

O the Outlet



Winter 2017

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Bob Wengel, Vice President Facilities, John G. Shedd Aquarium



I hope that you and your families had a great holiday season and your new year is off to a great start. For some a new year can be a time to reflect on the past and look into the future. As I reflect on the AZFA and its past, present, and future there is one thing that we will always be. This is a member organization made up by individuals from Zoos, Aquariums, professional service organizations, and supply vendors that specialize in our field. We come together once a year as a group at our annual conference to network, share stories and learn about what is going on in our industry from one another.

Membership is the key component to our organization and as I said above our organization is for members and ran by our members. We do have a membership committee but this is where we are going to ask for your help. As you work with your own peers, architects, engineers, contractors, and businesses that support your facility talk to them about the AZFA. See if you can get them to become members just to try it out. I say this to my wife Sally all the time "You never know who that kid sitting at our kitchen table is going to be some day". I say this about my kids and their friends and this could be said about all the folks you work with every day. Just becoming a member is the first step.

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This was indeed my first step. I was on a visit to the Cincinnati Zoo one cold spring morning. As I was meeting with Mark Fisher he told me about the AZFA and all the things that they were doing. In the casual Mark Fisher kind of way he just said to me "You should check it out" so I did, and when I returned back to the Aquarium I went online and joined. I attended the conference that fall and found out what it was all about. The next fall Mark invited me to give a presentation at the conference in Cincinnati. From that point on I have been involved with this great organization. I have met some amazing people along the way and I have learned a lot from them. One year after I became a member I was asked to represent the AZFA on the AZA Business Operations Committee as a professional liaison. I have served on the AZFA board and am now the President of the organization. All that came from a simple "You should check it out" and a couple clicks of a mouse.

If you have been a member for a while and are looking to get more involved, join a committee or submit a presentation for the conference. If you think you might want to host a conference contact the site selection committee or talk with a past host. Hosting a conference in your Zoo or Aquarium is an amazing experience. When the conference was at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago in 2015 we hosted the ice breaker and a tour at the Aquarium. It was an awesome experience for me and our team to welcome you all into our home and show you what Shedd Aquarium is about.

As this year gets started and our committees roll up their sleeves to get working on all their initiatives please consider helping us to drive in new memberships, presentations, and select locations for future conferences. Even though we just departed from Omaha a couple of months ago, before you know it we will be at another great conference at John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids Michigan.

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AZA's Green Guide Comes Alive!

By Fia Cifuentes, Sustainability Coordinator, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Join us for the 7th Annual Green Summit, hosted by the AZA Green Scientific Advisory Group (GSAG) during AZA's Mid-Year Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 27th and 28th. Learn how to apply GSAG's Green Guide to your institution in an effort to make your operations more sustainable, saving natural resources and money at the same time. Learn where and how to begin, how to fund projects, and how to keep your staff and community engaged in the process. Breakout sessions will occur after each panel to allow more time for you to plan your strategies and dive a little deeper.

This year's Green Summit will focus on:

Measuring What You Manage

When thinking about a sustainability program, how does one even get started? Where do we begin? This session will dive deep into the power of metrics - you cannot manage what you do not measure. Learn how to get intimate with your numbers on energy usage, water consumption, tons of waste, and understand how much it all costs. Gain tips and strategies for conducting your own internal audits and recognize why data and metrics are an integral part of a successful sustainability program. We will explore different data tracking systems, how to utilize partners in your community, and how to analyze data so it works for you.

Power of People

Engaging your staff in sustainability practices, programs, and implementation is key in achieving success. Having constant, open, honest, and transparent conversations with staff, especially front line staff, will keep everyone on the same page and ensure everyone's voice is heard. Celebrate successes, give opportunity for all staff to have a part in sustainability efforts, not just Facilities Departments or Administration. This session will highlight institutions that have engaged their staff in creative ways, allowing participation across the board with green initiatives.

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Money Talks

You have an engaged staff. You have the metrics and data. You have the amazing ideas that will green your operations. All you need now is the funding to do it. Where does the money come from to pull off sustainability projects? Reinvestment? Grants? Sponsorships? How to engage your members, board of trustees, development department, and more to ensure more of these projects can come to fruition. Creative financing, collaboration and partnerships, and building trust to pull off these projects is all part of the dance.

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Bringing It All Together

There is no specific formula or blueprint to follow when it comes to sustainability projects. It is different for every institution; you just have to find what works best for you. Hear from a few institutions around the country who have successfully achieved greening up their institutions, surely hitting many obstacles along the way but not taking no for an answer.

In addition, staff from ABQ BioPark, this year's host for the Mid-Year Meeting, will host a special reception on Zoo Day to share the various green and conservation initiatives they put into practice. Tours may also be available of their Aquatic Conservation Facility, their Coral propagation program, and their Farm to Table program. This year's Green Summit is packed with a lot of great information and resources to help you keep your institutions as sustainable as possible. I hope to see you there! Questions about the Summit? Do not hesitate to reach out – sophia.cifuentes@cincinnatiatizoo.org.



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2017 Annual Conference Call for Presentations

Allmon Forrester, Director of Operations, John Ball Zoo

The AZFA Program & Education Committee is seeking presenters for the upcoming conference hosted by the John Ball Zoo October 15-19, in Grand Rapids, MI.

We had a very successful education program in Omaha this fall with 25 sessions that were a mix of presentations, workshops, and roundtable discussions. Our goal is to provide another rich program in Grand Rapids. There will be several "tracks" addressing topics that our members encounter in the workplace. These could include sustainability, professional development, safety and emergency response, housekeeping, exhibit design and project management, accreditation, life support systems, and more.



Workshop demonstration from Reynolds Advanced Materials

The Committee is dedicated to offering a program that provides the best possible value for the attendees, and we need the help of the AZFA's best asset, our membership! If you would like to present at the conference, teach a workshop, or host a roundtable, or if you know someone who could, please contact Allmon Forrester at aforrester@jbzoo.org. In order to finalize the agenda as early as possible, please respond by Friday, April 7th.

Approximately half of the Power Point presentations from the Omaha conference are on the AZFA website. By going to the Past Conference drop down you can see agendas and some of the Power Point presentations from other conferences as well.

The annual conference would not be possible without the participation and collaboration of the AZFA membership. This year we had a presenter that was able to attend the conference because he led a presentation. How cool is that? Thank you to all of the members who volunteer their time and expertise to keep the program improving year after year. See you in Grand Rapids!



Hands on Bear Spray Training

Playground Resurface

By Ron May, Exhibits Supervisor, Brookfield Zoo



Figure 1 Before

In the fall of 2016 the Brookfield Zoo began the process of replacing our outdated poured in place playground surfaces with a new 100% recycled rubber playground tile called duraSAFE from Sofsurfaces (<http://www.sofsurfaces.com/>). The rubber tiles sit upon a compacted granular base that will help keep

the tiles in place. The tiles are pitched slightly outwards for water to shed towards a small gap in the tiles and the outlying playground perimeter. The tiles interlock and then are joined together with an adhesive. The seams are then taped to provide a uniform surface.

The new rubber flooring is 100% maintenance free. In the case of damage to a tile it can simply be removed & replaced without much effort. The new surface will offer a safe and fun space for kids to play for years to come.



Figure 2 After

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AZFA's Clark Waldram Conservation Fund Project Update

By Andrew Marti, Facilities Operations Manager, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

The Clark Waldram Conservation Fund is used for the support of local and worldwide conservation programs and projects. The grant supports applicants that have demonstrated that the funds 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. Since 2001, the fund has awarded over \$59,000 in support of 40 projects!

Life Support



In 2016, the AZFA supported five projects for a total of \$7,500. Projects were funded at the Turtle Survival Center, Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden, Chicago Zoological Society at the Punta San Juan Research Station, and the Tennessee Aquarium. These funds are being used for a wide range of conservation efforts including expanding facilities to improve research methods, repairing old facilities for education and storage space, improving water filtration, and life support equipment for both research and breeding purposes.

Raceway Construction



One of the projects is the first breeding "raceway" ever constructed for the Eastern hellbender salamander at the Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden. This artificial indoor stream will breed the Eastern hellbender in captivity and produce fertile eggs for hatching and subsequently larvae for headstarting. Clark Waldram Conservation Fund money went towards purchasing plumbing materials and equipment to hopefully replenish

the wild population and secure the future of Indiana's endangered hellbender. In the name of conservation, good luck Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden!

If you or an affiliate organization that you know of would like to apply for funding for a project, please visit our website at www.azfa.org and click on Conservation. We are still accepting applications for 2017.

New Members

Professional

Matthew Anthony, Facilities Manager,
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

Jerry Baltes, Technician, New York Parks

Tony DeDonato, Maintenance Foreman, Potawatomi Zoo

Michael Murphy, Director of Facilities, Elmwood Park Zoo

John Threlkeld, Life Support Coordinator, Denver Zoo

Organization

David Ruhl, Facilities Director,
Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society

Commercial

William Anderson, President, Aquatic Solutions

James Jones Jr., Director, Sivat Services Inc.



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Magid Glove & Safety
Safety Equipment & Supplies

Sherwin Williams (Coming soon)
Paints and Coatings

Staples Advantage
Facilities Solutions

WESCO
Electrical & Lighting

Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter:
April 17th

2017 Conference, October 15-19, Grand Rapids, MI

Publication Schedule

- Summer Issue - July
- Winter Issue - January
- Fall Issue - October
- Spring Issue - April

www.azfa.org

Don't forget to check out the AZFA website for updates and news.

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Editor's Note

**By Jennifer Golden, Operations Project Manager,
Zoo New England**

I want to wish all of you and your families a very happy and healthy new year. Articles for the spring issue of The Outlet can be sent to me at jgolden@zoonewengland.com

If you are a Commercial Member interested in advertising please contact me at jgolden@zoonewengland.com.