

the Outlet



Fall 2016

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

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



Coming off of a great conference in Omaha I would like to thank everyone who attended the conference. It was awesome to meet so many new people and it was great to catch up with many old friends. I want to thank Dennis Pate and the entire staff at the Henry Doorly Zoo for being a great host. They are a first class organization with an amazing facility. Thank

you for making us all feel so welcome during our time in Omaha. I would also like to thank Brian Timm and Andrew Marti for putting in all the hard work to have a successful conference and for being great conference hosts.

As I talked about in my address at the conference I will continue to challenge you as long as I am part of this great community to be that best you can be, to understand why you are here, and to define how you want your story written. What could that mean and how can you achieve this? Step out of your comfort zone and get involved in a project that you would not normally get involved with. That could be in your own institution or with the AZFA. Join and participate on an AZFA committee and learn more about who we are. Do you think you would like to host a conference at your Zoo or Aquarium? Ask one of us how you do can do that. Be the voice of sustainability in your Zoo or Aquarium as we are the biggest drivers of sustainability in our industry. Go out and build an awesome sustainability plan and propose cutting edge

projects that save electricity and water or eliminate waste. Present that project or idea of your project at one of our conferences. Talk to researchers at your institution and ask them how you could better support them and their work. Provide input to a design team and build amazing exhibits that connect people to animals. Maintain and operate your facility to the best of your ability and make sure your visitors have a safe, comfortable, clean, and well maintained place to visit. Inspire your staff and your peers to be the best that they can every day. Network throughout the year and create local connections with facilities that are close in location to yours. Do not be afraid to be the one who starts those conversations as they will be helpful to you and your facility.

The heart of our organization is our membership and the knowledge that our members possess. I encourage you to take advantage of that knowledge through networking. I also challenge you to help us grow our organization by talking with coworkers at your Zoo or Aquarium about the AZFA. Let them know about the experiences you have had and the knowledge you have gained from belonging to our great organization. Speak with companies that support you and your organization about the AZFA and how their expertise can help our industry or how our experience can help bring solutions to issues they face serving us. These conversations are important and critical to the future of the AZFA.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead this organization and I am looking forward to working with you to achieve our goals in the year ahead.

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Hippos return to Cincinnati in the Greenest Way Possible

By Mark Fisher, Vice President of Facilities, Planning, & Sustainability, Cincinnati Zoo

In 2013, the Cincinnati Zoo committed formally to making a hippo exhibit our fifth and final phase of Africa. The exhibit which would feature underwater viewing was slated to open in 2016. This was an exciting announcement for us as we had not had hippos at our zoo for close to 20 years and underwater viewing! I do not know that there are many better experiences at a zoo than watching hippos swimming underwater.

The one drawback to underwater viewing is that these types of exhibits are incredible drains on natural resources, specifically water and electricity. As conservation organizations, the most important thing that we can do to have a direct impact on our environmental footprint is to be staunch guardians of our natural resources. So when the decision is made to add an exhibit like this, the alarms start going off. What kind of resource usage are we talk-

ing about? For our exhibit, the energy and water analysis came back, and the numbers were huge. Something around the magnitude of a million kwh of electricity and many, many millions of gallons of water usage. The value of those resources quickly gets into the \$200,000+ range.

With these numbers in mind, we set out to offset this waste of natural resources from two different angles. First, we implemented a three-year plan to offset as much as we could by saving resources around other parts of the zoo, primarily via LED lighting, by replacing all 3,000+ light fixtures. We are two years into this project, and roughly two thirds of the way complete. We are absolutely feeling the positive impact on our electric usage.

Then came the second piece, which was to design, build, and operate this facility as sustainably as we possibly

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could. The mandate we put on ourselves was to aggressively pursue every opportunity we could find to minimize the waste of natural resources with this project. That is exactly what we did. We were able to tap into our 400,000 gallon rain water catchment system which, in theory, takes care of 100% of the water needs for the outdoor pool. This cistern has been a game changer for our zoo, and the hippo exhibit is just another example of the far-reaching impact that it has had on our facility. A 35kw solar photovoltaic array sits on the roof of the hippo holding and filtration building, which helps offset not just the kw usage, but also helps keep our kw down. In our region, keeping peak demand at bay is as important, if not more so, than actual usage. And our pumps are state of the art, efficient pumps with variable-frequency drive technology, all tied into a very sophisticated life support building automation system. This automation system is key in helping us run the life support system as efficiently as possible, while maintaining fantastic water quality for our animals and great water clarity for our visitors.

The cistern, solar array, and pumps are big items, but there are many dozens of smaller decisions made that make our hippo exhibit as sustainable as it is. Where the materials come from, what they are made of, the reflectivity of the roofing material, indoor air quality, and on and on. For these reasons, and many more, we anticipate the project

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Past President's Message

By Rudy Castañeda
Facilities Superintendent, El Paso Zoo

I want to start off by thanking Brain Timm the Henry Doorly Zoo and the AZFA committees for hosting and organizing another great conference. From the ice breaker on Sunday night to the closing dinner Wednesday night the amount of effort, time, and planning involved was apparent. So once again thank you all for a memorable event.

I also want to thank our membership for the opportunity I had this past year in serving as president of the AZFA. It has been a pleasure and humbling experience serving this great organization. The relationships that have been established along with all the great Zoos and Aquariums that I have had the opportunity to visit in my opinion are priceless. So once again thank you all for the opportunity.

The Green Scene

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conservation starts right here, in our own facility. We cannot claim to be great conservationists that are concerned about endangered wildlife all over the world and at the same time, not be focused on lessening the environmental impact of our operations. That would be hypocritical. Secondly, it would be fiscally irresponsible to do otherwise. Our facility, like many others, is proof that spending a little extra up front to do it right will pay for itself many times over. The data is clear and undeniable now, and at least at our zoo, we cannot afford to not make sustainability a core value when we are designing and building our facilities.

So next time you are in Cincy, swing on by and I will show you the sweetest, most sustainable hippo exhibit the world has ever seen. I'll even let you buy me lunch! I prefer Mexican by the way.

Have a sustainable story to share? Contact Fia Cifuentes at sophia.cifuentes@cincinnati-zoo.org to have your story featured in the next or future The Green Scene.

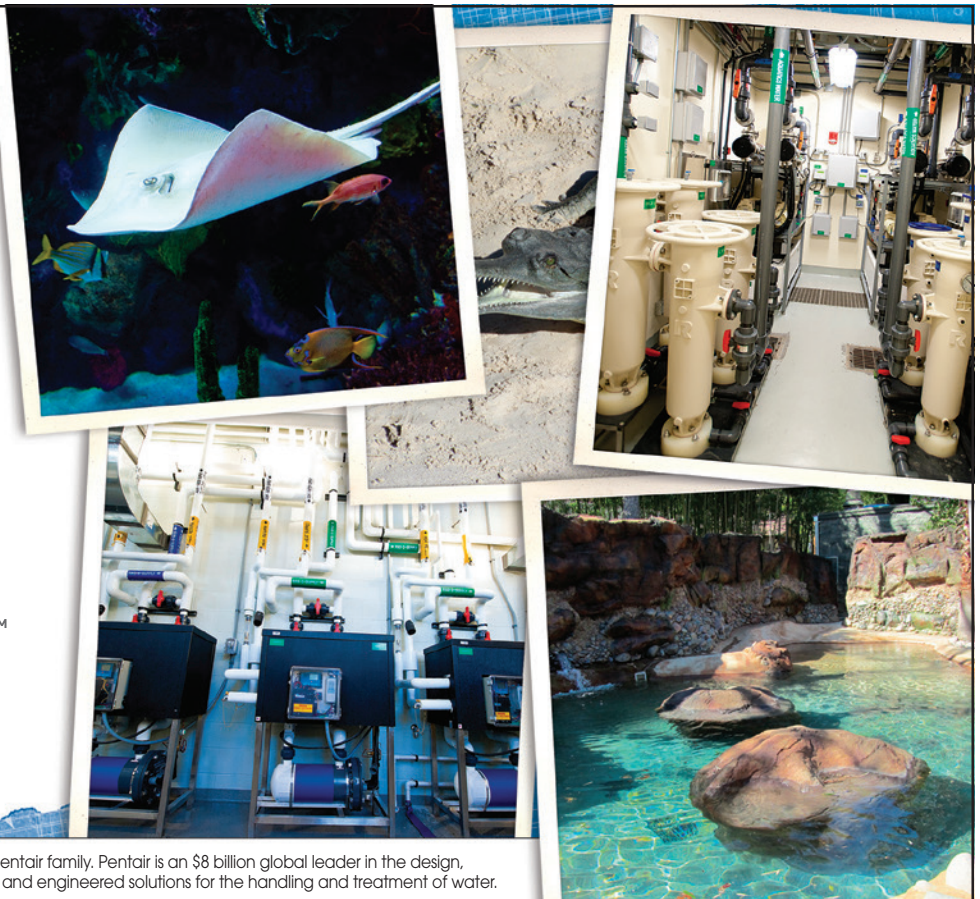
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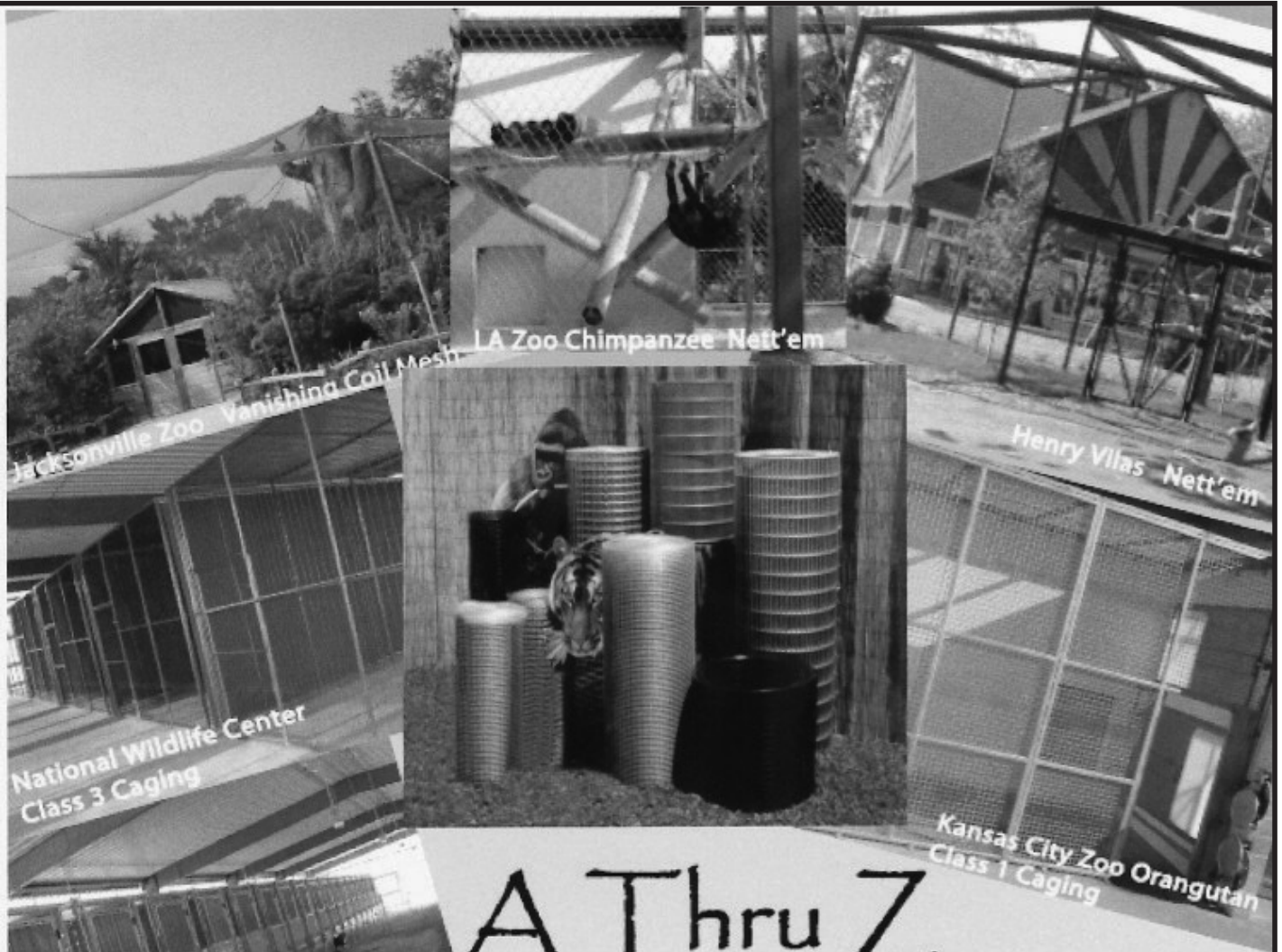
2016 Annual Conference

By Brian Timm, Director of Facilities, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

The 2016 AZFA annual conference was held in Omaha, Nebraska at the DoubleTree Hotel and hosted by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. One hundred and forty one people representing forty-five zoos and aquariums and thirty-one vendors were in attendance for the conference. Twenty five breakout classroom sessions treated attendees to a multitude of topics including project management, exhibit design and buildout, life support systems, safety, computerized maintenance management systems, project tracking, sustainability, and a learning experience from the Cincinnati Zoo. The ice breaker event was held at the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum in Ashland, Nebraska where attendees were able to view over fifty military planes, rockets and missiles. Zoo day was held on Wednesday at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium where everyone traversed the pathways

taking in the outdoor exhibits across the one hundred and thirty acre zoo along with checking out the many indoor exhibits. This was all followed by the closing banquet back at the hotel. The silent auction, held during the closing banquet, raised over \$2,200 for the organization. A trip to the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Iowa put the finishing touches on what proved to be a successful conference. Thank you to all people who supported and attended the conference this year. Make sure to adjust your budgets, talk to your leaders, and plan on attending next year's conference at the John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, Michigan.





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Justin Pfeiffer, Zoological Maintenance Worker,
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Deanna Wendt, Zoological Maintenance
Laborer/Custodian, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Derik Otten, VP of Campus Planning and Management,
Minnesota Zoo

James Kittrell, Craftsman, Mystic Aquarium

Kurt Karschnik, Maintenance Technician,
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Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter:
January 15th

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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John Kanzia, john.kanzia@czs.org

Membership

Membership Administrator
Samanthe Peterson, sam.peterson@sazoo.org

Editor's Note

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

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