

the Outlet



Winter 2015

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Mark Fisher



2014 has come to a close, and with that, hopefully another year of success for you and your institutions. Across the industry, things are really hopping. I must have seen three dozen announcements last week from zoos and aquariums regarding record attendance. With more attendance comes parking problems. Is there a zoo

or aquarium out there that does not have a parking problem? Here in Cincinnati, we have increased our parking by 50% and are still busting at the seams, running out of parking constantly. I would say "busting at the seams" is a good summary of our industry in general. Most of that pressure is related to infrastructure; not enough bathrooms, not enough parking, ticketing lines that are too long, pathways that are too narrow, and on and on. Who feels the frustration? Our customers. Who feels that pressure the most? The front line staff. Who will be called on for the solution to these issues? Us. That is called job security folks.

When you get that call from the big boss to be a part of the solution to these challenges, will you be ready? Do you have a strong enough network to be able to call on your peers for advice, for lessons learned, for their shared experience? To this day most of us operate in our own little silos, reinventing the wheel every single day, smashing our heads against the wall. It has been done before, many times, many different ways. Networking is the essence of the AZFA and it is also the number one reason for you to come to the annual conference this October in Chicago.

We will have the traditional topics and workshops focused on things like water quality, nuts and bolts best practices, and sustainability initiatives. But this year, there will also be a lineup of topics focused on safety, security, and emergency preparedness. In the last couple of years we have had one or two sessions regarding these topics, and they have been standing room only. Clearly, this is an area that folks want to talk more about, and this year you will not be disappointed. Grace Rettig and John Kanzia have been working like crazy behind the scenes to deliver the best conference that the AZFA has ever hosted. A link to the hotel information is on the website, and we will have an outline of the agenda up very soon. The intent is to allow you to use the agenda as a tool for you to use to secure funding for this conference. Because of the effort of the Conference Committee and the location of the event, I have no doubt that this conference will be the new benchmark for future conferences.

Speaking of committees, it is not too late to join. In particular the following committees can always use more people: Commercial Liaison, Conference, Conservation, Honors & Awards, Membership, and Publications/Website/Social Media. Getting involved with a committee is hands down the best way to dip your toe in the water. It is not a big commitment of your time and it is a great way to start meeting your fellow AZFA members. So please, if you think you might be interested, e-mail me directly at mark.fisher@cincinnati-zoo.org and I will point you in the right direction.

Like our page on Facebook and LinkedIn, sign up for a committee, and we'll see ya in Chicago!

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That Bites!

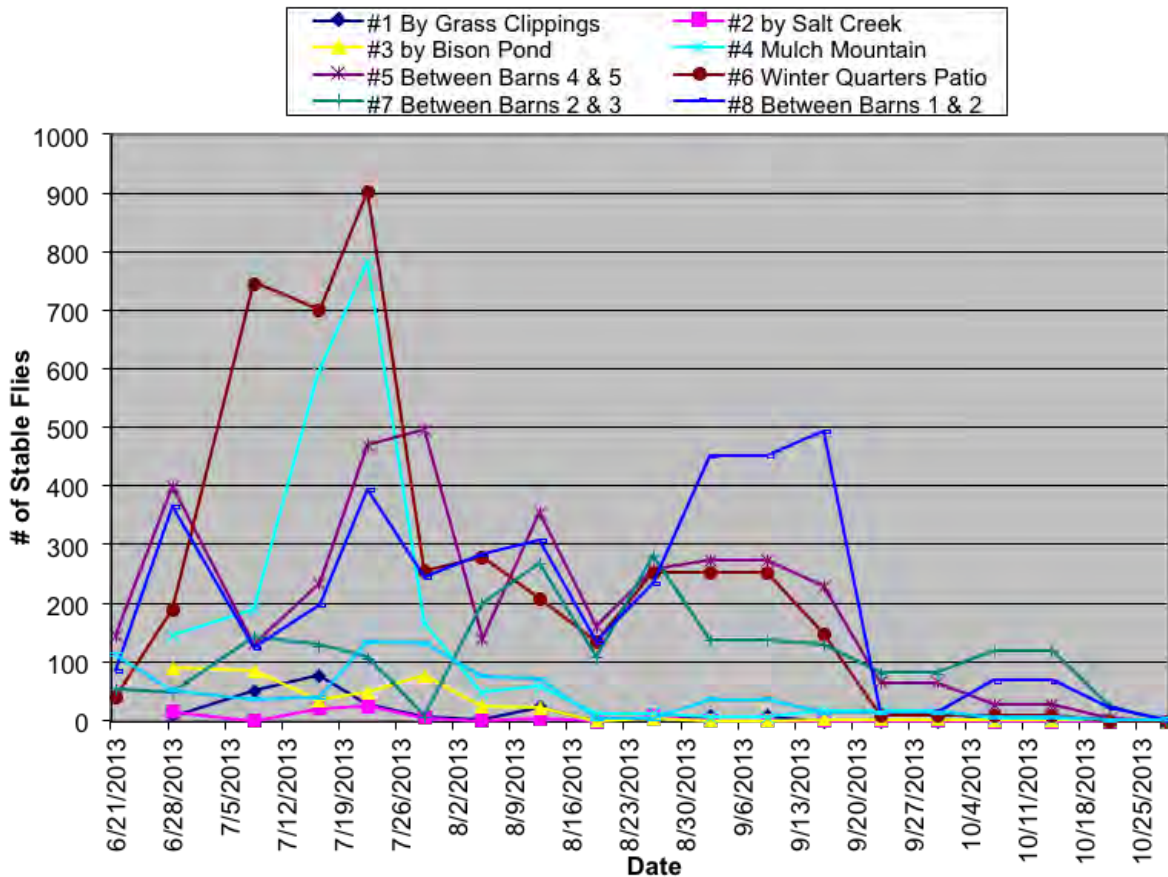
By John Kanzia

Stomoxys calcitrans, commonly known as the stable fly or biting house fly, is a fly commonly found near hooved animals (hence the name stable fly). While they are best known for feeding on hoofstock, they will pretty much feed on anything that will stand in one place long enough for them to land and bite. Similar to mosquitoes, this type of fly uses a proboscis to penetrate the skin of its target to suck out a blood meal. Stable flies choose their feeding areas based on proximity to both a food source and a source of shade. After taking a blood meal, the flies will head for the nearest tree or bush and wait under the leaves to stay cool and digest their meal. They will repeat the process all day long, becoming a nuisance to animals, staff, and guests alike. Here in the Midwest, the fly season runs from May through October, the months that are consistently above 60° F, which is warm enough for the flies to move their wings fast enough to take flight.

We worked with our pest control contractor Terminix and Dr. Jerry Hogsette, a Research Entomologist with the USDA's Mosquito & Fly Research Unit, to take a closer look at our fly issue and come up with a solution. We had been using bug zapper lights near our hoofstock yards, but found that we were not catching many stable flies with them. Instead, we caught lots of bottle flies like *Lucilia sericata*, the shiny metallic green flies that you will commonly see around food or feces. Dr. Hogsette reviewed a number of newer trap designs developed to target stable flies. One type was found to be effective at attracting stable flies, either through the alternating black and white colors, or the way the foam wrap reflects sunlight. We chose this design, commercially available as Knight Stick® fly traps and deployed them at a number of locations around the park where we knew stable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Knight Stick® - Stable Flies Trapped by Location at Chicgo Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

flies were an issue. During the 2013 season, I was able to trap and count nearly 18,000 flies from traps deployed at nine locations around the zoo perimeter (to find out which direction the flies were coming from) and near hoofstock yards. Due to the exceptionally long winter that we had last year, I only caught about 10,000 flies during the 2014 season.

The Knight Stick® trap is made up of seven pieces; a base, a cylindrical body, a flat plastic horse head, a disposable foam wrap pre-applied with an adhesive, and three binder clips to secure the wrap to the trap. When set up, it looks like a large knight chess piece, and the horse head allows you to pick up the trap without touching the sticky wrap. You can check out www.bugjammer.com for information about flies and ordering information; the more traps you purchase, the cheaper they are. A starter kit with one trap and three disposable wraps is \$39.95. Wraps have enough surface area to accommodate about 1,000 flies. Depending on the density of flies in the area that the trap is deployed, wraps can last anywhere from a few days to a month before filling with flies.

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Robert Gluth, President rgluth@corrim.com



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Membership Renewal Guide

By John Kanzia

Happy New Year! It is that time of the year again, and we are probably bugging you about renewing your membership. I have received a few e-mails about online renewals, so I thought I would put together an article to help guide you through the process.

- Access the internet, navigate to www.azfa.org, and log in with your username and password.
- Click on "view profile" under your name.
- At the bottom of the Membership Details section, you will see a gray box with "renew until [date]". Click on it.
- This next screen gives you the opportunity to update any personal information that might have changed. You can also update your "directory listing text", which is a brief description of what you do, which will appear in your information in the Member Directory. Make any changes needed, and click on the gray "update and next" button.
- The next screen allows you to review and confirm your membership purchase. When ready, click on "confirm".
- You should now be directed back to the invoices and payments section of your profile page, and you will receive two e-mails from AZFA. One will be a copy of your invoice, and the other will let you know that your membership has been initiated, but has not yet been paid.
- Near the top of the page, you will see a yellow box with a smaller gray box on the bottom left side labeled "pay online". Click on the gray box to begin the online payment process.
- You will be directed to PayPal, but you can also pay using a credit or debit card using the link to the right of the PayPal login prompt.
- Once you have entered your information, follow the prompts to complete your purchase.
- You should receive another two e-mails; a payment receipt, and an e-mail letting you know that your membership was renewed successfully.

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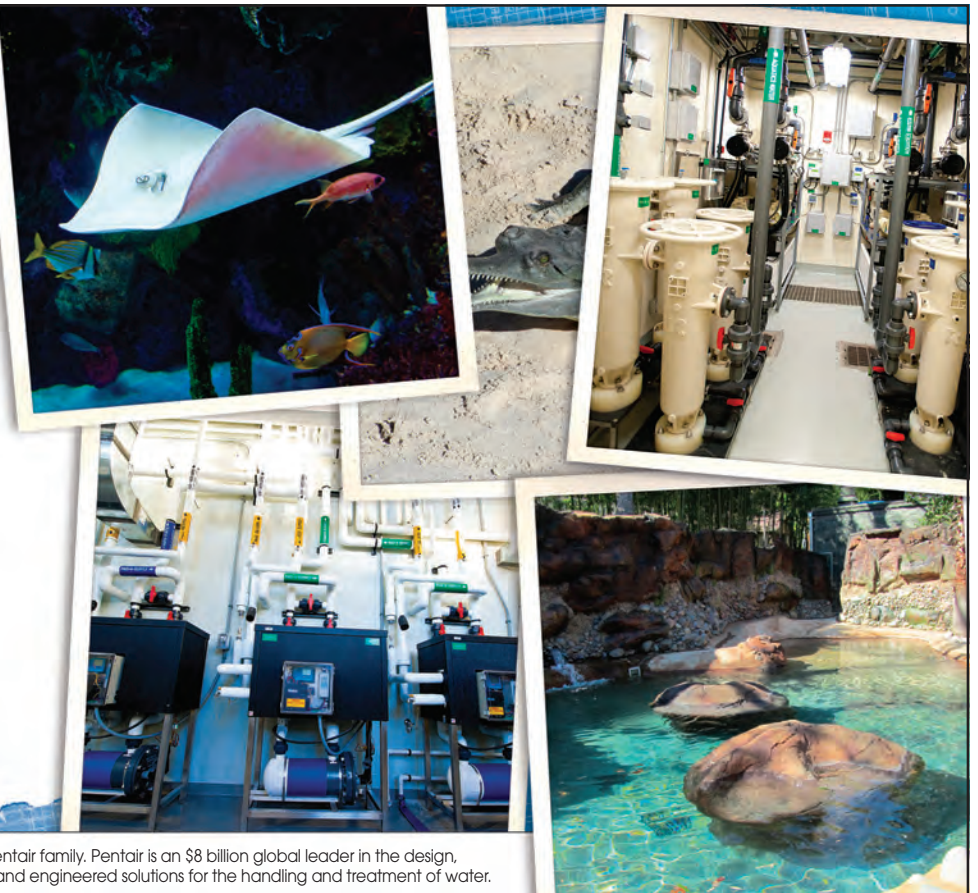


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AZFA's Clark Waldram Conservation Fund Project Update

By Allmon Forrester

The Clark Waldram Conservation Fund is used for the support of local and worldwide conservation programs and projects. The Fund supports applicants that have demonstrated the funds will be applied to construction materials, tools, equipment, and technical expertise portions of the program or project and that the program or project has a conservation objective.

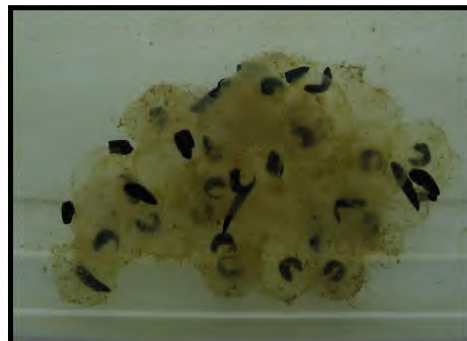
In 2014, the Fund supported 5 projects for a total of \$7,595. We funded projects in Madagascar, Punta San Juan, and 3 projects in the United States. One of the projects in the U.S., was the Oregon Spotted Frog Reintroduction Project. Northwest Trek Wildlife Park was the affiliated institution for that project. To aid in their efforts, we helped purchase tanks, nets, and pumps to raise frogs to be released.

On March 14, 2014, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park received 215 Oregon spotted frog eggs, from ten different egg masses, from the Salmon Creek collection site. Of these, 22 eggs were deemed non-viable. At the time of release, there were 89 surviving juvenile frogs (a 46% survival rate.) So, with help from the Fund there are 89 more endangered Oregon spotted frogs hopping around in Peirce County, WA. We were one of four organizations along with support from the Northwest Trek Foundation to support their efforts in 2014.

If you or an affiliate organization that you know of would like to apply for funding for a project, please go to our website at www.azfa.org and click on the conservation section.



Eggs are collected by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Biologists.



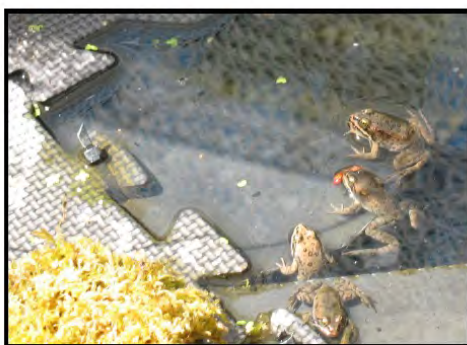
Egg masses are delivered to rearing facilities, separated into small clusters and placed in small rearing tanks.



Once tadpoles emerge, daily feeding and water changes begin in each tank. Non-viable eggs are removed.



As tadpoles mature, they are transferred to large outdoor holding tanks.



As the tadpoles metamorphose, docking platforms and cricket feeder stations are added to the holding tanks.



Prior to release, all frogs are weighed, measured and inspected to ensure adequate size for release. Individuals that do not meet minimum requirements for release are transferred to a partner facility capable of overwintering frogs. No frogs from Northwest Trek were held for overwintering this year.

AZFA 2015 Annual Conference Call for Presentations

By Sam Peterson

The AZFA Program & Education Committee is seeking presenters for the upcoming conference hosted by the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo this October 11th - 15th in Chicago, Illinois. The agenda will include a pre-conference tour and ice-breaker at the John G. Shedd Aquarium and a post-conference tour at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The main conference proceedings will take place Monday and Tuesday at the Chicago Marriott Northwest, with additional sessions and tours at Brookfield Zoo on Wednesday.

Based on feedback from conference attendees, the Committee is planning 60-minute sessions with about 45 minutes for each presentation and 15 minutes for questions and answers. With almost three full days, we are hoping to offer up to 30 different sessions in a mix of presentations, workshops, and roundtable discussions. There will be several "tracks" addressing topics that our members encounter in the workplace. These could include sustainability, professional development, safety and emergency response, housekeeping, exhibit design and project management, accreditation, life support systems, and more.

The Committee is dedicated to offering a program that provides the best possible value for the attendees, and we need the help of the AZFA's best asset, our membership! If you would like to present at the conference, teach a workshop, host a roundtable, or if you know someone who could, please contact me at speterson@sazoo.org. In order to finalize the agenda as early as possible, please respond by Friday, April 10th.

The annual conference would not be possible without the participation and collaboration of the AZFA membership. Thank you to all of the members who volunteer their time and expertise to keep the program improving year after year. See you in Chicago!



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AZFA New Members

Professional

Jamie Clark, Oregon Zoo

Guy DeLuca, Denver Zoological Foundation

Jamie Huss, Washington Park Zoo

Emily Margolen, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Rich McCarthy, Brookfield zoo

Nikki Myers, Denver Zoological Foundation

Richard Oppman, The Phoenix Zoo

Terry Poag, Mesker Park Zoo

Commercial

Don DeRoia, Clear Fold Door, Inc.

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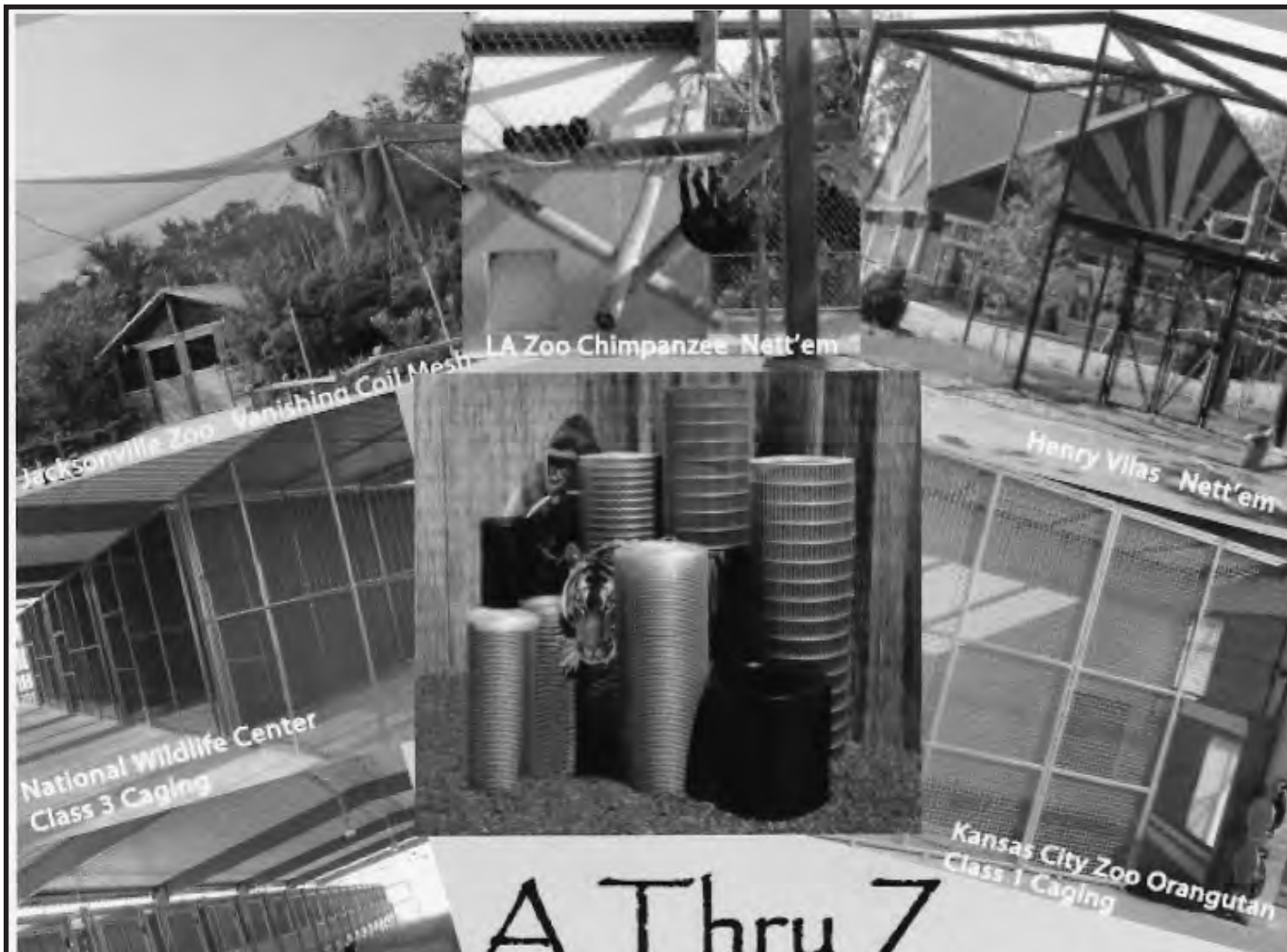
This Year at the Conference

By Joe Matyas

The conference in Evansville, IN was great. One of the meeting topics was the history of the AZFA and four out of six founding fathers were in attendance.

I had a chance to take a picture of the Presidents breakfast. It has been a long time since we had half of the Presidents in one place and I hope it will not be as long until the next time.





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Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter: April 23rd

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@sazoom.com

Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden

I want to wish all of you and your families a very happy and healthy new year. Articles for the spring issue of The Outlet can be sent to me at jgolden@zoonewengland.com

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

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