



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 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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**Content: PG**

<b>President’s Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Conference Wrap Up</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PreConference Tour</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Zoo Day</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Conference Program</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>At The Conference</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Conference Icebreaker</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Making it Greener</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Photography</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Auctions</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Photo Contest</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>12</b>

# The Keeper

## The American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter Quarterly Newsletter – Winter 2011

### President’s Message

By Yvette Kemp, SD AAZK President

Well the conference has come and gone and we actually survived it. Not only did we survive, we came out ahead of the game.

I am happy to report that our reviews were favorable, things went off overall well (there were some minor glitches here and there but nothing too bad), and everyone seemed happy. For us, that is great news. Even more rewarding is that we came out of it all not only not in debt (which was a real concern in the beginning), but able to make money for the National AAZK organization and our chapter to use for the various projects we support.

So now that the conference is over, what are we going to do? For us it is time to get back to the business of being San Diego AAZK. Back to raising money for conservation projects, back to informing the public of what we can do together to help habitats and wildlife populations, and back to educating future conservationists.

Starting in 2012, you will see the list of projects SD AAZK will be dedicated to for the year. Our goal is to be able to choose 4 to 5 projects for each year and concentrate on helping those organizations. We will also return to raising money for keeper education, something we believe is essential in keeping animal care professionals up to date in conservation methods and news. You will also see a big push in educating future conservationists. This is a project our board has been passionate about and will be more active in.

Now that we can concentrate on things other than the conference, we are excited about getting back into our normal groove.

Which brings me to what is happening now. Send in your entries for the annual photo contest. The deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup> and winners from last year’s contest are being featured on the Animal Keepers Forum. Very exciting.

We will begin the year by planting trees along the San Diego River and El Capitan Reservoir. Go to our website to sign up on the different dates offered to participate.

We invite you to become more involved with AAZK. Be sure to check our events calendar and join us for all the various events and educational opportunities. You can also come to the board meetings to help us with the various projects and events. With the conference over, it’s back to normal and back to projects.

# 2011 National AAZK Conference Wrap Up

By Matt Akel, SD AAZK Vice-President

Let me start by saying a tremendous THANK YOU to every delegate that attended the 2011 National AAZK Conference in San Diego! The overwhelming attendance of over 280 people made the conference a wonderful venue for networking, learning, and rekindling friendships.

Delegates traveled from around the world to attend including Mexico, Canada, and even Kenya. The conference was jump started on August 23 with the special trip to SeaWorld San Diego for delegates to enjoy some special treatment with behind the scenes tours of this great organization. On August 24, we got the fun started by shuttling everyone to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park to enjoy the icebreaker. Many delegates chose to take the adventure by riding on the Caravan Safari tour where they could feed rhino and giraffe while driving through massive fields of roaming wildlife. In addition to this special experience, delegates were able to meet our animal ambassadors and tour the terrific facilities such as Lion Camp and the state-of-the art Paul Harter Veterinary Medical Center. Guests were also greeted by the San Diego Zoo Safari Park's director, Bob McClure while dining on a plethora of food.

On August 25, attendees were able to visit more than 25 exhibitors from all over the nation. Products displayed ranged from scales, edible grass, animal capture supplies, enrichment, food, books, as well as local conservation organizations spreading their mission. During this day, delegates were welcomed by Dr. Frye, the San Diego Zoo Global's President of the Board of Trustees. Following Dr. Frye, everyone was treated to our first keynote speaker, Julie Scardina. Julie is currently the SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Discovery Cove Animal Ambassador and Corporate Curator of Animal Training for SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment. Julie shared her knowledge, animal training expertise, and life-long love for animals with everyone while bringing a huge array of wonderful animals for us to be enthralled with.

For three days during the conference, paper presentations and workshops ran all day providing a wonderful range of topics and tracks for keepers to enjoy and fine tune to their profession. Keepers from an abundance of institutions presented topics ranging from training to enrichment to conservation. The knowledge shared and learned will be critical for delegates to absorb and share with their institutions to further animal husbandry and conservation worldwide.

A great program that we participated in was called Acres for the Atmosphere. Each year, between 150 and 300 keepers travel from all parts of the country in order to attend the AAZK National Conference. Most travel occurs by either plane or automobile, both of which burn fossil fuels, emitting Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the process. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have often been referred to as *the engine that drives climate change*. The impact (Carbon footprint) of our travel to and from conferences, therefore, has a negative effect on the environment. As an organization whose mission is to "promote the preservation of our natural resources and animal life," we should be working proactively to help reduce our carbon footprint each year. This year, The San Diego AAZK Chapter is planning to do an Acres for the Atmosphere local tree planting project with **The San Diego River Park Foundation**. Every \$7.00 donated will pay for the purchase and care of a young native tree species to be planted along The San Diego River.

On August 26, attendees used public transportation to visit the San Diego Zoo. Everyone was welcomed by animal ambassadors while dining on a delicious breakfast and greeted by the

Director of the San Diego Zoo's Collection Husbandry Science Department, Carmi Penny. After a group photo, delegates scattered to attend one of a massive amount of behind the scenes tours set up throughout the zoo. Additionally, koala, hoof-trimming, and tamer workshops occurring simultaneously where hands on learning was at everyone's fingertips (and hoof-trimmings in people's hair!). After a busy day and a large lunch, delegates headed back to the Westin Gaslamp to relax. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of our Platinum Sponsor, the San Diego Zoo Global. Their support for our AAZK chapter and this conference made the zoo day and icebreaker events possible.

During the evenings, delegates were able to enjoy the hospitality suite which was the basis for our silent auction containing over 200 items! Items ranged from unique photography to teddy bears as well as items donated by attendees. The Rosamond Giffard AAZK Chapter was generous enough to sponsor one night at the hospitality suite as the future hosts for the 2012 National AAZK Conference in Syracuse, NY. The hospitality suite was even themed with a Fiesta Night as well as a Martini Night. One of the evenings swept delegates on a Gaslamp Crawl through downtown San Diego's amazing bar and club district.

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, delegates were excited to hear our second keynote speaker, Joan Embery. Joan has served as a champion of environmental and conservation issues around the world, most notably as spokeswoman for the San Diego Zoo Global. Attendees were able to gain insight into Joan's life and her views on how to improve the world for animals and conservation. Following Joan's talk, delegates were able to hear a word from two of our great sponsors, SR Scales and SeaWorld. SR Scales is a New York based scale company with high quality products for medical, zoological, and veterinary use. Their generous donation of scales as our gold sponsor was unbelievable and provided for some competitive bidding during the live auction. Delegates were then able to congratulate all of the winners of the National AAZK Awards.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, following the paper sessions and workshops, the silent auction moved to a breezy and sunny patio for delegates to make their final bids while enjoying a cocktail hour. A terrific banquet night ensued after the bidding with a competitive live auction with amazing items. Last minute friendships were solidified, business cards were exchanged, and hugs were abundant as delegates realized they would not see one another until next year.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, a group of about 40 delegates stuck around for the post conference trip. With 4 caravans, we traveled to the rescue facility Lions Tigers and Bears just outside Alpine, CA. Following this we traveled to the Menghini Winery in Julian, CA for some great wine tasting, lunch, and famous Julian pie. After exploring the quaint town of Julian, delegates explored the California Wolf Center and were educated about the plight of wolves and the facility's role in helping with wolf conservation.

All in all, this conference was a learning process for the San Diego AAZK Board, with years' worth of dedication invested into making the best possible conference for all of you. We hope that you left the 2011 National AAZK Conference with a feeling of rejuvenation for the zoo keeping profession, new ideas, and strong friendships. It was a bittersweet moment to see all of you head home. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Be sure to visit [www.sdaazk.org](http://www.sdaazk.org) to view and join our Facebook page to view photos from the conference.

## Pre-Conference Tour

By Linda Henry, SeaWorld CA, SD AAZK Board Member

The Conference kicked off early for forty-four delegates who attended the Pre-conference experience at SeaWorld San Diego. Arriving at SeaWorld between 9:30 and 10 AM the delegates made their way to the Circle of Flags where they were greeted by Lauren DuBois, Assistant Curator of Birds and several Education and Conservation Tour Guides. After a quick photo and goodie bag, the delegates were taken on one of three behind-the-scenes tours which included visits to Wild Arctic, the Penguin Encounter, pinnipeds, Animal Connections and Animal Care areas. All tours came together to observe a training session at the Sea Lion and Otter stadium. During the tours delegates were able to talk with keepers and trainers and share information. After the ninety-minute tours delegates had the rest of the day on their own in the park, some even scheduling animal interaction experiences.

SeaWorld San Diego graciously donated the tickets so that all proceeds from delegates donations could go towards supporting the cost of the conference.



## Zoo Day

By Lindsey King, Sr. Mammal Keeper Zoo, SD AAZK Board Member

On August 26, over 280 delegates enjoyed a day exploring the San Diego Zoo as part of the conference program. Many of them even kept up with the green initiative of the conference by using public transit to get to the zoo! The day began with an address from Director of Collections Husbandry Science Carmi Penny over breakfast, followed by a group photo. Throughout the day over 20 behind the scenes opportunities had been coordinated, allowing delegates a unique experience to see the ins and outs of SDZ animal husbandry. Some highlights included a glimpse at a newborn okapi, photos with a cheetah and a look inside the zoo's animal hospital. Lunch was served in the afternoon, but the Children's Zoo animal ambassadors stole the show inside the ZPA, from ocelots and fossa to binturongs and pangolins, more up close encounters had the crowd wowed! And if all that wasn't enough, koala husbandry, hooftrim and tamer workshops provided an opportunity for delegates to test their hands-on skills. It was an exciting and jam packed day, one that kept the delegates buzzing until Banquet night!

*The Keeper - Winter 2011*

# Conference Program

By Linda Henry, SeaWorld CA, SD AAZK Board Member

This year's conference had an exciting program targeted at multiple methods of information exchange. Though the San Diego conference unveiled the new workshop-centered learning focus, papers and posters were still in the line-up along with two featured keynote speakers who are local zoo community celebrities.

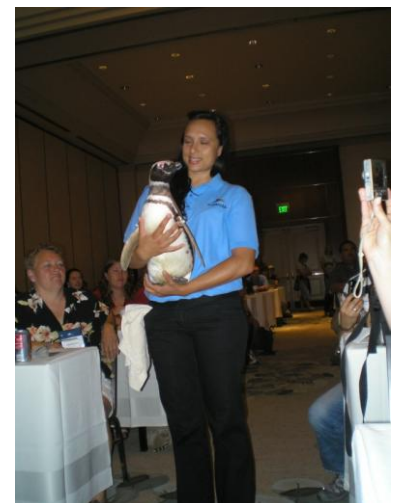
It was a collective effort of all Conference Committee members to create the ambitious schedule. Keynotes, Panel Discussion and Paper Presenters were featured in the main ballroom with two large video screens. Posters were displayed in the adjacent room that also housed the Exhibitor's tables. A total of 16 papers were presented by delegates on a variety of topics including husbandry enrichment and training, keeper involvement in TAGs, keeper professional development on a shoestring, managing social groups (birds and mammals) and forms development and use. An additional three papers were singled out for extended paper sessions, another new concept for this conference. Presenters of extended papers worked with members of the AAZK Professional Development Committee to tailor their presentations to the new one hour format.

During the course of the conference, twenty-one posters were on display for delegates to study during breaks and afternoons. Two interactive sessions allowed delegates some flexibility to meet and speak with poster authors while enjoying coffee and snacks. All presenters demonstrated excellent knowledge of their topics and a professional demeanor and their contributions to the conference were vastly appreciated.

Thanks also go to our two Keynote speakers, Julie Scardina and Joan Embery, for taking their time to share their years of experience and unique perspective on conservation and zoo keeping. And thanks, too, to the Board members who stepped up to introduce speakers and paper presenters during the paper sessions. It was a whirlwind of information-sharing and networking that will be remembered by all as plans are already being made for the next conference in Syracuse, NY.

We received a lot of feedback on the conference program, both complimentary and constructive, that will help contribute to the evolving AAZK conference format. Look to future issues of the AAZK Forum for papers presented at the conference. Abstracts can still be read at

[www.sdaazk.org](http://www.sdaazk.org)



## At The AAZK Conference

By Laurie Brogan, Sr. Bird Keeper, SD AAZK Board Member

Well, our conference is over now. It was a long road with lots of pot-holes, detours, and side-trips. But what an adventure!

As I look back on the conference, I can begin to enjoy what the conference board members went through. Yes, we were all stressed out, but thankfully we were all able to come together and work as one to create a successful event.

I met so many delegates from all over the country, Canada and Mexico. Finally I was able to put the faces to the names that I met through emails and phone calls. And what fun they all were! Plus, now I can contact them for behind the scene tours at their zoo or aquarium whenever I visit them.

For the first time I even taught a class on "Nest Building," with over 30 delegates that actually wanted to be there. And it wasn't just me teaching and talking, I learned so much from those delegates as we all talked about and tossed around ideas on various nest building materials.

Then I got to work with our volunteer core. I tell you, without those volunteers, our conference would never have been the success it was. They were helping us from the very beginning with fundraisers, swap meets and more. Even without a conference, they still come out to help us.

What are some of my favorite moments during the conference? The first would have to be the ice breaker to the Safari Park, mainly because it was the opening night and most of the delegates were there. The Park had many tours going out into the fields and for those that couldn't make those, there was plenty of animal encounters and behind the scene tours. If that wasn't enough, there was plenty of food to munch on. Always a winning bet with keepers!

Of course the Zoo Day was also a fun day. There was a lot to coordinate but everyone I heard from had a great time. And I loved that we had a huge group photo at the Weg Bowl. But the best was the closing banquet. It is one thing to meet all of the delegates, but it is another thing to see a bunch of keepers ALL DRESSED UP. Took me sometime to be able to recognize everyone yet again.

I know a great time was had by all. I believe we all came away from this conference with a renewed interest and energy in caring for the animals we work with. I cannot think of a better way to learn from one another and to be able to pass that knowledge on.

Would I ever want to be on the board of another conference? Well, ask me in about 10-20 years...then I'll let you know.



# The Conference Icebreaker

By Kym Janke, Safari Park, SD AAZK Board Member

The 2011 National Conference of the American Association of Zoo Keepers started off with a bang at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Delegates arrived throughout the day to take the opportunity to explore our unique park and enjoy some of the typical San Pasqual Valley HEAT! Official events began at 3:00 pm with four Photo Caravan Safari trucks heading out into the field offering 60 delegates the chance to get up close and personal with the park's resident giraffes and greater one-horned rhinos. A group of 60 more followed on their heels before the icebreaker officially began at 5:00 pm. The evening was filled with more food than the delegates could eat, many beverages, animal encounters and special opportunities to tour the African Tram Safari, Lion Camp exhibit and Harter Veterinary Medical Center. We definitely could have used an entire day at the park rather than just one evening!

Now for the Thank Yous! A special thanks to the 2 other board members at the park Christine and Tina who were my sounding boards for all event ideas and menu planning, that was one hell of a happy hour at On The Border!

This event would not have been possible without the help of Christine Fenwick who had the very challenging task of arranging transportation for the over 200 people attending 35 miles north from the Westin to the Park. This is one job I am glad to say I did not have to tackle! Somehow Christine made it work using the fewest buses possible and to the best of my knowledge no one was left behind!

The zoo volunteers also made a huge contribution to the event, acting as greeters and guides and helping to provide direction to the delegates in a park that most keepers could fit their home institutions into 3 times.

Tina Hunter, Amy Whidden-Winter and Autumn Nelson also need a big nod in their direction for leading tours through Lion Camp and the tiger exhibits. At Harter it is Jeanette Fuller who helped with all the arrangements and made the tour possible, while lead hospital keeper Jeff Fuller was on hand to answer any questions our group of amazing volunteers couldn't handle.

Obviously I have to acknowledge all the San Diego Zoo Global staff from event planning, catering, tours, security and operations who all ensured that the event was a success! And last but certainly not least a big thank you to Bob McClure, the park's director, for being the first San Diego Zoo Global Executive Team member to welcome the delegates to San Diego and to our facilities. Finally the park did something first!



# Making The Conference Greener

By Hali O'Conner, Sr. Mammal Keeper Zoo, SD AAZK Board Member

The SD AAZK chapter was committed to being as easy on our environment as possible during the 2011 AAZK Conference. Below are just some of the green actions implemented for the conference:

- \*Purchased 100% organic cotton conference t-shirts
- \*Placed conference proceedings on flash drives instead of printing them
- \*Used public transportation
- \*Chose a hotel with green practices
- \*Produced a small paper program printed on 100% recycled paper
- \*Encouraged the use of reusable water containers
- \*Avoided plastic wrappings for silent auction items-used reusable cloth bags in baskets



In addition to the above ideas, the chapter created an **Acres for the Atmosphere** carbon offset option. With every \$7.00 donated, a tree would be planted along our San Diego River to help offset the carbon generated by the conference. SD AAZK partnered with The San Diego River Park Foundation to make this project possible.

Starting with a generous \$500 grant from The California Native Plant Society, the chapter went to work soliciting donations from delegates. People were able to add a donation online with their registration as well as during the conference at an information table. Adorable stuffed animals, t-shirts, stationary and SS water bottles were among the incentive gifts given out with every \$7.00 tree donation, all donated zoo merchandise from the RB warehouse! As a symbolic gesture, donators could also plant a miniature tree into a model of the San Diego River. Everyone could see the forest grow during the conference! The table also had a great carbon footprint poster showing how many trees are needed to offset all the travel to and from this conference...a whopping 753 trees! And on the last night of the conference, delegates could kick up their heels and help the cause by purchasing song requests in Jukebox for Conservation. The Westin hotel also got in on the action and donated another generous \$500!

And the grand total is....\$2221...enough to plant 317 trees to sequester carbon for years to come!

But, the fun's not over yet. The tree planting dates have been set for January 21, 2012 at the Mission Valley Preserve and February 4, 2012 at the El Capitan reservoir in Alpine. If you would like to be a part of this exciting community activity, you may sign up to volunteer and/ or donate to buy more trees. Be sure to visit our website and click on the Acres for the Atmosphere section.

And stay tuned for more carbon offsetting conservation fun to come! SD AAZK will be doing more projects in the future in an effort to help with the climate change crisis. Together we can make a difference!



## Photography at the Conference

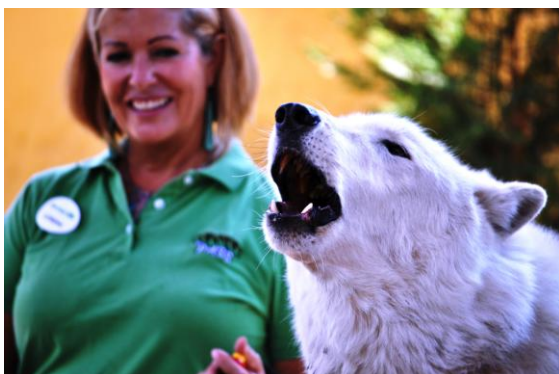
By Travis Burns, SD AAZK Member

As an amateur photographer, the opportunity to shoot for the 2011 SD AAZK National conference was a once in a lifetime experience not soon forgotten. From day one, the opportunities for moments captured of delegates and the species which we fight hard to conserve, care for, and protect on a daily basis were endless. I was afforded the opportunity to join the delegates on guided behind the scenes tours in various exhibits such as Tiger River, Backstage Pass, Urban Jungle, The Reptile House and the zoo's vet hospital with SD AAZK President and Hospital Keeper Yvette Kemp along with other SDZ keepers, for a glimpse into the standard of excellence set fourth for husbandry, security, and enrichment which sets the San Diego Zoo in a league of its own. Some of the best shots included a howling arctic wolf, a baby Malayan Tiger, the assortment of rare reptile and amphibian species from a yearling Komodo Dragon to Fiji Island Iguana's, up close and personal face time with Indian Rhinos, and flamingo feeding time! I found that because most images of delegates, workshops, speakers, and exhibitors were shot indoors, it was important to know the basics of shooting in low lit conditions. The following are the elements for shooting with a digital SLR.

1. Crank ISO as high as it will go
2. Shoot RAW if possible
3. Use aperture-priority with the lowest f-stop on the fastest lens I have (f1.8 or lower if you can).
4. If that still cases my shutter speeds to be too low to hand-hold, then I might even set exposure compensation down a stop, which will increase the speed a little, and then I'll push the exposure in post (preferably in RAW).
5. Lastly, I'll use various forms of noise reduction to help on the grain/noise front.

You can find pictures from the conference on our Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Diego-American-Association-of-Zoo-Keepers/224590787467>



## Conference Auctions: Fun Fundraising

By Maureen Duryee, Sr. Trainer Zoo, SD AAZK Board Member

Silent auctions are always a big hit at conferences. They bring delegates together in a fun and social setting, but honestly, the underlying intention is to make money. How did we do that? One part hard work, one part great stuff to sell and five parts team members with a sense of humor. Our silent auction primary team included Hali O'Connor, Lindsey King, Travis Scott, Crystal Schalmo and myself, although we had many others who assisted us throughout.

SD AAZK is fortunate to tap into the San Diego Zoo's gift shop rejects. Once in a while the Rancho Bernardo warehouse needs to unload items that are no longer sellable and we often are the recipients of these items. So, for a full year we collected everything they wanted to unload. We acquired a storage unit and meticulously sifted through the treasure/junk to whittle the merchandise down to saleable items. At one point we had so much STUFF that we had to use another storage place (Lindsey's personal garage) to assemble these items into attractive presentable collections we called "baskets". We had lots of fun theming and naming the baskets. We had a Gorilla basket, a "Seaish" basket and a Pandemonium basket to name just a few. We even included a reusable grocery bag in each basket to avoid using cellophane (our green contribution).

Our goal was to have 100 items for sale from our own collection and then we would add the donations from the delegates. Be careful what you wish for! We ended up having over 200 items for sale that needed to be cataloged and have handwritten bid sheets made for every one of the items. We had so many great things to sell that we out grew our original space and spilled out into the adjacent Hospitality suite! But, in the end it all paid off when we found out that we made close to \$6,000.

I learned a couple of things from this adventure. First, choose team members that have a great sense of humor and want to have a good time while working hard. I promise you things become stressful and tempers get punchy when in a time crunch and after putting in days and days of work on top of your normal job. Be able to laugh at yourself, it helps to keep spirits high. Second, use bid sheets with carbon copy; you keep one for the records and the delegate keeps the other as a receipt. This makes the checkout line move super fast. And lastly, if you include free drinks during the auction the delegates will loosen their purse strings and have a good time spending their money for a good cause.

The money raised by the silent auction helped to offset the huge cost of putting on this worthwhile conference providing professional development for animal care professionals around the world.



## Second Annual San Diego AAZK Photo Contest



**Enter the most prestigious photo contest in San Diego.**

**Regardless of whether you are a professional or amateur photographer you can win cash prizes.**

The contest will highlight photography's vital role in capturing the realities and impact of conservation worldwide. Photos will be judged on the basis of content, overall impact, artistic and photographic technical quality. Photos of any genre will be accepted including portraits, landscapes, animals, objects, or any combination of these. We invite photos which tell "good news" stories about the environment.

- **Official Photo Contest Rules:**

The photos must be printed on 8" by 10" or 8" by 12" photo paper with your name, address, phone number, email address and 2-5 sentences describing the environmental issues which are raised by the photo.

- There is a \$10 registration fee for each photo entered and entrants can submit up to 5 photos. Make checks payable to San Diego AAZK. State "Do not bend" on the mailing envelope.
- High-resolution digital files, slides, or negatives must be available for each entry, but please do not send them unless we contact you.
- Entries can be mailed to:  
San Diego AAZK Photo Contest  
c/o Maureen O. Duryee  
P.O. Box 632984  
San Diego, CA 92103
- **All entries must be received by November 30, 2011.**
- Winning photos will be announced December 18, 2011 and winners will be contacted by phone and mail.
- Judges: Ken Bohn, photographer for Zoological Society of San Diego, Joan Embry, conservation ambassador Zoological Society of San Diego, Yvette Kemp, president of San Diego chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (SD AAZK), and John Dunlap, Director of the San Diego Zoo.
- The winning photos will be displayed at San Diego AAZK events, San Diego AAZK website, and San Diego AAZK Facebook page.
- The prizes include: Best of Show (1) - \$100, First Place (4) - \$50, Honorable Mentions (4) - \$25
- By entering this photo contest, the winning photographers give San Diego AAZK permission to publish their photos in any of our publications or other printed materials and on our Web site in the context that they are the Best of Show, First Place, and Honorable Mention photos from our San Diego AAZK photo contest.
- For other uses we will seek permission from the photographers.
- The monies raised will go to support conservation and zoo keeper education.

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## CALENDAR 2011 visit [www.sdaazk.org](http://www.sdaazk.org) for updates

- **Wednesday, November 16, 2011: Cheetah Conservation Fund.** Kym Janke. **Time:** 2:30 social, 3:00 presentation. **Location:** Zoo Rondavel.
- 
- **Friday, November 18, 2011: Josh & Heath Fundraiser.** **Time:** 2:00 – 8:00 pm. **Location:** Wine Steals Hillcrest. Raffle, auction, donations, slide show.
- 
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AAZK Photo Contest:** final entries extended to 31 November.
- 
- **December TBD 2011: Humane Society Fundraiser** at Wine Steals in Hillcrest. More info to come.
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### 2012:

- **January TBA, 2012: SD AAZK Presents** the San Diego River Parks Foundation with Rob Huestel. **Time:** 2:30 social, 3:00 presentation. **Location:** San Diego Zoo Rondavel.
- 
- **Saturday, January 21, 2012: Acres for the Atmosphere tree planting** at the Mission Valley Preserve. **Time:** 9:00 am – noon. Sign up on website.
- 
- **Saturday, February 4, 2012: Acres for the Atmosphere tree planting** at the El Capitan Reservoir in Alpine. **Time:** 9:00 am – noon. Sign up on website.