

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

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



If you have not visited the Texas State Aquarium, you are missing out on a real treat. Jim Mecom and the folks at the Texas State Aquarium rolled out the red carpet for our AZFA mid-year meeting April 8th -10th. We spent a good amount of time discussing our annual conference coming this October 7th to

11th in Washington, DC. Marc Mueller is doing an awesome job preparing for what I am sure will be a great conference. This fall you will see a friendly face back with our group. Grace Retting (retired Cincinnati) has agreed to continue working on conferences. Our annual conference is the highlight of the year for us and they are becoming more and more successful. Along with this achievement, comes more challenges and opportunities to improve our time together. After hosting the last conference, I can say putting all the pieces together is no easy task and having Grace along will help insure our continued success.

You will be receiving information via email on a regular basis to help you prepare for the annual conference. If you are still evaluating if you want to go or trying to get

your institution to support sending you, feel free to reach out. I expect we will surpass 50 zoos and aquariums represented; we will have another awesome educational program that everyone can benefit from; you can connect with national vendors in our industry, tour the National Zoo, and have a super duper great time. Brian Timm is working closely with Marc on putting on another sensational education session. If you want to be considered for leading a session please reach out to Marc or Brian.

A recurring theme that keeps popping up in being successful within the AZFA, and for that matter, in all AZA affiliated organizations is "servant attitude". Without a servant attitude amongst our fellow members, there is no fulfilling progress. We may be able to show progress and successful results, but be lacking in satisfaction. We all face challenges at our organizations. Some days when we have to redo the same thing for lack of communication or expectation, it is hard to stay upbeat. The best way we can help our organizations be successful is to remember we are here to serve.

Speaking of serving, there a lot of folks behind the scenes that serve our members and organization. Without their efforts, AZFA would not exist. One of those folks is John Kanzia. He is that quiet guy many people do not see but

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you have all benefited from what he does behind the scenes. He acts as our IT infacto and works magic on our website. He has been heading up our conference selection committee for a very long time and is heavily involved with the ins and outs at every conference. He never says no and is always upbeat. Next time you see John, say "thanks". You probably will not know what you are thanking him for but without his efforts, you would find out real quick what he does. There is always room for others to help out. If you see a committee that you would like to know more about or just want to help, reach out to anyone on the Board or a Committee Chair.

Thanks again to Jim at Texas State Aquarium for graciously hosting our Mid-year meeting. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or really anything that you think would be beneficial for the organization, send myself aforrester@jbzoo.org or Sam Peterson sam.peterson@sazoo.org an email. We are always looking for ways we can serve you and the AZFA.

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The Green Scene

2018 MASSRECYCLE Awards

By John Piazza and Andrea Lewicki, Zoo
New England

Zoo New England (ZNE) was recently nominated by Waste Management (WM) for the 2018 MASSRECYCLE Awards Business Vote under the Institution/University category which is presented to an educational, healthcare, government, nonprofit, or other organization or facility that has developed and is operating an outstanding recycling and/or waste reduction program. Of the five nominees, which included names like Whole Foods and Gillette Stadium, ZNE placed second.

Nomination Summary

Zoo New England has maintained a meticulous materials management system from on-site food/yard/manure waste composting, single stream recycling and baling cardboard to the separation of redeemable bottles and cans, metals, wood/pallets, and e-waste. ZNE also has a Terracycle brigade and a "Free Bees" employee exchange/reuse program.

In the summer of 2017 ZNE conducted a comprehensive waste dive with WM's Total Recycle Program Manager. The outpouring of staff participation enabled ZNE to sort over 900 lbs. of trash and weigh seven categories of waste streams. The waste dive results showed less than 12% of the waste was comprised of recyclable material. Information gained from this exercise helped identify strategic priorities for making continuous improvements. ZNE worked with WM to improve waste handling strategies and practices. Several primary goals were set towards establishing these desired improvements:

- Establish improved identification and separation of recyclable waste material
- Reduce the amount of necessary truck trips for having ZNE waste removed from both zoo campuses (Franklin Park Zoo, Boston, MA & Stone Zoo, Stoneham, MA)

- Improve handling of green waste materials
- Improve regulatory compliances with waste materials being removed from ZNE properties.

Achievements

Recyclable materials:

- Held staff education sessions to improve participation and compliance with ZNE sustainability initiatives.
- Instituted dedicated recycling bins at every work station and work area throughout both campuses and increased the number of dual waste/recycling containers in public areas.
- Established separate recycling programs for card board and scrap metal waste which provided the dual benefits of creating revenue streams through reimbursements and also effectively reduced the volume of single stream waste per week.
- Created a mail monitoring system to identify opportunities to have staff names removed from mailings and catalogs. It was estimated that hundreds of pounds of paper waste was diverted yearly by eliminating these unwanted materials.
- Zoo map collection boxes were established at each entry/exit point of both zoos to allow guests the option for turning in used maps for paper recycling.
- Instituted WM LampTracker recycling program for proper disposal of used light bulbs at both campuses.
- Instituted WM BatteryTracker recycling program for proper disposal of used batteries at both campuses.
- ZNE's Green Team is currently looking into ways to capture stretch plastic and used textiles for bulk recycling, with several small satellite collection efforts taking place currently.

Green waste:

- Consolidated green waste management strategy for handling horticulture cuttings, bedding and

manure waste generated at both campuses by using a single, local reclaimer for receiving green waste for conversion into mulch and high grade compost.

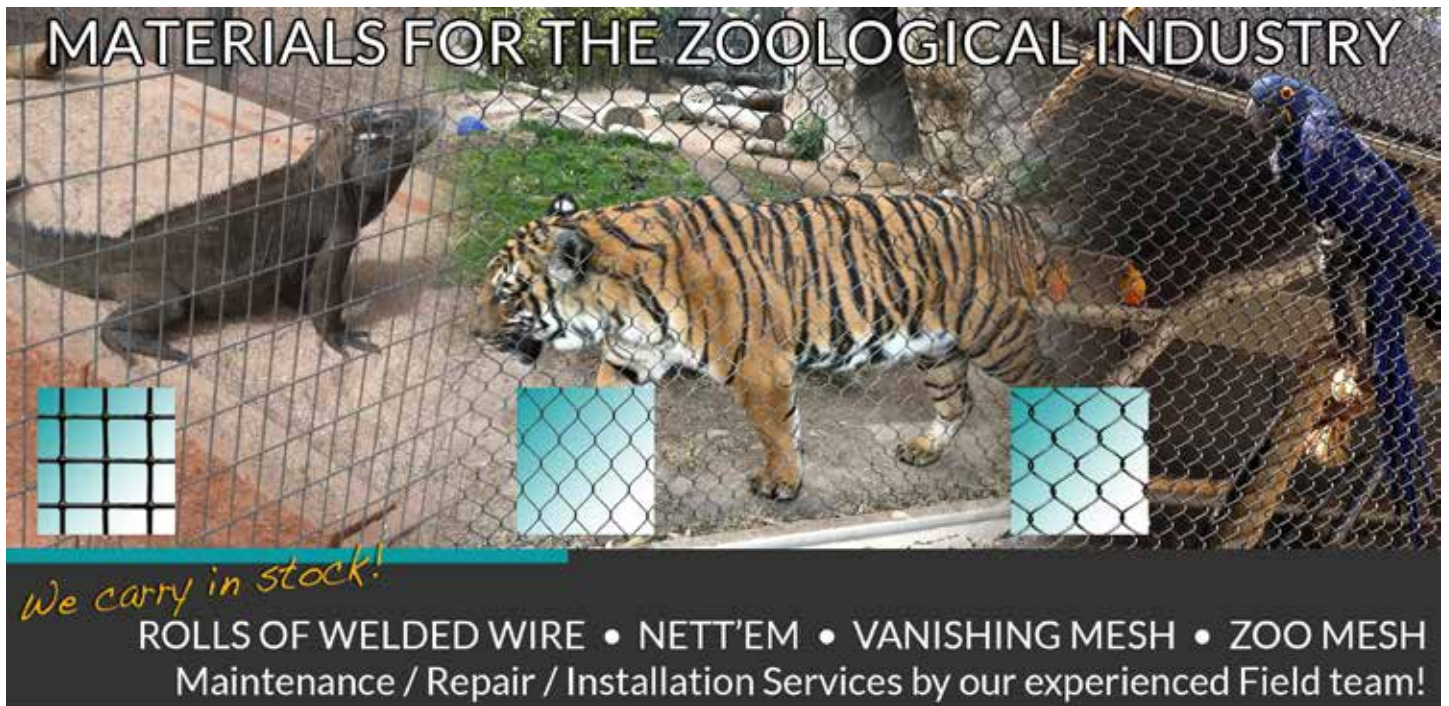
- Created small scale in-house composting program at Franklin Park Zoo for creating a closed loop compost system. This system converts manure and food scrap waste into compost which is used to grow produce in ZNE's Organic Garden. This produce is incorporated into animal diets.

Outreach:

- ZNE's Webmaster created a sustainability page for helping communicate internal ZNE sustainability efforts to guests and Zoo members and to provide educational materials to this audience for additional opportunities for them to engage in green practices.
- ZNE Green Team created an internship program, with the first Green Intern graduating this past year after conducting an investigation into water usage at Franklin Park Zoo and identifying what improvements could be made through practices and equipment.

- Identified a postconsumer outlet for corrugated plastic which is part of the packaging material for shavings deliveries; a high volume material. ZNE paired with the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability's Assistive Technologies program which was converting this material into devices targeted to help disabled people better function with everyday tasks. Examples of this work were the production of iPad and laptop computer holders and even pizza holders. ZNE supplied this program with several deliveries of 4' x 4' sheets (estimated 300 - 400 lbs.). The program had previously been relying on sporadic infusions, mostly during election cycles, of used campaign signs. ZNE was also instrumental in writing a letter of endorsement for this partnership which helped secure a \$75,000 grant award.

- Created pilot partnerships with Social Catalyst Charitable Foundation (SCCF) and Relan to identify postconsumer opportunities for plastic bailing twine and promotional banners which make up sizable waste streams within yearly Zoo operations. Twine may be used in artisan fabrics and promotional banners may be used for hand bags and totes.



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Calendar

Deadline for the next newsletter July 15th

2017 Annual Conference: October 7th - 11th ,
Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology
Institute, Washington, DC

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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Editor's Note

**By Jennifer Golden, Operations Project Manager,
Zoo New England**

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.

New Members

**By Samantha Peterson, San Antonio Zoo
& Aquarium**

Professional

Ardit Logu, Facilities Manager, San Antonio Zoo
Gary Gilbert CPE; LEED AP, Director Construction Management, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens
Gene Eldridge, Project Manager, Houston Zoo
Mark Hoffman, Director of Design and Engineering, Houston Zoo
Paul McAuley, Senior Director of Campus Maintenance, Houston Zoo
Mark Van Wickler, Director of Exhibit Design, Houston Zoo
John Spicklemire, Director of Facilities, Indianapolis Zoo
Richard Mikiciuk, Assistant Zoo Director, Facilities, Seneca Park Zoo
Juan Anaya, Chief Construction Inspector, El Paso Zoo
Sergio Ornelas, Construction Manager, El Paso Zoo
Nathan Gabriel, Facilities Manager, South Carolina Aquarium
Mike Bajek, Life Support Systems Manager, Wonders of Wildlife
Mark Pulcini, Grounds and Horticulture Manager, Elmwood Park Zoo
Julia Wagner, Assistant Director, Conservators Center
Paul Wilbert, Aquatic Life Support Supervisor, Detroit Zoological Society

Organization

Sheryl Kolasinski, Chief Operating Officer, Houston Zoo, Inc.
Jason Witmer, Facilities Manager, Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society
Marcus Barrett, Facilities Manager, Newport Aquarium

Commercial

Laraine Wight, Vice President, Safari Thatch Inc.
Scott Kleinbeck, Vice President, Empire Netting & Fence
Matthew Tucci, Application Engineer, IPEX USA LLC

Associate

Krista Harbold, Certified Veterinary Technician, Patton Veterinary Hospital
Andrew Hogan, Keeper, Turtle Back Zoo