



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

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

### President's Message

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President

To celebrate this year's National Zoo Keeper Week the AAZK San Diego board decided to highlight inspiring animal care professionals through our social media pages. Each board member was tasked with selecting an animal care professional who inspires them and ask this amazing individual some questions to which we would share their answers with our followers. It was a difficult choice for many of our board members, because we are so fortunate to work with many amazing people! I did not post my own personal inspiration on our Facebook page, because I could not just pick one animal care professional, but wanted to choose the entire AAZK San Diego board.

The AAZK San Diego board is full of animal care professionals who not only work 40 hours a week to provide for the animals in their care, but devote much of their free time to the mission statement of AAZK San Diego. They are positive, supportive, creative, dedicated, passionate, and most importantly super fun!

So thank you to Lindsey, Kym, Yvette, Ashley, Grace, and Robbie for everything you do!



We are always looking to expand our team of dedicated board members, if you would like to get more involved with our chapter and take on a rewarding role in the organization and work towards professional development please speak to any of the board members!

## BOWLING FOR RHINOS 2015

By Yvette Kemp, AAZK SD Treasurer/ Sr. Hospital Keeper

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, AAZK San Diego joined many other AAZK chapters in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bowling for Rhinos by hosting our annual fundraising event.

Since 1990, the American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter (AAZK San Diego) has hosted a bowl-a-thon to raise money for rhino conservation. Bowling for Rhinos (BFR) began on a small scale in 1990 and is now AAZK's largest and main fundraising event. This year's San Diego BFR event was held on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Kearny Mesa Bowl in Clairemont. All of the money raised during the evening of bowling goes directly to our worldwide conservation effort benefitting critically endangered rhinos. To date and not counting this year's total, AAZK San Diego alone had raised over \$216,800 for rhino conservation so far.



Bowling for Rhinos is organized by AAZK members who donate their time and organizational skills to help raise money and awareness for rhino conservation. In Kenya, Africa, BFR supports Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, where donations help both black and white rhinos and most of the other species native to East Africa. In Indonesia BFR supports the remaining Javan rhinos at Ujung Kulon National Park and the Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Parks through the

International Rhino Foundation. BFR also supports Action for Cheetahs in Kenya. Cheetahs share much of the same habitat as rhinos so by conserving cheetahs, we are also saving rhinos and countless other species that call that habitat home. The two primary rhino conservation partners (LWC and IRF) split funds raised from BFR equally, with each receiving a 45% share. Action for Cheetahs in Kenya receives an 8% share. Then the final 2% of monies raised are set aside for the BFR Conservation Resource Fund Grant that is administered by National AAZK.

All 5 rhino species- the white, black, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan are listed as endangered or vulnerable. In 1960, 60,000 black rhinos roamed Africa. Today less than 4,000 remain. On the Asian continent, the greater one-horned population is approximately 3,000 animals while the Sumatran species numbers around 100. The Javan species has fewer than 60 animals. And 2014 was a very bad year for rhinos, with over 1,200 rhinos killed in South Africa alone – an increase of more than 20% from 2013. And while this news is devastating, the number of people who have recently joined in the fight to help rhinos has risen. It is only through awareness and education that rhinos will be able to survive.

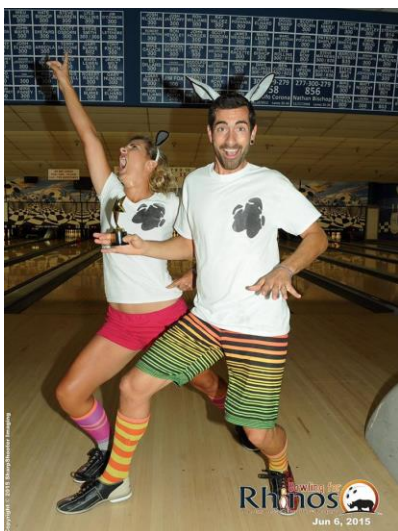


And it is with that in mind that we are able to report that thanks to everyone's enthusiastic participation, San Diego's BFR was a huge success! We are happy to say that this year's event was completely sold out, with 40 teams of 5 people (plus all our extra friends) joining in on the cause. Besides bowling, the event consisted of a silent auction, drawings, a dance contest, and a very fun and colorful best dressed team contest. And San Diego Zoo Global also contributed by offering a drawing of 4 annual leave days for all SDZG employees that attended BFR. Needless to say, that was a great enticement for many of our employees.

Besides the auction and raffles, AAZK San Diego always encourages participants to raise money for rhino conservation by asking for sponsorship from their friends and family. This not only raises more money for rhinos, but also gives AAZK members the opportunity to be entered into a nationwide AAZK contest. The top 3 AAZK members to raise money for rhino conservation are rewarded by earning the chance to visit Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Africa or the International Rhino Foundation in Indonesia to see where and how the BFR funds are being used. Our top 3 fundraisers for the San Diego BFR were: Ann Knutson from the San Diego Zoo with \$1,440, Jenny Tibbott from the Safari Park with \$1,331, and Christine Cummins with \$1,275, also from the Safari Park.

Other winners from the event were: Marco and Lacey Zeno for the dance off contest and the "Game of Horns" team for the best dressed team outfit (check out their awesome costume on our FB page!). AL day winners were: Corri Barcroft from Safari Experiences, Jake Sheppard from Park Mammals, James Baran from Security, and Amy Alfrey from Life Sciences. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

Thanks to donations and everyone's contribution, AAZK San Diego's Bowling for Rhinos event was able to raise over \$21,900 with more money still coming in! Because of the participation of over 200 people, everyone who joined us that day also took part in the quest to save these magnificent animals from extinction.



AAZK San Diego would like to thank you for your involvement in Bowling for Rhinos and we hope that you will join us again next year as we raise awareness and funding for rhinos and the many animals that share their habitat. Please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sdaazk](http://www.facebook.com/sdaazk) to view the photos from the event. Bowling for Rhinos is one of those events where you can have a great time while making a difference.

This endeavor could not be accomplished without help from all of our supporters and sponsors. AAZK San Diego would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their donations to this year's BFR event:

### WHITE RHINO SPONSOR

Donation of items for bake sale



### BLACK RHINO SPONSORS

Donation of silent auction item or basket



**NINE-TEN**  
restaurant and bar



**HANDLERY**  
HOTELS

**WESTIN**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

California Wolf Center



**THE OLD GLOBE**



### JAVAN RHINO SPONSORS

\$500 sponsorship of lane and silent auction item



**WILSON CREEK**



**The Fund for ANIMALS**  
Wildlife Center

**Boomerangs**

### INDIAN RHINO SPONSORS

\$500 bowling lane sponsorship



### SUMATRAN RHINO SPONSORS

\$1000 bowling alley or event t-shirt sponsorship



**THEULE LAW**  
theulelaw.com | Where Your Future Matters Most



**On behalf of the rhinos, thank you for your continued interest and support!**

## Upcoming Volunteer Day at the California Wolf Center

By Grace Porreca, AAZK San Diego Conservation Partner Officer

Mark your calendars for October 16<sup>th</sup> when we will once again head out to the California Wolf Center for a fun yet busy day helping out a fabulous non-profit facility! Be sure to keep an eye on the upcoming events section of the AAZK SD website for more information on the volunteer day as it approaches. We are excited to once again support such a great conservation organization and be able to contribute to various projects around the center. There will be something for everyone to help with and while some projects will involve heavy labor, others will be lighter duty.



Individuals that plan to join us should dress according to the weather and remember that sunscreen is always ideal. Please note that open toed shoes or sandals are not permitted, you must wear suitable work shoes or boots. Long pants are required (no shorts), shirts can either be long or short sleeved. Don't forget to pack some water and a snack is recommended.



It should be a fun and rewarding day, so  
Don't Miss Out.

For more information, to RSVP, and for carpool information please contact Grace at [graceporreca@yahoo.com](mailto:graceporreca@yahoo.com)

## National Zoo Keeper Week

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President

Each year, the third week in July is to celebrate Animal Care Professionals in all fields. While the title, National Zoo Keeper Week, is a little misleading, this includes trainers, vet-techs, aquarists, educators and all the other animal care professionals who do not necessarily have a job title of "keeper". Each year as we begin to plan the activities for the week, we are reminded of what a busy and exhausting time of year summer can be for every animal care professional, in every field.

We always want to jam pack the week with events to recognize how amazing each person is who commits their career to conservation and the care of animals. Then we have to face the fact that most of us don't have the time, or the energy, to be endlessly thanked. This year we focused on activities that included food, as that is a sure fire way to make any Keeper happy!

To kick off the week at the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park, AAZK SD and HR planned a pizza luncheon with a slideshow of Keepers working. There were a lot of fun pictures, but most importantly it was nice to see other Keepers doing what they love. Many of us don't have the

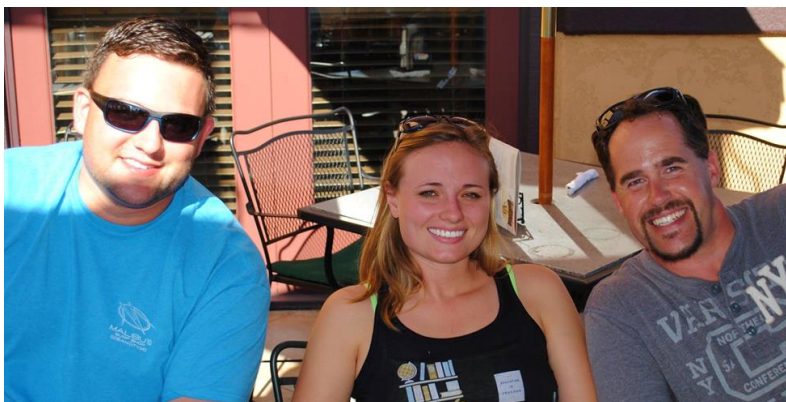
opportunity to see others at work and appreciate what they do in their corner of the zoo. We also had a few speakers say a few words of appreciation for all the work done by Keepers around the Zoo and Park.

We invited guests at the Zoo and Safari Park to get involved in NZKW by giving back to the animals that keep us coming back day after day. Guests had the opportunity to make enrichment for our critters because, really, happy animals equals happy Keepers! At the Safari Park enrichment items were distributed to a variety of animals throughout the week and at the zoo enrichment was given to the meerkats. Guests wrote their thanks to all the Keepers on the enrichment and it was much appreciated by the animals and Keepers alike. This was also a great opportunity for guests to learn all about enrichment and other aspects of a Keeper's work that not many outside of our field know or understand.



The last activity of the week was a Happy Hour at On the Border Mira Mesa. Appetizers were provided and it was a great location that was mid-way for the different organizations in San Diego County. Many Keepers showed up from different organizations and were able to relax and mingle with Keepers from all lines of work.

Whether you were make it out to one of the activities or not I hope you had a great week, and were reminded that you are making a difference in the world and are appreciated!!



In partnership with AAZK

# Join Us

for a fun evening of watersports  
benefiting The San Diego Zoo  
Institute for Conservation Research  
giraffe research and conservation  
program.



**SEPT 13, 2015**

**5PM-8PM  
CARLSBAD  
LAGOON**

Participants will enjoy  
three hours of unlimited  
use of stand up paddle  
boards, kayaks, canoes,  
and other fun passive  
equipment all for a  
price lower than renting  
one paddle board!

# STAND UP FOR GIRAFFES

[www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-up-for-giraffes-tickets-16917807618](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-up-for-giraffes-tickets-16917807618)

**• \$35 •**

## Hooftrim Workshop: Field Portion

By Jamie Ferguson, AAZK San Diego Professional Member

The second part of the hooftrim series, this hands-on portion was very fun and educational! It followed the theory lecture presented at the Safari Park back in March. Unfortunately due to weather and scheduling conflicts the hands on portion was delayed until July 28<sup>th</sup>.

We met up with Charlie (A keeper on the North Run at the Safari Park) at around 8:15am where we loaded into the trucks and headed out for our first lesson. The first animal to be worked on was a doe that was anesthetized by a vet and other keepers.



Using round and flat hoof nippers the hoof walls were cut down and the tow brought back. A grinder was used to smooth the hoof out and make some finishing touches. We then got to watch the vets wake her up and care for her as she got her footing and ran off into the field.

Moving to smaller animals for practice, we went to a back holding area and helped separate a heard of Nubian ibex to see who needed their hooves trimmed. Each of us got a chance to help catch and carry an animal over to the person who restrained while we clipped. Using hoof trimming shears we were coached through the process while we took turns trimming and shaping through a total of 12 hooves.



This hands-on portion was extremely beneficial and was necessary for me to better understand what had been presented in the first class section. I plan on using the techniques learned today when caring for the goats and sheep in the children's zoo. With only four of us participating in this portion we were each able to help catch one animal and trim at least two hooves. Had there been a larger group of us we may not have been able to participate to the same degree. In my opinion this group size was nice and with more people we would have needed more time and more animals to acquire this same amount of practice. Overall, this experience

was very enjoyable and all of the keepers were exceptionally helpful and supportive. I am extremely grateful to have participated in this workshop and I look forward to the next subject that is taught.

AAZK San Diego would like to extend a huge thank you to vets Dr. Morris and Dr. Delk and to the North Crew – Fred Myers, Joe Shuler, Roger Peterson, Charlie Hyde, Torrey Pilsbury and Julie Anderson for their help, time and patience in teaching us!

## Golf for Wildlife

By Jeremy Fountaine, AAZK San Diego Member

It all started as a personal challenge: organize a golf tournament and see if friends would come and play, and hopefully raise some money.

In 2014 I put together a golf tournament through the San Diego Zoo Global Wildlife Conservancy called 'I Golf for Wildlife'. I worked very closely with members of the Development and Graphics team at the zoo for guidance and support and decided to host the golf tournament at the Balboa Golf Course. It was a 9-hole, shot gun style (everyone starts at a different hole), 32 person event. I emailed a few places around San Diego and got a few donations for the silent auction and raised about \$2,400. I was thrilled, not because I pulled it off, but because I had the support from family and friends from San Diego and back in New England.



I started thinking about where I wanted to take this golf event. I knew it had to be bigger, especially because I wanted to raise more money! I decided to present my tournament to AAZK to see if they would sponsor it...THEY DID! I might have been too ambitious with this event, but I decided to have a full 18-hole event at the prestigious Coronado Golf Course. I emailed businesses, big and small, all over San Diego for donations, I visited local breweries, I started a website, purchased a domain name, went to golf shops and even met with some San Diego Charger players. I wanted to go BIG and on May 31, 2015 the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Golf for Wildlife golf fundraising event took place.

The event hosted people from all over San Diego and even friends who flew in from New England. Kendall Reyes, Sean Lissemore, Mitch Unrein and Dontrelle Inman of the San Diego Chargers played as well! In total 75 participants played. Golf for Wildlife raised \$11,900, a 400% increase from the first event. \$4,000 of the money went to two projects I feel very passionate about. The money raised from this event went to building breeding enclosures for the endangered Fiji Iguana in Fiji and to help rebuild and supply the education department of the Abidjan Zoo in the Ivory Coast.



In 2011, the Abidjan Zoo was greatly affected by its second civil war destroying several buildings, including the education department that previously educated 1,000,000 students each year. Education resources such as computers, paper, and reading books were either stolen or burned making the recovery devastating, not only economically but also academically. This past year a new education building was restored but is still drastically far behind in recouping the necessary supplies for its youth's enrichment needs. Funds raised by Golf for Wildlife will help purchase these supplies including several iPads. Visiting students from all around the country will benefit academically, and these additional visitors will also produce revenue for the zoo itself.

Fiji Iguanas, part of the Fijian Iguana Conservation Fund at the San Diego Zoo Global, are in urgent need of our help as well. The Fiji iguana is currently listed as 'Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation (IUCN), due to habitat loss and almost identical invasive species. Many locals mistakenly kill Fiji iguanas as well, believing they are completely different



species. Funds raised will help build outdoor housing enclosures for breeding pairs and their offspring, in hopes that one day they can be reintroduced into the wild to help stabilize the diminishing populations.

I could not thank AAZK, enough, especially Ann, Lindsey and Yvette for all their hard work and most importantly their **patience** with me! I especially want to thank my parents who surprised me on the day of the event and my girlfriend Jess

who let me cram our small apartment with donation and silent auction items! I am so excited for next year's event that will take place on June 5, 2016 at the Coronado Golf course (Save the Date). Next year we are shooting for 100 participants!

## AAZK San Diego is Going Green!

By Kym Janke, AAZK San Diego Secretary and Newsletter Editor

While I will be the first to admit that my 5 year old niece can school me in the use of computers, iPads and social media I still know the basics. Email, web access and the internet are things I use in my everyday life and I think you would be hard pressed to find many people in a developed nation not proficient at their use. I mean it took my father some time to jump on board but even he fell victim to the ease and necessity of the digital age!

At its core, AAZK San Diego is a conservation organization and not much needs help more than our world's forests. With that in mind quarterly editions of the newsletter will be sent only in electronic form beginning with the Spring 2016 issue. Please send your updated email address to [aazksnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aazksnewsletter@gmail.com) to ensure that you will continue to receive the publication. I assure you that this will not add your name or info to any of our other mailing lists. I do however encourage you to become a part of our network to stay up to date on all of our current events and so if you would like to choose to become a part of the full mailing list please indicate this in your email.

Also a reminder that you can always stay in touch with us through our facebook page [www.facebook.com/sdaazk](http://www.facebook.com/sdaazk) and our website [www.sdaazk.org](http://www.sdaazk.org).

If we do not receive your electronic contact info by 1 January 2016 then the Winter issue will be your last...and that is sad news!

## AAZK San Diego Membership Form

- Check here if you are renewing
- Professional (must already be an AAZK National; adding local San Diego membership w/access to workshops) \$25.00
- Full (must already be an AAZK National; adding local San Diego membership) \$15.00
- Supporter (local AAZK San Diego Membership Only) \$15.00
- 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:

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

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**CALENDAR 2015**

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

**September 10, 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](mailto:annkntsn@yahoo.com)

**September 13, 2015: Stand Up For Giraffes.**

This event will take place at Carlsbad Lagoon on Sunday, 9/13, from 5:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. 100% of the monies raised go directly toward giraffe conservation. Event registration includes use of stand up paddle board (SUP), canoe, kayak, aquacycle and paddleboats. Scheduled are special drawings, dance and costume contests, carnival games and much more. Event profits will be donated to AAZK San Diego's Wild About Giraffe conservation efforts. These funds support a two-year pilot project in the heart of the reticulated giraffe range at West Gate Conservancy in Kenya. This land is not only home to giraffe but also shared with local pastoralists, herders, and small scale agriculturalists. Over just the past 15 years, reticulated giraffe have declined drastically by over 80%, from 28,000 to about 4,700 today. At this rate, these giraffes will be extinct by 2019.

To purchase tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-up-for-giraffes-tickets-16917807618>

**September 28, 2015: Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) presentation with UCF Founding Trustee, Michael Keigwin.**

Join The SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund as Michael shares his work, projects, and associated conservation issues from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm at SeaWorld San Diego's Education Camp Center Multi-Purpose Room. This event is free and open to all.

Directions: Off of SeaWorld Drive turn North at the light at S. Shores Park and follow the road around to the left. At the Security check-point turn left. Once inside the SeaWorld parking area please park on the right-hand-side and proceed on foot to the Education/Camp Gate.

**October 2015: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Croctober Fest.**

The American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) San Diego chapter and San Diego Zoo Global's Reptile Department are joining forces to help crocodylian conservation by hosting "Croctober Fest," an island themed fundraiser in October of 2015. 100% of proceeds raised during this event will go towards crocodylian conservation. Habitat protection and education programs are just a few of the items needed to protect these amazing species from extinction.

Croctober Fest will feature a silent auction, live music, best Hawaiian shirt contest, and a pig roast as part of the island themed. The event will run from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm with 100% of all proceeds benefiting crocodylian conservation.

More info coming soon.

**Details about these and all our events available on our website at [www.sdaazk.org](http://www.sdaazk.org)!**

**Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sdaazk](http://www.facebook.com/sdaazk)**