya wasn't full of energy, springing to and fro, instead she was composed. So I called her name, she turned and gave me eye contact. I thought, "Wow, this is great!" I patted the jump that I wanted her to land on, and she looked at the landing site, but turned and looked back at me. So I paused for a second, and patted the landing site again, she looked at it and looked back at me again, I patted one more

time and she sprung so high off her mark that she flew over my head in a perfect arch and landed squarely in the middle of the landing site. She turned to look at me again and I was clapping and telling her she was a good cat and from then on she would jump to anything I patted on, including my back or someone else's. I will never forget the moment when I actually communicated with her, she understood me and I understood her. It was fabulous! And that is what keeps me training, communication.

Dream job? National Geographic photographer

If you could meet one person, dead or alive? Jesus Christ

Most influential person in your life? My husband

Your favorite vacation spot? San Felipe, Mexico

Dream animal you have never worked with? Moose, I hear they are just big silly dogs in a deer's body.

List one silly talent you possess: At night I turn into a giant spider and I fight crime.

List the different areas of the S.D. Zoo or WAP you have worked at? Food Service, Education, Public Relations, Photo Lab, Buses, Animal Behavior

Which animal do you feel represents you the best? Clouded Leopard because they are shy but extremely loyal.

Name one thing about yourself most of your coworkers would be surprised to learn about? I have eight screws and a metal plate holding my right heel together.

What is your perfect weekend? I get to sleep in until 7am and wake up to the sounds of the Sea of Cortez lapping against the shores of our beach house.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In a leadership role so that I can inspire colleagues to shape the zoo's future shows by training creative and interactive behaviors to animals while involving the public.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years? Retired and walking the beaches of Baja with my husband and two dogs.

San Diego AAZK Wants You!

By Yvette Kemp, SD AAZK President

Have you ever wondered how the San Diego chapter of AAZK works? How are guest speakers selected? What conservation organizations do we work with? How are we able to work with other organizations?

Well here is your chance to become a part of the keeper organization that started it all. AAZK began here in San Diego in 1967 when a group of keepers joined forces to create an organization that promotes professionalism in zoo keeping.

Our Mission:

- To promote and establish good relationships among professional zoo keepers
- To promote and establish a means to stimulate incentive and greater interest in the zoo keeping profession
- To support deserving conservation projects to include educating the general public about the need for preserving our natural resources and animal life through these worthwhile efforts
- To establish materials beneficial to zoo keeper education

SD AAZK is looking for new board members. We have a lot going on and it's a great time to get involved. Our big annual fundraiser BFR is coming up as well as a variety of other fundraisers, social events, and of course, planning for the 2011 conference.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, email us at TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net. Send us a short bio with information on how you would like to be involved with AAZK.

We look forward to having you on the team!

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CALENDAR 2010

LOCAL EVENTS

May 13, 2010: SD AAZK Conference Business Meeting. Location: SD Zoo Warner building. Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

May 18, 2010: SD AAZK Business Meeting. Location: SD Zoo Warner building. Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

May 22, 2010. Bowling for Rhinos. Location: Kearny Mesa Bowl in Clairemont. Time: Check-in 5:30 pm, Bowling 6:00–9:00 pm. Great fun for a great cause! Go to www.sdaazk.com for more information.

June 12, 2010: An Evening at Joan's. More details to come.

July 9, 2010: Annie Beckling from Cheetah Outreach. Location: SD Zoo's Rondavel. Time: 2:30 social, 3:00 presentation.

July 17, 2010: Padres Game at PetCo Park honoring Keepers. Time: 5:30 p.m. Visit www.sdaazk.com for more info.

July 18-24, 2010. National Zoo Keeper Week. Meet keepers at the Keeper Tent and much more! If you would like to participate or learn more, email TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net. More info to come.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

May 11-15, 2010— International Gorilla Workshop. Hosted by Oklahoma City Zoo. Registration due by Feb 10. Questions? Contact Brian Aucone at BrianA@okczzoo.com

August 22–26, 2010 National AAZK Conference—hosted by the Philadelphia chapter of AAZK. Info at www.philadelphiaaazk.org.

August 24–28, 2011 National AAZK Conference—San Diego, CA, hosted by SD AAZK at the Westin Gaslamp Hotel. Go to our website at www.sdaazk.com and click on "2011 Conference"