

the Outlet



Spring 2014

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Bill Cooper



Greetings from Phoenix! I just got back from our mid-year AZFA Board meeting that was hosted by our friends at the Brookfield Zoo. The weather in Chicago was beautiful, and we had a very productive meeting. I am pleased to report that our proposed bylaws changes were approved by our membership. Thank you for taking the time to voice your opinion by voting.

We discussed many topics at our meeting this year. Our officers and committee chairs did a great job of reporting their progress year to date. Our Conference Committee gave some valuable feedback regarding the business meeting that is traditionally held first thing Monday morning before the conference begins. We want to start the meeting off with more energy so I have some marching orders in that regard. Look forward to a better more interesting report from your Board of Directors.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that Ann Kaminsky has retired from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and resigned her post as AZFA Administrator effective in October. She has been instrumental in keeping the business of this organization on track, and moving forward. She has served as President, has hosted a conference, and has been a friend and supporter of the AZFA for many, many years. Although she will still be attending conferences, her direct involvement, knowledge, and leadership will be sorely missed.

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Another topic of great importance is how we can grow our membership. Our numbers have grown slightly over the years, but we believe there is definitely room for improvement. That said we believe we, the existing membership, could do a better job marketing to potential members. Some ideas were suggested and we decided to advertise highlights from the annual conference on our website. We also decided to make an AZFA conference video that can be used to show off our organization to potential members.

Many thanks go out to John Kanzia at the Brookfield Zoo for hosting our meeting. We had a great meeting space, and enjoyed a wonderful tour of the zoo. As an added bonus, Bob Wengel at the Shedd Aquarium led us on a behind the scenes tour of their facility. Our thanks go out to both.

Preparations for our annual conference at the Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, Indiana are moving along well. Dave Vogel has arranged a great conference venue. The Program and Education Committee is developing an agenda that is sure to provide plenty of training opportunities for you to continue to expand your knowledge of facilities management. Please make sure to visit our website for the latest information regarding training opportunities available at the annual conference.

There are many exiting things happening with the AZFA. Please make sure to visit our web page to find out more. In order to help us improve our marketing, please visit our Facebook page and "like" us. Also, while you are there it would be nice if you would share your story about why you became a member of the AZFA. I hope to see you all in Evansville!

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Program and Education Committee

By Sam Peterson

I think everyone who was able to attend the 2013 conference in El Paso can agree that it was very impressive. It is a testament to this organization that the conferences continue to improve every year in providing great learning opportunities for our members. For the 2014 conference at Mesker Park Zoo, we would like to carry on that trend with a full, diverse, and well-rounded education program. To that end, the Program and Education Committee would appreciate your feedback about the kinds of sessions you would like to see in Indiana. If you could not make it to El Paso, is there a training opportunity the conference could provide that would make it easier to secure approval to attend this year? If you were with us in El Paso, what sessions did you feel provided the most value? Is there a topic you would like to see that was

not covered, or that requires additional sessions? How about the format of presentation versus roundtable versus workshop? Please let us know what worked, what did not, and any other suggestions you might have. Bear in mind that the call for presentations is open to everyone, so don't be shy! If you have an idea for a presentation or know an expert who could lead a workshop, let us know. Please help us put together the best possible program for you, our members, to continue to benefit from this wonderful organization. Comments and suggestions are welcome at speterson@sazoo.org or 210-734-7184, ext. 1302.

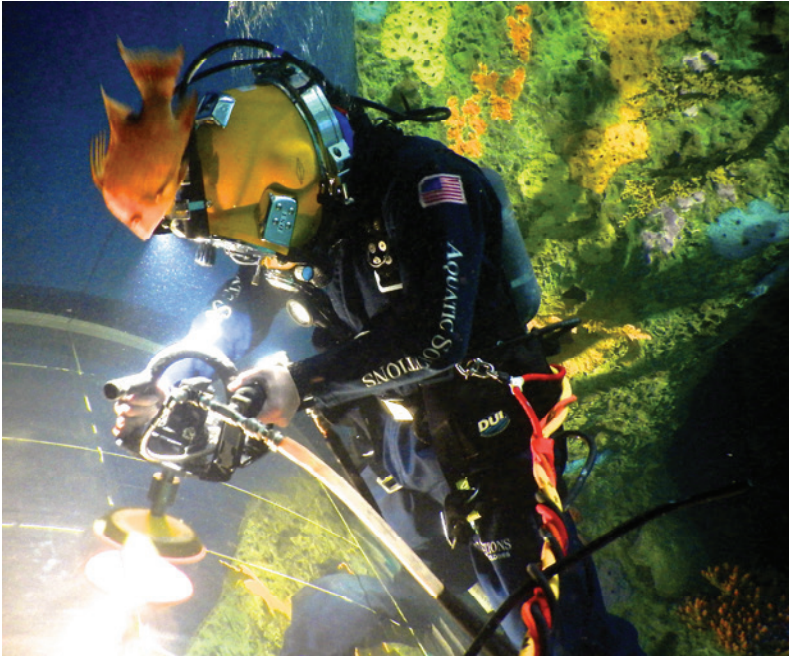
AZFA Officer Nominations

By Rodney Fuller

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2014 AZFA election of officers, which will be held this fall at the 2014 AZFA Annual Conference in Evansville, Indiana. Nominations are needed for the following positions:

- President Elect
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Director at Large

Please send your nominations to me at rlf@tnaqua.org with the name of the nominee, name of their organization, and the position for nomination. You may also contact me by phone with your nominations at 423-785-4026. Self nominations are encouraged as well. Your participation in this process is greatly appreciated.



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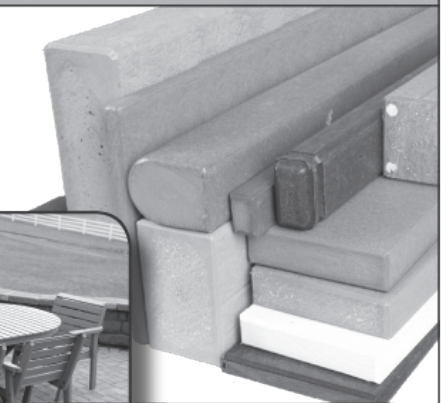
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Breaking Ground on the Turtle Survival Center

By Cris Hagen, Rick Hudson, and Scott Davis

Editor's Note: The AZFA's Clark Waldram Fund has contributed funds to the Turtle Survival Center.

In February 2011, the Turtle Survival Association Board of Directors made the boldest move in the organization's eleven-year history when they voted to purchase a 50-acre property in coastal South Carolina to be developed as a Turtle Survival Center (TSC). A former crocodilian and wildlife rehab facility, the site was perfect for maintaining assurance colonies of endangered turtles and tortoises.

The Board felt it had no other choice if the TSA was to maintain its commitment to zero turtle extinctions. It has become very clear that in situ efforts to protect wild populations are inadequate to ensuring the survival of many turtle species. Ex situ captive populations are necessary, making the TSC vital to our mission. The decision was made easier by Board Member Pat Koval's commitment to put up half of the asking price for the land.

From the outset, we chose to base the TSC Collection Plan on the most up-to-date data available on Asian turtles and tortoises, including key workshops held in Singapore and China in 2011. Seven species of tortoises and 20 species of freshwater turtles, primarily Asian, were carefully selected for inclusion, based on the critical need of captive breeding for their survival. Four of the tortoise species and 17 of the turtle species are ranked by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered. Nine species are identified on the

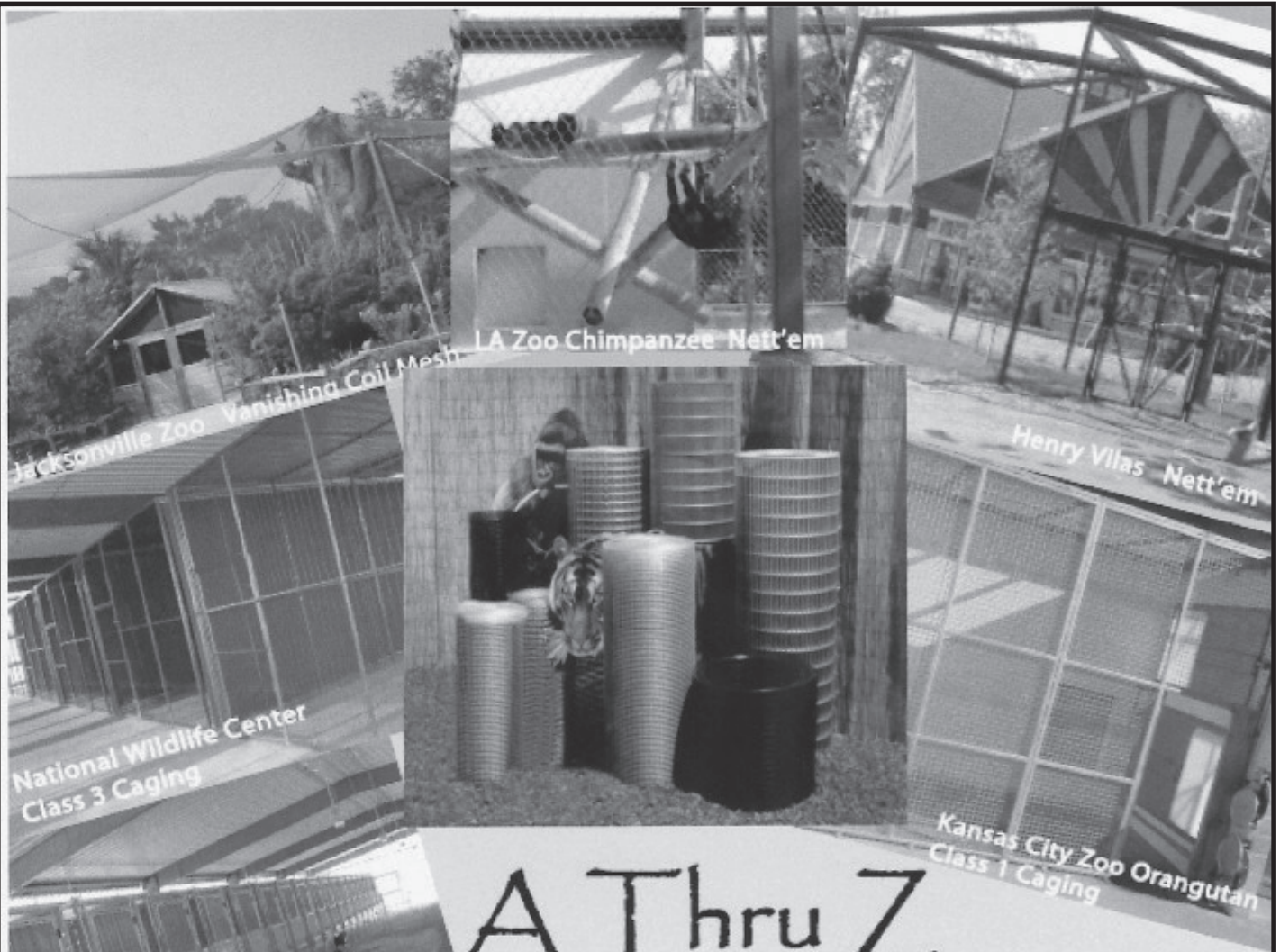
list of The World's 25+ Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, as released by the Turtle Conservation Coalition in 2011. These numbers alone speak convincingly and hopefully to the TSC's eventual impact on the survival of many of the most endangered chelonians in the world.

Taking Ownership

The TSA officially closed on the TSC property on 21 January 2013, bringing to fruition nearly two years of discussion, fundraising, and facilities planning. Work began immediately to prepare the facility for operation. The first steps were to clean up the property, retrofit the existing facilities, and start construction. The TSC staff quickly adapted to working well together in a rural area under difficult weather conditions.

Abnormally high precipitation created abysmal construction conditions





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Turtle Survival Center (cont.)

Volunteer Work Weekends

Two TSC work weekends in February and March 2013 were organized for TSA members who came and volunteer their time and energy to clean up the site in preparation for construction. The hard work and dedication of TSA members has always been a key to our success and we were delighted by the great group of volunteers who showed up to help. Dumpsters were filled and hauled off, trees removed, trenches dug, and more than 20 tons of gravel removed from existing ponds during two days of back-breaking work. Hardware cloth was installed at the base of chain link fences surrounding existing ponds, and old pasture fencing was torn down. We are very appreciative of all the hard work volunteers contributed to the development of the Center.

Tortoise Barn and Corral

The tortoise barn and corral project is nearing completion. The barn is fully functioning inside with electricity, heat, running water, insulated walls, and 10 large indoor enclosures for tortoises that can be further divided if needed. The first tortoises are now occupying the facility as of January 2014. Outdoor pens are currently being finished, two large shallow soaking pools in the two largest indoor end enclosures need to be constructed, landscaping of the smaller outdoor enclosures needs to be done, and the outdoor perimeter yard fencing needs to be installed.



Forest Complex

The forest complex is also nearing completion for four of these 16' x 40' units. The units themselves are constructed with cement walls and are divided into varying numbers and sizes of individual enclosures. Ponds have been installed and each individual enclosure within the larger unit is plumbed with water input valves and overflow into a drainage system. In finishing up this project over the next couple of months we need to complete the pond sculpting with a top coat, landscape the individual enclosures, install overhangs on each enclosure to prevent escapes, and install a secondary containment fence around all of the units.

Turtle Survival Center (cont.)

Summary

The decision to acquire and develop the Turtle Survival Center was a bold move, and certainly one with risks. The successful launch of the Center certainly bodes well. The TSA Board and our core donors have proven their dedication to our mission time and again, and have always come through. They have now made a leap of faith, and shown vision in their simultaneous commitment to maintaining our field programs while also constructing the TSC. We trust that one day soon when the TSC is firmly established and a handful of critical species have gained a foothold on a secure future we will look back with pride and know that our bold gamble paid off.

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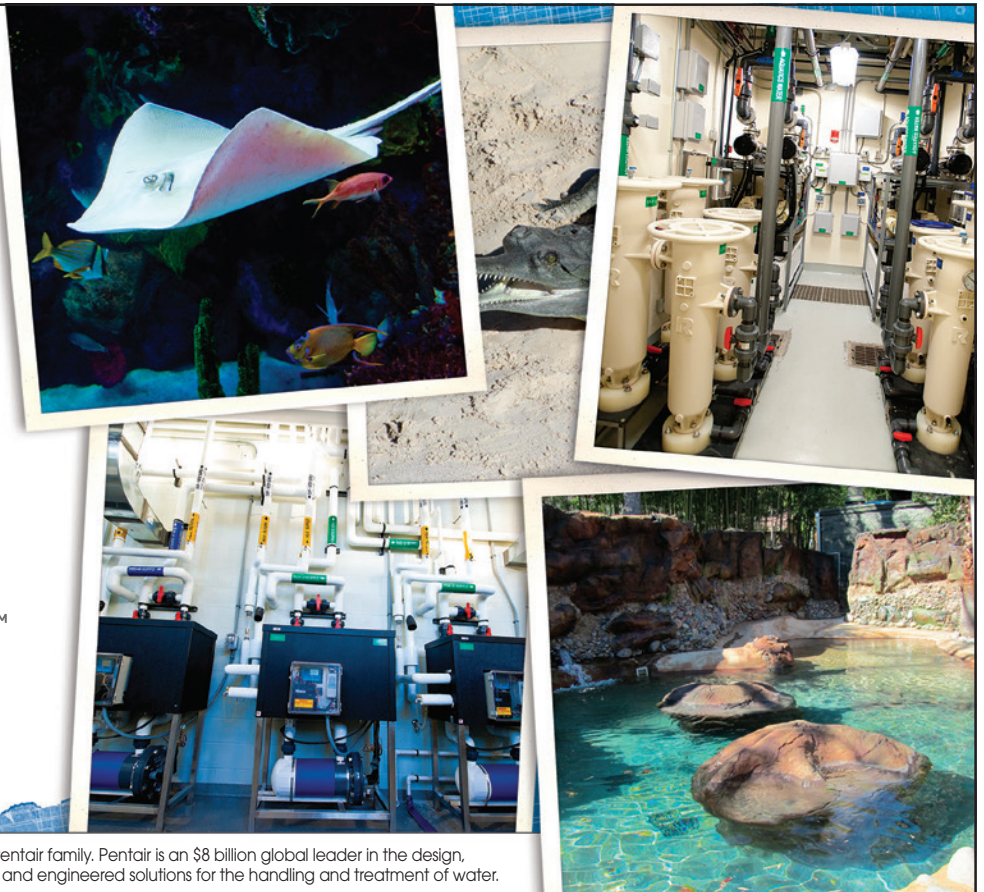
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Deadline for articles for the next newsletter: June 20th

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Ann Kaminsky, mak@clevelandmetroparks.com

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
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Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden

I would like to take a moment to express thanks to our Commercial Members who have supported The Outlet by advertising, and show appreciation to those who have found it beneficial to continue their advertisements this year.

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 individuals at over 70 zoos and aquariums and our membership continues to grow!

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