



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.

AAZK San Diego Board Members

Ann Knutson – San Diego Zoo President

Lindsey King – San Diego Zoo Vice President, Membership

Yvette Kemp – San Diego Zoo Treasurer, Liaison

Kym Janke – San Diego Zoo Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Robbie Clark – San Diego Zoo PR, Social Media Officer

Grace Porreca - SeaWorld Conservation Partner Officer

Ashley Roberts – San Diego Zoo Professional Development Officer

Content:	PG
President’s Message	1
Carlsbad Marathon	2
Running	3
AAZK Grant	4
Giraffe Fundraiser	5
2 nd Chance Program	8
Emerald Forest	8
BFR 2015	9
Madagascar	11
Brewery Stroll	12
AAZK Membership	13
2015 Calendar	14

The Keeper

American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter Quarterly Newsletter – Spring 2015

President’s Message

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President

Shortly after I started working at the Sedgwick County Zoo many years ago, I attended a local AAZK meeting with a coworker. The members of that chapter were so inspiring and active at the zoo, that I immediately knew I wanted to be a part AAZK. A year or two after joining the chapter, I was tasked with the challenge of coordinating their Bowling for Rhinos fundraising event.

At first the job seemed daunting, but I was able to push through and the Sedgwick County Zoo’s AAZK chapter ended up having one of their most successful BFR events in years. Coordinating BFR helped me realize just how much I was capable of accomplishing. As our BFR event continued to grow each year, my confidence increased and so did the belief that I could contribute more. Through this amazing experience with AAZK, I was inspired to take on more challenges, not only within the chapter but also in my career.

Over the past few months I have had several conversations with fellow keepers here in San Diego who told me that they didn’t understand what AAZK is about. For me the core reason for our chapter is to empower keepers.

Whether this empowerment comes from scholarships, workshops, fundraising for conservation projects or even through the networking that comes with social events, AAZK strives to encourage our members to push themselves and discover what they are capable of accomplishing. When keepers, or anyone with a passion for conservation, come to realize what they can do, it affects all aspects of their life and the lives of the animals both in their care and in the wild.

With this in mind, I invite you to join us for an AAZK San Diego meeting or event... come see what you are capable of doing and become inspired!



Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon & AAZK San Diego

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President & San Diego Zoo APC Keeper

This is the third year that AAZK San Diego has been an official charity of the Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon and Half Marathon. Being an official charity allows us to not only raise funds to support our various projects but also to bring awareness to different conservation needs.



How it works is that we “sign up” for a certain number of registration tickets in exchange for specific volunteer jobs at the race, where we lend support and guidance to the athletes by either manning a water station, holding back traffic, or just cheering the runners on. Once the marathon sells out their tickets, we are able to “sell” our tickets. Really what the marathon offers is the opportunity for runners to “Run for a Reason.” Runners are able to choose a charity from the list and purchase their ticket from that charity, in turn supporting that charity’s project. So basically, we raise funds once the half marathon sells out.

The first two years were pretty simple and straight forward so we prepared for another year just like the past two years. As the marathon season began, we realized it was going to be a very different year. This was the first year in many that the half marathon didn’t sell out. Luckily we have a little money saved for years like this.

Although this year didn’t turn out as planned, we still had a successful spaghetti dinner and volunteer event. The



spaghetti dinner is always a great event sponsored by the amazing Café on Park. The food and staff are what makes the event so successful! Plus the company is great too!

What was exciting about this year's marathon was that we were able to cheer on one of our newest AAZK San Diego members who ran the half-marathon the next day! Lacey Byrnes, who is a keeper at the Safari Park, ran the half-marathon in 1:54:17, which is amazing! We couldn't be more proud of her!

While Lacey was busy running the half, we had 10 volunteers cheering on the runners in the marathon. We were stationed along miles 13 and 14. Plus we brought our props to get the runners excited: giant rhino cut outs, a picture of a cheetah running, and other animal signs stating long distance facts about animals. Just a little something to get the runners mind off of the distance they still needed to cover. The marathon folks at InMotion are so great; they made a race bib for our rhino cutout who we named Nola. Nola was such an inspiration to the runners! We saw numerous runners run by and touch Nola, some even stopped in the middle of their run to take a picture.

We also had a great snack donation from Mayesa. They donated enough of their own product for all our volunteers, the Lupus volunteers who were stationed near us, and even some extra beyond that. It was a great healthy snack to help us get through the race and cheer on all the runners who passed us on their way to the finish!

We have been so fortunate in having so many great supporters this year and although the marathon wasn't as successful monetarily as in the past, we were so grateful for all the support we were shown. The InMotion group actually donated an extra \$250 to our group, bringing our raised total to \$500.

AAZK San Diego will once again be an official charity for the 2016 Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon taking place on January 17, 2016. We will be looking for volunteers and runners again and we hope you decide to join us!



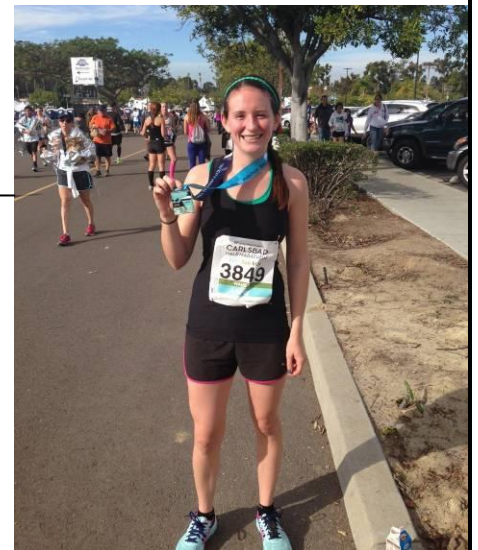
Running the Carlsbad Half Marathon

By Lacey Brynes, AAZK San Diego Member, Safari Park Keeper

On Sunday January 18th I ran in the Carlsbad Half Marathon. AAZK San Diego has been a supporter of the Carlsbad Marathon/Half-Marathon for the last few years and continued their support in 2015. I started race weekend off by picking up my race bib at the health expo in Carlsbad on Friday, then put in a few miles before resting up for race morning.

AAZK San Diego hosted a spaghetti dinner at Café on Park on Saturday night as a way for members to show support for the runners. It was very encouraging (albeit a bit embarrassing) to stand up in front of the attendees at the dinner and receive some well wishes for my run the following morning. It was a bit chilly at the starting line on Sunday morning but after a few miles my muscles warmed up and I started to hit my stride. The course takes runners along the ocean and is relatively flat with little change in elevation. The support along the course definitely makes a difference in a runner's performance and the signs along the route helped keep my mind off my sore feet ("Remember, you paid to do this!" and "Hurry up, we're missing brunch!"). I finished the race in 1 hour and 54 minutes, well below my goal time of 2 hours.

I ran a full marathon three years ago and I can attest that the high energy and support that AAZK San Diego provided for the marathon runners along the course was very appreciated. It takes a lot of mental energy to push your body to run 26.2 miles and having an enthusiastic group of people like AAZK San Diego to cheer you on makes every step a little bit easier. I've already started training for the La Jolla half marathon in April but I am really looking forward to running the Carlsbad race again next year!



The Shirley Busch Professional Development Grant

By Lindsey King, AAZK San Diego Chapter Vice President, San Diego Zoo Keeper

Since 2012, AAZK San Diego has had the esteemed pleasure to provide financial support to animal care professionals attending conferences and participating in conservation projects around the world. The Shirley Busch Professional Development Grant is awarded annually amidst a field of very qualified and competitive applicants. This year the grant monies were awarded to three individuals.

Heidi Pankratz is a caretaker at the California Wolf Center and will be utilizing her grant funding to attend the 42nd Annual AAZK National Conference in St. Louis later this year. This will be Heidi's first time attending this conference and she is looking forward to learning new husbandry skills and networking with other animal care professionals.

Grace Porecca is a Senior Aviculturist at Sea World San Diego and has filled the role of Conservation Partner on the AAZK San Diego board since 2013. Additionally, she volunteers at the California Wolf Center in her spare time and runs a website, conservationfinder.com, connecting people to conservation efforts around the world. Grace will be using her grant funding to travel to Leipzig, Germany to attend the 5th Conference of the International Congress of Zoo Keeping. This conference is a vital resource to maintaining communication throughout the international zoological community and provides support to keepers in regions of the world where zoo keeping associations may not exist.

Yvette Kemp is a Senior Hospital Keeper at the San Diego Zoo, as well as a "jack-of-all-AAZK San Diego" trades. I'm not sure there is a role that Yvette has not filled on the board during her 22 years of dedicated involvement. Additionally, Yvette has developed and implemented a program called *Keepers Teaching Keepers*, which promotes information sharing regarding husbandry, training and enrichment among keepers at zoological facilities. Yvette has attended the AZCARM conference in the past and this year AAZK SD is proud to be able to support her endeavors to network with Mexican zoo professionals and foster relationships dedicated to the improvement of animal care and husbandry.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients. We look forward to hearing all about your professional development adventures in a future edition of *The Keeper*. For information on how to apply for the Shirley Busch Professional Development Grant, please see the AAZK San Diego webpage: <http://sdaazk.com/about-san-diego-aazk/education-scholarships/>

Shirley Busch Professional Development Grant Do you qualify?

- Are you a National AAZK and AAZK San Diego member in good standing?
- Are you attending an animal/conservation based conference or project in 2016?
- Are you passionate about sharing your experiences with your peers?

Applications for 2016 will be accepted starting January 1, 2016

Wild About Giraffe

By David O'Connor, M.Sc., Community-based Conservation Ecologist, SDZG Institute for Conservation Research

Editors Note: On February 9th, AAZK San Diego joined San Diego Zoo's Institute Conservation researcher David O'Connor in his effort to fight against giraffe extinction by hosting a fundraising event at Old Town's Coyote Café. Thanks to everyone's participation in the silent auction, drawings, and donations, over \$5,190 has been raised so far. The following is information on his project and information on what is happening to these towering beauties. You can still donate to David's project and research by visiting CrowdRise's Save the Giraffe event at <https://www.crowdrise.com/SavetheGiraffe/fundraiser/davidconnor>.



Reticulated giraffe conservation with pastoralists

David O'Connor, M.Sc.
Community-based Conservation Ecologist
San Diego Zoo Global Institute for Conservation Research
doconnor@sandiegozoo.org



Focus Areas

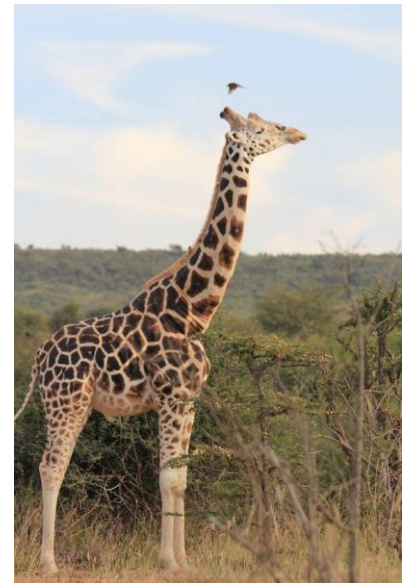
- Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*)

conservation

- Human-livestock-giraffe interactions and conflict
- Anti-poaching
- Pastoralist Citizen Scientists and Community benefits

Background

Giraffe are icons of African, found nowhere else. They are integral to their ecosystems, opening up habitat for other wildlife, spurring growth of new *Acacia* forage, pollinating and dispersing seeds. Giraffe form the basis of most zoo collections, and are much loved, adored as toys and book characters. Reticulated giraffe historically ranged from north-central Kenya to southern Somalia and Ethiopia. However, over just the past 15 years they have declined drastically by over 80%, from 28,000 to about 4,700 today. At this rate, these giraffe will be extinct by 2019. The IUCN will shortly re-categorize reticulated giraffe as ENDANGERED in recognition of the dramatic drop in numbers [Fennessy *pers. comm.* (IUCN Giraffe & Okapi SSG)].



The Maasai giraffe range from southern Kenya into Tanzania. They are the largest giraffe, and are still comparably numerous. However, recent reports of heavy poaching indicate they're likely declining rapidly.

Reasons for Giraffe Decline

- **Poaching.** Giraffe are relatively easy to kill with a bullet or a neck or foot snare, and yield a lot of meat. Over the past decade, regional instability, ethnic fighting, increased elephant poaching, and a growing belief that giraffe bone marrow and brains can cure HIV/AIDS, now fetching \$120 a kilogram, have all spurred the illegal hunt. Poaching is now rampant, for example 130 giraffe snares were removed from Tsavo National Park in June 2014 alone.
- **Habitat loss and fragmentation.** Formerly open spaces for giraffe are disappearing or fragmenting because of development, land-use switching to agriculture, or are uninhabitable due to over-grazing.



- **Competition** for food and water resources from a newly introduced species of livestock into giraffe habitat, the domestic camel. Being a large, tall, browsing ungulate it can overlap in feeding height and species with wild giraffe.

We must act, and fast. For this reason, together with our partners and alongside pastoralists, we are harnessing our collective giraffe expertise to take up the fight against giraffe extinction.

Hampering our response to these threats, is the surprising dearth of information about giraffe ecology. They are the forgotten megafauna. We still do not fully understand how they move across the landscape, how and what they eat, how many are left, their social structure, how they interact with people and livestock. As such, these giraffe are rapidly disappearing, with little notice. It is especially worrying as most of the giraffe's range is outside of protected areas, overlapping with pastoralist herders and small-scale agriculturalists.

As such our conservation actions must be multidimensional, encompassing three core elements:

- 1) Continued field research to better understand giraffe population levels, movements and ecology. These data will be vital to informing more effective and efficient conservation actions going forward.
- 2) Uncovering traditional ecological knowledge of giraffe, and the attitudes, perceptions, beliefs and behaviors of the Samburu, Turkana, Borana and Maasai pastoralists that live among giraffe. This information allows us to better appreciate the reasons behind poaching and conflict with giraffe. Our work will provide insight on how herders interact with giraffe, the degree to which they value them, and identify areas of human-livestock-giraffe conflict. We will also use *Randomized Response Technique* to ask about poaching and the giraffe meat/medicine market.



- 3) Tracking and mapping livestock movements, by attaching GPS collars to livestock – camels, cattle and goats/sheep – as they are herded in the landscape, will allow us to understand how livestock are utilizing resources, and overlapping with wildlife.

Working in the savanna and rangelands, we will use these novel socio-ecological approaches to gain a holistic understanding of giraffe ecology, and the drivers of decline. We will then use this preliminary information, and our new collaborative relationships to design sustainable conservation interventions. These will include a pilot project engaging herder scientists to gather data, by training warriors and empowering women to conduct giraffe

surveys recording encounters on GPS and taking photos for individual IDs. Creating the *Twiga Walinzi* (giraffe guards), a team of pastoralists to conduct patrols to protect giraffe by searching for snares set by poachers.

Collaborative, localized, multi-pronged approaches are required to stem the decline of reticulated giraffe, and create sustainable conservation initiatives with the people with whom the giraffe overlap so that we can save these giants from extinction in the wild.

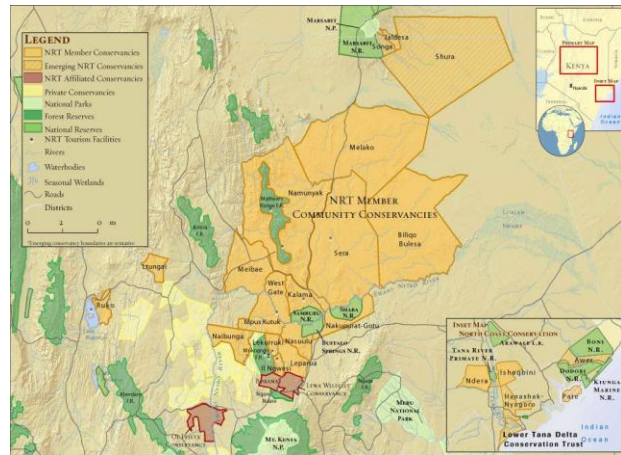
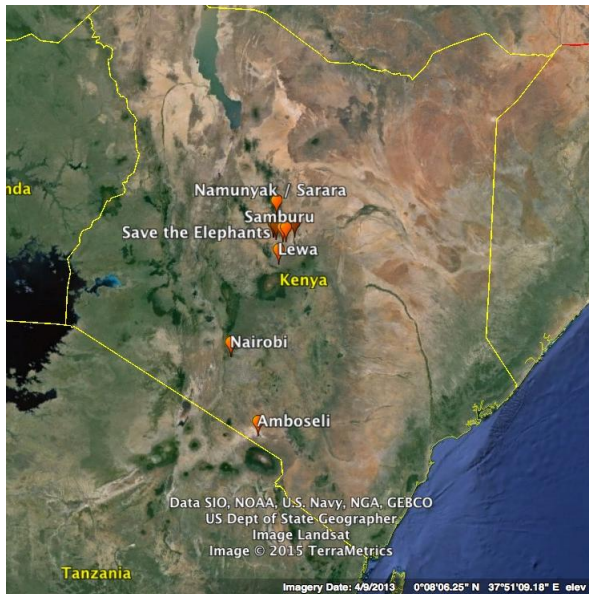
Development Outline

This project will be piloted at a conservancy in either northern Kenya, or in the South Rift or around Amboseli, depending on which communities wish to be involved. As we secure funding we would collaborate with community leadership and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, as well as other conservation organizations where we can to ensure our approaches are complementary to other impactful programs. Following the pilot period, results will be incorporated to improve and finalize methods and approaches. We will then explore expanding conservation and awareness programs to other conservancies (see map) in the region should they wish.



Scouting Namunyak with Samburu locals in December 2014

Location options for giraffe conservation pilot site, highlighted by red dots (map: Google Earth).



Resources *Map of the Project Areas (courtesy*

- Giraffe conservation video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXVntEULiTo>
- Giraffe Conservation Foundation:

<http://www.giraffeconservation.org>

- Giraffes under Threat: Populations Down 40 Percent in Just 15 Years.
 - Article: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2014/11/24/giraffes-under-threat/>
 - Article: <http://www.techtimes.com/articles/21465/20141203/giraffe-population-drops-drastically-in-last-15-years-whats-causing-decline.htm>
 - Article: <http://news.discovery.com/animals/endangered-species/giraffe-population-drops-40-percent-in-15-years-141203.htm>
- World Giraffe Day: <http://blog.sandiegozooglobal.org/2014/06/10/world-giraffe-day/>
- Sticking their necks out. *The Coast News*. <https://thecoastnews.com/2014/06/sticking-their-necks-out/>

References

- O'Connor, D. A., B. Butt, and J.B. Foufopoulos. 2015. Foraging ecologies of giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) and camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) in northern Kenya: Effects of habitat structure and possibilities for competition? *African Journal of Ecology*. 1-11.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/aje.12204/abstract>
- O'Connor, D. A., B. Butt, and J.B. Foufopoulos. *Under Review*. Measuring browsing orbits, spatial ecology, and resource use by domestic camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) in Kenyan pastoralist rangelands. *African Journal of Ecology*.

Resources

- Brief PSA (contains graphic content): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0w6M0JdJKk&feature=youtu.be>
- Giraffe Conservation Foundation: <http://www.giraffeconservation.org>
- Giraffes under Threat: Populations Down 40 Percent in Just 15 Years.
 - Article: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2014/11/24/giraffes-under-threat/>
 - Article: <http://www.techtimes.com/articles/21465/20141203/giraffe-population-drops-drastically-in-last-15-years-whats-causing-decline.htm>
 - Article: <http://news.discovery.com/animals/endangered-species/giraffe-population-drops-40-percent-in-15-years-141203.htm>
- World Giraffe Day: <http://blog.sandiegozooglobal.org/2014/06/10/world-giraffe-day/>
- Sticking their necks out. *The Coast News*. <https://thecoastnews.com/2014/06/sticking-their-necks-out/>

References

- O'Connor, D. A., B. Butt, and J.B. Foufopoulos. 2015. Foraging ecologies of giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) and camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) in northern Kenya: Effects of habitat structure and possibilities for competition? *African Journal of Ecology*. 1-11.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/aje.12204/abstract>
- O'Connor, D. A., B. Butt, and J.B. Foufopoulos. *Under Review*. Measuring browsing orbits, spatial ecology, and resource use by domestic camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) in Kenyan pastoralist rangelands. *African Journal of Ecology*.

SeaWorld's Rescue Program Giving A Second Chance

By Grace Porreca, AAZK San Diego Conservation Officer, SeaWorld Aviculturist

2013

We have barely gotten into the 2015 year and already the 6 marine mammal care centers in Southern California, Sea World included, have rescued over 450 beached California sea lion pups.

Now Sea World is making a big effort to keep up with the sick and stranded pups. So far they have rescued just over 300 pups. The majority of these pups are in critical condition.

The exact cause for this situation is not clear. NOAA has reported that as of January 2015 the numbers are 5 times the average stranding rate. Some of the reasons for the increase could be a change in availability of sea lion prey is a likely contributor to the event. Availability of prey (including amount, type, quality, and location) is very important for nursing sea lion mothers, for the pups as they begin to wean and start foraging on their own, and for the other age classes of sea lions as well. Other potential causes for large numbers of increased strandings included infectious disease outbreaks and harmful algal blooms.

All of SeaWorld San Diego's Zoological Department is helping out with this event as well as some individuals from SeaWorld Orlando and SeaWorld San Antonio.



A Journey Into Emerald Forest

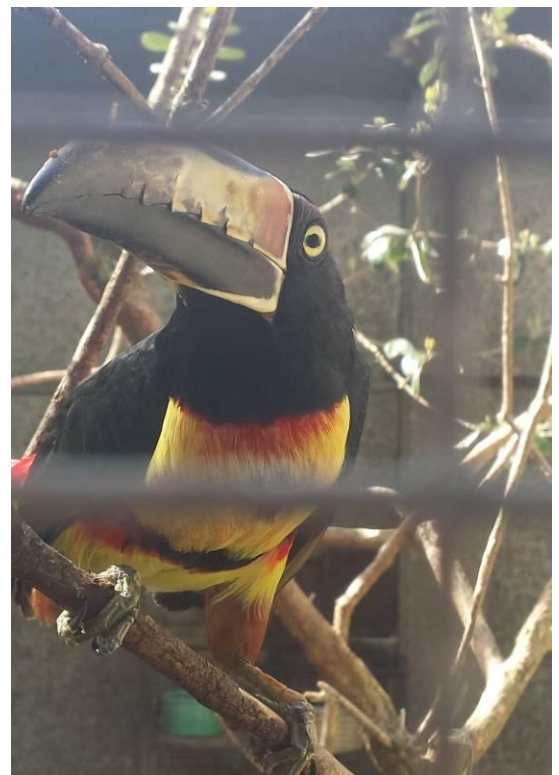
By Grace Porreca, AAZK San Diego Conservation Officer, SeaWorld Aviculturist

On Thursday, February 26th, AAZK San Diego participants were given a private tour of Jerry Jennings "Emerald Forest." Tucked in the hills of Fallbrook on over 40 acres, Emerald Forest is home to the second largest collection of toucans in the U.S. as well as home to many other exotic birds. Emerald Forest is renowned for its extraordinary breeding success, offering toucans and other birds to zoos, breeders, and pet bird owners around the world.

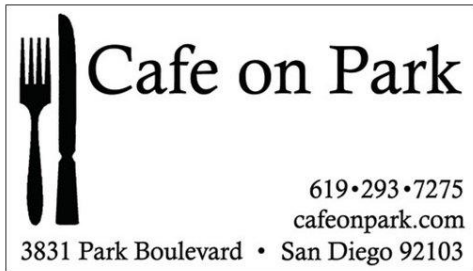
In the late 1970's, Jerry received two world first breeding awards for the ariel toucan and the emerald toucanet. Seven more first breedings of toucans followed over the next ten years, leading to the world's largest collection of toucans, with as many as 25 species and currently over 350 individuals.

When Jerry is not here in the U.S., he is at his property in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, which has been developed into a breeding farm for several species of ramphastids (toucan family which includes toucans, aracarís, and toucanets) not currently maintained in collections in North America.

AAZK San Diego would like to thank Jerry for a wonderful day exploring his property and the opportunity to meet all the wonderful toucans and toucanets.



Thank You To Our 2015 Bowling for Rhinos Sponsors & Supporters



N I N E - T E N
restaurant and bar



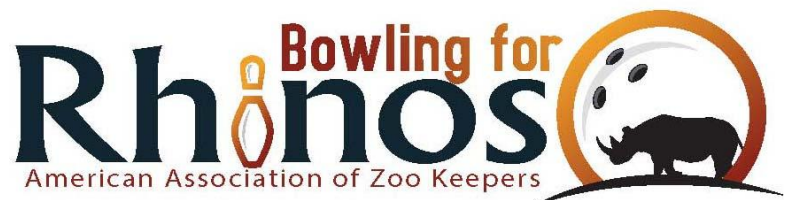
HANDLERY
HOTELS



Bowling for Rhinos 2015

By Yvette Kemp, 2015 BFR Coordinator

The American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) San Diego Chapter is proud to be hosting our 25th annual **Bowling for Rhinos (BFR)** event. BFR is a national bowl-a-thon fundraising event geared to assisting rhino conservation in Kenya and Indonesia. 100% of all funds go directly to in situ conservation projects, conserving 4 species of rhinos, their habitats, and hundreds of other endangered plants and animals AND cheetah conservation in Kenya. AAZK San Diego has participated since BFR began in 1990, and we have contributed over \$250,000 locally. Nationally BFR has raised over \$5 million dollars!



This year, we want to make sure you join us! Registration to participate in BFR 2015 is now available on our website at www.sdaazk.org.

You are invited to put a bowling team together and raise funds for rhino conservation. Each team should have 5 participants, with each person raising a minimum of \$40 in sponsorship. Of course we encourage you to raise more. There will be prizes for the top 3 fundraisers and if you are an AAZK National and local member, we will enter your name into the national fundraiser contest. The person who wins that contest will win a trip to Africa or Asia to see rhinos and meet the people who work directly with them.

If you can't put a team together but would like to bowl, we can put you on a team! Again we ask that you raise a minimum of \$40 in sponsorship, but encourage you to raise more.

Even if you are unable to bowl at BFR, we want you to hang out with us. Besides bowling, there will be a best team costume contest, a dance contest, silent auction, opportunity drawings, bake sale, and a whole lot more!

We will also be selling this year's Bowling for Rhinos t-shirt. To commemorate, a special BFR t-shirt has been designed and will be for sale to help raise more money for these wonderful animals and their habitats. The shirt will be available in 3 different colors and you can purchase it when you register to bowl. You can purchase your Bowling for Rhinos 2015 t-shirt when you register to participant in this year's BFR bowling event on June 6th.

If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt and do not plan on bowling, you will be able to purchase a t-shirt on our website. T-shirt will cost \$20 each with all proceeds raised from the t-shirt sales going the Bowling for Rhinos fund and donated to rhino conservation.

This year's BFR t-shirt has our 2015 BFR logo on the front, the AAZK San Diego logo on the sleeve, and our great BFR 2015 sponsors logos on the back.



T-shirts purchased by May 15th will be available BEFORE the BFR event on June 6th. T-shirts purchased between May 16th and 23rd can be picked up THE DAY OF the BFR event on June 6th.

There are several ways you can help raise funds that will help in the effort to save rhinos and their habitats.



1) Make your own fundraising page through CrowdRise by Joining Our AAZK San Diego BFR Team and making your own page, where you can even add your own picture.

2) You can also make a fundraising page through CrowdRise for your team. Remember that \$40 minimum sponsorship is requested for each team member.

3) Collect funds in person and keep a tally with our BFR sponsorship sheet. Turn this in the evening of the event with all the sponsorship money you have collected.

4) Collect funds in person using the sponsorship sheet plus make

your own fundraising page through CrowdRise.

5) Make a donation to BFR by clicking on the donation button on our website.

Regardless of how you raise money, it will go to rhino conservation! It's a great evening to spend with friends and family and a great way to become involved in rhino conservation. Don't miss out!

WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 5:15 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kearny Mesa Bowl, 7585 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92111

COST: \$50 per team to bowl, plus a recommended \$40 minimum individual sponsorship

TO LEARN MORE: about the AAZK San Diego's local *Bowling for Rhinos* event, sponsorship opportunities, and how you can help protect and become involved in rhino conservation, please contact Yvette Kemp at

TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net

If you are interested in becoming involved in the organization of BFR, send me an email. Bowling for Rhinos is truly one of the core programs that AAZK is all about and our goal is to make each year even more successful then the last. With your help, we can make that happen!

Preserving the World's Biodiversity: Madagascar

By Jen Miller, San Diego Zoo Global employee

Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, is home to many unique species of birds, fish, insects, reptiles, amphibians, plants and mammals. Rich in biodiversity, it is home to over 106 different species of lemurs found only in Madagascar. Sadly, they are currently facing high risks of extinction. To be exact, 94% of all lemurs are threatened. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature much of the evolution that has taken place in Madagascar has been in isolation resulting in very high levels of species endemism at the genus and family levels found nowhere else on earth, lemurs are endemic to Madagascar 100%.



Some of the rarest most endangered species include the Golden bamboo lemur, Red Ruffed lemur, Golden Crowned Sifaka, and the highly elusive Indri. Facing high risks of extinction due to habitat loss, the introduction of invasive species, illegal logging, hunting for bushmeat, and slash and burn agriculture. The cultivation of rice paddies in the poor country of Madagascar has resulted in the removal of over 80% of Madagascar's forests. The Wildlife Conservancy states that the three main forces driving animal extinctions are poaching, climate change, and deforestation.

Why should YOU care about Madagascar's lemurs or any other endangered species? What do poaching, climate change and deforestation all have common? They are ALL caused by humans. This means that humans can reverse the damage through education, awareness, and outreach. Conservation Fusion explains that lemurs are seed dispersers, which means that more than eighty percent of the world's medicine come from these highly biodiverse areas. By cutting down these forests we are losing medicinal opportunities along with many others. Collectively, we can save endangered species. It has been done with flying foxes, California condors, and it can be done with lemurs too. Lemurs are a world heritage for future generations as the IUCN puts it in their conservation strategy plan. A Senegalese conservationist once wrote, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

30th St. Brewery Stroll

an AAZK San Diego Social



Thursday March 12, 2015

Let's stroll through North Park
and support local breweries!

- 3:00 - Rip Current Brewing - 4101 30th St.
- 4:00 - Belching Beaver Brewing Co. - 4223 30th St.
- 5:00 - Poor House Brewing Co. - 4494 30th St.
- 6:00 - Fall Brewing Co. - 4532 30th St.

Tasters range from \$1 - \$2.50 ea.
Many places for good eats along the way!



AAZK San Diego Membership Form

Check here if you are renewing

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional (must already be an AAZK National; adding local San Diego membership w/access to workshops) | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full (must already be an AAZK National; adding local San Diego membership) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (local AAZK San Diego Membership Only) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional (organizations/institutions; requires board approval) | \$50.00 |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ Zip _____

Email _____

Zoo Affiliation _____ Job Title _____

Work area _____ Species you work with _____

Professional AAZK San Diego Member. Benefits include:

- Access to online animal professional courses offered through CollaborNation Collaborative Learning Environment
- Free admittance to all our hands-on workshops and events
- Opportunity to sign-up for hands-on workshops before it is offered to others
- One-year subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *The Keeper*
- Free admission to special presentations by guest speakers
- Support of local and international conservation projects
- Free admission to our annual AAZK SD photo caravan at the Safari Park
- Ability to participate in local board member elections
- All National AAZK membership benefits

Full AAZK San Diego Members. Benefits include:

- One-year subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *The Keeper*
- Free admission to special presentations by guest speakers
- Support of local and international conservation projects
- Free admission to our annual AAZK SD photo caravan at the Safari Park
- Ability to participate in local board member elections
- All National AAZK membership benefits

AAZK San Diego Supporter. Benefits include:

- One-year subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *The Keeper*
- Free admission to special presentations by guest speakers
- Support of local and international conservation projects

Please fill out form and send to:

**AAZK San Diego
Membership
P.O. Box 632984
San Diego, CA 92103**

AAZK San Diego
P.O. Box 632984
San Diego, CA
92103

Tel: (619) 231-1515 ext. 4672

Email: TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net

Web site: www.sdaazk.org

FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/sdaazk>

The Keeper is published quarterly by the American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter, Inc. (AAZK SD), a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization with offices at P.O. Box 120551, San Diego, CA 92112; (619) 231-1515, ext. 4672. Address for editorial, advertising and membership inquiries—AAZK SD, P.O. Box 632984, Hillcrest Post Office San Diego, CA 92103. Reproduction or use without written permission of editorial or pictorial content in any manner is prohibited. Copyright © 1996 by AAZK SD. Subscriptions are included with the membership in AAZK SD or by paying \$15 per year, U.S. currency only. *The Keeper* assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Manuscripts or artwork not accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope may not be returned. *The Keeper* makes every effort to ensure that the products and services advertised in our pages are consistent with the environmental ethic that we promote. Opinions expressed on these pages do not necessarily reflect the view of the AAZK SD, AAZK, Inc., or the board of either chapter or parent organization.



CALENDAR 2015

visit www.sdaazk.org for updates

March 12, 2015: 30th Street Pub Stroll.

Lets socialize and support local breweries on 30th Street in North Park. Starting at 3:00 pm at Rip Current Brewery and ending at Fall Brewing. we will spend approximately 45 minutes at each location so you can join us any place along the way!

March 19, 2015: AAZK Meeting.

You are invited to participate and join us at the next AAZK Board meeting at 5:00 pm at the San Diego Zoo's Warner Building Board Room. Our meetings are open to all and we welcome everyone's input and participation. For more information, email AAZK San Diego president at annkntsn@yahoo.com

April 13, 2015: AAZK Meeting.

You are invited to participate and join us at the next AAZK Board meeting at 5:00 pm at the San Diego Zoo's Warner Building Board Room. Our meetings are open to all and we welcome everyone's input and participation. For more information, email AAZK San Diego president at annkntsn@yahoo.com

May 31, 2015: Golf For Wildlife.

Join the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) San Diego Chapter as we host our 2nd annual "Golf For Wildlife" tournament, raising awareness and funds for endangered species. Mixing sports and wildlife has never been this fun! The 2nd annual "Golf for Wildlife" is in full affect to help save, conserve, and shed light on the over 16,000 endangered animal and plants. Habitat loss, disease, and illegal wildlife trade have put many animals at risk of extinction. By participating in this event, every dollar raised will go to the support of our earths beautiful wildlife!

June 6, 2015: Bowling For Rhinos. Celebrating BFRs 25th Anniversary!

The American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) San Diego Chapter is proud to be hosting our 25th annual **Bowling for Rhinos (BFR)** event. BFR is a national bowl-a-thon fundraising event geared to assisting rhino conservation in Kenya and Indonesia. 100% of all funds go directly to in situ conservation projects, conserving 4 species of rhinos, their habitats, and hundreds of other endangered plants and animals AND cheetah conservation in Kenya. AAZK San Diego has contributed over \$250,000 locally and nationally BFR has raised over \$5 million dollars! The event will feature a silent auction, drawings, a costume contest, most sponsorship raised contest, bake sale, and more. You don't have to bowl to participate! Registration available NOW on our website.

WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 5:15 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kearny Mesa Bowl, 7585 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92111

COST: \$50 per person to bowl, plus a recommended \$40 minimum individual sponsorship

August 2015: Pints for Preservation.

An opportunity for AAZK San Diego members to nominate and promote a conservation of their choice for a fundraising event! Voting takes place on Facebook and the organization with the most likes will be the beneficiary from the event. More information available as the date gets closer.

Details about these and all our events available on our website at www.sdaazk.org!

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sdaazk