

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Allmon Forrester, Director of Facilities, Planning, & Sustainability, John Ball Zoo



Snowy greetings from West Michigan to all our AZFA friends. I hope you had a great holiday season and are settling well into the New Year. The landscape here is dramatically different from the conference as the warm fall colors have given way to a blistery white scene. Some of you in the southern region

of the country have had a recent dose of what us northern folks call normal. Balancing projects and day to day duties, while battling snow can be challenging.

As we are all gearing up for another busy season, remember to pick up the phone or email each other. WE NETWORK continues far beyond conference education sessions and festivities. Use our AZFA forum for questions you may have or reach out to someone specifically through our membership directory. The directory contains emails and phone numbers to contact folks directly. You can search by name or institution to follow up with someone you had a conversation with back in October. If you need assistance, you can reach me at 616-336-2545 or aforrester@jbzoo.org and I will put you in contact with

someone who can help you out. This is what WE do.

Every winter, the John Ball Zoo reviews what is new in the AZA Accreditation Standards for the upcoming year. Accreditation years add an additional layer of hustle and bustle to our already busy schedules, so staying on top of the new standards is far easier than reacting to five years of change. If you or someone on your team is not part of an annual review, or if you are not aware if annual reviews are occurring, reach out to management and ask how you can help.

Personally, I am still on a conference high from October here in Grand Rapids. The support from all of you and the team here at John Ball Zoo was overwhelming. Special shout out to our Zoo team: Greg B., John W., Ben C., Greg E., Luis I., Loren P., Danielle F., Kip B., Marie K., Kellie V., and Sam S. I also want to recognize Greg James of Facility Dude, our 2017 conference Presenting Sponsor. Sponsors truly help make conferences successful so if you know of a potential we should pursue, let me or Marc Muller mullerm@si.edu know. Marc and his team at National Zoo are already planning for the 2018 conference in Washington, D.C. and are working hard to put together a great program for us October 7th -11th. Also, the Program & Education Committee, led by Brian Timm

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of Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, are actively seeking volunteers that would like to present a session in D.C. this fall.

In early April, the AZFA leadership team will be convening at the Texas State Aquarium for our mid-year meeting. The prime directive of the mid-year meeting is to discuss how we can serve you and further the goals and objectives of the AZFA. Thanks to Jimmy Mecom for graciously hosting. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or really anything that you think would be beneficial for the organization, send myself or Sam Peterson sam.peterson@sazoo.org an email.

The AZFA is a volunteer run association and there a lot of folks behind the scenes that serve our membership and organization. Without their efforts, the AZFA would not exist. Even this publication of the Outlet would not be possible without the efforts of Jen Golden from Zoo New England. Jen has been serving faithfully for years as the primary driver of the Outlet. Thank you Jen, and thanks

to all that share in the heavy lifting to make the AZFA a great and growing organization. In this issue is a listing of all the folks that volunteer their time to serve on the Board of Directors, Chair a Committee, and serve on those Committees. Big kudos to all of you. Oh, there is always room for others to help out. If you see a Committee that you would like to know more about, please reach out to the Committee Chair.

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The Green Scene

Engaging Sustainability at the 8th Annual Green Summit! Planning, & Sustainability, Cincinnati Zoo
By Fia Turczynewycz, Sustainability Coordinator, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Planning is underway for the 8th Annual Green Summit during AZA's mid-year meeting in Jacksonville, Florida on March 28th and 29th. The Green Summit is a great way to connect to other institutions, much like AZFA's conferences, to share resources, challenges, and success stories for sustainable operations. In addition to panel presentations, this year's summit will also focus on a pilot professional development workshop, allowing participants to dig deeper into their own sustainability plans, metrics, and goal setting.

Topics for this year's Summit include:

Engaging STAFF:

Connecting Operations, Animal Welfare, & Sustainability

Engaging your staff in sustainability practices, programs, and implementation is key in achieving success. Having constant, open, honest, and transparent conversations with staff, especially front line, facilities, and animal staff, will keep everyone on the same page and ensure everyone's voice is heard. Celebrate successes and give opportunities for all staff to have a part in sustainability efforts. This session will highlight institutions that have engaged their staff in creative ways, allowing participation across the board with green initiatives while improving animal welfare and sustainable operations.

Engaging DATA:

Measuring Metrics & Setting Goals

Utilizing data and metrics to set goals, measure continual improvement and program effectiveness, conduct

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longitudinal studies that can support future campaigns and projects, and allow you to understand your resources better. Learn how to get intimate with your numbers - energy usage, water consumption, tons of waste, and understand how much it all costs. Gain tips and strategies for conducting your own internal audits and recognize why data and metrics are an integral part of a successful sustainability program. This session will highlight institutions that have explored different tracking systems, and utilized their metrics to set goals, implement programs, and support campaigns. Learn how to analyze data so it works for you.

Engaging PUBLIC:

Inspiring Action Within Our Visitors

It is important for us to share our story, and interpret how operational sustainability supports conservation while inspiring action within our visitors. Through our websites, social media outlets, videos, education programs, signage across the Zoo, and any other way you can think of to engage the public, these stories can be shared. More importantly, we are a perfect platform

to inspire our visitors to make changes in their daily lives as well – at home, at school, at work. How can we share tools and resources so that they take these next steps? How do our stories and our own green programs inspire them? This session will share strategies for sustainability story telling.

Engaging VENDORS/PARTNERS:

Sourcing Sustainably

Working closely with our supply chain to ensure sustainable purchasing is key to covering all our bases within our operations. This session will use the case studies of institutions that have transitioned out of providing bottled water for purchase on grounds, as well as institutions that have been able to green up their events by being creative and resourceful while engaging their vendors and community partners.

This year’s Green Summit will be packed with a lot of great information and resources to help you keep your institutions as sustainable as possible. I hope to see you there! If you might be interested in presenting at this year’s Summit, or have questions in general, please contact me directly at fia@cincinnatiatizoo.org.



2017 Green Summit in Albuquerque, NM

Abaxis - *On-site Diagnostic Testing*
www.azasmartsource.org/abaxis

Club Car - *Gas & Electric Transport & Utility Vehicles*
www.azasmartsource.org/club-car

Deb Group - *Hand Hygiene & Skin Care*
www.azasmartsource.org/deb-group

Dude Solutions - *Maintenance Management Software*
www.azasmartsource.org/dude-solutions

Ferguson Facilities Supply - *Plumbing, HVAC & MRO Supplies*
www.azasmartsource.org/ferguson

Georgia-Pacific Professional - *Janitorial Paper & Foodservice Products*
www.azasmartsource.org/gp-pro

Henry Schein Animal Health - *Medical & Lab Supplies*
www.azasmartsource.org/henry-schein

NPN360 - *Integrated Marketing Solutions*
www.azasmartsource.org/npn360

PPG Paints - *Paints, Stains & Coatings*
www.azasmartsource.org/ppg-paints

ProGienics - *Disease Prevention & Odor Control*
www.azasmartsource.org/provetlogic

Staples Business Advantage - *Business Essentials Supplies*
www.azasmartsource.org/staples-business-advantage

Vantiv - *Merchant Services*
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2017-2018 AZFA Committee Chairpersons and Members

Membership

Dean Violetta, Director of Planning and Exhibit Design, Cincinnati Zoo – dean.violetta@cincinnati-zoo.org

Sam Peterson, Sustainability Coordinator & Office Manager, San Antonio Zoo – sam.peterson@sazoo.org

Brian Timm, Director of Facilities, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo – briantimm@omahazoo.com

James Mancari, Engineer, North Carolina Zoo – James.Mancari@nczoo.org

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Brian Brawner, Tech Sales Manager, R & B Aquatic Distribution – brian@rbaquatic.com

Sam Peterson, Sustainability Coordinator & Office Manager, San Antonio Zoo – sam.peterson@sazoo.org

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Sam Peterson, Sustainability Coordinator & Office Manager, San Antonio Zoo – sam.peterson@sazoo.org

Honors & Awards

Gary Molle, General Maintenance, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo – gam@clevelandmetroparks.com

No sign-ups

Conservation

Marcel Champagne, Project Manager, Granby Zoo – mchampagne@zoodegranby.com

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Clark Waldram Fund

By **Andrew Marti, Director of Facilities Management, Saint Louis Zoo**

The Clark Waldram Fund continues to do great things. Below is an excerpt from an update we received from Joshua R. Ennen and Shawna Mitchell from the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute from a project we helped fund in 2016. As you read the article, note how the funding AZFA provided led to publications and multiple presentations. How cool is that!? With my new role as Treasurer of AZFA, I am passing the Conservation Committee Chair position to the capable hands of Marcel Champagne of Grandby Zoo. If you want to be involved in the Conservation Committee please contact him at mchampagne@zoodegranby.com. An application to submit a project for funding consideration can be found on the AZFA website in the resources section.

Amphibian Conservation: Understanding the Effects of Invasive Species on Native Vertebrates in Headwater Streams Update June 15, 2017

Thank you for supporting the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute research on salamander conservation. The original proposal focused on salamander conservation in the context of invasive species; however, we shifted our research focus towards the impact of climate warming with great success. The Earth's climate has radically shifted over the past century. In the face of climate warming, organisms will have to adapt, move, or go extinct. One response to warmer environmental conditions by ectothermic species, including salamanders, is a reduction in body size. In other words, smaller species or individuals are favored in warmer climates. Salamander communities of headwater streams in the Southern Appalachian Mountains are size structured, where larger species occupy the center of the stream and competitively exclude smaller species to periphery habitats (i.e., edge of the stream). This niche partitioning (i.e., competitive exclusion) is hypothesized as the process responsible for maintaining the incredibly high salamander biodiversity in the Southern Appalachian

Mountains. Therefore, if climate warming does in fact favor smaller species, then this size-structuring in salamander communities could be altered and have cascading effects throughout the community (i.e., chain of events throughout the ecosystem) and change the composition. Our research at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute is now focused on understanding how salamander communities will respond to climate warming.

To date, the funding provided by AZFA's Clark Waldram Conservation Grants has led to two scientific publications, one publication in press, another manuscript submitted and in review as we speak, and numerous presentations. In all publications and presentations we acknowledge the role of AZFA in providing financial support for our projects. We have had two undergraduate students from The University of the South: Sewanee utilize the recirculating systems, which are functioning because of funds provided by the AZFA Clark Waldram fund, for their honors thesis research. Not only are the funds supporting solid conservation research but also training the next generation of conservation scientists!



New Sumps



New Tank Stands

Calendar

Deadline for the next newsletter April 17th

2018 Conference, October 7th -11th Washington, D.C.

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.

Website Administrator
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 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

New Members

Professional

Joseph Dzialowy, Assistant Project Manager,
Brookfield Zoo

Lili Gutierrez, Capital Improvements Program
Administrator, El Paso Zoo

Derek Small, Founder & Director,
Wildlife Encounters Ecology Center & Farm School

John Spicklemire, Director of Facilities,
Indianapolis Zoo

Organization

Sheryl Kolasinski, Chief Operating Officer,
Houston Zoo, Inc.

Jason Witmer, Facilities Manager,
Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society

Commercial

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