

the Outlet



Summer 2016

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Rudy Castañeda



It is definitely summer! We have just gone through the fourteenth day in a row of temperatures reaching 100 degrees or more in El Paso, just how we like it. I am kidding! It has been a challenge so far trying to stay cool this summer. I am sure you all have also had your challenges with weather and work related normal day to day processes.

The AZFA like any other association is a synergistic group, meaning that a group of people is greater than one person. The AZFA offers its own distinct advantages and in this case the advantage that sticks out most is the people; motivated professionals that know how to get things done, who can provide unlimited information in our chosen field of work, and offer an established support system. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Omaha.

Other advantages are exclusive online resources, networking opportunities, an annual conference, job listings, leadership development, and making friends. AZFA has inspired me personally and professionally and made me realize how much I enjoy what I do at work.

Since my involvement with AZFA we have set a goal to increase our membership. We have assembled committees, assigned individuals, and tried some techniques but would like to grow at a higher rate. I want to ask each one of you to help with recruiting new members. The larger our membership is, the more we all get out of this great organization. Given the number of responsibilities that you all manage on a daily basis, recruiting may not be one of your top priorities, but if you can reach out to potential members please do. Also, if you have ideas to market membership and spread the word please contact our Membership Committee Chair, Joe Graber, at joe.graber@pdza.org

I want to take a moment to honor a dear friend and colleague, Eddie Sanchez, who we recently lost. Eddie was a great family man, a loving husband, a dear friend, and one of the hardest workers I know. He had recently decided to go back to school to further develop his professional skills. I can honestly say that Eddie truly enjoyed life and his job. Most of all, he loved attending our annual conference and being involved in the AZFA. The staff at the El Paso Zoo is deeply saddened to have lost Eddie and I know many of you will share in the same sadness.

In this Issue...

President's Message.....	1
The Green Scene	2-3
New Members	3

Conference Update.....	4
AZFA Nominations - 2016.....	5-8
AZFA New Members / Editors Note.....	9

National Aquarium: Energy and Water Conservation Strategies to Further our Conservation Mission

By Laura Bankey, Director of Conservation

Resource conservation, particularly water and energy, is important to all AZA institutions, representative of each institution's conservation and sustainability initiatives. But it is also a fiscal imperative, driven by the need to minimize costs associated with daily operations. While the infrastructure of a zoo facility may be significantly different than that of an aquarium, general principles and practices of resource conservation are often translatable and can usually be adapted to any facility.

The National Aquarium's mission is to inspire the conservation of the world's aquatic treasures. While our living collection and exemplary education and conservation programs are the primary conduit for this mission, we often use our internal conservation policies and practices as a standard for how we ask our visitors to act. It is important therefore that we model best practices when it comes to resource conservation.

The Aquarium is a 35-year-old facility with two primary buildings located on Baltimore's Inner Harbor. We manufacture our own salt water from the city water supply. It takes a lot of energy and water to keep 20,000 animals happy and healthy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year, not to mention 1.3 million annual guests, more than 400 paid staff, and over 900 volunteers.

In partnership with Constellation Energy, the Aquarium recently completed the implementation of \$3.7 million in energy and water efficiency upgrades, including the conversion of 99 percent of the Aquarium's light fixtures to LED; installation of high efficiency boilers and chillers; building envelope improvements; installation of updated transformers and switch-

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ing gear; and the installation of high-efficiency water fixtures and air handlers. In just the first two years, these efforts saved over \$400,000 in utility costs. These initiatives on top of previous conservation efforts have reduced



Building Exterior

our energy use by 22% since 2008 and water use by 34% since 2007.

Along with the typical conservation actions listed above, the National Aquarium has been investing in alternative energy production and new technologies and strategies to reduce our water and energy use. Recently, the Aquarium implemented a 25-year agreement with Constellation Solar that enabled the construction of a 4.3-megawatt (DC), grid-connected solar generation project on 22 acres of under-utilized farmland in Cambridge, Maryland. With



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14,500 photovoltaic panels producing 6,000 megawatt hours of electricity, this new solar farm meets 40 percent of the Aquarium’s annual energy demand.

We have also invested in new denitrification technology for one of our largest tanks, allowing us to substantially reduce the volume of water we use. This technology has paid for itself twice in saved seawater costs within the first two years. To collect rainwater an old 40,000-gallon outdoor exhibit pool was converted into a cistern during construction of our Glass Pavilion. Today it collects rainwater from our roof to water our outdoor native plant gardens on waterfront plaza, saving more than 200,000 gallons of water per year on average. To further reduce storm water runoff, we installed a green roof on the Pavilion.

Finally, in addition to replacing approximately 90% of our non-exhibit indoor spaces with LED bulbs, we have replaced the bulbs in the Aquarium’s much recognized landmark blue wave located on the exterior of the building with LEDs reducing the energy use by 70%.

By conserving as many natural resources as possible, we are doing our part to preserve and protect the many species we educate our visitors about, while at the same time being fiscally responsible which will allow us to take on even more sustainable initiatives and conservation practices.

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Robert Gluth, President rgluth@corrim.com



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2016 AZFA Conference, See You in Omaha!

By Grace Rettig

The dates are October 16th - October 20th and it is going to be amazing. Brian Timm and Andrew Marti at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium are putting together what looks to be an awesome conference. The Ice Breaker on Sunday night will be at the Strategic Air & Space Museum which promises to be a unique venue. Monday morning is a brief business meeting and then on to the learning. Allmon Forester of the John Ball Zoo is pulling together all the programs and information to educate us over the two days of sessions. Some of the topics are: OSHA 10-hour (no charge), numerous sustainability topics, Incident Command Systems, "Harambe-Lessons Learned", air quality, LSS, "Could there be another option to sand filters?", exhibit construction, and many more. Keep checking our website for the soon to be posted agenda. After the first day of sessions is Meet & Greet Monday with many vendors available for you to spend time with, ask questions, and learn about new products, dinner by the bite and cash bar. Wednesday is Zoo Day and this is a Zoo you absolutely have to see with its recently opened 73 million dollar African Grasslands. The Zoo is 140 acres so bring your walking shoes. The closing dinner and silent auction are Wednesday night but there is a

post-conference trip Thursday morning. We will board motor coaches to take us to Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines. So within a four day period will be educated, meet vendors, and visit both the Henry Doorly Zoo and Blank Park Zoo. What else? If you are a golfer arrive on Saturday for an early morning golf tournament on Sunday. Last but not least, do not forget the photo contest. Categories are "people, places, and animals" from AZFA midyear or annual conferences with prizes for the top three in each category. Scroll through the pictures on your phone and print out your best work. Hotel information is on the AZFA home page and the cutoff date is mid-September so make your reservations now. Once the rooms are gone the special rate is also gone. If you still are not convinced you need to attend call someone that comes year after year and I guarantee they will convince you. For questions or concerns please e-mail Brian Timm at briantimm@omahazoo.com. See you in Omaha!

Can you find yourself in the group photo from the Brookfield Zoo in 2015?

If not, be sure to get to Omaha this October and be part of the AZFA Annual Conference 2016!



AZFA Nominations – 2016

- President-Elect:** Allmon Forrester, John Ball Zoo
- Vice President:** Gary Mollé, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Brian Timm, Henry Doorly Zoo
- Secretary:** Grace Rettig, Cincinnati Zoo
- Treasurer:** Mike Patera, Retired, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Treasurer-Elect:** Seeking Nominations
- Director-at-Large:** Mark Fisher, Cincinnati Zoo
Andy Peterson, Retired, Point Defiance Zoo



Allmon Forrester,
*Director of Operations,
John Ball Zoo*

The zoo world was nowhere on my radar as I was planning my career goals, but it has been more rewarding than any career I could have imagined, except for maybe a professional athlete. I have spent the last 16 years with the coolest job at John Ball Zoo. I oversee the Facility Maintenance Department, Building and Grounds Department, Security and serve as owners' representative for capital projects at the Zoo. In total now, I have over 30 years' experience in almost every arena of site management including facilities, con-

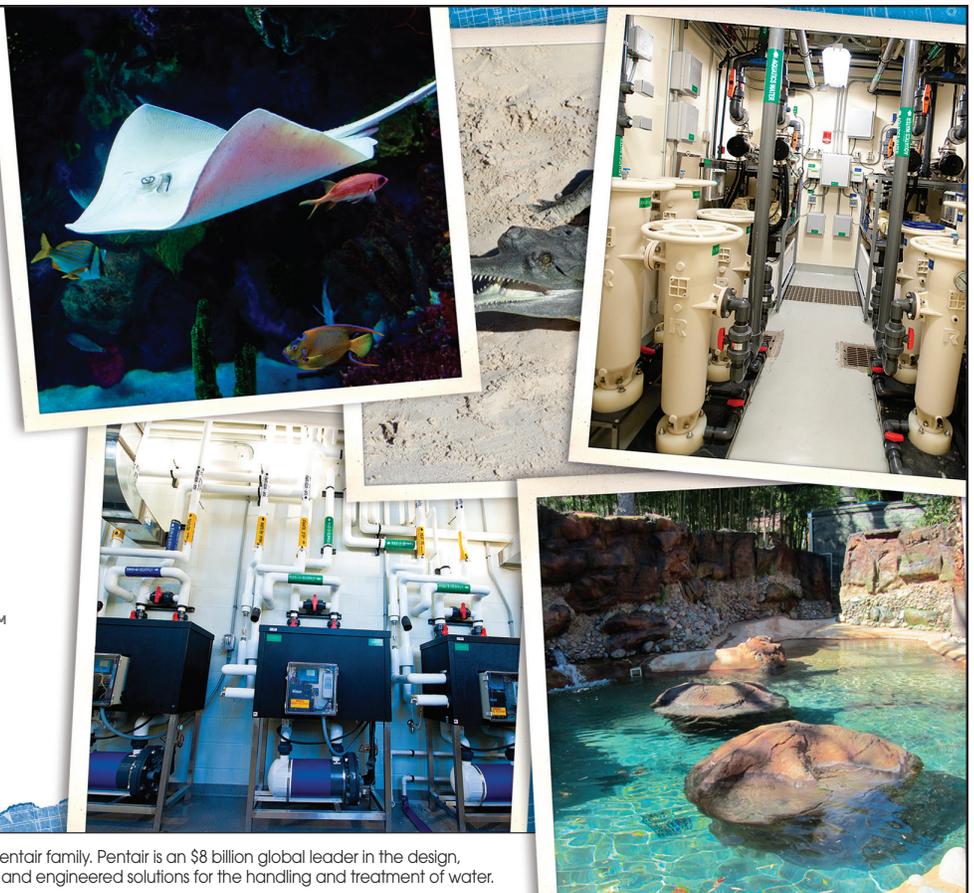
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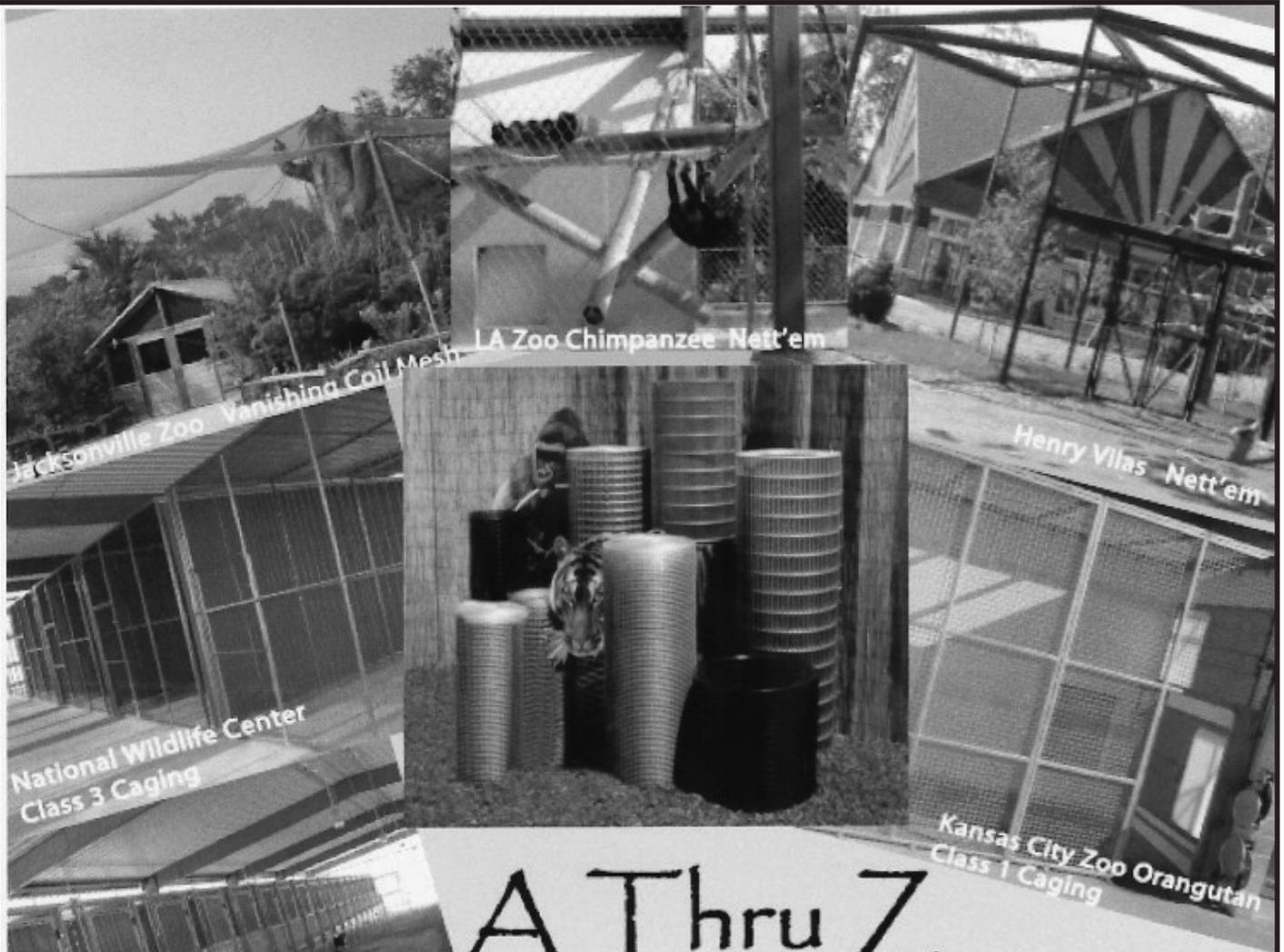


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struction, grounds, housekeeping and planning. Because we are a mid-size zoo in Grand Rapids, Michigan, I also wear other hats serving as Safety Officer and senior staff member mentoring the Green Team, Communications Committee and Training Committee and whatever else needs to be addressed.

Sustainability is one of my core values and I consider myself a 'meat and potato tree hugger'. But the ones I hug the most are my wife of 27 years, 3 married children, and 7 grandkids. My hobbies pretty much are what my kids need me to do: home renovation, babysit, grand-dog sit, projects, etc.

I hold degrees in Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, and Sustainable Business Professional Certification. Since 2001, I have been a professional member of the AZA and professional member of the AZFA since 2007. I have served on few AZFA Committees for the past 4 years, serving as Chair of Conservation Committee for 2 years and currently Chair the Program and Education Committee.

It has been a real pleasure to be involved in the AZFA. The friends I have met and places that we have been, will always hold a special place with me. With the years I have been in the facilities community and the zoo world, I feel fortunate and well positioned to give back. I look forward to serving the AZFA and its members in any capacity that I can.



Brian Timm,
*Director of Facilities,
Henry Doorly Zoo*

I am the Director of Facilities at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha, Nebraska. I have been in this position since 2011 and a member of the AZFA since 2012. I

manage a team of 60 individuals in the areas of maintenance, building engineering, horticulture, custodial, rides maintenance, and sustainability. I have been put through many stressful situations, sleepless nights, boring meetings, disagreements with co-workers, and managed to come back the next day ready to make a differ-

ence. I was not sure what to expect when I attended my first conference in Cincinnati not knowing anyone and thinking that I was the only one that had to deal with all of the trials and tribulations of the facilities world, but soon learned that there was a larger group that shared my experiences. The AZFA has proven to be a valuable resource for all of us and I would like to give something back to the organization by serving in an office of my peers. Prior to this, I spent over twenty years in the construction industry. First with residential housing where I managed the construction of over 1,200 homes in the Omaha metro area and then in the commercial industry building assisted-living campuses, strip malls, hotels, and some land development projects in a 150-mile radius of Omaha.

My wife of 22 years (Kristine) and I have two children, Kamryn and Alek. Kamryn is a freshman at Loyola University in Chicago and is studying chemical engineering, I am sure that she got this ability from her mother. Alek is a freshman at Arlington High School and plans on a future in sports stadium architecture; this ability I am sure comes from me. I have coached baseball and softball for the past fifteen years and even garnered a level three hockey coaching endorsement. I have served on the Board of Directors for the Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity and have served on the Village of Arlington Planning Commission. If I can spend time with my family, enjoy anything baseball or golf, or volunteer in the community I am a happy person. I look forward to this opportunity to give back to the AZFA.



Grace Rettig,
*Manager of Park
Services & External
Properties,
Cincinnati Zoo*

Grace grew up Northeastern Ohio and attended the University of Akron majoring in linguistics. Her back-

ground before the "Zoo business" was with National Sales in the hotel industry. She started at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden as Group Sales Manager. Presently she is the Manager of Park Services and External

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Properties and lives on one of the Zoo's farms in Lebanon, Ohio with her husband of 32 years. They have two daughters and two grandchildren both residing on the Northern Oregon Coast. Grace has been with the Cincinnati Zoo for 21 years. In 2011 she became part of the AZFA attending her first conference in San Antonio. In 2012 she helped plan and execute the Cincinnati Conference. Presently she is committee chair for the Conference Committee, part of the Site Selection and Conservation Committees as well as the current Secretary of the AZFA.

In her spare time Grace enjoys traveling and has been to every state in the U.S. except one. She lived abroad for two years and was able to visit many countries as well. Gardening, everything "green", honeybees, and her grandchildren are her passions.



Mark Fisher,
Vice President of Facilities,
Planning and Sustainability,
Cincinnati Zoo

A product of the University of Cincinnati's Civil and Environmental Engineering program, Mark spent the first eleven years of his professional career working as a project

manager for Turner Construction, a commercial construction company. Many of those years were spent at the Cincinnati Zoo, overseeing the construction of several major exhibits. In 2006, he came on board at the Zoo as the Senior Director of Facilities and Planning. In addition to the standard duties of a facilities manager, Mark is also the driving force behind the Zoo's sustainability movement. By implementing the most aggressive green building program in the nation, along with producing dramatic reductions in natural resource consumption, he has taken the Zoo from an organization that barely had a recycling program, to becoming the greenest Zoo in America. In 2014 Mark was promoted to Vice President of Facilities, Planning, and Sustainability.

Mark has been involved in the AZFA since 2011, serving as a former Board of Director as well as President. Outside of work, Mark most enjoys scrambling around the mountains of the American West with his wife and three young children.



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Sherwin Williams (Coming soon)
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AZFA New Members

Professional

Robert Buss, Facilities Manager,
Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Kevin Figueiredo, Director of Facilities,
Zoo New England

Garth Hoyes, Maintenance Tech,
The Living Desert

Kris Yarbery, Facilities Project Manager,
Sacramento Zoological Society

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Mitch Manning, PR & Marketing Specialist,
Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc.

Charles Mayes, Principal, The Portico Group

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Wesley Mckenney, Owner, ICOR products

Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter:
October 15th

2016 Annual Conference: October 16-20

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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Membership

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Samanthe Peterson, sam.peterson@sazoo.org

Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden

I'm sure many facilities have recently celebrated the opening of a new exhibit. Whether this was an in-house remodel of an existing exhibit space or a large scale new construction project our members want to hear about it. Share your experience and spotlight the new addition to your zoo or aquarium. Please send your articles with pictures to jgolden@zoonewengland.com.

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