

O the Outlet



Fall 2014

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Mark Fisher



The year was 2008 and I was still new to the zoo and aquarium industry. Like all of you have experienced, I was growing frustrated with some of the daily challenges that we all face at our institutions and kept thinking to myself that it feels like we are reinventing the wheel every single day. So I googled "Zoo Facilities Management" and

naturally, the AZFA popped up. I quickly got to a name and number, reached out to Stan Chapin at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and proceeded to chat for at least an hour about our common backgrounds, common challenges, and what the AZFA was about.

I remember that conversation like it happened yesterday. Soon I was going to conferences, joining a couple of committees, and then the next thing you know someone thought I would be fit to be an officer. Here I sit now writing the President's Message. Along the way I have developed sincere friendships with dozens of my fellow AZFA peers, suckered Grace Rettig into helping host a conference here in Cincinnati, and had countless, excellent meals at run down Mexican restaurants in host cities all over the country. Of all of my experiences, clearly, the friendships are the most important. Those deep connections to so many of my peers are invaluable. And that is the essence of the AZFA; networking, sharing, friendship.

This is what I will focus on for the next year, challenging myself, our Board, and our members to find new and innovative ways to enhance the sharing of information and ideas. John Kanzia has done an excellent job of maintaining our website and he has some great thoughts of how to make the forums more engaging and interactive. These forums can and should be a powerful communication tool for all of us. Another set of tools are the AZFA Facebook and LinkedIn pages. If you are not already members of these social media sites, please take the time to join. Check out these three platforms and contribute your questions, your answers, and most importantly, your ideas. If for whatever reason, these electronic tools are not your cup of tea, why not make it a point to contact a fellow AZFA member once a month. Even if it is just to check in and talk about each other's kids, there is significant benefit to developing and maintaining those relationships. There is no reason to bang our heads against the wall trying to figure something out. It has been done before, it has already been figured out, all we need to do is reach out and connect.

Speaking of networking, how about the conference that Dave Voegel and his team put together in Evansville!? One highlight for me was the excellent lineup of sessions and workshops. I have never spent so much time at a conference getting educated! Another highlight was meeting and chatting with several of the founding members of the AZFA. Mesker Park Zoo was the site of the first ever AZFA conference in 1994 and it was the perfect venue to emphasize the early efforts of people like Bill Pawlecki, Terry Poag, Keith Schnell, and Dan Snyder. Seeing Ann Kamin-sky formally retire from her position as Administrator was bitter

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sweet because the AZFA is a better organization due to her involvement. But at the same time, she is retired....so how sweet is that?! Again, thanks to Dave Voegel and his team as well as Sam Peterson and Grace Rettig for putting so much effort into making this past conference so successful.

Last but not least, I hope to see you all in Chicago next October. John Kanzia with the Brookfield Zoo is putting together what I

know will be an incredible conference. Bob Wengel at Shedd Aquarium has also gotten involved on the planning as well as our friends at Lincoln Park Zoo. It will be a conference to remember.

Thanks to all for allowing me to serve you as the President of AZFA this year. It is a true honor. See ya in Chi-Town in the fall!

Past President's Message

By Bill Cooper

This past year as President has been an awesome experience. This was mainly due to the great people I was privileged to work with. Our focus this last year was to continue to work on making the business of the AZFA more efficient, better organized, and to continue to deliver a quality conference experience to our members.

The hard work of the committee chairs has really paid off this year. Membership continues to be strong, we were able to fund more grants, we had excellent awards to offer, finance and fundraising continues to be sound, our publications and the website continue to improve, and the conference and education committees helped put on a wonderful conference in Evansville.

I want to thank David Vogel and the Mesker Park Zoo for hosting our annual conference this year. It is nice when someone steps up to the plate to host a conference, sharing their facility and their city with us. It is a bit of an undertaking to host a conference, but Dave and his team proved they were up to the task!

Those of you who know me, know that I am not the greatest speech writer, and I often times suffer from writer's block, so I will keep this short and sweet. Thanks for letting me be your President for the second time. The experience has taught me many new lessons. I got to work with many wonderful people, and I got to help continue moving this organization forward. Thank you all again for your support!



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Conference Re-cap

By David Voegel

The 2014 AZFA conference is now in the past. Hopefully, the contacts that we made and the skills that we learned will not fade with time. I want to take a moment to thank everyone involved in making this another successful conference.

First, the staff at Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden and the Evansville Zoological Society; from the Director on down, this conference could not have been what it was without all of their support and help.

Second, the AZFA Board and Committee members who put forth their time and effort in working out the contract with the Tropicana Evansville Hotel, getting vendors to exhibit and give presentations, and giving their support to the conference. A few personal callouts go to Sam Peterson, Grace Rettig, John Kanzia, and Mike Patera. Sam and Grace kept me sane and were my sounding boards, John kept the website and on-line registration components running smoothly, and Mike took care of most all of the fund raising events from the tool raffle to the silent auction.

Third, the vendors that attended the conference were great. Without their support, we would have had a lot more expensive conference but more importantly, we would not have access to a lot of the products, services, and ideas that we use in our jobs on a daily basis.

Fourth, the presenters at the breakout sessions; I did not get to attend a lot of the sessions, but I talked to someone from each of them. I received nothing but positive feedback. You all did a great job.

Fifth, the attendees; you are why all of the work that goes into a conference is worth it. I saw a lot of new faces in the crowd and a lot of familiar ones. My goals were for everyone in attendance to learn something, make new contacts (both vendor and attendee), eat a lot, and have fun doing the first three. I think we accomplished all of them.

To conclude this I will answer two questions: Is the conference a lot of work? Yes. Is it worth it? Definitely. I was talking to Michele Horthy from the Tropicana Evansville Hotel and she commented that this was one of the best mannered groups of this size that she has had. This comment made me proud to be an AZFA member and made all of the effort worth it.

If some of you are on the edge trying to decide if you can host a conference, talk to your Supervisor or Director and go for it. You have something to offer the AZFA. The ball has officially been handed to the Chicago crowd and I am looking forward to 2015.



Advancing Conservation at the Tennessee Aquarium

By Rodney Fuller

Generous funding from AZFA's Clark Waldram Conservation Fund has moved forward three critical conservation projects at the Tennessee Aquarium:

- Centralizing Barrens Topminnow Work
- Animal Care Facility Upgrades
- Lake Sturgeon Recirculating System

Centralizing Barrens Topminnow Work

The Barrens topminnow is a tiny colorful fish found in the wild only in Middle Tennessee. For many years, the Tennessee Aquarium and its partners have worked closely with private landowners to successfully keep the species off of federally endangered species lists. Thousands of Barrens topminnows are propagated at the Aquarium each year and released across their historic range. The success of this long-standing conservation project is featured in a laboratory exhibit along the Aquarium's exhibit path.

Funding from the AZFA allowed the Aquarium to retrofit space in our Q-room to centralize all of the Barrens topminnow propagation on site. Aquarium staff completed infrastructure repairs,



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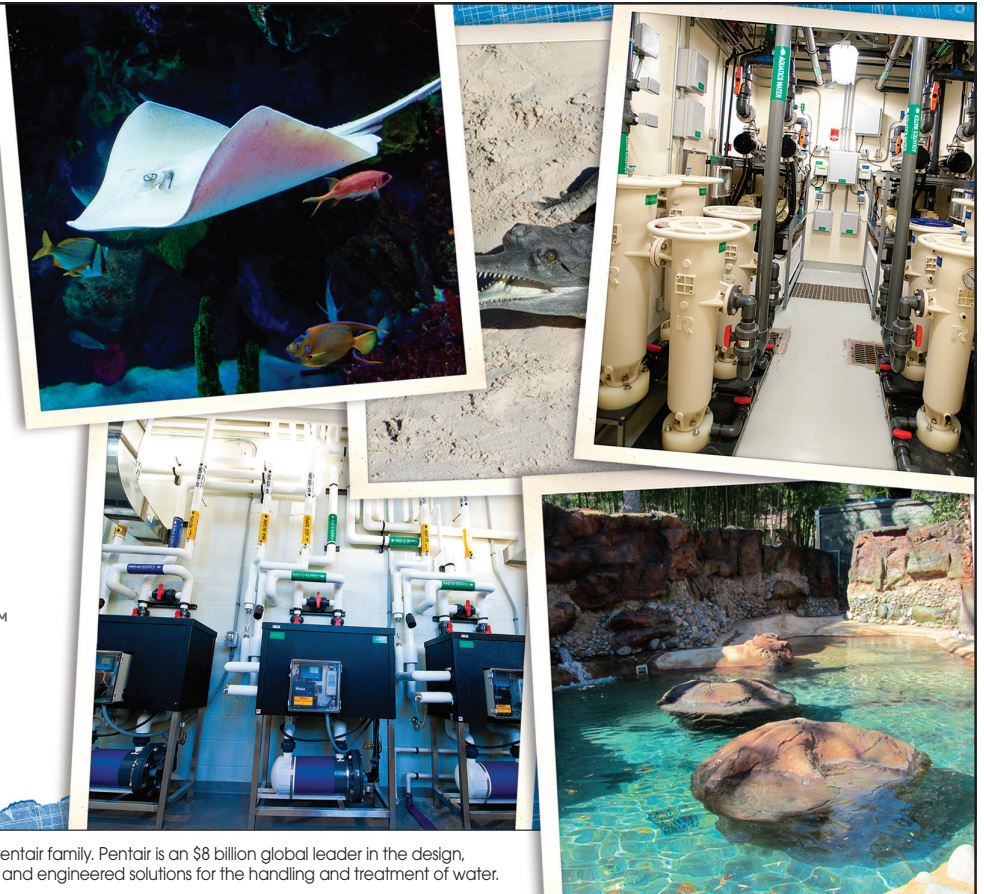
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Programs & Education Committee

By **Samanthe Peterson**

Opinions Wanted! Another successful annual conference is in the books and it is time to start planning for Chicago 2015. The Program & Education Committee works hard every year to provide good value for the conference attendees, but we can not do it without you! Our members are our best assets, with a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, so please help us tap into that amazing resource. Let us know what you liked or did not like about the Evansville program, what types of sessions you would prefer to see next year, and what we can do to make Chicago the conference your supervisor will not want you to miss.

Send feedback to speterson@sazoo.org, or better yet, share it with everyone via the new thread on the AZFA Education Forum. See you all in the Windy City!

AQUARIUM & ZOO



FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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installed new plumbing and lighting, and added shelves to best configure space for propagation tanks. With necessary holding space completed on site, the project achieved its design objectives and fully eliminated staff travel time to our Animal Care Facility to conduct the Barrens topminnow conservation project.

Animal Care Facility Upgrades

Nearly all of the Aquarium's other conservation programs are conducted off site at our Animal Care Facility. Two out of five systems in our greenhouse were reliant on large power heads to control water flow. Support from the AZFA allowed us to install permanent plumbing and magnet drive pumps on these systems, and helped contribute to an incredibly successful year of conservation propagation for lake sturgeon, brook trout, and other freshwater species.

In addition, propagation and grow-out of endangered species in our greenhouse had been subject to seasonal temperature fluctuations for years. Summer temperatures in these tanks often reached 92°F. Support from the AZFA allowed us to install a new chiller, which kept temperatures at a maximum of 76 °F. This upgrade means we can now use this space as year-round conservation holding for fish and even crayfish.

Lake Sturgeon Recirculating System

The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TNACI) relocated from Cohutta, GA to Chattanooga, TN in 2011 and changed from a flow-through hatchery set-up to 100% recirculation aquaculture. Each year 1,500 - 2,000 Lake Sturgeon fry (~0.5 inches) are received for grow-out. Within 6 months these fish are greater than 6 inches long and ready for release into the Tennessee River. There were lots of water quality problems during the first 2 years in Chattanooga.



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By adding additional water volume to each of the two 800 gallon systems, we thought we could maintain better water quality during future culture seasons. An 800 gallon Nalgene container was added to each Lake Sturgeon system to double the water volumes.

Water flows from the fluidized bed filter on each system and dumps into each vessel. A Hartford loop was used to maintain water volume in each vessel. Water returns into the opposite sump from which it was pulled to make a complete loop that does not put too much pressure on either sump.

In 2012, Lake Sturgeon survival at TNACI was less than 20%. In 2013 we released more than 75% of the fish we started with! Lake Sturgeon Recirculating System

The AZFA's investments in the Tennessee Aquarium and the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute will have long-standing positive impact on our conservation efforts.

We sincerely appreciate the support in furthering our mission to inspire wonder, appreciation and protection of water and all life that it sustains.

AZFA New Members

Professional

Richard Oppman, Senior Tradesman, The Phoenix Zoo

Andrew Marti, Facilities Contract Manager,
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium

Tony Dedonato, Maintenance, Potawatomi Zoo

Thomas Landgrebe, Maintenance Superintendent,
Potawatomi Zoo

Tom Wassing, Maintenance Manager, The Living Desert

Donald McClure, Operations Tech, Tulsa Zoo

Eldon Shinpoch, Operations Supervisor, Tulsa Zoo

Matt Simmons, Facilities Manager, Indianapolis Zoo

Jeremiah Lelito, Construction Technician,
Arizona Zoological Society/Phoenix Zoo

Stephen Carrick, Superintendent, Philadelphia Zoo

Matthew Rich, Lead Keeper, Pocatello Zoo

Organizational

Chattanooga Zoo

Commercial

Don DeRoia, Vice President, Clear Fold Door, Inc.

Jay Rooney, Director, Zootech

Kara Brooks, Project Development Manager, Iconergy

Karen Krueger, ForeverLawn Inc.

Chip Belcastro, Business Development Manager,
PPG Architectural Coatings

Associate

Tom Van Tress, Facilities Manager,
Aquarium of the Pacific

Manisha Mathur, Asst. Prof. Zoology,
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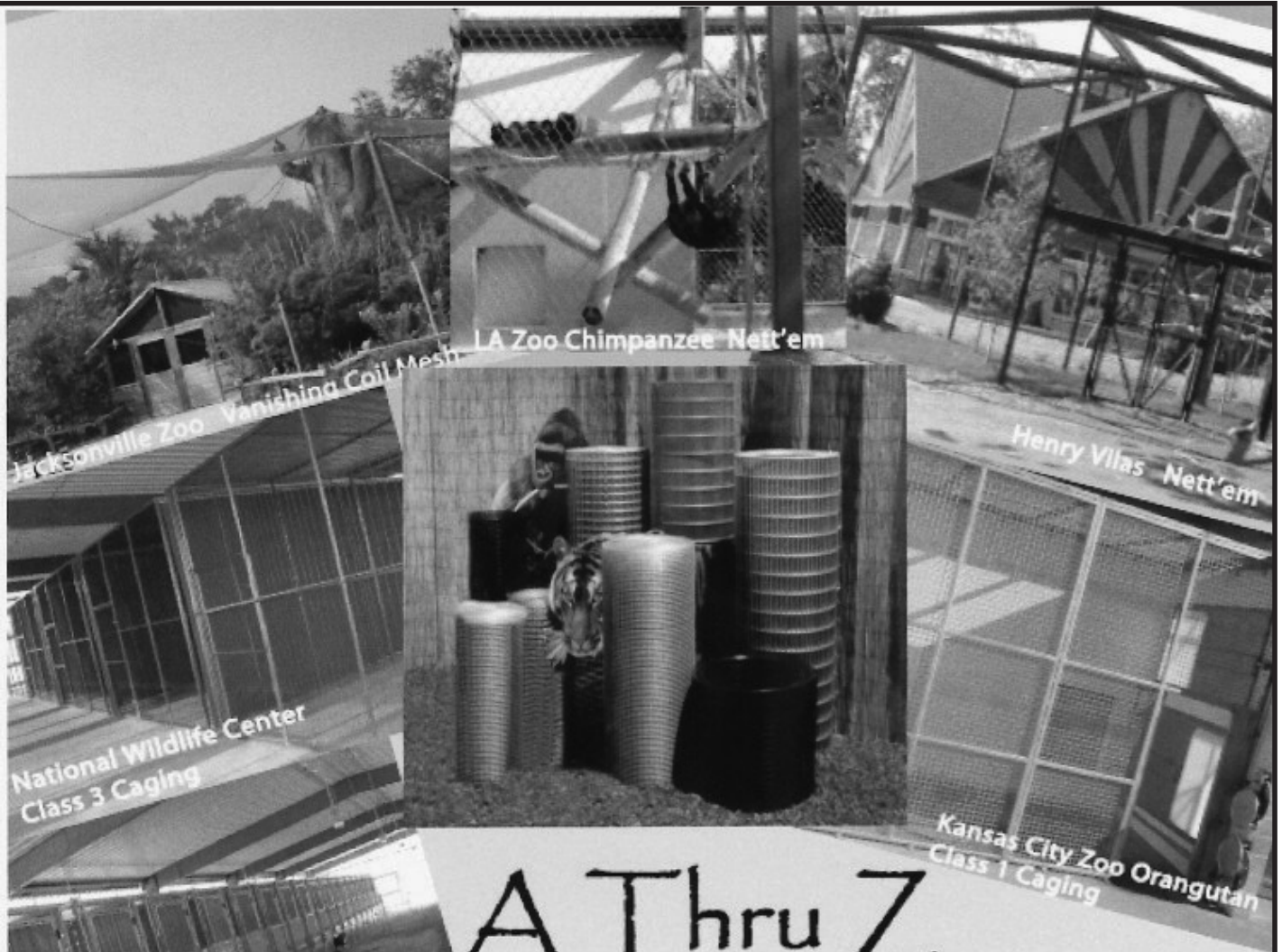
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Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter: January 19th

Publication Schedule

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

www.azfa.org

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

Website Administrator
John Kanzia, john.kanzia@czs.org

Membership

Membership Administrator
Samanthe Peterson, speterson@sazoocom

Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden

I would like to take a moment to express thanks to our Commercial Members for their support throughout the year as well as during the annual conference.

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