



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 –Spring 2019

President’s Message

By Kristen Craig, AAZK San Diego President

As I sit here writing my very first President’s Message, I am feeling so much excitement for what the future will bring for our AAZK San Diego chapter. I am ready to take on this new role and the challenges it will bring, and hopefully contribute to our forward movement as professionals working towards amazing conservation goals. I am here to support each and every one of our members in their quest for continued education and networking. Overall, I hope you all can look to me for any help and guidance you might need that our AAZK chapter can offer you.

I have to give a huge thank you to Ann Knutson, our former president, for her mentorship during my years as a member, then board member of the San Diego chapter. Her abundant passion and drive was an inspiration to many of us. I was in awe at the remarkable conservation work she was always involved with, not only through AAZK, but also in the field doing the hands-on grunt work to save species and habitats. We wish her all the luck and continued success as her journey continues in Texas. Know that I will be looking to her still for guidance and support while I strive to fill the shoes she has left behind.

To our members, I want to open the communication lines and make sure you know I am here for any questions or concerns you may have, any ideas you want to share, changes you want to see made, or directions you wish for our chapter to take. We exist because of your passion and we want to celebrate that! In order to do that, keep your eyes peeled for some changes to your membership benefits in the coming months. We want to make sure you get as much out of being an AAZK San Diego member as you put in. I have reached out to other chapters and our board members to help come up with new ways of not only showing our appreciation to our members, but also providing a larger impact on your conservation and professional goals. We are all excited to put together a new benefit package that supports you as much as you support us and our chapter’s goals and mission!

Please take a couple minutes next time you see me at work, one of our board meetings, or at the next event you attend to come over and say hi! I would love to connect with you and hear what you are passionate about. Speaking of events, I hope to see you all at Bowling for Rhinos on May 18th!

Until then, cheers!

Bowling for Rhinos 2019

By Kym Janke, AAZK San Diego Secretary

Have you registered for Bowling for Rhinos??? Don't miss out on this amazing night of fun, friends, and conservation! The event will be held Saturday May 18th at Kearny Mesa Bowl, 6-9pm. All the registration details can be found on our website at <http://sdaazk.com/2019-events/bowling-for-rhinos-2019/>

Teams are made up of 5 individuals, but don't worry if you don't have a team you can still register and make some new friends! Registration is \$10 per person and includes the lane and shoe rentals. Each bowler is required to bring a minimum \$50 donation to the event and remember you don't have to do this alone, ask your friends and family to support this great cause and make it easy for them by creating a fundraising page on Crowdrise!

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/bfr2019>

This year will feature amazing food from YoYo Bento, an Asian Confusion Fusion food truck! There will be some new contests, amazing raffle prizes, great silent auction items, and of course the bake sale! Don't forget that the bowling alley has a full bar – just remember to drink responsibly!

Looking for some new swag to show your support of conservation, look no further! We will have an amazing water bottle available for purchase in two vibrant colours. Missed out on a t-shirt or tank last year? We will have a limited number for sale this year. I am in LOVE with these shirts and know you will love it too! We didn't skimp on low quality shirts, these ones are so comfy you might want to buy two! Seriously I have worn mine consistently all year and they are some of my favourite shirts.



In case you have been living under a rock here is some basic information about the event and why it is so important!

What is Bowling for Rhinos?

Bowling for Rhinos (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; research projects benefitting all 5 species of rhinos; AND cheetah conservation in Kenya.

Why Support Bowling for Rhinos?

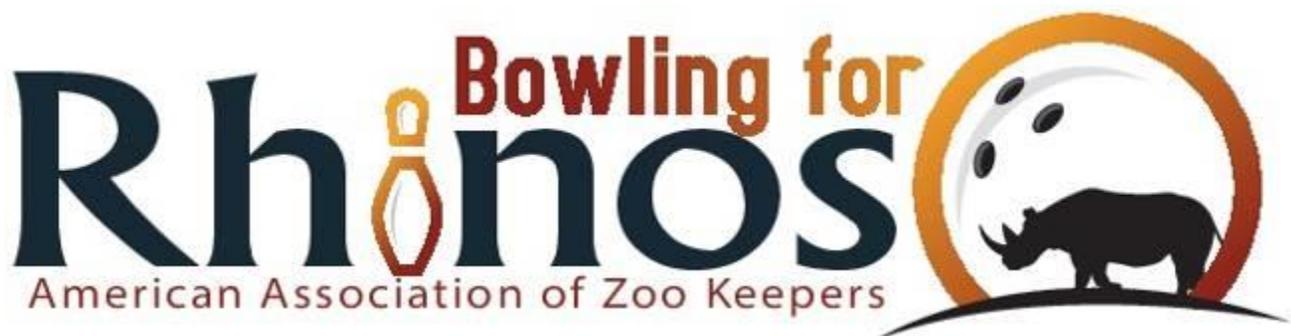
Only 5 species of rhino exist today when once there were over 100 species. All 5 species- the white, black, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan are endangered. In 1960, 60,000 black rhinos roamed Africa. Today only 5,500 remain in isolated populations. On the Asian continent, the greater one-horned population remains at 3,333. The Sumatran species numbers less than 100 and the Javan species has fewer than 60 animals.

In addition to protecting rhinos and all other species that live within their habitat, ***Bowling for Rhinos*** provides an opportunity of media coverage and marketing surrounding this event. We also invite you to use this experience as a team building event, encouraging conservation participation.

Who Coordinates Bowling for Rhinos?

Bowling for Rhinos is a fundraiser that began on a small scale in 1990 by the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). It is now an AAZK-sponsored North American event raising *over \$500,000 annually*. AAZK realized that the zoo keepers of the world are extremely conservation oriented and want to help save rhinos and their habitats, yet do not have the financial resources themselves to make any significant impact. That's when the idea to start a national bowl-a-thon called ***Bowling for Rhinos*** emerged.

These fundraisers are organized by AAZK chapter members who are volunteers and donate their time and organizational skills to help raise money to send directly to the places in need. Since all the people involved are volunteers, **100% of all donations** are sent directly to these in situ rhino conservation areas!



World Penguin Day

By Grace Yambrach, AAZK San Diego Vice President

April 25th is World Penguin Day. This celebratory day coincides with the annual northern migration of Adelle penguins. This intrinsic migration pattern is conserved across generations. Native to Antarctica are six breeding species, Emperor, King, Chinstrap, Adelle, Gentoo and Macaroni penguins. Penguins have distinct calls, enabling them to locate their mates in large groups. Penguin species lay up to two eggs per mating season with the Emperor and King penguins laying only one egg. Alarmingly, 10 out of the 18 species of penguins are threatened with extinction.



There is no creature on this planet that better represents survival against all odds than the penguin. Over the course of their existence, these remarkable birds have evolved numerous incredible adaptations that allow them to thrive in some of the world's most challenging marine environments. They can drink seawater, survive in temperatures as low -60°C (-76°F), and they are amazingly agile swimmers. Many can swim faster than we can run. But they are also under threat. While the penguins are heavily adapted for their environments, it has taken them millions of years to evolve these features, and human impact is hitting the penguins' environments too hard and too fast for them to cope. This is why over half of the world's penguins are now in real danger of going extinct.



As of 2018, more than 12 million penguins occupy the icy continent, according to the “State of Antarctic Penguin” report — but that’s not all of them. Roughly 40 million of the flightless birds live in the Southern Hemisphere, with only the Galápagos penguin living north of the equator. Populations of most penguin species are decreasing, and experts are worried. There are as many as 18 kinds of penguins but several species are endangered, with biologists warning that more should be classified as such. Yellow-eyed penguins are among the most threatened, with no more than 3,500 mature individuals remaining. Climate change impacts the distribution of the birds’ food within the ocean by moving it away and out of reach, drastically threatening their numbers in the future. This is one of several effects some climate scientists say cannot be stopped. Overfishing is also a huge problem for penguin populations. The erect-crested penguin has lost about three-quarters of its population in the last 20 years. The Galapagos penguin is also at risk of extinction, with fewer than 1,200 mature individuals remaining.

Here in San Diego, penguins can be found at Sea World and at the San Diego Zoo. Sea World has the most extensive collection. They are the only facility in the western hemisphere to house Emperors, the largest and along with their sister park in Orlando, the small but feisty Adelie. These two are true high Antarctic penguins. You will also find, King, Gentoo, Macaroni and Chinstrap penguins. Sea world also has two temperate species, Humboldt and Magellanic penguins. San Diego Zoo has the African Penguin, which is another of the temperate species but unfortunately for this species, there are roughly 50,000 left in the wild, which put them on the endangered list. So be sure to stop by and visit both facilities and celebrate this unique species of bird.



Projects for Wildlife Podcast

By Alicia Amerson, AAZK San Diego Supporter



On January 1, 2019, Alicia Amerson, a local San Diego marine biologist, launched the [Projects For Wildlife](#) podcast. The podcast features wildlife project leaders from around the world. From entrepreneurs to advocates, and researchers to policy makers they are sharing their struggles and triumphs in wildlife conservation. The podcast has a reach of more than 40 countries worldwide and over 2,000 downloads.

Many people around the world are seeking ways to get actively involved with wildlife conservation. This includes a larger number of young people who want to become leaders in this field and are already doing so. Not to mention the challenges associated to wildlife projects, there are the leaders who need a boost or new idea to help move their project along more smoothly. The podcast serves these groups as a guide for gaining new ideas, skills, tools, and resources for wildlife project planning, implementation, and success. And above all creates an opportunity for people around the world to collaborate and share ideas.

“Often people ask me questions about wildlife project management, so I thought I would go to the experts in the field and share their stories and experiences. I have always wanted to be a National Geographic journalist and photographer - so now I get to do it my way - through a podcast.”

Wildlife project leaders have a juggling act of tasks each day. Most want to support others who are curious about their work and provide an educational opportunity - but more often than not, there is not enough time to do it all. The goal of the podcast is to ask those important questions so that others can learn about challenges associated to wildlife projects and how leaders are overcoming these challenges. Every project is different and so are the solutions; which make this learning interesting and engaging. One common trait all the leaders interviewed so far have is their desire to help others succeed in saving wildlife.

There are 500,000+ podcasts to date and most podcasts in the “nature/conservation” podcast section are outdated and no longer active. The currently active podcasts in this genre are important because of the diversity of information shared by the hosts. For instance, some podcast hosts share up-to-date news from the field. Researcher-hosted podcasts share their viewpoints on challenging issues. Other podcast hosts interview scientists which creates a space for scientific findings to connect with the public in a way that makes science more friendly and fun. And then there is Projects For Wildlife the “DIY” or “How to” podcast for the environment and wildlife leaders to conduct successful wildlife projects and encourage leaders to join the mission of protecting wildlife.

Local San Diego guests of the podcast are also invited to speak at the Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery in La Jolla. These live events allow listeners to meet the wildlife leader in person. This brings humanity to the electronic world. As the podcast grows, Amerson hopes to provide online live events with guests to follow up on the success of their current projects and conduct projects for wildlife around the world by taking people to experience wildlife and conservation project operations.



Another aspect of the podcast is that guests are highlighted well in advance to the episode coming out - why? “There are no surprises!” Amerson feels that listeners should Know, Like, and Trust the guest before they ever hear the episode. That way they are more excited to listen and connect with the guest and their project. By doing it this way, Amerson is connecting quickly with more people, growing her audience and making a larger impact for the guest’s and their projects, which is the entire goal of the podcast. With minimal amount of philanthropy funds dedicated to conservation and wildlife she wants people to become more aware of how they can make a great impact with their donations each year.

“At the beginning of all this I was going to be thrilled to have 1,000 downloads by December 2019. It’s only April and there are over 2,000 downloads. Every episode exponentially grows in downloads and over 40 countries around the world have downloaded an episode more than one time.”

Amerson spent 13 years working as an environmental remediation project manager before completing her Master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 2015. Over the past four years she published two research papers on large whale ecotourism and bioenergetics and a book about reducing wildlife disturbance when flying drones. She worked for Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom (now California's Governor) as a Sea Grant Fellow in 2016 where she secured \$4.2 million dollars for pinniped stranding and large whale entanglement teams in California. After her fellowship she launched into the world of entrepreneurship. She started a coaching business to support conservation leaders by cultivating mindful habits for inner growth and rejuvenation while and connecting to their life's purpose. She believes all leaders need self-care in order to keep up the momentum necessary to fight extinction.

To listen to the podcast, go to www.projectsforwildlife.com.

If you want to pitch your project to the podcast, email Alicia at projectsforwildlife@gmail.com.

Follow Projects For Wildlife:

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Instagram - www.instagram.com/projectsforwildlife

Twitter - www.twitter.com/project4wildlf



Member Mondays

By Kym Janke, AAZK San Diego Secretary

In case you missed it AAZK San Diego's Facebook Page has been featuring a different member each month with interesting facts and photos every Monday!

Want to be featured as the member of the month or know someone who should be? Tell us what exciting projects you are involved in and we might just share them on social media! Email AAZK San Diego's social media officer Bobby Brett at robert.brett@rocketmail.com to get involved!

Welcome to AAZK San Diego Member Monday! Our first member is our passionate President, **Ann Catherine Knutson**!! Ann works at the San Diego Zoo with the Avian Propagation Center. Here is a photo of Ann working with the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), including mischievous cormorants. Watch for more posts during this month about Ann!



Member Monday continues with more fun facts about **Grace Yambrach**!! Grace has worked three seasons with the Sea Lion Rescue and has also worked with Oiled Wildlife Rescue Network out of UC Davis and CA Fish and Wildlife. The work saving wildlife is never done, but Grace has worked very hard to make a difference. Thank you Grace!



Welcome back to AAZK San Diego's Member Monday, featuring the passionate and creative **Kristen Craig**! Kristen loves supporting AAZK to help raise money for many worth-while conservation projects including Bowling for Rhinos! When she isn't working to protect our wildlife and their habitats she has begun experimenting with crafting!

"I've learned how to knit, hand embroider, and felt! It's been really fun learning how to make things with my hands, with the added benefit of getting me away from my phone."

One more Member Monday to go! Check back to learn more about our Vice President!



Member Monday for March ends with this fun fact about our very own **Yvette Kemp**! Not only is she very involved in AAZK San Diego, she also works with AAZK on a national level and heads the International Outreach Committee! They are currently focusing on Latin America and working hard to support learning and growth of their animal care and training programs. Thank you Yvette for all you do!



AAZK San Diego Membership Form

- Check here if you are renewing
- National and Professional Combo \$65.00
- 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 _____

National and San Diego Professional Combo membership:

This membership includes BOTH National Professional AAZK membership and the local San Diego Chapter Professional membership at a discount price. The National Professional (U.S.) membership, normally \$45, and the San Diego Professional membership, normally \$25, includes:

- Animal Keeper Forum magazine and San Diego newsletter Subscription
- Vote in Board Elections – national and local
- Vote for Conference Host
- Committee Opportunities – nationally and locally
- Hold Office at the Board of Directors level
- Hold Office at Chapter level
- Member Rates/Conferences
- Member Rates/Publications/Products
- Gratis Membership to AAZK Online
- Free admittance to all San Diego Chapter workshops and events

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

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 2019 visit www.sdaazk.org for updates

Thursday May 16th: You are invited to participate and join us at the next AAZK Board meeting at 5:00 pm. The meeting will take place at Panama 66, located in Balboa Park. 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

May 18, 2019: Bowling for Rhinos! Register today! Check out the articles in this edition of *The Keeper* or head to our website at www.sdaazk.org for all the details and to register!

Details about these and all our events available on our website at www.sdaazk.org!
Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sdaazk