



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

Kristen Craig – San Diego Zoo
President, Membership,
Event Coordinator

Grace Yambrach – SeaWorld
Vice President,
Conservation Partner Officer

Yvette Kemp – San Diego Zoo
Treasurer

Kym Janke – San Diego Zoo
Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Bobby Brett – San Diego Zoo
Social Media Officer and
Member Liaison

Lauren Ayres- San Diego Zoo
Professional Development

Anita Brooks – San Diego Zoo
Board Support

Codey XXX – San Diego Zoo
Safari Park
Board Support

<u>Content:</u>	<u>PG</u>
President’s Message	1
Wildlife Trafficking	2
Croctoberfest	3
Carlsbad Marathon	5
Bowling for Rhinos	6
Elections	7
AAZK Membership	8
2019 Calendar	9

The Keeper

American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter Quarterly Newsletter –Winter 2018/2019

President’s Message

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President

Change can be hard, and it seems as though many of us are in a season of change. Whether it is new software at work, coworkers moving onto other institutions, or even new department locations, it can be hard to adjust.

As we navigate the changes in our lives we tend to focus on the difficulties and negative side of the process of change instead of looking at the benefits. Doing this only makes the change harder to deal with, and if you share the frustration with others this can impact how they view the change. It is important to remember that negativity can spread easily throughout a situation or a group of people.

At the same time, positivity can be contagious, and in a group complaining about the change one positive response can affect the conversation. So, instead of focusing on the problems the software is having, losing that coworker, or having to move to another location, focus instead on the fact that the majority of kronos clocks are gone, the great ideas a new person can bring in, or how amazing your area will be once renovated.

The next time you are faced with a change, try to take a step back and see the positive side.

Combating Wildlife Trafficking

By Yvette Kemp, AAZK San Diego Treasurer

AAZK San Diego Chapter has been involved in many projects throughout the years, but one that many of our members may not be aware of is our partnership with the U.S. Wildlife Trafficking Alliance (USWTA).



In 2014, the White House released the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking and in 2015, the U.S. Wildlife Trafficking Alliance (USWTA) was formed to coordinate organizations and governments to combat the blight of wildlife trafficking.

In 2016, the AAZK San Diego Board wanted to know how we could help educate the public regarding wildlife trafficking and raise awareness. Our chapter is already very involved in conservation projects locally and globally, many which touch upon the effects wildlife trafficking has on conservation, but we knew that there was still more that we could do. After speaking with Sara Walker, Executive Director for the USWTA, we realized the best way to assist would be by becoming a nonprofit partner of USWTA. As a partner, AAZK San Diego has committed to battling wildlife trafficking by sharing USWTA's messages on our social media channels, website, and newsletter. Through our social media and other communications, we have shared the work the USWTA is involved in and how we all can become more active against wildlife trafficking. As we all know, education, communication, and the ability to work together is essential in preserving our natural world. We need to spread the word in hopes of stopping consumer demand for wildlife and wildlife products.

In 2018, USWTA announced their partnership with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to fight the global epidemic of wildlife trafficking, becoming AZA's wildlife trafficking program. With AZA, USWTA coordinates efforts with AZA facilities to protect wild animal populations via AZA's SAFE program (Saving Animals From Extinction). Sara Walker is now the Senior Advisor on Wildlife Trafficking for AZA and continues to raise public awareness on the wildlife trafficking crisis.

So what does this all mean for our AAZK San Diego members? As a USWTA partner, we have joined forces with many other organizations and animal care facilities to bring awareness of what is happening to our wildlife. We need to help reduce consumer demand for wildlife products by being an example and adopting best practices as general consumers. There are also several foundations, companies, corporations, and private sector groups that have joined AZA & USWTA to combat wildlife trafficking, but again, we need to do more. We need to make sure that we, as individuals dedicated to preserving our natural resources and wildlife, know what information to share with our friends, family, and the people we interact with every day. Information AAZK San Diego receives from AZA and USWTA has valuable facts regarding projects, project participation, and how we can become informed consumers.

When you visit the AAZK San Diego website (www.sdaazk.org) you can click onto two different links: one that highlights a great article that was written in 2016 (then updated in 2017) regarding the need for corporations to become involved in ending wildlife trafficking and some additional information regarding the National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking. The second link (Be Informed, Buy Informed) gives tips regarding wildlife products and a guide for travelers along with a “Buyer Beware List.” There are also facts on animal populations that are in trouble, how protecting wildlife is good for business, and how we each have the power to stop the killing. Once you have had a chance to view all the information here, be sure to visit AZA’s SAFE page (<https://www.aza.org/aza-safe>) to learn more about the SAFE program.

You’ll also be proud to know that AAZK SD Board Members and members have contributed to several of the AZA SAFE program projects. AAZK San Diego has hosted many fundraising events throughout the years, but we have also provided financial support to AZA SAFE programs for vultures, giraffes, vaquitas, and rhinos. As the only AAZK Chapter to be a member of USWTA, we are proud to be able contribute in as many ways a possible.

Next time you see one of AAZK San Diego’s FB posts or emails with information regarding the USWTA/ AZA SAFE, we invite you to read the details. Help us spread the word and join the fight to stop wildlife trafficking.

Croctoberfest 2018

By Lawrie Arends, AAZK San Diego Member

The San Diego Zoo's Reptile Department and the American Association of Zoo Keepers San Diego Chapter (AAZK SD) teamed up once again to host our 6th annual CroctoberFest. This family-friendly event was held on October 25th, 2018 at Bay City Brewing Company in San Diego, California.



This time we celebrated with a carnival theme encouraging guests to play games, enjoy turkey legs, silent auctions, raffles and even a pie eating competition!



The goal for this event was to raise money and awareness for critically endangered Siamese crocodiles, and not only did achieve this but we smashed expectations by raising over \$3000!

This event wouldn't have been as great a success as it was without the donations of local San Diego small businesses, volunteers who helped the night run smoothly, the hardworking Reptile Team/AAZK SD and

of course all of you!

A special shout out to our fearless pie eaters; Karissa Mechler, Brandon Ward, Katherine Kerr, Joseph Boucree and Cody Kroft who was named 2018 Croctoberfest Pie Eating Champion! These guys provided some excellent entertainment and put up a valiant effort all in the name of crocodilian conservation.



We would also like to make a very special mention of the tremendously generous local & national businesses who have supported our fundraising efforts both this year and over the last 6 years.

Major Sponsors:

Zilla, Bay City Brewing, AAZK SD

Contributing folks/businesses:

Angry Crocodile food truck, Brett Baldwin, Boutique Vino, Carlson Knife Works, Donald Veale, Glacier Rock Soaps, #hairbyJesseEstrella, Honest Thrift Studio, The Little Wino, Lorena Desingz, Melissa Pozarowski, Pet Kingdom, Peter Barbaros, San Diego Botanical Gardens, Ted's Grooming & Pet Supply, Underpressure Nature Photography, vomFass.

The crocs thank you! We thank you!

All proceeds from this event are going towards on the ground conservation for Siamese crocodiles, in their natural ranges of South East Asia. Currently listed as critically endangered, the Siamese crocodile inhabits riverine areas of South East Asia and is one of the least known crocodilian species in the world. With the limited knowledge that is available, the wild populations are estimated to be a mere 1000 individuals.

Significant threats have led to their population declining over the last century. Primarily the largest historical threat was harvesting for their skins/hides which are then used for leather, or collection for farming purposes. In recent years Siamese Crocodiles have been the victim of bycatch (non-target species captured and killed in fishing nets), and their populations have been greatly impacted by illegal collection of eggs and individuals from wild populations.



Thanks to your generous help, we will be able to provide financial support to the incredible conservationists who are working on the ground to improve the plight of these wonderful creatures! This support will include the continuation of field surveys to gain invaluable natural history knowledge and monitoring & in-situ breeding and re-introduction programs (captive breeding in home range countries).

We are looking forward to yet another awesome family-friendly event in 2019 and can't wait to spread the crocodilian love with you all. See you next CroctoberFest!

2019 Carlsbad Marathon

By Ann Knutson, AAZK San Diego President

AAZK San Diego has been crashing the Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon and Half Marathon for six years. We have been taking our amazing rhino boards with us since the beginning to not only share the plight of the rhino, but to promote Bowling for Rhinos and the ways people can help. This year was no different in our purpose but was different in two other ways that really stood out.



First, we had the fewest number of volunteers that we have ever had. There are a number of different reasons we had so few volunteers, but the biggest reason may be that we did not do a good job promoting the opportunity. This is something we will strive to improve upon in future for all upcoming events. With that being said, even being few in number, we had a great time and had the very best of volunteers out there. The marathon organizers lessened the amount of locations we were covering, so that even with our smaller group of volunteers we were able to still cover our assigned areas. AAZK San Diego had

considered not participating in the marathon this year, but the race organizers talked us into it. I would guess based on the runner's reactions to the rhinos, that they like having us out there even if there are not very many of us.

The second big change was the increase in runners doing the 5K. This race itself is fairly new to the Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon but has been gaining in popularity. When the organizers had mentioned the increase in participants, I did not think it would make an impact on our volunteering. As the day went on though, we noticed that some brave and maybe a little crazy individuals ran the 5K and then turned around and ran the Half Marathon as well. This meant that those individuals went by us four times!

Now, I pride myself on my cheering abilities, but I hadn't realized how repetitive I can be. This never really mattered, as most people run by at the beginning of the race where I have a certain set of cheers, and then pass by again at the end of their race where I have switched to letting them know what a great job they are doing and that they are almost done. Unfortunately, for those who completed both the 5K and the half marathon, they had to hear my loud and probably somewhat obnoxious cheers four different times! At one point, a runner ran by and told me in a somewhat exacerbated tone that he had seen me four times that morning. For the most part, I feel that the majority of runners appreciated the encouragement, but as in everyday life there were bound to be those who found it irritating.

Overall, it was a great day! The weather was perfect, our volunteers were amazing (as usual), and I only seem to have annoyed a few people.



Bowling for Rhinos 2019

By Kym Janke, AAZK San Diego secretary

Mark your calendars for Bowling for Rhinos May 18, 2019! As usual the event will be held at Kearny Mesa Bowl and will be a fun filled evening, featuring games, contests, food, drinks, bowling and great friends!

Gearing up to fundraise for your chance to win a trip to Kenya or Indonesia with BFR's conservation partners Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the International Rhino Foundation? AAZK provides an amazing opportunity for deserving BFR contributors from the top four highest fund generating sanctioned events to spend two weeks learning first-hand about the impact our fundraising has on these great organizations. *Listen up as there have been some rule changes imposed by AAZK's National Board of Directors.* This year AAZK San Diego is required to submit our nominee for the trip by the BFR registration deadline which is May 1st. Due to this change AAZK San Diego will be nominating the individual to raise the most funds, above \$1500, by April 29th 2019. Watch for details soon on how to set up an online fundraising platform and start asking all your friends and family to contribute today! AAZK San Diego will also honor the top fundraiser with a special prize the night of the event.

Looking forward to our most successful BFR event yet!

Meet Your 2019 AAZK San Diego Board Members!

By Kym Janke, AAZK San Diego Secretary

Elections were held and the results are in! AAZK San Diego is excited to welcome Anita Brooks and Codey XXX to our Board of Directors. They will be filling in and stepping up to help in various capacities where ever needed as Board Support.

A big congratulations and thank you is in order to Ann Knutson. She has served as the AAZK San Diego President for the past 5 years but is now moving on to further her career in a new role at the Dallas Zoo! This meant that there were some big shoes to fill, but not to worry, our amazing VP Kristen Craig graciously accepted the position of President and Grace Yambrach has stepped up to fill the Vice President role. Kristen has agreed to continue with her great event coordination and Grace will continue to provide AAZK San Diego with conservation opportunities and updates.

Moving forward in 2019 the executive board of AAZK San Diego will be:

President- Kristen Craig
Vice President- Grace Yambrach
Treasurer- Yvette Kemp Secretary - Kym Janke
Professional Development – Lauren Ayres
Social Media- Bobby Brett
Support- Codey
Support- Anita Brooks

Thank you Ann! AAZK San Diego wishes you the best of luck, you will be missed here!!!



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
- 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:

- 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
- 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
- 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 2019 visit www.sdaazk.org for updates

Wednesday March 13: You are invited to participate and join us at the next AAZK Board meeting at 5:30 pm. Watch for a Facebook poll coming soon to determine the location. The first hour of the meeting will be business and then we will hang out for some social time! Our meetings are open to all and we welcome everyone's input and participation. For more information, email AAZK San Diego president at kristenreneeecraig@gmail.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