

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

John Kanzia, Environmental Quality Manager, Brookfield Zoo



Happy spring, friends! I hope that this finds you safe and well. As vaccine roll-outs continue, I hope that you are able to schedule appointments if you want to receive it. Essential Zoo and Aquarium staff are classified as "Food and Agriculture" workers and are included in

Phase 1B of the vaccine rollout. I received my second dose a couple of weeks ago, and several family members were able to get their second doses the Saturday before Easter. We are looking forward to getting together (with masks) soon; we missed out on a lot over the last year, and we have a lot of making up to do.

My family's experience with COVID-19 became very real and personal back in February. My older brother contracted COVID-19, most likely during an event at a home where the CDC's recommendations for indoor gatherings with people that you do not live with were not followed. Several other attendees also contracted the virus and experienced mild to moderate symptoms. Due to his age and pre-existing conditions, my brother was profoundly affected. After over 9 weeks in the hos-

pital, the last 8 of them on a ventilator and an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine, he has suffered several strokes and damage to multiple organs that will have life-long implications. It has been a heart-wrenching struggle, and a roller coaster ride of emotions, and it is not nearly over yet. I would not wish this on anyone. COVID is real; please gather safely and responsibly, and let's all do our part to stop the spread and try to put an end to this pandemic.

I hope that you have been able to join us for our monthly Virtual Conference Series. Your Board of Directors has been working very hard to put together a program that we hope you find interesting and inspiring. If you were not able to attend the February, March, or April sessions, look for links to Zoom recordings in your email box and on our website. I would like to thank everyone that has participated and contributed to the sessions, and as always to our vendors and sponsors. With their continued support, we are able to keep doing great things, waive individual membership dues for 2021, and raffle off some great prizes to our Conference Series attendees! We look forward to seeing you online soon. The conference theme is Catalyst for Good Change, focusing on the positive ways the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted our industry to adapt and rebuild toward

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a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future. If you would like to be featured as the AZFA Member of the Month, or recommend a facility or project for the Featured Facility or Feature Presentation segments, please contact Sam Peterson at sam.peterson@sazoo.org. There will be a session every month leading up to our virtual annual meeting and closing session in October.

If you have a project in mind but are not comfortable presenting, please consider submitting it as an article for The Outlet; we are always looking for content, and would love to hear about your project. Articles can be sent to Jennifer Golden, The Outlet Editor, at jgolden@zoonewengland.com.

We Network, We Build, We Protect.

DENVER ZOO

Denver Zoo Operational Sustainability

Megan Jorgenson, Director of Safety and Sustainability, Denver Zoo

Denver Zoo is Inspiring Communities to Save Wildlife for Future Generations. Saving wildlife encompasses the work of all functions at Denver Zoo, each of which have their own unique strategies to address threats to wildlife and wild places, from our field conservation efforts locally and abroad, to our work engaging and inspiring guests on our 80-acre campus.

Every activity conducted, and product or service purchased, at the Denver Zoo comes with its own social and environmental impacts. In an effort to continue to drive positive change from the effects of operations on Denver Zoo's campus and throughout our supply chains, we created a Sustainability Objectives and Targets Program. Our sustainability objectives are organized into eight focused areas: Water, Waste, Energy, Materials and Food, Social Leadership, Biodiversity, Responsible Economic Growth, and Resiliency.

Denver Zoo is proud of the three major publicly announced targets from our Sustainability Objectives and Targets program:

- Water: 50% reduction in potable water use by 2025 from a 2018 baseline.
- Waste: Zero Waste campus by 2025 (defined as a 90% landfill diversion rate).
- Energy: 25% reduction in energy use by

2025 from a 2018 baseline. 100% renewable energy use by 2030.

Water stewardship and conservation: Water is the vein of life for animals, plants, the environment, societies, and the economy. Clean water that is available for everyone is proving to be a pressing issue at a global scale. We are dedicated to keeping harmful contaminants out of our local waterways and reducing potable water use to support a clean water future for all.

Waste Diversion and promotion a circular economy: The combination of our operations and animals can produce a lot of waste. Most of that waste can be recycled, composted, donated, reused, or repurposed instead of being sent to a landfill. We are committed to reducing landfill waste wherever possible, while also supporting a more circular economy.

Reduction of fossil fuel use through improving mobility, energy efficiency, and supporting renewable energy sources: Energy has transformed human life, connected us in unimaginable ways, and allowed for the world to be viewed in a different light. Unfortunately, traditional fossil fuel energy production and some other modern industrial practices are leading to a rapidly changing climate and reduced biodiversity. We are committed to a future where fossil fuel use

is a thing of the past, and clean air surrounds diverse ecosystems, while still supporting a robust economy.

We have already accomplished a lot in these areas! We are talking about a 70% reduction in annual water use since 1999, an average 65% waste diversion status, and continual reductions in annual energy use.

We are at the tipping point right now, and must reach beyond the low-hanging fruit of retrofitting to LED lamps, utilizing on-site renewables, and composting organic waste. We need to reach higher for futuristic, innovative next steps in net zero energy principles, designing our buildings and sup-

ply chains for efficiency and resiliency, continuing water quality and conservation efforts, smart materials use and circular economy programs, and strategic greenhouse gas analysis and reduction. And we need your help! We are such a unique industry that we must be willing and able to share best practices, ideas and even failures within our community. Collaboration is essentially at the root of the effectiveness of each of the sustainability objective areas. Together we can protect clean air, land and water from toxins, pollutants, debris and exploitation, while saving wildlife and wild places along the way.

2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

2021 Virtual Conference Series Speaker Slots Available

Sam Peterson, AZFA Administrator, Sustainability Coordinator, San Antonio Zoo

Our monthly conference sessions are well underway with a wonderful lineup so far. If you are interested in being a featured presenter, sponsor, or a facility spotlight for one of the remaining sessions, please contact Sam Peterson, AZFA Administrator, at sam.peterson@sazoo.org. This year's theme is Catalyst for Good Change, focusing on the positive ways the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted our industry to

adapt and rebuild toward a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future.

This series is a great opportunity to share what you have learned and get feedback from fellow professionals. Let's hear from you!



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THANK YOU to our vendor sponsors!
Due to their generosity,
Professional Individual AZFA memberships will be FREE for 2021!

We recognize the following sponsors who paid it forward by supporting the annual conference:

- Dude Solutions
- THERMEQ (NORMAL STEEL FABRICATORS CO.)
- HAYWARD
- CEMROCK
- IPEX
- COST

THANK YOU to our Raffle Sponsor for enabling our five prize drawings!

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Complimentary Individual AZFA Membership

Dean Violetta, Membership Chair, Director of Planning & Exhibit Design, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

We all know how rough the past year has been on Zoos and Aquariums and how that has affected funding and budgets. If your Facilities Department is anything like ours, you were either asked, or told, to cut expenses however and wherever possible. A lot of times an easy expense to target is membership fees to organizations like the AZFA...and we get it, we are living it too.

Knowing how loyal our individual members have been to the AZFA for so many years, the AZFA would like to give back. For 2021, all individual memberships to the AZFA will be free, no strings attached.

We are not going to ask for your credit card information and charge you on January 1, 2022; none of that stuff! It is just free for you to enjoy.

We have made some pretty cool changes over the past year (particularly our monthly conference sessions - they have come a long way, if we do say so ourselves!). So all you have to do is join. And please spread the word to your managers, co-workers, colleagues, and anyone else that you think would benefit from being associated with the women and men who Design, Build, and Protect our Zoos and Aquariums. We will be thrilled to welcome them along with the dozens of new members who have already taken advantage of this exciting offer.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome New Members

Sam Peterson, AZFA Administrator, Sustainability Coordinator, San Antonio Zoo

Professional

Ramiro Almeida, Facilities Supervisor, Aquarium of the Pacific

Luis Alvarado, Ranger Operations Manager, Houston Zoo Inc.

Lance Bierman, Maintenance Technician, Metro Parks Tacoma

Zach Bosquez, Maintenance, Rolling Hills Zoo

Anthony Boyd, Conservation Horticulturist, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Dave Brigham, Assistant Curator, Buffalo Zoo

Jason Brown, Electrician, Woodland Park Zoo

Chris Brzezicki, Director of Facilities - San Diego Zoo Safari Park, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Matthew Bufton, Bristol Zoo Garden

Samantha Burns, Senior Exhibit Technician, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

Cathy Butler, Horticulture Area Manager, Walt Disney World Animal Kingdom

Erin Donato, Sustainability Manager, Facilities, Houston Zoo

Ted Doughty, Owner, Tiki Shack Importer

Kyla Greenham, Manager of Conservation Programs & Environment, Toronto Zoo

Mette Hanson, Interpretive Content and Design Coordinator, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Damon Hicks, Facilities Manager, Binder Park Zoo

Liz Hines, Educational Specialist Wildlife Champions: Community Engagement, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Michael Hitchcock, Horticulture Director, Zoo Miami

JBrian Walker, Maintenance Technician,

Professional

Joe Jackson, Maintenance Worker, Ellen Trout Zoo

Christine James, Maintenance Supervisor, Ellen Trout Zoo - City of Lufkin

Nathalie Jolicoeur, Manager Member Relations, Houston Zoo Inc.

Gal Judah, Utilities Supervisor, Toronto Zoo

Anna Land, Horticulture Supervisor, Houston Zoo, Inc.

Heather Love, Admissions Manager, Houston Zoo, Inc.

Richard Mikiciuk, Assistant Zoo Director - Facilities, Seneca Park Zoo

Elijah Millay, Facilities Technician, Zoo New England

Marc Montoya, Facilities Operations Coordinator, Albuquerque BioPark

Gerrett Morris, Horticulture Supervisor, Rolling Hills Zoo

Jesse Muller, Zoological Exhibit/Themed Entertainment Design Manager, Perry Becker Design

Ray Navarra, Transit & Fleet Supervisor, Toronto Zoo

Daniel Neale, Marine Mammal Trainer I, SAIC

Devon Offutt, Facilities Manager, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Corri Pfeiffenberger, Director of Horticulture, Grounds, and Environmental Services, Denver Zoo

Freda Pyron, Conservation Horticulturist, North Carolina Aquariums at Pine Knoll Shores

Kyle Rekker, Electrical & Plumbing Supervisor, Toronto Zoo

Brian Roosa, General Manager Facilities, Virginia Aquarium

Thomas Ruder, Operations Manager, Denver Zoo

Jennifer Ryan, SVP Operations and Sustainability, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Megan Soland, Wildlife Champions Education Programs Associate, Point Defiance Zoo Conservation Engagement

Heather Vrzal, Zoo Curator, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

JBrian Walker, Maintenance Technician, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

Jarod Wars, Maintenance Worker, Ellen Trout Zoo

Samuel Watts, Exhibit Tech, Woodland Park Zoo

Kaitlyn Welzen, Sustainability and Purchasing Manager, Woodland Park Zoo

Gregory Works, Senior Horticulturist, San Antonio Zoo

Katherine Zimmerman, Biologist, The Green Planet

Associate

Keith Hughes, Georgia Institute of Technology

CLARK WALDRAM CONSERVATION FUND

Clark Waldram Conservation Fund

Jennifer Golden, Operations Project Manager, Zoo New England

The Clark Waldram Conservation Fund contributes to the support of local and worldwide conservation programs and projects. The Fund supports applicants that have demonstrated the grant will be applied to construction materials, tools, equipment, and technical expertise portions of a program or project and that the program or project has a conservation objective. Awards range from \$100 to \$1,500

Previous grants have been made in support of:

- Northwest Trek Wildlife Park: Oregon Spotted Frog Reintroduction Project
- Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute: Competitive Interactions Between Headwater Stream Salamanders and Fish, Southern Appalachian Mountains Salamander Conservation, Centralizing Barrens Topminnow Work, Animal Care Facility Upgrades, Lake Sturgeon Recirculating System
- San Antonio Zoo: Condensate Water Collection System
- Chicago Zoological Society: Punta San Juan Portable Generator and Field Equipment project in Peru
- Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden: Eastern Hellbender Salamander
- Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium: Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership
- The Turtle Survival Alliance: Automatic Water Change Systems
- Brevard Zoo: Perdido Key Beach Mice
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx Zoo, Cuban Crocodile Conservation

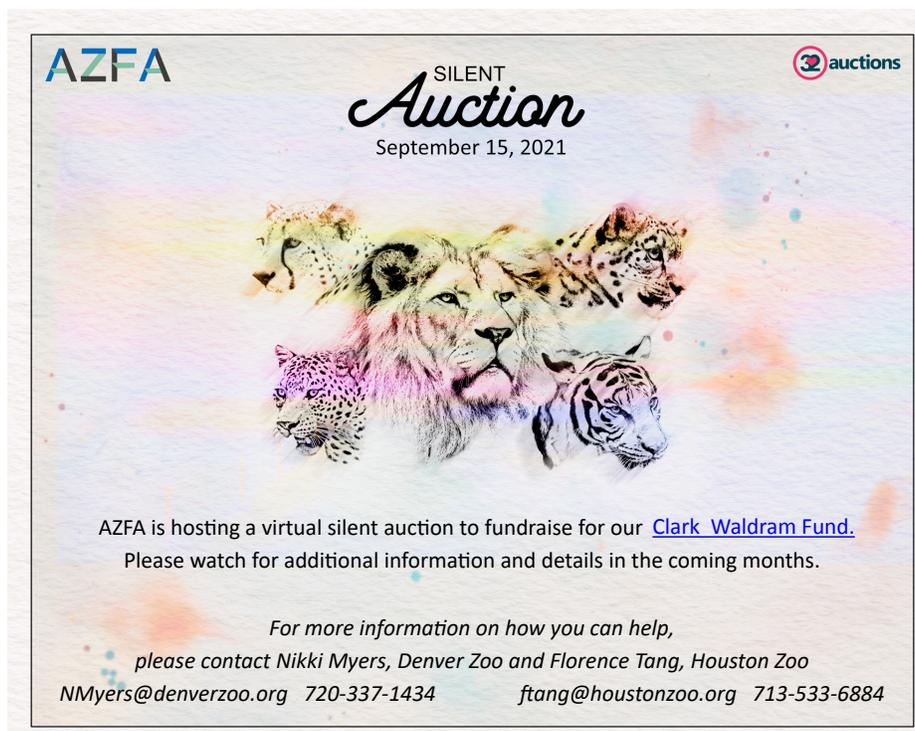
If you or an affiliate organization that you know of would like to apply for funding for a project, please visit our website's conservation section

CALENDAR

Calendar

Deadline for articles for the summer newsletter: July 15th

AZFA hour-long virtual conference Zoom sessions occur on the 4th Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Stay tuned for details about a virtual September Social.



AZFA auctions

SILENT
Auction
September 15, 2021

AZFA is hosting a virtual silent auction to fundraise for our [Clark Waldram Fund](#).
Please watch for additional information and details in the coming months.

*For more information on how you can help,
please contact Nikki Myers, Denver Zoo and Florence Tang, Houston Zoo*

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