



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 – Summer 2017

President's Message

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President

During my time on the AAZK San Diego Board, we have raised tens of thousands of dollars for conservation organizations around the world. Each of these events costs us money to be able to host and organize.

There are costs most people don't even realize we are covering. There are printing costs, the cost of insurance, bank fees for donations, costs associated with our non-profit status such as re-charter fees and tax filing fees. Those are just a few of the expenses our chapter occurs.

We have tried to raise money for our chapter in a number of different ways. We hate to host fundraisers for the chapter, but know we have to in order to keep raising money for the other conservation organizations around the world.

So, when it comes to raising money for ourselves you can see each of us shy away from the idea when it is brought up at a meeting, until Kindred offered to do a fundraiser night for us. This was so exciting, mostly because we all L-O-V-E the food and cocktails at Kindred! We decided to make it a social as well! We are hoping that all of you will join us for a fun social night that will also help us to keep raising funds and awareness for wildlife conservation!



Bowling for Rhinos 2017

By Yvette Kemp, AAZK SD Treasurer and BFR Coordinator

Bowling for Rhinos is always an exciting event for our San Diego chapter. It is THE event of the year and one that our board and BFR committee has focused on since we began participating in 1990. It's the event that not just unites the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park keepers, but brings us together with other local organizations like SeaWorld, the CA Wolf Center, Lions Tigers & Bears, and the community. This year's BFR took place at Kearny Mesa Bowl on May 20th with a total of 35 bowling teams and approximately 200 participants!

Thanks to all of our great sponsors and donors, we had quite an array of items for the silent auction and raffle. Items donated from Café on Park, World Famous Restaurant, The Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel, Memories in Portrait, and so many other local businesses and individuals. I would have to say that a large majority of our participants look forward to the auction and raffle because of the items that can be found. And to make it a little bit more exciting, for the 2nd year in a row we have incorporated the "grab bags." Our grab bags are little surprise \$1 and \$5 packets that are filled with just about anything and that sometimes can have an amazing item.

Other activities at BFR include the dance contest and Best Dressed Team contest. Participants have become quite competitive and it's always interesting to see what happens.

New to this year's event was the participation of a delicious food truck. Thanks to O Food Truck for their willingness to join the BFR team and even donate a portion of their sales to the event. Also donating a portion of food and drink sales was Kearny Mesa Bowl. Even though we have been hosting the event at their alley every year, we had not previously coordinated a donation of sales. Besides offering a great bowling rate for us year after year, they donated a portion of all sales from the night to BFR!



One way that San Diego Zoo Global has participated during the last several years in through a donation of four annual leave days for all employees who participate at the event. Just for showing up, SDZG employees can enter their name into a drawing to win one of the four days off. This year's lucky winners were Marianne Belasco-Zeitz from the San Diego Zoo's Vet Services, Maggie Reinhold from the Institute for Conservation Research, Beau Parks from the Avian Propagation Center, and Bill Whipple from the Zoo's Finance Department. Congratulations to all the lucky winners and thank you to Hans and our wonderful Human Resources Department for that great donation.

Our biggest contest of the evening is to see who can raise the most funds for BFR. If that person is a local and national AAZK member, they are entered into the National AAZK contest to win a trip to either Africa or Asia to see exactly how the BFR money is going to work. We knew from several months ago that this event was going to be competitive and it was. This year's winner of the most funds raised went to Charlie Hyde, a mammal keeper from the Safari Park, who raised \$3,345 for rhino conservation. Because we are very proud of all the work that is put into raising funds, AAZK San Diego donates the entire amount from the event in the winner's name in hopes that that person will win the trip to Africa or Asia. So this year, we will be sure to send the entire amount in Charlie's name. Good job Charlie! And we also want to thank Alison Holland, who raised \$2,576, and Ann Knutson, who raised \$1,320, for their hard work and dedication to BFR.

So just how much money did our chapter raise this year? Well you can imagine our excitement when we realized that we were just under a previous record amount raised. By the end of the evening of May 20th, we had raised \$24,316! There is nothing like a challenge and once our board discovered where we were at, the call was made to keep raising funds to break our record. As of now, we are at \$24,661!!! In fact, we want to keep raising funds until August 20th to see just how far we can go. We invite you to join us in this challenge in raising much needed funding for rhino conservation. Please contact one of our board members if you would like to add a donation the total we have so far.

We hope that you join us for next year's BFR event. We hope to keep raising the bar and spreading the word, while raising funds for those extraordinary creatures called rhinos.



National Zoo Keeper Week

By Ann Knutson, AAZK SD President

National Zoo Keeper Week is always at a very busy time of year for Keepers. AAZK San Diego board members always have a ton of ideas on how to make keepers feel special and highlight their passion for others to see, but have to cut back because we know most of our schedules are pretty full to begin with.



This year we decided on three events. Two new events to Zoo Keeper week and one repeat from last year. The first event of the week was the Lemur Love event. We partnered with Lemur Love, a non-profit organization working on conservation of lemurs in their native Madagascar, to help raise funds and awareness. This event not only raised over \$3000.00 for the conservation of Lemurs in Madagascar, but highlighted the passion and dedication Keepers have to conservation.

Rochelle Willison of the San Diego Zoo Primate department spends her days caring for Lemurs and other primates. Then she chose to spend her free time working with other Keepers to put together a successful and fun event to raise money for Lemurs. It is not easy to put an event together, and even harder to put together a successful one!

Later in the week we wanted to give Keepers a chance to relax and have some fun, so after a successful bonfire last year, we decided to throw another one. The bonfire was lots of fun with loads of options for making s'mores. The favorite of the night was a tie between thin mint cookies with toasted marshmallow or a Reese's peanut cup in exchange for the chocolate. This year's bonfire was a little more low-key than last year, with at least one guest collapsing in exhaustion (see picture).



To end out the week Bobby Brett put together a wonderful opportunity for Keepers to improve their photography skills. Many of us (myself included) have hobbies on the side that include photography. I didn't have much knowledge on how to use my camera, but love taking pictures of wildlife. Bobby paired us up with members of the Focusing group, who are amazing photographers who shared their knowledge with each of us. I learned so much within the first hour, and was able to take some amazing shots!



Although I enjoyed the events we did this year, I would like to add more events that highlight and educate the public about what Animal Care Professionals do for their animals and conservation. If you have any ideas for next year's National Zoo Keeper Week, please feel free to share them with us at sdaazk@gmail.com.

Lemur Love

By Rochelle Wilson, AAZK San Diego member

We were recently able to share our passion for primates by spearheading a fundraiser for lemurs. Lemurs are the most threatened group of vertebrates on earth and are included on the list of the most poached animals. Lemur Love, our chosen recipient, is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire love for lemurs through advancing and supporting actions enabling Madagascar's wildlife and people thrive. It was founded by Dr Marni LaFleur and cofounded by Dr Tara Clarke in 2010. Their focus is to address the lemur pet and bushmeat trade along with habitat destruction. In addition to studying lemurs in the wild, they work to educate the local people; help in training of handicraft production for direct sales to tourists generating income for a local women's association; visit with local sanctuaries to help with rescued lemurs; all while collecting fecal samples from wild lemurs to create a genetic map that will help people to understand the geographic origin of illegal trafficked lemurs.

Our job was much easier than theirs! We just wanted to create a fun place to socialize and raise money to help. So on July 18 we held our fundraiser at North Park Beer Co which included a silent auction and raffle with original art and items from Madagascar. Through the generous donations of people and friends we were able to raise over \$3700 to help Lemur Love continue the fight for lemurs and Madagascar. Thanks to everyone who helped, donated and attended our event. Please visit Lemur Love's website or FB page for more info on a great organization.



Croctoberfest 2017

By Lawrie Arends, AAZK San Diego member

In October 2013, the San Diego Zoo Reptile Department and the San Diego chapter of AAZK held the first Croctoberfest and it has been a staple for AAZK San Diego ever since!

This year we are celebrating our 5th annual Croctoberfest and will be throwing our support behind the West African Dwarf Crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*). Currently listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Redlist, our fundraising efforts this year will help support population surveys in West Africa including two countries that have yet to be visited: Liberia and Sierra Leone. In the last 10 years, there has been a new classification of 3 sub species for the dwarf crocodiles, as well as identifying a population that is living almost entirely within caves and feeding on bats and crickets. These surveys are essential to have a greater understanding of the species, and could lead to changes in their conservation status.

If current research in Africa on a sympatric crocodilian species, the Slender Snouted Crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*), is correct the habitat essential for this small crocodilian species is in peril. Pollution, human encroachment, habitat loss, and hunting are the major struggles being faced by the dwarf crocodiles.

Coming in at a maximum length of 2m (78”), this is the smallest species of crocodile in the world. Unlike most other crocodilian species, these guys are found happily hunting on land in the forests with food items ranging from invertebrates to fish to small mammals. Being a fairly cryptic species the dwarf crocs avoid major waterways and hunker down in burrows by the waters edge during the day, to return at night to feast.



If you'd like to see some for yourself, head down to the new exhibit African Rocks at the zoo and see our pair in their new digs.

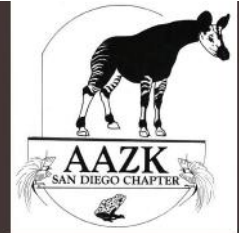
This years event is going to be held on October 19th between 5 - 9pm at Bay City Brewing Co (3760 Hancock St, San Diego 92110). Tickets are \$10 and can be prepurchased online at www.sdaazk.org or at the door. For the third year in a row the guys at Bay City with be pouring their own brews to our patrons as they enjoy the view in the tasting room or relax on the outside patio. To delight your tastebuds, food will be served from some of San Diego's local food trucks that were an absolute hit last year.

With the event falling so close to Halloween, we will be having a JUNGLE theme! Think animal prints, Tarzan and Jane, crocs, monkeys, birds or anything jungle related. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes! We will also have raffle items and silent auctions - so get there early to get your bid on!

Looking forward to seeing you all there, please come on down and help us give these little crocs the huge help that they need!



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOKEEPERS,
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER & THE SAN DIEGO ZOO
REPTILE DEPARTMENT PRESENT:



5TH ANNUAL CROCTOBERFEST

HELPING TO SAVE
WEST AFRICAN DWARF CROCODILES,
1 BEER AT A TIME

Join us at our jungle
themed, family
friendly event to
raise money for the
dwarf crocs!

Small in stature but
mighty important, all
proceeds raised will
assist population counts
in countries never
surveyed before.

This information will help
to focus conservation
efforts for breeding and
reintroduction in the
future.



- Costume prizes.
- Local food trucks.
- Raffles.
- Silent Auctions.
- Delicious beers.

Don't miss your
chance
to help!

Tickets are \$10
available at
sdaazk.org
or at the door.

OCTOBER 19TH, 2017

5PM -9PM BAY CITY BREWING CO.
3760 HANCOCK ST, SAN DIEGO CA 92110

FOR MORE INFO VISIT SDAAZK.ORG
OR CONTACT US CROCTOBERFESTSD@GMAIL.COM



AUGUST
30
2017



COCKTAILS FOR CONSERVATION

KINDRED
1503 30th Street in South Park
4 pm - Close

Help AAZK-San Diego support wildlife, conservation, and education by visiting Kindred on Wednesday, August 30, 2017.

15% of sales will go to AAZK-SD

Enjoy craft cocktails and delicious vegan cuisine in one of San Diego's best neighborhoods for night-life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: SDAAZK.COM



XXIV ALPZA Congress – A Cuban Experience

By Yvette Kemp, AAZK SD Treasurer

This year's Asociación Latinoamericana de Parques Zoológicos y Acuarios (ALPZA) conference took place from May 29th to June 2nd in beautiful Havana, Cuba. With over 9 Latin American countries plus representatives from the U.K., South Africa, Germany, Australia and the U.S. for a total of 250 participants, it truly was quite an international gathering!

Topics varied from animal welfare to accreditation and standards to conservation but in the end, it was all about working together. With this in mind, Guillermo Delfino from Argentina's Fundacion Temaiken and a representative from the International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ), and myself representing the U.S.'s American Association of Zoo Keepers' (AAZK) and its International Outreach Committee (IOC), were able to share how our respective keeper associations play an important part in keeper growth.



As we are aware, the role of keepers has changed dramatically and keepers are now an integral part of the organizations they work for. Keepers are involved in all aspects of animal care and participate in many conservation projects inside and outside of their jobs. The conference was a great opportunity to share how each of the keeper associations work; how they can assist with keeper training, the resources they offer, and the support they can bring to animal care professionals around the world. Both the ICZ and AAZK offered Latin American keepers a link to reach out and become involved with other keepers by joining their keeper associations. AAZK even formed the IOC with Latin American keepers in mind, offering all their available resources plus a grant to attend the annual AAZK Conference.

Although the ALPZA Conference was a great experience and the Parque Zoologico Nacional de Cuba was an amazing host, it was the time after the conference that I think that Guillermo and I were able to make the biggest impact.

Thanks to ALPZA Executive Director, Martin Zordan, Guillermo and I, along with Dave Morgan from Wild Welfare and Julian Castellanos from the San Diego Zoo, were able to lead a 3 day workshop for 30 animal care personnel from several of the Cuban zoos. The workshop covered many topics important to keeper development such as documentation, security, animal welfare, enrichment, and exhibit design, and thanks to everyone's participation, I believe we all left with valuable and applicable information. Participants were able to apply their knowledge in exercises and it was great to see the Cuban keepers debating, sharing, and working together to accomplish various projects. It was the first such workshop for most of them and we were happy to see how much they enjoyed the experience.

The conference and workshop have ended, but that doesn't mean that the ties must break. Already, I have received multiple emails from people I met and I know I will keep in touch with. AAZK's National Conference will take place soon in Washington, DC, from August 27th through The Keeper – Summer 2017

the 31st. AAZK will be celebrating its 50th anniversary and we hope to see some new faces, including the winner of this year's IOC Latin American Travel Grant Zazyl Macias Mendez from Guadalajara, Mexico.

The ICZ's congress will be taking place in October of 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This presents another opportunity for animal care professionals to come together and share their experiences while making professional connections.

Thanks to Martin and ALPZA, the Parque Zoologico Nacional de Cuba, and all our new friends in beautiful Cuba for their hospitality. I look forward to keeping in touch and working together again. And I invite everyone to become more involved in their keeper associations (or starting one if you don't have one – we'd love to help you with that). Both the ICZ (iczoo.org) and AAZK (aazk.org) are here for your support and know the value of sharing our experiences. Hope to hear from you soon!



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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CALENDAR 2017 visit www.sdaazk.org for updates

Aug 30, 2017: Cocktails for Conservation. Join AAZK San Diego as we eat, drink and be merry for conservation at Kindred (1503 30th Street, in San Diego's South Park area) from 4:00 pm until closing. AAZK San Diego will receive 15% of all sales that will go directly to

help us with the various conservation efforts we support throughout the year.

October 2, 2017. Action for Cheetahs in Kenya. Guest speaker Mary Wysterera will give us an update of ACK's work. Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Location: San Diego Zoo's Otto Center. More details to come.

October 19, 2017: Croctoberfest. This year's fundraiser will benefit the African Dwarf Crocodile. Location: Bay City Brewing Co., 3760 Hancock St., SD 92110. There will be a silent auction, food trucks, a coloring contest for kids, and more. Cost: \$10 per ticket. More info to come.

Sep 14, 2017: AAZK Meeting. You are invited to participate and join us at the next AAZK Board meeting at 5:30 pm, taking place at The Rose 2219 30th St., SD 92104. 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.

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

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