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ON THE COVER
The Kansas City Zoo is hosting the 2013 Annual Conference from 7-12 of September. Early Bird Registration discounts end on August 16. To learn more, visit www.aza.org/annualconference.

CORRECTION
The author of the Aquarium Central to San Antonio Zoo’s First Century article in the June issue of CONNECT should have been listed as Craig Pelke, Curator of Reptiles and Aquatics at the San Antonio Zoo.
A Thru Z's new elephant project at Audubon Zoo Asian Elephant Complex

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The Kansas City Zoo and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) look forward to welcoming you to the AZA Annual Conference on September 7-12. This year’s Conference promises exciting and educational sessions, excellent keynote speakers, a wide range of product and service providers, and exceptional networking opportunities with over 2,000 attendees.

Kansas City is centrally located for convenient travel and in driving distance of ten AZA-accredited institutions. This will be our first time back in Kansas City for an annual conference since 1962, and this year, Conference attendees will have a chance for a hardhat preview the Zoo’s new Helzberg Penguin Plaza which is scheduled for completion this fall. This new exhibit will feature excellent viewing areas for both warm-water and cold-water species of penguins.

The keynote speaker at this year’s opening session is Dr. Robert Ballard, president of the Ocean Exploration Center at Mystic Aquarium and Ocean Exploration Trust. Best known for his discovery of the Titanic, Ballard has succeeded in tracking down numerous other significant shipwrecks, including the battleship Bismarck, the fleet of Guadalcanal, the U.S. aircraft carrier Yorktown and John F. Kennedy’s boat, PT-109. While those discoveries have captured the public’s imagination, Ballard believes his most important discoveries where of hydrothermal vents and “black smokers” in the Galapagos Rift and East Pacific Rise in the late 1970s along with their exotic life forms living off the Earth’s energy through a process known as chemosynthesis.

This year’s Annual Conference program is strong with over 200 submissions received by the Annual Conference Program Committee. The Committee chose 80 of the most compelling sessions which will feature your accomplished aquarium and zoo colleagues and knowledgeable professionals from outside the community. New this year, the Annual Conference Program Committee worked to make sure that each program track includes a discussion of issues that are important to AZA-accredited aquariums.

Please visit the AZA website to register early for the Conference. Keep an eye open for a regular Annual Conference e-newsletter and bookmark www.aza.org/annualconference for Conference updates and news. I also encourage you to share this information with your colleagues, particularly those who may not have attended the Conference before – the AZA community welcomes first-time attendees, making sure they connect with peers and acquire practical knowledge to apply when they return home. I look forward to seeing you in Kansas City.

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EVALUATION OF MINIMUM VIABLE POPULATION ESTIMATES

A ten-year study on the globally threatened bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) in eastern New York state suggests that minimum viable population (MVP) size threshold estimates may be up to one or two orders of magnitude too high for long-lived species capable of reproducing multiple times in the lifetime. Their results show that for bog turtles population sizes as low as 15 breeding females have > 90 percent probability of surviving for >100 years. Typically MVP’s in the range of hundreds to thousands are recommended. This supports the value of protecting small populations especially when they form part of a regional meta-population. Many zoo species recovery programs are focused on populations with these characteristics. The authors conclude that more research needs to be done to identify the range of life history strategies that enable small populations of long-lived animals to persist.


Correspondence to: kevintschoemaker@gmail.com

IMPROVEMENT IN SOCIAL SKILLS THROUGH EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY

Currently there is a great deal of discussion around the use of contact animals in zoos and aquariums and research conducted in the realm of human and domestic animal interaction may help inform and guide this discussion. Equine therapy programs have gained popularity over the years but little experimental research has documented the impacts of such programs. In a recent study, parents interested in enrolling their child in the PATH to Success program (an equine-assisted therapy program designed to increase social competence) were asked to complete a standardized survey measuring social competence about their child. This screening allowed researchers to study an experimental group (children taking part in the program) and a matched control group (the wait-listed students). All parents of enrolled and wait-listed children were asked to complete the social competence survey of their children again after the 11-week program finished. The results showed that positive significant changes in social behavior occurred between pre and post-conditions and between experimental and control groups. These results suggest that carefully monitored and controlled equine-assisted therapy programs can improve social skills.
Pendry, P, and Roeter, S. Experimental trial demonstrates positive effects of equine facilitated learning on child social competence. Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin, 1: 1-19. Correspondence to: ppendry@wsu.edu

Mortality in Monitor Lizards

In this study, researchers at the Bronx Zoo reviewed and summarized mortality records for the 16 species of monitor lizards maintained in their facility over more than 40 years to better understand the challenges that are faced in their care. Full necropsy reports were available for 85 individuals and infection-related processes (bacterial, protozoal, nematode, fungal) accounted for the largest percentage of mortalities (47.1 percent), while noninfectious diseases (female reproductive disorders, neoplasia, gout, hemipenal prolapse) accounted for 29.4 percent. Medical records revealed the presence of reproductive disorders in 23.1 percent of females and the presence of gout in 18.8 percent of individuals. Given these findings, the authors make a series of suggestions to improve the management of these species including providing access to surface basking temperatures >45˚C, varied nesting materials, adequate nest sites year-round in an enclosure familiar to the female, humid environments with humidity-retaining natural substrate, and minimized handling.

Mendyk, RW, Newton, AL, Baumer, M. 2013. A retrospective study of mortality in varanid lizards (Reptilia: Squamata: Varanidae) at the Bronx Zoo: Implications for husbandry and reproductive management in zoos. Zoo Biology, 32: 152-162. doi: 10.1002/zoo.21043. Correspondence to: odatriad@yahoo.com
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THE KANSAS CITY ZOO
Let Us Show You Our Wild Side
In 1909, the Kansas City Zoological Society formed to start the Zoo. The following year this group asked the Board of Parks and Recreation to allot $32,000 and 60 acres in Swope Park to begin construction of the Kansas City Zoo. The original Main Zoo Building opened on 13 December. Animals exhibited included four lions, two timber wolves, two bison, three white rabbits, two coyotes, as well as ostriches, ducks, monkeys, pheasants and pigeons – all in one building. Now, truly “wide open,” spanning 202 acres and home to more than 1,000 animals, the Zoo offers large, naturalistic exhibits immersing visitors in the beauty of wild spaces. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a light jacket: September weather in Missouri can be unpredictable.

The first expansion took place in 1912. During the same year the Zoo became primarily self-sufficient, producing most of the animals’ food from gardens within the park itself. The 40s and 50s saw a spurt of activity, yet it was not until 1959 that the Zoo engaged in a partnership with the Kansas City Parks Department that continues to guide it today.

In 2002, Friends of the Zoo, Inc., Kansas City, MO - a 501(c) 3, not-for-profit organization, took the reins of the Zoo’s growth with a commitment to improving and supporting Zoo facilities, animals and educational programs.

2003 found its new Executive Director/CEO, Randy Wisthoff, who previously worked at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. Wisthoff wasted no time after his Kansas City appointment. He collaborated with Zoo board members and then Kansas City mayor to spearhead a $30 million bond package that began to set the stage for the future.

Since 2007, the Zoo has invested $65 million in capital projects including a new entrance, Zoo Learning Center, river otters, trumpeter swans, an endangered species carousel, Polar Bear Passage, Discovery Barn, the African Sky Safari, Tiger Terrace and more. The original Zoo Building was also transformed into what is called the Tropics providing up close views of primates, otters, birds and lush tropical plants.

Polar Bear Passage became the 2010 Midwest Travel Treasure by AAA now featuring Berlin and Nikita the city’s favorite big white bears. America’s Best Zoos book featured the Kansas City Zoo as one of the top 50 Zoos in the United States boasting the best African, kangaroo and chimp exhibits. The Zoo also continues to win the favorite family day trip from KCParent Magazine and best kids’ attraction as voted on by tourists visiting Kansas City.

The new Helzberg Penguin Plaza will bring both the cold-water and warm-water black and white penguins to the Kansas City Zoo this October. At 13,000 square feet, this state of the art facility will be home to Humboldt, gentoo, rockhopper and king penguins. The indoor cold-water exhibit with 100,000 gallons of chilly salt water, snow makers and icebergs will showcase the underwater magic that makes penguins so engaging. The warm-water exhibit for Humboldts features an indoor/outdoor capability via an enormous sliding door.

Being virtually three Zoos in one, on Zoo Day you will need your walking shoes to explore all the fun. Let your toes dangle and fly high over Africa on the Sky Safari. Enjoy the best brews, blues and BBQ that will be served up to wind down your day o’ fun at the Kansas City Zoo. After we show you our wild side, you can show us yours!

And, remember every day is a great day to visit any AZA-accredited zoo, especially the Kansas City Zoo this September. See you soon!

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Kansas City's history is as rich as the sauce that makes our BBQ famous. Founded on the banks of the Missouri River, Kansas City got its name from the Native American Kansas tribe that once lived in the region. Lewis and Clark explored the area in 1804 and shortly after, Westport was founded as a supply station to outfit travelers heading west on the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon trails. Westport, just outside of downtown, is thriving today with restaurants and bars that are still infused with a sense of the history they have witnessed.

A hustling and bustling cow town, Kansas City hosted the first nationwide cattle sale which took place in the Stockyards. Kansas City had plenty of gunslingers and outlaws too. In 1882 the infamous Jesse James was killed in nearby St. Joseph, Mo.

From outlaws to mob bosses, Kansas City had its share of bad guys. Organized crime was alive and well for many decades. The area became known for gambling and prostitution thanks to corruption in politics and law enforcement. Famous mobsters like Al Capone threw parties in Kansas City with his friends Frank Sinatra and Liberace.

A new type of music was taking root in Kansas City during the Roaring 20s. Some would say blues singers and ragtime music of the time gave birth to the jazz music genre and Kansas City was its birthplace. Dance halls, cabarets and speakeasies cultivated the development of this new musical style. In the early days, jazz groups were smaller and then big bands became the most common. Jazz really began to flourish in the 1930s mainly as a result of political boss and mob affiliate Tom Pengergast, who allowed alcohol to flow in Kansas City despite prohibition. Jazz
In the Power & Light District, the Crossroads and River Market, Kansas City is a shopping goldmine offering fashion's favorite labels and affordable prices. The people of Kansas City have long been proud of their hometown girl, Kate Spade, who wowed the fashion runways of New York with her classy line of handbags, shoes and other necessities of a fashionable life.

Kansas City loves its outdoors. Loose Park, located just south of the Plaza, is full of fountains, ponds and trails. Swope Park, where the Zoo and Lakeside Nature Center are located, is the second largest urban park in the U.S. (second only to New York’s Central Park). Both are great places to soak up the sun. Besides being a gardening enthusiast’s dream and Kansas City’s largest botanical gardens, Powell Gardens offers unique contemporary architecture. For complete Kansas City nature experiences check out Burr Oak Nature Center, Cave Springs, the Anita B Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, the Marta Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary and the Prairie Oak and Ernie Miller Nature Centers.

For extra fun during your stay in Kansas City, plan to take in a ball game by our boys in blue, the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium, or experience Starlight Theatre across from the Kansas City Zoo. Starlight Theatre, an outdoor theatre, is featuring Miss Saigon while AZA is in town.

Kansas City is ready to embrace all our AZA friends with our warm Midwest hospitality.

For more information on AZA’s Annual Conference, visit www.aza.org/annualconference.

Legends like Count Basie, Andy Kirk, Joe Turner, Hot Lips Page, and Jay McShann all played in Kansas City. In fact, saxophone player Charlie Parker began his climb to fame in his hometown of Kansas City.

What goes better with the sounds of jazz music than the taste of BBQ? The Kansas City area is known for the specific style of slow smoked meat that evolved right from the pit in the early 1900s. BBQ in Kansas City is slow cooked over a variety of woods and then covered with a thick tomato and molasses based sauce. The sauce really is the key to the signature taste that makes Kansas City BBQ famous. It’s a combination of sweet and spicy that makes your mouth water right from the first sniff. From its humble beginnings, our special brand of BBQ can be found in more than 1,000 local establishments, all serving their own unique twist on a tried and true combination.

Kansas City and the visual arts truly go hand in hand. Internationally known museums, dynamic gallery districts and outstanding performances create a colorful palette that attracts locals and visitors. Notable names associated with the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) include Walt Disney, who took Saturday classes there as a child; and painter Thomas Hart Benton, who taught at KCAI from 1935 to 1941. And the new breathtaking Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts embraces a variety of audiences with different tastes, interests and passions.

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WaterLife Design Group is now a proud member of the Pentair family. Pentair is an $8 billion global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of equipment, technology and engineered solutions for the handling and treatment of water.
The Zoo has been a beloved attraction in the greater Kansas City area for more than 100 years. Over the past several years this attention has grown through many efforts of the community and its Zoo-lovers. From the Saturday morning KC Zoo TV Show to the Zoo’s polar bear “rock stars” Nikita and Berlin, being named the top 100 most influential people in Kansas City (beating out CEO/Executive Director, Randy Wisthoff by a snow-slide). The community is embracing their Zoo in a whole new way – including funding.

Originally operated by the Kansas City Parks Department, the Kansas City Zoo privatized in 2002. As with many city zoos, funding was dwindling and even a contract between the city and the Friends of the Zoo, Inc., the private non-profit organization that operated the Zoo was under close scrutiny. In 2009 and 2010, Friends of the Zoo (FOTZ) Board Members, active volunteers, Zoo staff and strong politicians created a “dream legislation” forming a Zoological Taxing District. This state bill was introduced late in the session. But after much heartache and headache and alterations by both the House and Senate, the deciding votes in favor of the legislation were cast with 30 seconds left in the session.

The legislation allowed for the creation of a zoological taxing district within four counties of up to 1/4 of a cent. The FOTZ Board and community leaders agreed to move forward with only a tax of 1/8 of a cent plus numerous benefits for the residents of the counties.

Next on the funding agenda was strategically placing the legislation on the ballots. This needed to be timed purposefully keeping in mind other ballot issues and the economic downturn. In the Zoo’s home county, Jackson, it was placed on the ballot with the support of the City Council, legislators and commissioners. Then, with “One Zoo for All” motto, volunteers began to petition residents in the other three Zoological District counties that were specified within the legislation.

Petitioning was successful; however, it was only placed on the ballot in one additional county, Clay. Within the other two counties the Zoo continues to seek legal advisement as to how to move forward.

In November of 2011, residents of Jackson and Clay counties in Missouri approved this 1/8 of a cent sales tax increase by an overwhelming 68 percent in Jackson County and 51 percent in Clay County. While the revenue collection began in January 2012, the creation of a Zoological District commission was necessary to approve the spending of the funds.

The benefits to the residents began on 1 January 2012. Residents of the Zoological District receive:

- Four free admission days per year
- Year round discounted daily admission
- Year round discounted Friends of the Zoo Memberships

In addition each county has a dedicated Zoomobile providing free programs to events, libraries, festivals, schools, community groups and more.

The selling point that resonated with politicians and the Zoo’s constituents were the programs offered to schools. Each classroom in the Zoological District Counties receives:

- Free admission to the Zoo once per school year
- Free grade specific Zoomobile program to visit each classroom once per school year
- Free field trip plus a bus stipend for 2nd, 4th and 8th grades to help cover transportation fees plus curriculum that meets and exceeds Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards including 25 free ZooEd lessons, informational or fictional books and instructional hands-on programming

The Zoological District has provided the Zoo with over $12 million annually for capital, operation and maintenance. The Zoo has committed to fundraising at least 20 percent of capital projects in the early years; growing this amount to over 50 percent in future years.

The first capital project is Helzberg Penguin Plaza. All AZA Conference delegates will get a chance to peek at the progress during Zoo Day. This $15 million project will open in October to the public. Over the next ten years, over $150 million will be invested into creating a great Zoo for a great City. The Zoo’s 2020 Masterplan includes orangutans, elephants, gorillas, a giraffe feeding station and Predator Canyon.

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The Growing Culture of Nature Play

By Melody Wood
The importance of nature-based play has gradually become forefront in an array of research fields. From the more obvious physical benefits to the complex mental benefits, nature has proved time and time again to be the cure-all for a variety of common ailments. Richard Louv, author of the famed Last Child in the Woods, has spawned a growing culture of activists devoted to helping their communities re-learn how to play outside. At the San Antonio Zoo, you will find an entire exhibit dedicated to this very notion. Since Kronkosky’s Tiny Tot Nature Spot opened in 2004, we have been working towards a single goal of helping families with young children grow with nature. Last April the Zoo even held a community-wide event focused solely on this purpose, called Get Out and Play Day. Armed with the muscle of the Texas Children in Nature Network, the San Antonio Zoo brought together 15 organizations and more than 100 non-zoo volunteers from across the city that are all working towards the same goal of getting families outside.

Playing outside used to be the norm for kids regardless of where or how they lived; today is another story. Ecophobia has increasingly become one of the more common fears amongst today’s children, a direct result from not having that vital interaction with nature. From reduced access, to an emerging culture of fear, to an increased activity schedule, there are a variety of explanations for this loss of free play in children. Many children grow up in neighborhoods that are legitimately unsafe for children to play in due to violence or environmental hazards. We have also greatly reduced the amount of natural space available to our children. Children today are more likely to know what a river looks like from seeing it on television as opposed to actually splashing in one. Then of course some of us feel the pressure to believe that children will only succeed if they take advantage of every possible structured learning experience, starting at age three. Many parents worry that they are failing as a caregiver if they do not offer their children these possibilities. Even in school systems, children’s recess and free play has been downsized to make room for additional academic work.

What many fail to realize, is that some aspects of what is expected to be gained from traditional school work can also be gained from nature play. All creatures, children included, learn from play. We are hard-wired to climb rocks, splash in puddles, and roll down hills. Nature provides infinite possibilities for kids to grow and learn, allowing their play to be more diverse and fostering language and collaborative skills. Nature play not only helps children develop powers of observation and creativity, it also helps them deal with stress and adversity, and enables them to concentrate better. Children allowed to regularly play in natural environments have increased coordination, balance, and agility. On top of the physical and mental benefits of playing outside, children also cultivate an emotional connection with the world around them. It is this connection that is so vital to developing a sense of wonder, which eminent biologist E.O. Wilson points out is an important motivator for lifelong learning.

Unfortunately, fear is helping breed helicopter moms. You all know them; they hover closely, stopping their child from digging in the dirt and scolding them for getting their feet wet. So what can we do? The San Antonio Zoo is attempting to re-create the curious child by helping parents release that control. Kronkosky’s Tiny Tot Nature Spot opened in 2004 with the sole purpose of helping families with young children grow with nature. Specially trained staff, called Playleaders, model nature play by leading activities with guests. By playing with the child in the natural substrate, Playleaders demonstrate not only the benefits to the child, but to the parent as well. This is important because studies show having an active family role model engage young children in positive nature experiences to be one of the primary factors for developing a conservation-minded adult. By incorporating the parents in the activities, the Nature Spot helps generate this positive nature connection between parent and child. Without these early experiences, it is likely children won’t grow to value the natural world and protect it as they get older.

Like many states, Texas has both state and regional children in nature initiatives. One easy way our regional collaborative made a difference was through the creation of Get Out and Play Day. This community-wide zoo event brought together Children in Nature member organizations and various local companies that promote nature-based play. By combining Get Out and Play Day with a local university’s Play Conference, Texas Children in Nature Partnership’s spring events, and the Children and Nature Network’s “Let’s Go” events, the Zoo not only gained 60-plus well-trained play volunteers, we also had a much higher profile event. Over 20 activity stations were set up throughout the Zoo and were manned by both Zoo staff/volunteers and over a dozen outside organizations. Activities reflected the organization’s site or mission and were all focused on helping families play in nature. Stations included activities such as fishing, an archeological dig, gardening, and story time. With over 7,000 Zoo visitors that day, evaluation efforts showed an overwhelmingly positive reaction to the event and nature-based play overall. Evaluation efforts for the event included a pre and post survey regarding the vendors, station activities, and the guest’s frequency of nature-based play. During the pre-evaluation, guests were given a leaf cut-out and a map of the stations posted throughout the Zoo. Guests were encouraged to visit each station to get an idea of how/where they can spend time in nature. As guests prepared to leave the Zoo they visited the post-evaluation table. Guests were asked to record a nature-based “play promise” on the leaf and post the leaf on the tree (ex. “I will spend 30min/day playing outside”). With over 7,000 visitors for the day, we saw an amazing 93 percent return rate on our “play promise” leaves. Initial examination of the data showed an overwhelmingly positive reaction to the event and nature-based play overall.

The number of physical, mental, and emotional benefits nature play offers is seemingly limitless. Where families are not comfortable in or have access to nature, the San Antonio Zoo is able to provide those outdoor opportunities. From exhibit design, to specialized staff, to creative activities, Kronkosky’s Tiny Tot Nature Spot continues to grow budding naturalists. By combining our efforts with those of our community partners during Get Out and Play Day, we were able to capitalize on the knowledge of those partners without having to rely solely on Zoo resources. It is these partnerships that have enabled us to impact a greater audience to become healthier, happier, and smarter by playing outside.

Melody Wood is the San Antonio Zoo Nature Spot Coordinator
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KANSAS CITY ZOO WELCOMES NEW STAFF

With the creation of the new Zoological District in two counties on 1 January 2012, the Kansas City Zoo has a steadier stream of dollars to grow and enhance its operations. As part of the enhancement, an assistant director/chief operating officer position was created. GEOFF HALL took these reins in June 2012. As the assistant director/COO, Geoff is responsible for all activities related to animal care and facilities, veterinary services, educational programing and graphics, human resources as well as all guest service areas including rides, gift shop, concessions and admission. Geoff has been in the zoo and aquarium industry since 1992 and most recently was the general curator at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

SEAN PUTNEY was promoted to a newly titled position of director of living collections. He serves as the primary director in charge of the care and welfare of the entire collection which includes over 1,000 animals. Previously, Sean spent thirteen years at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo where he began his career as an aquarist and ended his tenure as an animal curator. He arrived at the Kansas City Zoo in 2007 also in the animal curator role. Sean is also the assistant coordinator of Wyoming Toad Species Survival Plan® (SSP) and has helped guide the program at the Kansas City Zoo since 2008.

Additionally, DAVID RAU is the Zoo’s new director of facilities. His responsibilities include the maintenance and improvements to the physical plant. Horticulture, grounds custodial and security report to David. David had been with the University of Kansas Med Center for ten years overseeing 40 buildings spanning over 2.5 million square feet.

LINDA FALK also joined the Kansas City Zoo as the chief financial officer. With a background in working with non-profits in transition, Linda brings with her a wealth of knowledge in budgeting and financial management. Information technology and revenue control is also managed by Linda.

DR. BRIAN STOCKINGER has been hired as associate veterinarian. Dr. Stockinger was the staff veterinarian for the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Ind., for the past year, and completed a veterinary internship at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo. He graduated from the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. The Zoo has elected to hold the ACZM residency program open after the current resident DR. MEREDITH PERSKY accepted the position of associate veterinarian at the Miami Metrozoo.

NAPLES ZOO ANNOUNCES JACK MULVENA AS PRESIDENT AND CEO

Jack Mulvena has been named the new president and CEO of Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens in Naples, Fla., Mulvena, who has served for 20 years as the executive director of the Rhode Island Zoological Society and Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, R.I., was selected from more than 100 applicants nationwide following an extensive screening and interviewing process.

Mulvena holds an MBA from the University of Rhode Island and a Bachelor’s Degree from Boston College. He began his new position on 6 May.

MATT MCLEAN, chairman of the Zoo’s board of directors and a member of its selection committee, said the committee conducted personal interviews with four finalists, and Mulvena quickly rose to the top of the list. “Jack is a terrific
“Clearly, we had many qualified candidates. The board of directors wanted to ensure that we also had someone prepared to capitalize on the terrific opportunities on the horizon for this organization and the Naples community. His experiences in Providence will provide a welcome roadmap for leading Naples Zoo into the future.”

Under Mulvena’s leadership, Roger Williams Park Zoo raised $30 million for new exhibits and major capital improvements, including a new veterinary hospital, a children’s zoo feature called Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard, and a major overhaul of the Zoo’s African exhibits featuring elephants, giraffes, wild dogs, zebras and wildebeest.

“I couldn’t be any more excited about joining the Naples Zoo, especially at a time when they are looking to grow and improve to serve their visitors and community,” Mulvena said. “It is clear to me they have a fabulous and committed staff and board, and their passion for conservation, education and continual improvement is impressive.

“It is also clear to me that Naples loves the Zoo and that the entire Southwest Florida region wants it to be the best it can be,” Mulvena added. “That kind of community support is critical to any great zoo’s success and one of the many reasons I am so looking forward to serving as president and CEO.”

In Providence, Mulvena helped double Zoo memberships to more than 16,000 households while more than doubling earned operating revenues to more than $6.8 million. Roger Williams Park Zoo’s atten-
dance topped 600,000 visitors in 2012, making it one of the state’s top tourist attractions and the most-visited zoo in New England.

Also during Mulvena’s tenure, Roger Williams Park Zoo received both national and international awards from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for its work with tree kangaroos, African elephants, red wolves, American burying beetles, Karner blue butterflies, red wolves and its Frogwatch citizen science program.

LINCOLN PARK ZOO ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo has appointed Sunny Nelson as the Zoo’s new Hope B. McCormick curator of birds. Nelson brings years of hands-on experience working with avian species, from her start at Zoo Atlanta to recent stints as lead keeper and zoological manager for birds at Lincoln Park Zoo. Nelson not only leads her team with exceptional zoo care and propagation experience, but her passion for bird conservation extends to restoration of populations in the wild including work to help rear chicks for the Great Lakes piping plover restoration program in Michigan. This small shorebird is endangered in the Great Lakes region due to habitat loss and human development. In her new role, Nelson hopes to help raise awareness about the plover’s plight, and Lincoln Park Zoo’s involvement in saving this local species.

Leah Melber, PhD, has been appointed senior director of the Hurvis Center for Learning Innovation and Collaboration at Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo. The Hurvis Center is an exciting new education initiative made possible by a recent $3 million leadership gift from the Hurvis Charitable Foundation. Melber brings more than two decades of experience in formal and informal science education and was hand-picked to lead the Hurvis Center from its conception. The center’s primary focus is on advancing the informal learning community’s understanding of learning that takes place in zoos and aquariums. Prior to this appointment, Melber served as Lincoln Park Zoo’s director of student and teacher programs, she was an assistant professor at California State University in Los Angeles and a science education specialist for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

JOE MONTISANO, CEO OF THE CENTRAL FLORIDA ZOO RECEIVES TORCH BEARER AWARD MEDAL

Joe Montisano, CEO of the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens, received the Torch Bearer Award Medal on 15 March 2013. The medal was given by the World Harmony Run for his service and dedication to the Zoo. Along with Montisano, Jeff Triplett, Mayor of Sanford, received the same award for his consummate dedication to the City of Sanford.

The World Harmony Run is a global torch relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding, sharing the message that world harmony starts in the heart of each individual and from there, spreads to the family, community and the world at large. This initiative has taken place in more than 100 nations worldwide.

The Torch Bearer Award has been received by dignitaries, celebrities, and politicians for the services they have given to their communities and humanity. Montisano was given the award as a result of the awareness about the care of animals generated through the Zoo’s many education programs.

“I am truly honored to receive this award,” said Montisano. “Our educational programs reach so many children in Central Florida and this makes a lasting impact on their view of the world of animals as well as the lives of others throughout the world.”
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At the 2010 AZA Annual Conference, the Field Conservation Committee set an aspirational goal that in three years, every member institution would be dedicating three percent of its operating budget annually to field conservation. Each month, this feature will highlight the work of one of the zoos or aquariums that have achieved this goal and how they have made field conservation an integral part of the work they do.

MISSION OF SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL
San Diego Zoo Global has as its mission to gather, share and apply scientific knowledge vital to the conservation of animals, plants, and habitats worldwide. It’s Institute for Conservation Research is the world’s largest zoo-based, multi-disciplinary research team, with more than 150 scientists, researchers, technicians, post-doctoral fellows, and support staff, and more than 100 field conservation programs in over 35 countries. Programs address the biological requirements of the target species, conservation and restoration of critical habitats, and training opportunities for range-country scientists and resource managers.

“As a conservation organization committed to saving endangered species worldwide from the brink of extinction, San Diego Zoo Global tackles some of the most daunting environmental challenges of our time,” said Douglas Myers, president, San Diego Zoo Global. “Expanding human populations, cutting down forests, pollution, habitat fragmentation, and climate change all pose grave threats to flora and fauna. San Diego Zoo Global is actively working with 170 species in 38 countries with 25 reintroduction programs underway – there is hope for wildlife.”

CONSERVATION EFFORTS
San Diego Zoo Global has a long history of working to build sustainable populations of endangered species. To highlight their successes and build support for worldwide conservation the Zoo develops a list of reasons for hope – highlighting ways that San Diego Zoo Global has made a difference. Following are a few of the recent successes:

• After three years of intensive research on the North Island brown kiwi in New Zealand, researchers discovered important information that will benefit conservation efforts when managers are deciding which eggs to pull and incubate in care centers.
• Through a pioneering breeding program and the establishment of new populations, two of Southern California’s smallest mammals are making huge steps toward recovery. The Pacific pocket mouse was considered extinct for 20 years until it was rediscovered in 1994. San Diego Zoo Global and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a conservation breeding facility for this rodent at the Safari Park, with the goal of reintroducing new populations into the wild. Stephens’ kangaroo rats are nocturnal, seed-eating, burrow-living animals native to grasslands and coastal sage scrub in Southern California. Urban development threatens their existence so the Habitat Conservation Plan allows for half of its occupied habitat to be developed, with the remaining half placed in reserves and managed for kangaroo rat survival. The Zoo’s hard work has paid off, with four new growing populations.
• Many species of North American birds migrate vast distances. As the birds navigate the often-unfamiliar territory, they can suffer fatal collisions with glass on buildings. It is estimated that at least 100 million birds are killed each year in the U.S. alone, through crashes into buildings and windows. Based on published research findings, San Diego Zoo Global had designed a transparent window film that has thin vertical gray-frosted stripes, which are visible to the birds and decrease collisions. The Zoo is also developing an architectural toolkit for use in future building design so they can choose the most appropriate window collision prevention strategy for each project.
• Working closely with the Spectacled Bear Conservation Society in northwestern Peru, researchers at San Diego Zoo are gathering a deeper understanding of a unique population of more than 38 Andean bears in the La Leche River watershed. With a field team comprised of trained local citizens, the Zoo is gaining insights to understand this elusive bear by using GPS satellite collars, remote camera traps, and direct observations. The project is also engaging teachers to create and implement a curriculum to help spread conservation knowledge and practices. Additionally, local women are being trained in various crafts to foster sustainable livelihoods and raise awareness internationally about the conservation of Andean bears and the dry forest habitat.

For more information about the conservation research efforts of San Diego Zoo Global please visit www.sandiegozoooglobal.org.
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Because the café is inside Komodo Kingdom, which was the first LEED certified structure in Summit County, Ohio, it helped the café achieve some of the most difficult sustainability points. For example, the café received credits due to the building’s geothermal heating and cooling system. The café also received points because it increased its usage of vegan and vegetarian foods. Other categories receiving high marks include the Zoo’s food waste composting program and the use of Green Seal certified cleaning products.

The certification process took about a year, during which every aspect of the Zoo’s food service operation was examined from four perspectives: sustainable operations, efficiency, cost effectiveness, and guest perception. Many successful adjustments in the café’s menu, food preparation, purchasing, and waste management resulted from these exercises, and food service staff is proud to be able to effectively engage the Akron Zoo’s conservation mission in the service of our guests every day.
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SUCCESSFUL INCUBATION STRATEGY LEADS TO HATCHING OF RARE BIRDS AT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY’S BRONX ZOO

Three rare maleo chicks have been hatched at the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) Bronx Zoo in New York, N.Y., after careful study and recreation of the specialized conditions needed for the successful incubation of this endangered bird’s eggs.

The Bronx Zoo has nine maleos including the three new chicks. Adults are on exhibit in the Bronx Zoo’s World of Birds, the only place these unusual birds can be seen outside of their native home on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia.

Maleos are members of the megapode family, which use sources other than body heat to incubate their eggs. In the wild, female maleos lay and bury their eggs in underground nests, where heat comes from geothermal sources or from the sun when the nests are on beaches. Because their incubation period is unusually long, chicks hatch at a comparatively mature stage allowing them to dig through up to three feet of earth. They have the ability to fly, forage, and thermoregulate the same day they emerge from the nest. The chicks receive no parental care after hatching.

To replicate the conditions needed for successful incubation, the Bronx Zoo’s maleos are provided with deep river sand in their enclosures that is heated electrically from below. These nesting areas are monitored closely through closed-circuit cameras. When an egg is laid it is immediately dug out and moved to an incubation room in an off-exhibit area.

Each of the chicks at the Zoo hatched after approximately 70 days of incubation. They are healthy and currently in an off-exhibit area of the Zoo.

“The success we are seeing in our maleo propagation program at the Bronx Zoo is truly the result of teamwork,” said Jim Breheny, WCS executive vice president and general director of WCS Zoos and Aquarium. “Years of research in the field and at the Zoo have allowed us to fine-tune procedures and incubation protocols. The husbandry science conducted at the Zoo, together with the conservation work in the field, is integral in helping WCS ensure a future for this rare and endangered species.”

The maleo has a blackish back, pink stomach, yellow facial skin, a red-orange beak, and a black helmet or “casque.” The bird’s eggs are considerably larger than those of birds of similar size.
BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

“Almost half of all megapode species are threatened with extinction. The work we do with maleos both at the Zoo and in the field can provide a model for conservation of other megapode species,” said Dr. Nancy Clum, curator of ornithology at WCS’s Bronx Zoo.

Maleos are listed as Endangered by the International Union of Conservation and Nature (IUCN) and their numbers in the wild have seen a sharp decline in recent years due to human egg collection for food and predation by invasive species introduced to their habitat. The nesting sites protected by WCS represent the last chance for the species in the wild as other nesting sites on the island are at great risk of being destroyed and abandoned.

WCS established the Maleo Conservation Project in northern Sulawesi. The project focuses on the protection of the nesting grounds, recruiting local rangers and recruiting Maleo hunters as nest guardians. Expansion of the program has included the purchase of one of the nesting grounds to ensure its protection and the creation of nurseries for the safe hatch and release of chicks.

HOFFMAN’S TWO-TOED SLOTH BORN AT CAPRON PARK ZOO

Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro, Mass., welcomed a Hoffman’s two-toed sloth to its family during the summer of 2012. The pup was born on exhibit in the Zoo’s tropical rainforest and is being raised by mother, Narissa. Father Ollie is also on display in the same exhibit. The pup is a result of a breeding recommendation from the Species Survival Plan® (SSP).

PHOENIX ZOO WELCOMES A CHINESE ALLIGATOR AND BABY KOMODO DRAGONS

The Phoenix Zoo in Phoenix, Ariz., is now home to two baby Komodo dragons and a Chinese alligator. The baby dragons are from a clutch that hatched at Memphis Zoo in Memphis, Tenn., in January and then arrived at the Phoenix Zoo. The 17-year-old Chinese alligator comes to the Zoo from St. Augustine Alligator Farm in Florida.

The baby Komodo dragons are housed in the Bush House, on the Children’s Trail. The Chinese alligator resides in the eastern most outdoor yard of Land of the Dragons exhibit. Baby Komodo dragons are highly arboreal and spend their first few years living in trees, an evolutionary strategy that likely developed to avoid being eaten by their larger kin. As such, these tiny new dragons are not suited for the Zoo’s large Komodo dragon yard quite yet, as they would quickly and easily make their way over the walls of the adult enclosures. The Phoenix Zoo still houses Ivan and Gaia, the Zoo’s resident adult Komodo dragons that arrived in 2009, and are definitely much bigger at 19 years old. The Chinese alligator is one of only two living species of alligator, the other being the American alligator.
Unlike its more common and larger American cousin, Chinese alligators, a critically endangered and protected species, are exceptionally rare in the wild with fewer than 200 individuals remaining. The alligator on display weighs 16 pounds, and is approximately four-feet long.

**RECENT BIRTHS AT BREVARD ZOO**

Brevard Zoo in Melbourne, Fla., welcomed a male jaguar cub 26 January 2013. The cub is the first one born to the two parents since being introduced in October, 2010. The cub began venturing out on exhibit with the mother in April. This is the first cub for the male and the fourth cub for the female.

A male Masai giraffe was born 6 February and weighed in at 159 pounds. This is the fifth birth for the female, Johari. A female Masai giraffe was born to Milenna on 19 February and weighed in at 145 pounds. The two new calves made their debut on exhibit to the public in late February.

“This is the first time that our two adult breeding females gave birth in the same month,” said Michelle Smurl, director of animal and conservation programs at Brevard Zoo.”

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LGL Animal Care Products, Inc., a recognized leader in consulting and design of animal cages, also manufactures and installs custom cages for Zoos, Aquariums, Research Laboratories, and Animal Control Facilities. All LGL caging products are designed and built to last. Our engineers specify rust-fighting aluminum, stainless steel, polyethylene, and vinyl. Ease of cleaning and animal visibility are always a priority.
Three capybara pups were born on 17 March. This is the second litter for the adult breeding pair. They have been housed at Brevard Zoo for two years.

A female Baird’s tapir was born 2 April. This is the sixth offspring born at the Zoo, and the second female. This new female doubled in weight within her first month. Interestingly, the pair had four offspring and then took a nine-year hiatus before having their fifth baby in 2011. The sex ratio of captive Baird’s tapirs is skewed in favor of males, so this female is a welcomed addition to the managed population.

**PORCUPINE GIVES BIRTH AT MOODY GARDENS**

Two porcupines at Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid® in Galveston, Texas, discovered the secret to a happy relationship – a renovated home. Since the Rainforest Pyramid’s grand reopening in 2011, the couple gave birth to their third porcupine pup on 30 March.

Weighing at 530 grams, the newborn is exploring its exhibit inside the nocturnal gallery of the Rainforest Pyramid. A quill will be sent for DNA testing to determine the gender.

Although the newborn looks as soft as a puppy, the quills will harden within a few weeks. Sharing an exhibit with the mother, Bobby-Sue, the new baby is climbing the trees and exploring the area. Bobby-Sue and the father, Bono, have been together since 2007.

“Anytime animals reproduce in captivity, it means that we’re doing something right,” said Moody Gardens Animal Husbandry Manager Greg Whittaker. “It’s an indication that they have everything they need to let nature take over.”

Prehensile tailed porcupines are found in the wild in Central and South America. These vegetarian, tree-dwelling rodents usually weigh between four and 11 pounds, and their tails are almost as long as their whole body. They are covered in short, thick spines and their body color runs from yellowish to orange to brown. One of their defining characteristics is a small head with a round, bulbous nose which is covered by short and fine hair. They also have whiskers on the face and feet that help in maneuvering around at night.

Porcupines have a built-in defense. While most of their body is covered in sharp quills, they are incapable of throwing them, which is a common misconception. These quills will detach easily when touched and imbed into the skin of an enemy. They have also been known to hit and bite their attackers and curl up into a ball when caught. When provoked, they will stomp their hind feet, sit on their haunches, shake their quills and emit deep growls and high pitched cries. These defenses are so formidable that prehensile tailed porcupines have the luxury of a longer lifespan and slower reproductive rate than most rodents.

The ten-story Rainforest Pyramid houses exotic plants, mammals, insects and reptiles from the rainforests around the world. As a part of a greater effort, the Rainforest Pyramid reflects the importance of conservation. Prehensile tailed porcupines are not endangered, but face loss of habitat due to deforestation.
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exhibits

SMITHSONIAN’S NATIONAL ZOO OPENS NEW HOME FOR ASIAN ELEPHANTS

The commitment at the National Zoo to save Asian elephants from extinction and ensure a future for this endangered species spans more than 50 years. In keeping with the best practices for elephant management, the Zoo has invested in a state-of-the-art exhibit: Elephant Trails. This innovative and expanded home will enable the Zoo to provide the best possible care for its elephants: females Ambika (65) and Shanthi (38) and Shanthi’s 11-year-old male offspring, Kandula. The public opening of the Elephant Community Center on 23 March marked the completion of Elephant Trails, which was a seven-year, $56 million project.

“As a leader in Asian elephant care, management and research, the National Zoo has already made great strides in conserving these magnificent creatures,” said Zoo Director Dennis Kelly. “Elephant Trails goes above and beyond these investments. We’ve maximized space for our animals to roam, maximized our ability to administer care and maximized the connection visitors can make with our herd.”

Elephant Trails invites visitors to experience the sights, sounds and smells of being close to the Zoo’s Asian elephants. In addition, the interactive exhibits teach visitors about elephants’ physical characteristics, social behaviors, intelligence and the commitment it takes to care for them.

“Every day our elephants become more comfortable in their new surroundings,” said Tony Barthel, curator of Elephant Trails. “We hope our visitors’ experience with Ambika, Shanthi and Kandula helps them feel connected to the Zoo’s herd and inspires them to help protect Asian elephants in the wild.”

The Elephant Community Center was built within the walls of the Zoo’s historic 1930s Elephant House. The renovated indoor exhibit provides the Zoo’s elephants with space for socializing, training and playing while providing the elephant staff a safe and well-designed facility to access the animals and administer excellent care. In keeping with the Zoo’s conservation mission, both the Elephant Community Center and Elephant Barn use environmentally friendly elements such as geothermal wells, operable skylights and on-site water filtration, among others. The buildings were designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold standards.

In order to ensure the Zoo’s elephants had ample room both indoors and outdoors, scientific studies that looked at the amount of space wild Asian elephants use on a daily basis were consulted. Altogether, Elephant Trails contains 29,333 square feet (8,943 square meters) of elephant space, which is large enough to house between eight and ten adult Asian elephants and their young. From an animal management perspective, it can accommodate up to three separate groups of elephants, including a matriarchal herd and individual bulls. The indoor exhibit is 4,041 square feet (1,232 square meters); the outdoor exhibit is 25,292 square feet (7,711 square meters).

The Zoo built Elephant Trails to best manage and care for its elephants. The facility includes living space covered in substrates that are gentle on the elephants’ feet, such as sand, rubber and dirt. Elephant Trails also facilitates enrichment opportunities that stimulate the animals mentally and physically. Permanent exhibit enrichment includes elevated terrain, pools and sand piles that encourage the animals to exercise, forage and socialize. In addition, keepers can introduce novel objects like scratch trees, tractor tires and boomer balls to stimulate the elephants’ curiosity.

Elephant Trails also highlights 50 years of Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) elephant research – both at the National Zoo and in native habitats. The Zoo’s National Elephant Herpesvirus Laboratory is the principal resource for herpesvirus information, testing and research for the global elephant community. In addition, SCBI’s Endocrine Research Lab is the only facility in the United States providing extensive monitoring services for tracking the reproductive health of zoo elephants. The findings from these kinds of research projects are applied to wild Asian elephant conservation efforts and to captive management of elephants in zoos.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

2013 HONORS AND AWARDS APPLICANTS BY CATEGORY

The following submissions were received by Honors and Awards Committee Chair, Rick Barongi, director of the Houston Zoo. Submitting institutions are asked to review the list for accuracy and report any discrepancies to Barbara Pueschel at (301) 244-3326 or by e-mail at bpueschel@aza.org.

The director of each applying institution is asked to designate one or two representatives to sit at tables that are reserved just for them near the stage at the Awards ceremony at the Annual Conference. These representatives will then be able to accept their awards (should their institution win) expeditiously, helping the ceremony to move along smoothly.

Thanks to all of you in all categories who took the time to apply and share your extraordinary work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edward H. Bean Award</th>
<th>Submitting Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Spider Tortoise</td>
<td>Knoxville Zoological Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flamboyant cuttlefish; paintpot cuttlefish</td>
<td>Monterey Bay Aquarium</td>
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<td>Chinese Red Panda</td>
<td>Red River Zoological Society</td>
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<tr>
<th>Angela Peterson Excellence in Diversity Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cultivating Conservation Communities</td>
<td>Chicago Zoological Society</td>
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<td>Tomorrow’s Leaders Today</td>
<td>Detroit Zoological Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats (WATCH)</td>
<td>Monterey Bay Aquarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosamond Gifford Zoo—ZooGuides Program</td>
<td>Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access for ALL</td>
<td>San Diego Zoo Global</td>
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<th>International Conservation Award</th>
<th>Submitting Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Kihansi Spray Toad: A Cooperative Venture to Re-establish an Extinct-in-the-Wild Species</td>
<td>Bronx Zoo and Toledo Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazon Rainforest Adopt-A-School Program</td>
<td>Detroit Zoological Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serengeti Health Initiative</td>
<td>Lincoln Park Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science-based Management of Rhino Conservation and Tourism on Namibia’s Communal Lands</td>
<td>Minnesota Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Plan for Osununu</td>
<td>Fundación Temaikèn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Reserve</td>
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<td>Collegiate Conservation Program</td>
<td>Houston Zoo, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>School at the Zoo</td>
<td>Louisville Zoological Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AquaPartners “From Experience to Empowerment” – A Successful Campaign to Promote Horseshoe Crab Conservation to Local Students</td>
<td>National Aquarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Zoo</td>
<td>Ocean Park Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentorship Program</td>
<td>Washington, D.C. Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird watching for kids</td>
<td>San Diego Zoo Global</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otter Up</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Budget under $5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Scientists Program</td>
<td>Cabrillo Marine Aquarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Discovery Corps</td>
<td>Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo</td>
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<td>Education Intern Program</td>
<td>International Exotic Animal Sanctuary, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jellies</td>
<td>John G. Shedd Aquarium</td>
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<td>Ke-Re Reef</td>
<td>SeaWorld San Antonio</td>
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<th>North American Conservation Award</th>
<th>Submitting Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community-Based Oyster Restoration in Mosquito Lagoon, Florida</td>
<td>Brevard Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea Otter Research and Conservation Program</td>
<td>Monterey Bay Aquarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Species Recovery</td>
<td>Oregon Zoo and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program</td>
<td>Virginia Aquarium &amp; Marine Science Center</td>
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<th>Green Award (These applications do not have “Program Titles”)</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Detroit Zoological Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripley’s Aquarium of the Smokies</td>
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PROFESSIONAL BIRD TRAINER CERTIFICATION

For several years the Professional Development Committee of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) researched the requirements and procedures for establishing a credible, meaningful certification program for professional bird trainers. The goal in doing so was to establish such a program and through it raise the knowledge and skills of those working with birds in educational programs at zoological facilities, nature parks, and other facilities that manage birds of any species. In 2012 IAATE established the Avian Trainers Certification Board (IATCB), an independent board, to develop and manage the certification process.

Over the next year IATCB partnered with Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) to develop the first examination. In addition to contributions to the knowledge base by the board of IAATE, a group of experts in the various knowledge domains was recruited by IATCB. These experts wrote and reviewed the initial item database of some 300+ multiple-choice questions. The knowledge domains covered by these items are:

I. Learning Principles (30%)
II. Applied Training (30%)
III. Husbandry and Enrichment (20%)
IV. Public Education (10%)
V. Professional Ethics (10%)

From the item database 200 items were selected that covered the above knowledge domains and the first examination cycle was completed on May 4th, 2013. The examination is managed through PTC who ensures the security of the item database, the privacy of the candidates, and the integrity of the examination through sound psychometric practices and procedures.

The credential “Certified Professional Bird Trainer – Knowledge Assessed” (CPBT-KA) awarded to those candidates achieving a passing grade in the examination is a valuable indicator of the certificants’ knowledge of bird training and their commitment to ongoing professional development, a valuable metric for both employers and potential employers.

IATCB encourages employers to support their staff in taking the certification examination. To date two internationally recognized employers have added the IATCB certification examination to their professional development programs; they are the San Diego Zoo and Natural Encounters, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2013 ACCREDITATION: CURRENT REVIEWS

Listed below are the institutions to be evaluated for accreditation or certification by the AZA Accreditation Commission when it meets 7-9 September 2013 at the AZA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Mo. In most cases, inspections for these institutions and facilities will take place between May and August, culminating in a hearing before the Commission in September.

Anyone wishing to offer comments, positive or negative, should submit them in writing as soon as possible to the Accreditation Department, AZA, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments can also be emailed to jdinenna@aza.org.

ACCREdITATION aPPlicants

Blank Park Zoo
Bronx Zoo
Brookgreen Gardens
Butterfly House, The
Calgary Zoo
Chattanooga Zoo
Chehaw Wild Animal Park
Clyde Peeling’s Reptiland
Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo
Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo
Henry Vilas Zoo
Henson Robinson Zoo
Hutchinson Zoo
International Crane Foundation

INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION LOOKING FOR IMAGES

The International Elephant Foundation is in the process of updating the Elephant Husbandry Resource Guide (EHRG).
ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to offer the opportunity for individuals to send high-resolution photographs that would be appropriate for the chapters. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in photos.

To get an idea of what we are looking for go through your current EHRG. We are especially in need of African elephant photos. Photos can be submitted to chuckdoyle@ongov.net. Or send DVD or flash drive to Chuck Doyle Rosamond Gifford Zoo, 1 Conservation Place Syracuse, NY 13204. Contact Chuck Doyle for the release form and be sure to ask your institution’s permission.

ZOO AND AQUARIUM VIDEO ARCHIVE PROJECT

The Zoo & Aquarium Video Archive Project records those who have made it their life’s work to assist animals and help zoos evolve into the positive and nurturing facilities they are today.

The Archive is supported by the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, where it will be housed under the direction of Dr. Barbara Baker.

“I think this is a fabulous and much needed project, and have often thought about the need to capture the history of our organization through the eyes of just such individuals.” said Dr. Barbara Baker, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

The interviews will be available on DVD as well as accessible on the archive’s own website. Each interview will be accompanied by a complete transcription and index.

The Zoo & Aquarium Video Archive is the brainchild of Mark Rosenthal, Curator Emeritus of Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo, and Loretta Caravette, an Emmy-Award winning producer and owner of Caravette Productions LLC. Dave Monk from Brave New Pictures is the videographer.

For more information on how to get involved or to sponsor an interview please contact: Dr. Barbara Baker, President & CEO. Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium at bbaker@pittsburghzoo.org.

2013 AZA PHOTO CONTEST

Photos must be taken in 2013 or the last three months of 2012 by staff or volunteers at an AZA-accredited institution. CONNECT staff will judge the photos, and the winner will appear on the December 2013 cover. Other exceptional photos will be highlighted inside the magazine. The photos may also appear on AZA’s website and/or other promotional materials.

Format for Submission

Submissions should include the name of the photographer, the
AZA institution, the species, the date of the picture, and the equipment used. Only one photo entry will be accepted per photographer, so send in your best image. Pictures can include animals, people, and zoo or aquarium scenes – if you think it will make a good cover, send it in!

**Deadline**
The deadline for entries is 15 September 2013.

**Format**
JPG, TIFF or EPS; 300+ dpi and 9”x12” in size.
Send to: Both electronic and hard copy images will be accepted – though electronic images are preferred. All submissions become the property of AZA and will not be acknowledged or returned. Send electronic images to Tim Lewthwaite at TLewthwaite@aza.org with “Photo Contest” in the subject line. Hard copies may be mailed to: 2012 Photo Contest; Tim Lewthwaite; AZA Publications Manager; 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710; Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314.

**License**
By entering the contest, you grant to AZA, and its successors and assigns, the non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual right and license to use, display, reproduce, publish, transmit, and distribute your photograph on AZA’s website, in our magazine, and/or in any other promotional materials. Your grant and license shall also apply to any reprints, revised editions, or derivative works in any media or format, whether now or hereafter known, including without limitation other kinds of print media and electronic media.

By entering the contest you also represent, acknowledge and warrant that (i) the submitted photograph is an original work created solely by you, and you are the sole owner of all right, title, and interest in and to your photograph, including the copyright; (ii) AZA’s publication of your photograph as authorized herein will not violate or infringe any right, title, or interest of any person or entity; (iii) AZA’s publication of your photograph will not violate any right of privacy or publicity nor create any other liability in tort and that you have obtained a valid model release from any identifiable, individual person who is the subject of the photograph; (iv) you are not a party to and your photograph is not subject to any contract or arrangement that would conflict with your permission herein; and (v) you agree to indemnify and hold harmless AZA against any damages, losses, or expenses occurring as a result of any claimed breach of warranty.

**Release Form**
To be considered for publication in CONNECT, all contest photos that include people must be accompanied by AZA’s Model Release Form signed by each person depicted. Download the Photo Release Form (in PDF) here. www.aza.org/AZAPublications/PhotoContest/
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VISIT THE ACTUAL & VIRTUAL AZA TRADE SHOWS

This September at the 2013 AZA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, over 140 AZA Commercial Members, conservation organizations, and other vendors will be displaying the latest in high-quality products, services, and programs for the zoo and aquarium community. Get a head start on planning your route and finding potential suppliers by visiting the online virtual trade show. Simply follow the links from AZA’s website (http://www.aza.org/annualconference).

This floor map and exhibitor list are updated in real time as companies continue to select their space, which is filling up quickly. Use the interactive floor map in a variety of ways, as illustrated below.

As of 13 June 2013, 121 companies had already selected space. To find out more about exhibiting, contact AZA.
FY2012 ANNUAL REPORT
1 OCTOBER 2011 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

FY2012 REVENUES BY SOURCE

TOTAL REVENUES: *$7,171,041

*The FY2012 audited figures includes $494,861 in marketable securities gains (not shown in the illustration)

FY2012 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: $7,192,255
CONSERVATION
The AZA Conservation staff supports the work of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums in science and animal management through training, partnership building, information exchange, planning and publications. The conservation education function supports the creation, delivery and evaluation of educational messages, the assessment of audiences and the constant improvement of informal educational methods. The staff also manages the AZA Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF) grantmaking process, which provides financial support for the conservation and related scientific and educational initiatives of AZA members and their partners.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The professional training and development function supports AZA’s programs of ongoing professional education. These programs are designed and administered to meet the needs of AZA members and the conservation community at large. The conferences and meetings function creates regular forums for professional networking, education and collaborative projects through annual and regional AZA meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS
The Communications staff assists AZA members in external communications, including public affairs, crisis communications, event support and public opinion research. The staff promotes the work of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and works to establish the brand identity of the Association through media outreach. The publications staff produces the monthly CONNECT magazine and all printed materials on behalf of the Association. Publications are made available to members as a membership benefit, as well as to the general public. AZA publications also provide distinct opportunities for AZA’s Commercial Members to advertise their products directly to the North American zoo and aquarium community.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE
AZA staff works with the Board of Directors on strategic planning, coordinates Association goals and objectives, and provides general oversight for AZA programs and policies. The staff administers annual election procedures for the Board of Directors and Ethics Board, and supports the Chair of the Board in the appointment of AZA committee members.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
The Government Affairs staff represents the interests of AZA before Congress and Federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Science Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services). The staff monitors federal legislation and regulations, analyzes the impact of bills and regulations on AZA members, develops position recommendations, works with government officials on developing effective federal legislation and regulations and supplies information on legislation and regulations to its member institutions. The staff also assists in state legislation and regulations as requested by AZA members.

ACCREDITATION
The accreditation program establishes and maintains professional standards and evaluates zoological parks, aquariums and related facilities against those standards. In addition, the accreditation program prepares and assembles Visiting Committees, reviews inspection reports, deliberates and determines approximately 50 cases each year, monitors progress of all institutions, and coordinates mentoring.

MEMBERSHIP OPERATIONS/WEBSITE
The Membership staff works to provide the best possible service to current members, to recruit new members, and to anticipate the future needs of the diverse membership. The staff achieves these goals by evaluating member needs, improving lines of communication, and providing efficient and quality customer service.

The AZA Web site is one of the Association’s primary means of communicating with both the general public and AZA membership. All of AZA’s functions are represented on the site. The Members Only section includes access to listservs, industry statistics, information published by AZA’s conservation and science programs and online resources and collaborations tools.

MARKETING
The marketing programs of AZA are designed to generate revenue for participating member institutions. These programs also generate visibility and financial support for the Association through licensing and promotional activities. The marketing staff is building the marketing program and exploring the development of new innovations to support the Association.
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MEMBER UPDATES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AZA is pleased to warmly welcome new Professional Affiliate, Professional Fellow, Conservation Partners, Accredited Institutions, Certified Related Facilities and Commercial members.

NEW PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- Joanna Anderson, Director of Human Resources, Denver Zoo
- Edward A Brunt IV, Guest Services Supervisor, Audubon Zoo
- Samantha Cadman, Keeper, Los Angeles Zoo
- Quenta Etta, Guest Services Supervisor, Audubon Zoo
- Anthony Hasbun, Maintenance Supervisor, San Francisco Zoological Gardens
- Shelby Hasbun, Custodial Supervisor, San Francisco Zoological Gardens
- Amelia Isaminger, Member Relations Coordinator, Texas State Aquarium
- Kashima T Jupiter, Guest Services Supervisor, Audubon Zoo
- Amanda Mayberry, Animal Keeper, Sacramento Zoo
- Sheila Rae Murphy, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
- Remy Danielle Plas, Membership & Events Coordinator, BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo
- William J. Walters, Senior Animal Technician, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

NEW PROFESSIONAL FELLOW MEMBERS

- Angie Bradley, Director of Human Resources, The Florida Aquarium
- Kaki Helligenthal, Marketing & Development Director, BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo
- Bob K. Mathew, Director of Business Services / CFO, Oklahoma City Zoological Park
- Rachel Meyer, Director, CuriOdyssey
- Gene Peacock, Director, Brandywine Zoo

NEW CONSERVATION PARTNER MEMBERS

American Association of Zoo Keepers
8476 East Speedway Blvd Suite 204
Tucson, AZ 85710
Phone: (520)298-9688
www.aazk.org

Contact: Edward Hansen
Membership association incorporated for the continuing education of professional animal keepers and aquarists; supporting animal and habitat conservation programs established and supported by our membership.

NEW/REINSTATED COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

Clax Italia - Aquarium Division
Leonardo Munzi
Via Trieste, 4
Pomezia40
ITALY
Phone: 33063420652
E-mail: aquaria@claxitalia.com
www.claxitalia.com/en
Contact: Leonardo Munzi
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<td><a href="http://www.abaxis.com">www.abaxis.com</a></td>
<td>800-822-2947</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Sealants, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amsealinc.com">www.amsealinc.com</a></td>
<td>970-523-6001</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aqua Logic Inc.</td>
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<td>858-292-4773</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>Cemrock Naturalistic Environments</td>
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**September 2013**
7-12: The 2013 AZA Annual Conference is being hosted by the Kansas City Zoo. For more information, visit www.aza.org/annualconference.

**September/October 2013**
30-4: Amphibian Management School. Hosted by Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, MI.

**October 2013**
21-24: Principles of Elephant Management II. Hosted by the Houston Zoo in Houston, TX.

**November 2013**
11-16: Creating Successful Exhibits. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
11-16: Population Management I: Data Acquisition & Processing. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
11-16: Population Management I: Data Analysis & Breeding Recommendations. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.

**February 2014**
3-8: Avian Management, Biology, and Conservation. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
3-8: Conservation Education: Effective Program Design. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
3-8: Institutional Records Keeping. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
3-8: Managing for Success: Career Development. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
3-8: Managing for Success: Organizational Development. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.
3-8: Principles of Elephant Management I. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.

**April 2014**
6-12: Animal Training Applications in Zoo & Aquarium Settings. Hosted by Disney’s Animal Kingdom in Orlando, FL.
14-17: Principles of Elephant Management II. Hosted by Disney’s Animal Kingdom in Orlando, FL.
26-May 1: Best Practices in Animal Keeping. Hosted by Toledo Zoo in Toledo, OH.

For more information about these courses and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

Calendar Submission Guidelines:
To submit your listing for the CONNECT calendar, please e-mail or fax the event name, date, location and contact information to Tim Lewthwaite, AZA Publications Manager, at tleworthwaite@aza.org or fax to (301) 562-0888.
PARASITOLOGY NEWS

opportunity to interact with colleagues or learn what AZVT is all about at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, Alaska. This is a great learning in Exotics, Study of Body Temps in Lorikeets, Cardiovascular Comparison Study. Clinical section will cover Invasive BP monitor-

Sustainability 7-14: The 36th Annual Conference and Technical Congress at Disney’s Animal Kingdom. The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) Annual Meeting and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Annual Meeting and Technical Congress 2013 will take place at Disney’s Animal Kingdom at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. The CBSG Annual Meeting is October 10-13, 2013, and the WAZA Annual Conference is October 15-17, 2013.

WAZA’s call for papers is open until May 31, 2013. The website for registration is now open and early bird registration will be open until May 31. For more information, please visit: www.waza.org/en/sites/get-involved/waza-annual-conferences/68th-annual-conference-act-2013.

CBSG Annual Meeting and WAZA Annual Conference and Technical Congress at Disney’s Animal Kingdom

The symposium has hosted an average of more than 260 attendees over the past three years, representing the largest gathering of non-marine turtle biologists in the world and provides an unmatched opportunity for networking and strategic turtle conservation. Last year’s conference was filled with presentations by biologists and conservations from 13 countries covering 50+ species. Visit www.turtlesurvival.org for more information or to contact. Register info@turtlesurvival.org for more information.

26-30: International Elephant and Rhino Conservation & Research Symposium, co-hosted by the International Elephant Foundation, the International Rhino Foundation and the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium and International Conservation Center. Increasing pressures on wild populations of elephants and rhinos are having a devastating effect on their numbers. Human/wildlife conflicts, loss of habitat and poaching for the illegal wildlife trade in elephant tusks and rhino horn are all contributing factors in the rapid decline of wild populations. Through the ongoing work of zoos, scientific and field research, and massive efforts to stem the illegal wildlife trade, there is increasing hope for wild populations, but it is an ongoing effort. Elephant and rhino conservationists are coming from around the world to present conservation projects and research results on field conservation, conflict mitigation, captive and wildlife management, health, nutrition, trade issues and reproduction.

For more information including registration, renowned speakers, general schedule, post conference trip, etc please go to: http://pittsburghzoo.org/elephantrhinosymposium

SEPTEMBER 2013

5-9: The Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians will be hosting their thirty-third Annual Conference September 5th-9th, 2013 at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, Alaska. This is a great opportunity to interact with colleagues or learn what AZVT is all about while viewing the beautiful state of Alaska. The conference will cover a wide variety of topics including Field Studies of Eurasian Black Vulture Conservation and Using CTAI in the Field for South American Fur Seals. Clinical pathology topics will include CBC’s in Southern Stingrays, a case study Monitoring Estradiol and Testosterone Levels in Gray Seals, Developing a Quality Accuracy Program in a Lab with Multiple Technicians and a Fecal Flotation Comparison Study. Clinical section will cover Invasive BP monitoring in Exotics, Study of Body Temps in Lankiest, Cardiovascular Irregularities in Anesthesia, Wound Care in an African Crested Porcupine, Physiological Changes in Cold Stunned Sea Turtles and Treatment of Spinal Abscess in Amur Tiger cubs. There will also be a parasitology wet lab. Students qualify for a discounted registration if you would like more information please visit www.aza.org.

7-12: The 2013 AZA Annual Conference is being hosted by the Kansas City Zoo. This is the premier event for zoo and aquarium professionals, bringing together leaders in our community to network with peers, explore ideas and best practices, share successful programs, and learn new technologies and services. Attendees are guaranteed to be challenged with vibrant speakers from inside and outside the community, expert-led programming, face-to-face meetings with colleagues, more than 515 service providers in the exhibit hall, exciting networking and social events, and the famous Zoo Day. For more information, visit www.aza.org/annualconference.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

30-4: Amphibian Management School. Hosted by Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, MI. AZAs amphibian training course has gone through a metamorphosis all its own! The newly revamped Amphibian Management School focuses on basic husbandry, exhibit design, support for regional conservation programs, and effective conservation messaging in a zoo or aquarium setting. Drawing on expertise from the Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group, this course provides knowledge about amphibians and skills for managing these sensitive species in captivity that are essential for anyone working directly with amphibians in a zoo or aquarium collection. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

OCTOBER 2013

3-6: How do bears learn, problem solve, communicate, and respond to their environment? Join us at Advancing Bear Care 2013 - Understanding Bears to explore the cognitive and physical needs of captive bears. Learn how to provide stimulating complex natural environments to meet those needs.

Advancing Bear Care 2013 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Clinton, New Jersey in partnership with the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge in Clinton, New Jersey on October 3-6, 2013. There will be two post conference trips held on Oct 7th: Bronx Zoo Day and Oct 8th: Helping Hands-On Building Project at the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. Details available at www.bearcaregroup.org.

6-10: 2013 International Tree Kangaroo Workshop Hosted by the Melbourne Zoo, Zoos Victoria, Supported by the Zoo and Aquarium Association Austaliaes, American Association of Zoos and Aquariums Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Program and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Management Plan. For more information, contact Megan Richardson at mnichardson@zoo.org.au.

7-14: Conservation Breeding Centers for Wildlife Sustainability is an exciting new course that is organized, facilitated and taught by specialists representing the Conservation Centers for Species Survival (CSSZ), a consortium of major conservation breeding centers that focus on the survival of species with unique needs, especially large areas, natural group sizes, minimal public disturbance and scientific research. These organizations are "non-traditional" in that they have substantial space and specialized resources that allow animal production as well as scientific study and population recovery, including for reintroduction. This course will share the details of the specialized CSSZ expertise and facilities that manage, study and reproduce wild animals on a sufficient scale to create demographically and genetically stable populations. This will be of particular interest to conservation, zoo and veterinary professionals who are involved in species assessment, management and recovery programs in captivity or in the wild, as well as those interested in developing a career in conservation breeding of endangered species.

This course is offered at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Va. Participants will learn both at SCBI (Monday –Friday) and the Wilds (Saturday-Monday), both of which have new on-site training facilities, which vary in their expertise and habitats and area of focus. For more information, please visit: http://csbconservation.gmu.edu/programs/graduate-and-professional/professional-training/courses/conservation-breeding-centers-for-wildlife-sustainability/
available through the Hamill Family Play Zoo and other features of NatureStart: The CZS Early Childhood Initiative. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

11-16: Population Management I: Data Analysis & Breeding Recommendations. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Population Management I: Data Analysis and Breeding Recommendations teaches the integration of demography, genetics and husbandry to set population goals and make breeding recommendations for zoo and aquarium populations. This course produces competent managers for zoo or aquarium populations. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

11-16: Principles of Program Animal Management. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Principles of Program Animal Management exposes students to the range of opportunities for program animal use and provides students with the knowledge to effectively develop and manage formalized programs utilizing animal ambassadors. By focusing on a range of methods, rather than teaching a single "recommended" approach, students will be better prepared to develop an approach that fits their institution's mission and philosophy. Group exercises and discussions will engage the participants as they share ideas and brainstorm new methods of management practices. Each day's instruction will lead to a final project in which teams will present their original program animal collection, animal handling policy, management practices, animal handling training. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

3-8: Managing for Success: Career Development. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Managing for Success: Career Development examines management disciplines with emphasis on their application to zoos and aquariums. Participants will receive practical tools and skills to take back to their institutions to apply at their level, including an increased network of resources and heightened leadership skills. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

NOVEMBER 2013
11-16: Creating Successful Exhibits. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Creating Successful Exhibits provides an integrated overview of a team-based exhibit development process. The course follows the phases of an exhibit project from formation of the team, through concept planning, design and construction, to operation, in chronological order of the tasks. Full attention is given to techniques that improve an exhibit's impact on visitors. This program is a classroom-based workshop and does not include hands-on training in fabrication. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

11-16: Population Management I: Data Acquisition & Processing. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Population Management I: Data Acquisition and Processing teaches critical skills needed to create a population database for a single zoo or aquarium population. Students learn to handle unique data entry situations and to adapt to changing software. Students also summarize the data in the studbook database and calculate basic life history parameters. This course provides an aquarium or zoo professional who can gather raw data and turn it into a good, documented studbook to provide expertise on biology and history of the captive population/species. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

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FEBRUARY 2014
3-8: Avian Management, Biology, and Conservation. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Avian Management, Biology and Conservation will enhance your effectiveness as a bird keeper and avian program leader. A major goal of the class is to teach critical thinking techniques that lead to informed decisions regarding the future of avian collections. Students will be given a variety of tools, techniques and best practices to provide a foundation for understanding and meeting current challenges in avian management. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

3-8: Conservation Education: Effective Program Design. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Conservation Education: Effective Program Design provides zoo and aquarium educators with a comprehensive overview of how to design, develop, implement and evaluate education programs and exhibit interpretive elements. Course materials include the latest research and trends in informal science education. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

3-8: Institutional Records Keeping. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Institutional Records Keeping offers students the theories and mechanics of animal records-keeping and identifies the important role accurate records play in successful animal management not only within the institution but also in regional and global cooperative species management programs. This course offers students training that will integrate best practices for accurate data entry and standardization of data along with technical instruction. This instruction is in the most updated application of ISIS' Zoological Information Management System – ZIMS 2012 – which will be deployed in early 2012. This course provides students exposure to the most current technology that defines the future of animal records keeping. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

3-8: Managing for Success: Career Development. Hosted by Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Managing for Success: Career Development examines management disciplines with emphasis on their application to zoos and aquariums. Participants will receive practical tools and skills to take back to their institutions to apply at their level, including an increased network of resources and heightened leadership skills. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

APRIL 2014
6-12: Animal Training Applications in Zoo & Aquarium Settings. Hosted by Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, FL. Animal Training Applications provides zoo and aquarium staff with a background in training theory and an understanding of the skills necessary to train animals. It includes a historical perspective of animal training as well as terminology and an overview of training techniques. Selected training concepts and skills will be taught via animal demonstrations, group activities and individual skill development opportunities. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

14-17: Principles of Elephant Management II. Hosted by Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, FL. Principles of Elephant Management II focuses on the skills necessary to safely accomplish all of the AZA-required elephant behavioral components. Live training demonstrations and hands-on experiences will be utilized to combine the teaching of advanced elephant principles with best occupational safety practices. To provide students with the most valuable hands-on and personalized experience, enrollment in this course is limited to 12 participants. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training

26-MAY 1: Best Practices in Animal Keeping. Hosted by Toledo Zoo in Toledo, OH. Advances in Animal Keeping covers the essentials of animal keeping across all taxa. The course focuses on the very highest standards in animal husbandry, in combination with problem solving, team building and interpersonal skills. You will engage with professional colleagues and apply what you learn back at your home institution. The goal of this course is to motivate and retain animal care professionals within our industry and to elevate the standards of animal care in AZA zoos and aquariums. For more information about this course and other opportunities to enrich your career, visit www.aza.org/professional-training
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