

O the Outlet



Winter 2016

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Rudy Castañeda



Greetings everyone from the El Paso Zoo and Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and are looking forward to spring weather. Since our conference in Chicago, time has literary flow by for me as we are already preparing for the mid-year AZFA Board meeting and this year's conference hosted by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Time flies by when you are having fun.

Just like most of you and your organizations, we are going through changes and growing pains. As part of the 2012 Quality of Life Bond election, voters approved \$50 million in upgrades to the El Paso Zoo. Every corner of our 35-acre Zoo will undergo exciting upgrades, including the Americas, Africa, and Asia exhibits.

Some of the projects that are currently underway are the African Wild Dog exhibit, Reptile Building, Event Tent (Sprung Structure), Wildlife Theater which is an outdoor amphitheater and we are in the design phase for the Chihuahuan Desert exhibit. We are in the third year of a 12 year master plan. Never a dull moment.

The conference committee is on track for this year's conference preparing a wide variety of options for certification classes, round table discussions, sponsor presentations, and educational courses. I encourage you to take advantage of all that is offered and please do not hesitate to request a particular topic of your interest to the Education Committee, as it is still early in the process. We will try our best to accommodate you. More information on the conference will be available on the website in the coming weeks.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter I want to encourage those of our members that have not had the chance to get involved in our organization to do so. Sign up for a committee and get a better idea of what the AZFA is all about. We need different perspectives of our business, new ideas, and people to continue to grow.

In closing I would like to extend condolences on behalf of the AZFA to the Joe Matyas family, Joe passed away in December, he was a great supporter of the AZFA and will be missed.

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Saying Goodbye to a Friend

By Ann Kaminsky

AZFA has lost a long-time supporter, and we have all lost a friend. Joe Matyas, retired Lead Maintenance Engineer for Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, passed away on Christmas Day from heart failure.

When The RainForest was opened at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Joe was entrusted with maintaining the intricate HVAC systems of the building. However, he was also the person called upon whenever there was a breach in any of the infrastructure throughout the zoo as he knew that place, both above and under the ground, like the back of his hand. After being slowed by a stroke several years ago, Joe reluctantly retired with 30 plus years of service. He continued to attend the AZFA conferences and remained an active member, serving most recently as Director at Large.

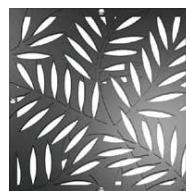
Several of us from the zoo would travel to Vegas once a year, and Joe would take us away from the hustle and bustle (and maybe save us some money!) to visit an interesting sight. Once, we toured the bowels of Hoover Dam, and another time we drove to the middle of nowhere in Death Valley to see the remarkable Scotty's Castle, stopping on the way to get out of the car and "listen to the silence." We drove up Mount Charleston through the majestic Ponderosa pines to a little chalet-type restaurant, complete with an oomp-pah-pah band. We traveled out to Ethel M's Chocolate Factory to see their beautiful cactus garden and, of course, to buy chocolate which melted by the time we got back to our hotel. Joe did not need a GPS to get us anywhere. He just seemed to have a built-in compass. No matter where we traveled for AZFA conferences, Joe knew or researched the best places to eat, from catfish in Chattanooga to burnt ends in Kansas City. Joe was a walking, talking travel guide!

A little quirky, a lot stubborn at times, Joe was an honorable man who was loyal to his friends and gave freely of his time and expertise. You will be missed, old friend.

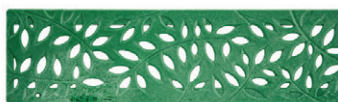
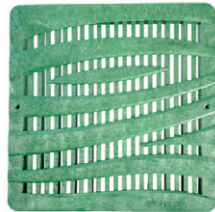


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Saving Water in the Second Driest State in the Nation

By Liz Larsen, Director of Conservation and Sustainability Programs

At Utah's Hogle Zoo, located in Salt Lake City, water is an important topic. Utah is the second driest state in the nation and with recent droughts and massive population growth, the demand for water is a looming policy concern. Despite this, Utah residents love to use water and are consistently one of the highest per capita users in the country.

In 2002, the Zoo was alarmed to discover that it rated as one of the highest users in the state as well. This prompted action to reduce water use. Through strategic efforts, water conservation has been incorporated into all planning efforts and it is part of the dialogue with all of our capital projects and renovations. After 13 years of improvements, the Zoo has transformed, providing us with several opportunities to demonstrate our commitment towards a more sustainable future, reducing water use by 65 percent. The vast majority of water savings has not been achieved through large and innovative projects, but rather by looking for water saving opportunities in all upgrades.

Despite a relatively small footprint (about 43 acres), landscaping played a large role in our water portfolio. Keeping grass green in a desert environment takes a significant amount of water. The majority of the Zoo's landscaping has been converted to colorful water wise plantings. The two remaining patches of grass are used for picnics and special events. Programmable drip irrigation is also an important element that was incorporated into our landscaping plan.

Elimination of antiquated dump and fill ponds and using recirculating systems is a natural progression in any master plan, and it played a huge role in our conservation efforts. Integrating animal collection planning was also an important component. As the Zoo laid out its long term plans, short term animal programming helped us reach our reduction efforts quicker. Large ponds that were slated for renovation in the future received a short term renovation. The wildlife was moved, the ponds were raised, and the area was transformed into "Bullamakanka" a themed interactive play area staffed with environmental educators that complimented the goals



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of an adjacent exhibit. With a relatively small investment, the Zoo was able to jump start on water conservation goals while fundraising for the major exhibit development that took place a few years later.

As the Zoo continued to complete projects for the masterplan, animal collection planning and community engagement were other important factors in water conservation. An important consideration for the animal planning was the water usage for the species. The Zoo made some hard decisions and some species that had historical presence at the Zoo were phased out. By focused water features as part of two signature exhibits advanced filtration systems helped reduce water waste. Concurrently, as the Zoo moved forward with the masterplan, upgrading guest amenities was also a key factor in water conservation. All guest restrooms were fitted with low flow fixtures. Installing low flow fixtures in the Zoo's restaurants also contributed towards our water goals and was an important part achieving Green Restaurant Association certification

Staff engagement remains an important part of the Zoo's water conservation strategy. Animal care staff is encouraged to assess their water use as part of daily routines. Working with the veterinary team, adjustments were made to exhibit substrates to encourage more "dry cleaning" methods. Education efforts are on-going through email alerts, community programs, and staff movie screenings.

Although we are proud of our water reduction efforts, it is not stopping here. Utah has experienced several years of drought so water conservation continues to be on the forefront of regional topics. With new master planning in front of us, it is time to take a fresh look at water.

If you have a story to share in the Green Scene and want to highlight your zoo or aquarium's sustainability efforts, please email Fia at sophia.cifuentes@cincinnatiatzoos.org.

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AZFA 2016 Annual Conference Call for Presentations

By Allmon Forrester

The AZFA Program & Education Committee is seeking presenters for the upcoming conference hosted by the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium October 16-20, in Omaha, NE.

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'd like to present at the conference, teach a workshop, or host a roundtable, or if you know someone who could, please contact Allmon Forrester at forrester@jbzoo.org. In order to finalize the agenda as early as possible, please respond by Friday, April 10th.

Coming soon we will have many of the presentations from Chicago up on the AZFA website. By going to the Past Conference drop down on the website, you can see past conference agendas and even a few presentation Power Points from Evansville.

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 Omaha!



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Gaurang Mathur, Jaipur School

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NC Museum of Life and Science

Professional

Anthony Bailey, Director of Maintenance and Horticulture,
Sacramento Zoological Society

Kip Bower, John Ball Zoo

Merlisa Condoian, Zoo Operations Officer,
Fresno Chaffee Zoo

Professional Members Continued

Greg Enry, John Ball Zoo

Luis Ibanez, John Ball Zoo

Loren Peterson, John Ball Zoo

Tom Quan, Director of Facilities and Services, Toronto Zoo

Wanda Rials, P & F Administrator, John G. Shedd Aquarium

Robin Roberts, Administrative Assistant,
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Rebecca Sprague, Water Quality Technician,
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Max Woehle, Lead Maintenance Worker, Leesburg Animal Park



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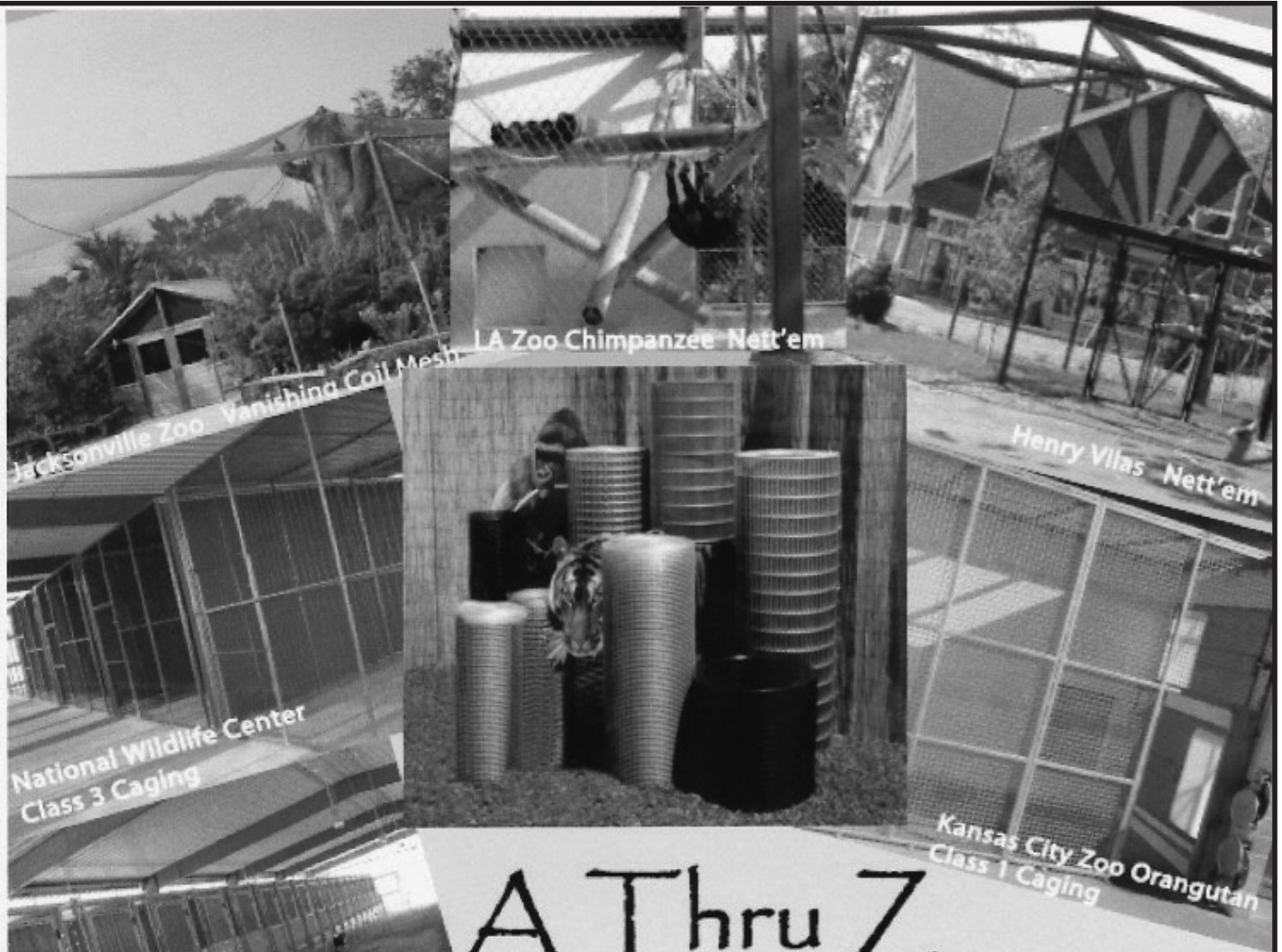
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AZFA's Clark Waldram Conservation Fund Project Update

By Andrew Marti

The Clark Waldram Conservation Fund is used for the support of local and worldwide conservation programs and projects. The grant supports applicants that have demonstrated that 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. Since 2001, the fund has awarded over \$50,000 in support of thirty five projects.

In 2015, the AZFA supported four projects for a total of \$6,650. Projects were funded in Punta San Juan, Indiana, Florida, and Texas. These funds are being used for a wide range of conservation efforts including expanding facilities for endangered species headstarting and education, field tools and equipment, and water conservation and repurposing systems.

One of the projects was a HVAC water condensate collection system created by the San Antonio Zoo. The objective was to collect and redirect condensate from HVAC equipment into a holding tank for re-use throughout the zoo. The San Antonio Zoo is not only preserving water by recycling an estimated 150,000 gallons of HVAC condensate annually, but the collection tank is prominently displayed for guests to see and showcases the project to educate others on conservation methods.

If you or some affiliate organization that you know of would like to apply for funding for a project, please go to our website at azfa.org and click on the conservation section. We are still accepting applications for 2016.

Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter: April 15th

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@sazoo.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

