

# the Outlet



Fall 2015

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

## President's Message

By Rudy Castañeda



I want to start off by congratulating John Kanzia along with the conference committee for hosting and organizing this year's conference in Chicago. From the ice breaker at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Zoo Day at Brookfield Zoo, the post conference tour of Lincoln Park Zoo, and the behind-the-scenes tour of Soldier Field, their hard work was evident.

This year's conference welcomed over 150 attendees, 20 of them attending for the first time, and 27 vendors overall resulting in another great conference. Thanks John and the conference committee for an outstanding job.

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I began working with the El Paso Zoo in July of 2010. My Director encouraged me to join the AZFA and in October of that same year, I attended my first conference in St. Louis. I did not know anyone and I had no idea what the Association was about but I was set on finding out. By the third day I had a better understanding of the importance of the AZFA and I knew it was something that I wanted to be a part of.

The El Paso Zoo hosted the mid-year meeting in 2011 and then the twentieth AZFA conference in 2013. I was elected Vice President that year and now I am serving in the role of President. It has been a great experience and a pleasure to serve this amazing organization. I hope to meet and exceed the expectations set forth by my predecessors and to continue the mission, values, and goals of the AZFA.

I want to encourage you all to find the time and make the effort to get more involved in the AZFA. You will not regret it, I know I haven't. I hope you all have a great year and success with your efforts in your zoos and aquariums.

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# Past President's Message

By Mark Fisher

So the AZFA conference in Chicago was kind of awesome. The attendance was huge, the vendor turn-out was excellent, the sessions were engaging, and the Cardinals lost the division series to the hometown Cubbies. I do not know that we track this, but I would bet a cheap lunch that there were more first time attendees at this conference than any other prior. The AZFA conference just keeps on growing and getting better and better each year. A big reason for the recent run of great conferences is Sam Peterson, John Kanzia, and Grace Rettig. These three individuals have put in an incredible amount of time and effort to really make our conferences memorable, educational, and impactful. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts! And in case you did not hear, the conference next year will be in the great state of Nebraska, at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. I have no doubt that it will be unbelievable.



As I hand over the gavel, which I still need to locate, to Rudy, I would just like to say thank you to everyone. Serving this past year as President was an honor and a privilege. I have said it before and I will say it again. The friends I have made across the industry directly because of my involvement with this organization means everything to me. I am a better facilities professional because of this group and a better person. Thanks and I'll see y'all in Omaha!

An advertisement for Drainage Solutions, Inc. The background is a dark grey perforated metal grate with a pattern of green leaves and bamboo stalks. On the left, there is a logo consisting of a stylized 'S' inside a square, with the text 'DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS, INC' and 'SUPPLIER / DISTRIBUTOR' below it. In the center, the words 'DECORATIVE GRATES' are written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below this, there is a photograph of a drainage grate installed in a concrete curb, surrounded by green ornamental grasses. To the right of the photo, there are three smaller images of decorative grates with different patterns: a leaf pattern, a fern pattern, and a bamboo pattern. To the right of these images, there is a text box with the following text: 'THERE ARE MANY STYLES AND DESIGNS AVAILABLE. UPGRADE YOUR SYSTEM BY INSTALLING DECORATIVE GRATES. IT'S EASY AND AFFORDABLE!'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'NDS' with a globe icon and the tagline 'WE PUT WATER IN ITS PLACE'. In the center bottom, the text 'BUY ONLINE!' is written in large, white, bold capital letters. At the very bottom, the website address 'WWW.DRAINAGEPRODUCTS.US' is written in large, white, bold capital letters.



# Sustainability Runs Deep at Shedd

By Kelsey Ryan: Coordinator of Communications and PR for Sustainability, Great Lakes, and Conservation



Caribbean Reef

At Chicago's John G. Shedd Aquarium, sustainability is integrated into every aspect of the organization's operations – animal care, guest experience, business practices, and building management. Shedd's commitment even extends beyond its doors and into its sustainable gardens and sustainable seafood program.

Each day, Shedd spreads its conservation message with the thousands of guests that step foot inside the building, encouraging guests to take action themselves. With the organization's recent strides toward sustainable energy, water, gardens, and seafood, Shedd is truly leading by example.

In 2013, Shedd established the 2020 Energy Roadmap in partnership with the City of Chicago, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, Institute for Sustainable Energy Development, and Citizens Utility Board. The strategy set the ambitious goal of cutting the facility's energy consumption in half by 2020. Housing more than 32,000 animals and 5 million gallons of salt and fresh water, Shedd handed itself quite the challenge, and began work immediately to reduce its footprint.

That same year, Shedd installed 913 solar panels that sit atop the roof of its marine mammal pavilion, which serve to keep vital animal life support systems running in the event of a power outage. The organization also established a close relationship

with local power utility Commonwealth Edison to build the aquarium's future. More recently, the aquarium replaced light fixtures throughout the building with efficient LED bulbs and upgraded its electricity management system with 32 smart submeters that provide real-time energy data.

The aquarium has seen immediate results. In 2014, the aquarium cut its energy consumption by thirteen percent when compared to 2010. Each year, according to the Master Energy Roadmap plan, the goal is to save 10 million kilowatt-hours, enough energy to power 750 homes.



Solar panel installation

But that was just the beginning. With momentum already in place, Shedd is ready to take an exciting next step in sustainability. At the end of this year, Shedd will install a 1 megawatt battery that will serve as a microgrid, a piece of infrastructure that can also be used by neighboring museums including The Field Museum and Adler Planetarium in the event of a power outage.

Outside of the Master Energy Roadmap, Shedd is making leaps when it comes to sustainable water usage and gardening at the facility. Because those 32,000 animals need a lot of water to swim and thrive, Shedd has developed creative solutions to reduce water consumption. Shedd's Vice President of Facilities, Bob Wengel, knows being water smart is integral to all of the aquarium's operations. Thus, he has spear-headed improvements, such as modernizing the building's plumbing with water-saving toilets and most recently, a rainwater capture system was installed that feeds into the aquarium's chilling tower.

The rainwater capture system also benefits Shedd's sustainable gardens outside. In addition to using natural rainwater for

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watering the plants, Shedd’s award-winning horticulture team carefully chooses which plants to grow. For example, Xeric plants are adapted to tolerate dry conditions, so they require less watering and care. The sprinkler system is also timed to come on early in the morning when evaporation rates are lower.



Bob Wengel

The gardens also have other sustainable practices, such as using compost and crushed cocoa bean shells from a local chocolate factory to keep the soil healthy as opposed to pesticides. Horticulturalists have even strategically calculated when to mow grass in an effort to minimize the impact of the exhaust emissions.

On a larger scale, Shedd’s conservation efforts extend beyond its location in Chicago. The Sustainable Seafood program exists to help people worldwide make easy enjoyable seafood choices that benefit the health of our waters. Guests at Shedd can take home a “Sustainable Seafood Guide” that lists the most sustainable seafood options, ranging from “best choices” to “good alternatives” to seafood that should be avoided. The program empowers each of us to be a culinary conservationist, supporting healthy, abundant oceans through what we choose to put on our plate. Shedd’s aquarists even seek to feed each of the animals the most sustainable fish options within their diets.

From walls to water, Shedd’s commitment to sustainability runs deep, establishing the aquarium as a big conservation leader proud of its shrinking footprint.

Photo credit: © Shedd Aquarium/Brenna Hernandez

If you have a story to share in the Green Scene and want to highlight your zoo or aquarium’s sustainability efforts, please e-mail Fia at [sophia.cifuentes@cincinnati-zoo.org](mailto:sophia.cifuentes@cincinnati-zoo.org).



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# 2015 Conference Re-cap

By John Kanzia

Well, the 2015 Conference is now in the past, and I hope everyone that attended enjoyed it and was able to take something back home from it. It was definitely one for the books, with opportunities to see three facilities, John G. Shedd Aquarium, Brookfield Zoo, and Lincoln Park Zoo, plus the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at historic Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears. Overall, I think that the experiences we had were worth the commute from the northwest suburbs. I started out looking at hotels in downtown Chicago, but at close to \$300 per night we realized that expense would probably not be feasible for many attendees, so we started looking to the suburbs for the right venue. I received a lot of positive feedback from the vendors and attendees about the trade show space, meals, and the Chicago Marriott Northwest in general, so I think it was the right decision.

The conference is always a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, make some new ones, take advantage of some great free training opportunities, teach your colleagues about what you do, and learn about new and exciting products from our trade show vendors. This year, we had a total of about 160 attendees, and had 27 vendors participate our trade show. Special thanks

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## AZFA New Members

### Professional

Ben Codling, Facilities Maintenance Worker II, John Ball Zoo

Cheri Duhon, Director Operations,  
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

Brian Hunt, CEO, African Safari Wildlife Park

Ralph Jimenez, Plumber, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Christopher Kuhar, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Stéphane Larrivé, Director Construction/Maintenance/  
Development, Society Zoological of Granby

Ali Malek, VP of Infrastructure & Construction, Indianapolis Zoo

Paul McKee, Facilities Maintenance manager, Mystic Aquarium

John McKenzie, Supervisor Electric & Plumbing, Saint Louis Zoo

Ed McPherson, Senior Craftsman, Mystic Aquarium

Julie Nagler, Water Quality Technologist II,  
John G. Shedd Aquarium

Bryan Sacre, Maintenance Tech., Blank Park Zoo

Robin Shelby, Manager, Housekeeping and Grounds,  
Saint Louis Zoo

Victor Tavares, Supervisor, Clearwater Marine Aquarium

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

Sean Woods, Facilities Manager, Louisville Zoological Garden

### Commercial

Terri Johnson, President, TJP, Inc.

Jeffrey Meyers, Principal Architect, DS Architecture



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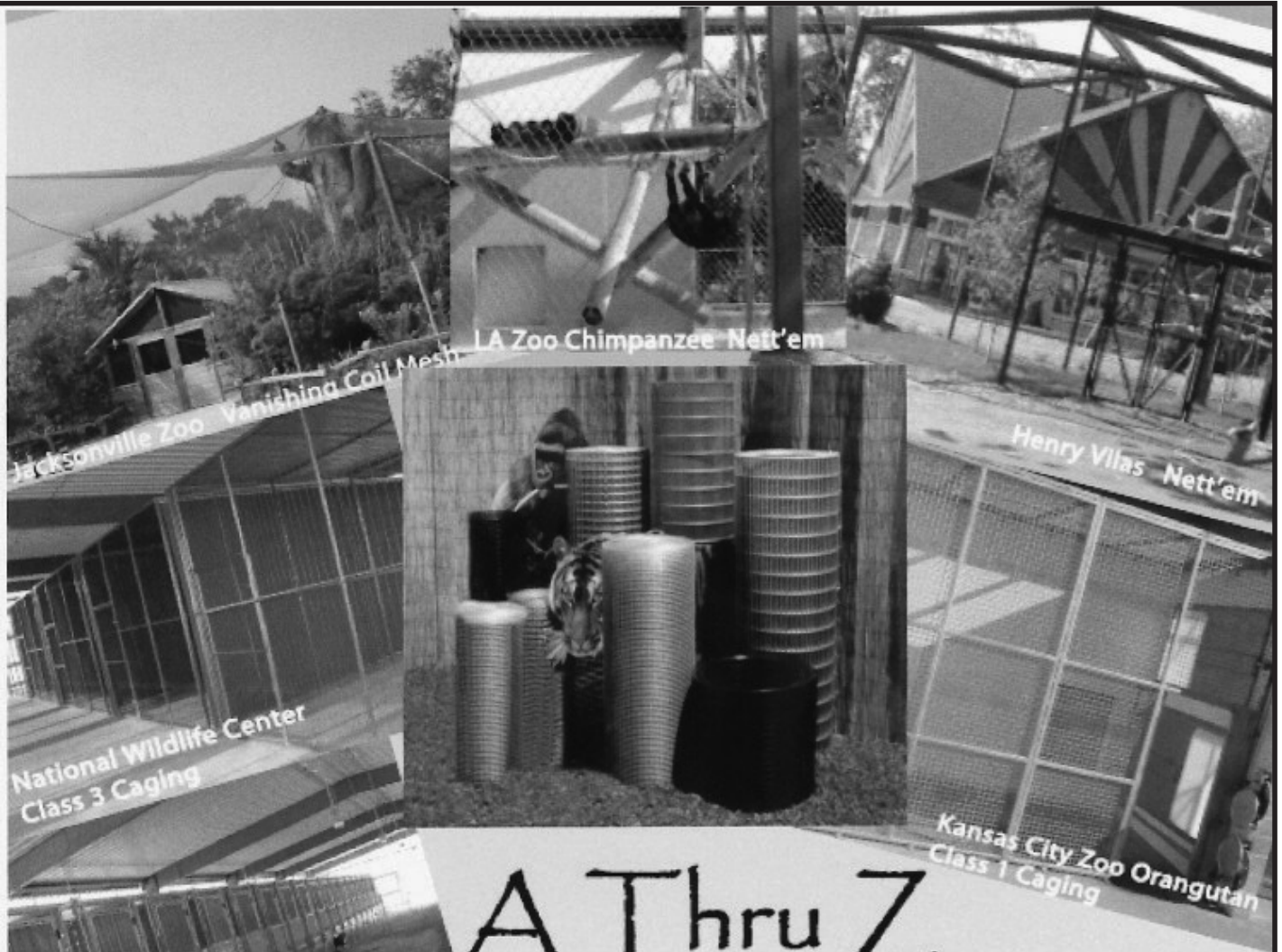
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I would like to thank the staff and Volunteers from the Brookfield Zoo that helped with the conference; the Shedd Aquarium staff for the great pre-conference tours, hosting the Icebreaker, and arranging the post-conference Soldier Field tour; and the staff of the Lincoln Park Zoo for hosting the post-conference tour.

Last, but not least, special thanks to Grace Rettig and Samanthe Peterson for all of their help with planning. It was a lot of work, but definitely worth the effort; we put on a great show. The torch has been passed to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium for 2016 and I hope to see you there!



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## Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter: January 15th

## Publication Schedule

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

**[www.azfa.org](http://www.azfa.org)**

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

Website Administrator  
John Kanzia, [john.kanzia@czs.org](mailto:john.kanzia@czs.org)

## Membership

Membership Administrator  
Samanthe Peterson, [speterson@sazoom.com](mailto:speterson@sazoom.com)

## 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.

Advertising in The Outlet is a great way for companies to target our unique group of professionals dedicated to the construction and maintenance of aquarium and zoo buildings, exhibits, and systems. The Outlet currently reaches hundreds of individuals at over 100 zoos and aquariums and our membership continues to grow!

If you are a Commercial Member interested in advertising please contact me at [jgolden@zoonewengland.com](mailto:jgolden@zoonewengland.com).