



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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The Keeper

The American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter Quarterly Newsletter – Spring 2013

President's Message: Looking Back and Forward

By Yvette Kemp, SD AAZK President

Every year I like to look back and see just what our San Diego chapter was able to accomplish. I mean, I know we do a lot but the year goes by so fast that some things become a blur. So this is a good time to just lay out exactly what your SDAAZK membership and participation went to.

I am proud to say that SDAAZK, its members, and friends donated to various projects and conservation organizations throughout the 2012 year as part of our mission to "support deserving conservation projects that educate the general public about the need for preserving our natural resources and animal life through these worthwhile efforts." This year we chose and were approached by 11 great projects that reflected national and international organizations. Several leaders from these organizations were able to speak to our members to share their missions and work. People like Laurie Marker from the Cheetah Conservation Fund, Wildlife SOS founders Geeta Seshamani and Kartick Satyanarayan, and others who are amazing role models that have dedicated their lives to causes that inspire us.

Besides great speakers there were great causes for fundraising.

Conservation organizations/projects we donated to in 2012:

Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Center	\$ 1,537.40
Bat Conservation International	\$ 244.00
Wildlife SOS, Dancing Bears of India Project	\$ 312.00
Tiger Trails at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park	\$ 1,493.50
Thai Cat Consortium, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute	\$ 833.00
Project Wildlife	\$ 250.00
Cheetah Conservation Fund	\$ 494.00
Bowling for Rhinos	\$16,109.00
TOTAL	\$21,272.90

We also participated in various projects throughout the community. SDAAZK started 2012 with our friends at the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF). During the 2011 National AAZK Conference, attendees raised \$2200 to purchase trees to offset their conference carbon footprint. That enabled us to purchase 319 trees. In January we planted 144 trees along San Diego's Mission Valley Preserve and 175 trees in Alpine's El Capitan Reservoir in February. Other local projects we worked with include the CA Wolf Center, Lions Tigers & Bears, and the CA Coastal Clean Up.

Other monetary donations include \$250 to the AAZK committee underwriting for AKF and \$500 to the 2012 National AAZK Conference Chapter Challenge in Syracuse, NY. This brings us to a total of \$22,022 in monetary donations and contributions throughout the year.

Looking Back and Forward...

SDAAZK tried to help out other organizations by donating gift baskets for their fundraisers. These include Galveston AAZK's Moody Gardens "Wild About Wine" Fundraiser, Moorpark College's EATM Program, and the CA Wolf Center's "Wolves in California" Fundraiser.

It was an honor when we were awarded "Partner of the Year" by our friends at San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF). SDRPF is one of the organizations SDAAZK has worked with for years and we will continue to do so this year.

Actually, we have many things planned for 2013! There will be presentations such as Bill Konstant from the International Rhino Foundation, fundraising events like Bowling for Rhinos and Pints for Preservation, community service opportunities with the CA Wolf Center and the CA Coastal Clean-Up organizations. Our annual photo contest will be back, giving all those great photographers out there a chance to show off their skills while raising money for a good cause. We hope to be a part of the Carlsbad Marathon again and will be inviting everyone to join us for training sessions and fun as we gear up for that. And of course, we will be celebrating the animal care profession during National Zoo Keeper Week, July 15 – 21, with various activities and events.

SDAAZK will also continue to offer financial support to its members that are interested in continuing to grow professionally through funding from the Shirley Bush Grant. Thanks to Shirley's generosity, we will be able to offer up to \$1,000 in funding to worthy applicants who wish to learn more in this great profession.

These are just a few of the items SDAAZK has planned for 2013 so you'll want to be sure to visit our website for the details and see what else we will have in store for the year. SDAAZK is very proud of what we have been able to accomplish with the help of all our members. We'd like to invite you to join us as we continue another year of support, education, and conservation. Thank you!



Running For Wildlife

By Ann Knutson, SD AAZK Board Member, Sr. APC Keeper, San Diego Zoo

The San Diego chapter of AAZK is always looking for ways to reach out to people and educate them about conservation issues around the world as well as raise money for these causes. This year, we took on a new challenge and became an official charity of the Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon and Half. The race was held on January 27, 2013 beginning and ending at the Carlsbad Westfield Mall.

In becoming an official charity we wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to reach a new audience and raise awareness for different conservation issues. This was a new experience for everyone involved. When deciding to join the 20 other official charities we were taking on a big commitment. We had numerous activities involved in our plan to take advantage of the opportunity. There were preparations leading up to the race that we needed to accomplish; putting together training runs, attending marathon planning meetings, being a part of a Heroes reception, organizing a spaghetti dinner, and getting volunteers for the race.

The race went along the Pacific Coast Highway with a view of the ocean and soaring pelicans during the majority of the course. The course is relatively flat and it presents a great opportunity to make a personal record, while being very popular with everyone from experienced and beginning runners to walkers. There were a number of keepers and San Diego Zoo Global staff members who signed up and ran in the half-marathon and one in the full marathon.

As expected, the race sold out in early November so we were able to help three runners get registered. Those three runners decided to run for SDAAZK and do some fund-raising in return for the post-sellout registrations. The money they raised will help SDAAZK continue raising money and awareness for conservation issues around the world.

Another responsibility that came along with being an official charity is that we were assigned a leg of the marathon to cover. Our leg of the race was between mile 13 and 14 of the marathon. Although the actual responsibility of the volunteers was to make certain no cars entered the race course, the arguably more important task the volunteers took on was cheering for the marathon runners as they crossed into the second half of their journey. One of the highlights of the day for the volunteers was being able to cheer on Dr. PK Robbins from the San Diego Zoo's veterinary hospital as she ran the full marathon.

With all the activities that we participated in leading up to and including the race we all were put a little out of our comfort zone. By pushing ourselves a little harder than normal, not only did we succeed in completing the tasks, but also in growing individually and as an organization.

Thank you all for the support and encouragement along the way and I hope that everyone will join us next year as we take on the challenge of growing our commitment as an official charity.



Thanks for Running With Me!

By Kym Janke, SD AAZK Board Member, Sr. Mammal Keeper, Safari Park

I want to take just a moment to thank all the individuals who braved the cold winter nights and participated in our weekly Monday night runs. We toured Balboa Park and Hillcrest, ran on streets, trails and hills and got a lot of exercise all the while helping some dedicated runners prepare for the Carlsbad Half Marathon.

Myself being an “ex-runner” enjoyed the limit of 3 miles, although I do know a couple runs may have gone over, and the fun and relaxed atmosphere provided by all my running companions. In addition to getting out there and pounding the pavement runners also were treated to some amazing food from our sponsors Lefty’s Chicago Pizzeria, San Filippos, Oaks Bar and Grill, Johnny B’s, and Jersey Joes along with some great prizes from California Wolf Center.

In the end we covered about 26 miles – that’s a full marathon people! Well, I guess it easier when it is spread out over 8 weeks. None the less it was a lot of fun and perhaps I will come out of retirement again next year to do it if you all will join me once more!



Bowling for Rhinos 2013

By Ann Knutson, SD AAZK Board Member, Sr Bird Keeper, San Diego Zoo

This year’s Bowling for Rhinos will be held on May 18th, 2013 at Kearny Mesa Bowl. Although last year we were able to raise over \$16,000, which is the 2nd highest amount ever raised by our chapter, we want to continue to improve and excel this year. Not only do we want to increase the amount of money raised, but we would like to raise the bar on our outreach and education on the plight of the rhino. With the number of rhinos poached already hitting an all-time high, outreach is just as important as fund-raising.

On April 3rd 2013 at 5:00 pm at the Zoo’s Rondavel Room we will be proud to welcome Bill Konstant from International Rhino Foundation to come and give a presentation on the plight of rhinos and the work IRF is doing.

As far as the event goes, we are working on speeding up the registration process and really looking to add to the experience. If you have a passion for rhinos and conservation and would like to be more involved in Bowling for Rhinos we are beginning a BFR committee.

Please contact Ann Knutson at aknutson@sandiegozoo.org for more info.



3rd Annual SDAAZK Photo Contest Winners

By Maureen O. Duryee, SDAAZK VP, Animal Trainer, San Diego Zoo



SDAAZK is excited to announce Sergio Izquierdo and Shannon Petrosky as the winners of the SDAAZK 3rd Annual Photo Contest.

Sergio Izquierdo's photo was chosen as the Best In Show for his beautiful image of young sea turtles making their way to the ocean. The People's Choice winner, who was selected by the most likes on our Facebook page, was Shannon Petrosky for her wonderful sepia lion profile. Both contestants received a \$75 check as a token of our appreciation for the positive conservation message their images portray.

Our annual photo contest took a conservation turn itself this year by going paperless. Accepting digital entries not only made our work in organizing the images much simpler but it also helped reduce our carbon footprint.

We want to thank all the contestants for supporting the San Diego chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers and invite everyone to enter this year's 4th Annual Photo Contest titled "Capturing Conservation." The contest will highlight photography's vital role in capturing conservation issues worldwide and entries must be received online between June 1st and July 31st. Visit our website for contest details and may the best image win!



Marathon Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

By Yvette Kemp, SDAAZK President, Sr Hospital Keeper, San Diego Zoo

On January 26th over 75 people joined SDAAZK at Café On Park for a fabulous spaghetti dinner fundraiser. The night was in support of the people running in the Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon and to help raise funds for SDAAZK conservation projects.

The evening was truly a success with a profit of close to \$800! Plus our “Runners for Wildlife” were able to raise over \$1,500 in sponsorship for SDAAZK. An amazing feat considering they also had to run a half or full marathon.

SDAAZK would like to thank everyone who joined us that evening. The food was delicious and the company delightful. It was a great way for friends to come together and enjoy each other’s company while supporting a worthy cause.

We would also like to give a very big thank you to Andy, Café On Park’s owner, and the crew at Café On Park for their support. Andy not only came up with the idea of the spaghetti dinner but also donated the whole event to SDAAZK! Yes, Andy donated the entire dinner and service to SDAAZK!

Andy and Café On Park have been big supporters of SDAAZK for many years, always donating gift certificates to our various fundraisers such as Bowling for Rhinos. They have also participated at Bowling for Rhinos by putting a team together and raising sponsorship. They are an incredible group and we are so happy they have chosen to be such great supporters of conservation with us!

Be sure to check out the pictures from that evening on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sdaazk!



caféonpark

features local artists

Updates from National AAZK

By Yvette Kemp, SD AAZK President; shared with you from Bob Cisneros, President of AAZK, Inc.

Every month Bob Cisneros, AAZK National President, sends information to be shared with the local chapters.

This month he is happy to inform us that AAZK has partnered with NP Training Works to bring AAZK members the chance to expand their professional skills through online programs! *“On April 1st, advancing excellence in the animal keeping professions and fostering effective communication beneficial to animal care will go live!”* This an exciting opportunity for AAZK members and we welcome you to learn skills important to our great profession from the convenience of your home. You’ll want to check their website (www.aazk.org) for more information and details as it gets closer.

On another note, IRF is bringing back trips to Indonesia for 3rd and 4th place winners during Bowling for Rhinos. Trip winners will fly to Indonesia and visit the Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) at the rhino camps. Great incentive for everyone participating in BFR this year. Remember, San Diego’s AAZK will be held on May 18th!

Nominations are being accepted for the 2013 National AAZK Board of Directors. Nomination forms and criteria are in the Member’s Only section of their website and in this month’s issue of AKF.

It’s time to submit your abstracts for the 40th National AAZK Conference that will be hosted by the North Carolina AAZK Chapter September 22 – 26. “The conference theme is connecting Zookeepers To Wildlife” and abstracts will be accepted for papers and posters relating to the theme and/or showing advances in animal care and the professions of zoo keeping. Visit their website for more information at <http://www.ncaazk.com/2013nationalconference.htm>.

If you are interested in learning more about National AAZK’s finances, the 2012 November financial report is available for viewing at <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101276542711-115/AAZK+Nov+2012+Financial+report.pdf>. They will offer a Chapter Finances and Ethics workshop at the 2013 AAZK conference in North Carolina in an effort to help chapter operations run smoothly.

Then hear David Griffin, photo director for National Geographic, talk about the power of photography connecting us to our world at http://www.ted.com/talks/david_griffin_on_how_photography_connects.html?utm_source=AAZK+Chapter+Newsletter+FEBRUARY+2013&utm_campaign=AAZK+FEB+2013+Chapter+Leadership&utm_medium=email. Great way to get inspired for our upcoming photo contest!

You can always go to www.aazk.org to learn all about what is new with National and how you can become more involved.

Thanks for sharing Bob!



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of ZOO KEEPERS

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California Wolf Center
Education, Conservation & Research



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CALENDAR 2013 visit www.sdaazk.org for updates

March 5, 2013: SDAAZK Board Meeting. Location: San Diego Zoo's Rondavel Room. Time: 5:30 pm. Our meetings are open to all. We invite you to join us and help us direct our chapter's activities.

April 3, 2013: Bill Konstant, International Rhino Foundation. Location: San Diego Zoo's Rondavel Room. Time: 4:30 social, 5:00 pm presentation. There will be a raffle to help raise funds for IRF.

May 18, 2013: Bowling for Rhinos. Location: Kearny Mesa Bowl on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Details to come soon.

June 1 – July 31, 2013: 4th Annual SDAAZK Photo Contest "Capturing Conservation." The contest will highlight photography's vital role in capturing conservation issues worldwide. Entries must be received online between June 1 and July 31, accompanied by 2-5 sentences describing a related environmental issue. Visit our website for details.

June 22, 2013: Brew Night for Pints for Preservation Fundraiser. Location: The Homebrewer, 2911 El Cajon Blvd., SD CA 92104. Time: 5:30 pm. Cost: \$11.54 (online, \$10 through SDAAZK Board Member). Limited to 10 people. Learn how to brew beer then share it during the Pints for Preservation Fundraiser on July 17. Visit our website for tickets.

July 15 – 21, 2013: National Zoo Keeper Week. More details to come soon.

July 17, 2013: Pints for Preservation. Location: The Local Habit, 3827 5th Ave SD CA 92103. Time: TBD. Vote for your favorite project on our Facebook page for them to become the beneficiaries of this exciting fundraising event. More details to come!

September 21, 2013: CA Coastal Clean-Up. More details to come soon.

October: Safari Park Photo Caravan. More details to come soon.

- To see pictures from our events, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sdaazk