

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

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



Greetings from 35,000 feet somewhere over Kansas headed for Columbia, SC! A team from John Ball Zoo are visiting three zoos in three days; Utah's Hogle Zoo, the Denver Zoo, and Riverbanks Zoo and Garden. We are in the information gathering process to better plan our next few capital projects. The zoo

community is full of folks eager and willing to share the good, the bad, and "what I would do next time". This is invaluable information for anyone in their day to day operations, as well as shedding light on critical design elements. We all know what we build tomorrow needs to stand the test of time, be engaging for our guests, and be forward thinking with animal welfare and conservation in mind.

Networking within the AZFA rewards you as you visit other zoos. Alden and Lee from Hogle, along with Guy, Steve, and Tim from Denver really rolled out the red carpet for our team. I cannot wait to see what Dave and the staff at Riverbanks has in store for us tomorrow. It is great to have departments from different zoos and aquariums

tour together. My head is throbbing with all the information crammed in from the past two days. Or, it might also be time zones, jet lag, and too much food? Breaking bread together at conferences is so, so sweet but actually spending the day with like-minded folks at their facility is priceless.

You do not have to rack up frequent flyer miles to have this experience. Most of you have institutions near enough to you that you could drive in a few hours. If they are not in the AZFA family, reach out to them and show them the benefits of our organization. If you think you are from a small facility and those 'big guns' will not want to play? Hogwash. If you are part of a 'big gun' institution and you do not think those poor folks with limited resources have anything of value for you? Hogwash. If you want to connect with a nearby facility or you are traveling on vacation and would like to connect with someone, check out our membership directory. Our website has up to date information; names, positions, and contact information of our members and you can search by organization or name. If you are hesitant to contact someone or you do not see them in the directory, drop me a line and I will be happy to make a couple of calls on your behalf. I cannot over emphasize how important this connection time is for you and your organization.

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Our role is at the forefront in regard to animal welfare. Grand Rapids is not unlike Hogle or Denver with increased expectations for dealing with hot weather. Heat not only affects our animals, guests, and staff, but measures taken for the welfare of our animal collections can drive down guest satisfaction. If it is too hot, animals have access to holding. When guests do not see animals they are unhappy. When it is too hot, animals lie down in an obscure corner of the habitat and guests are again unhappy. Efforts we have made in the past include shade cloth, misters, cooling stations, cooling boxes, etc. and the bar seems to continue to rise higher. I heard a comment recently that we need to make the outdoor habitat just as appealing as indoor holding for the animals. What seems to be more and more evident is that we need to think outside the box. What this means, I do not know. What I do know is it will fall on our shoulders to come up with creative solutions. It will only be by sharing our stories, successes, and failures that we will make positive impacts.

Shifting to a cooler time of year. The annual conference in Washington D.C. is right around the corner. You will find more information about the conference later in this issue of The Outlet. Marc Muller is doing an outstanding job and we will all reap the benefits this October. He and Brian Timm are putting together an exceptional educational program that I am really looking forward to. Do not wait to register for the conference and hotel. It helps Mark immensely when folks sign up early for the conference and it helps you immensely if you get your hotel booked. Some folks procrastinated last year and had problems reserving rooms.

While we are on the topic of conferences and procrastination, I can tell you there have been a handful of folks not procrastinating. I am proud to announce we are locked into Oklahoma City Zoo in 2019 and Louisville Zoological Garden in 2020. Hats off to Tommy Bryant and Sean Woods for stepping up to host and Grace Rettig (retired Cincinnati) for negotiating great hotel contracts.

One last item to cover. An unsung, long standing member, and almost forever AZFA Board Treasurer is passing the abacus to Andrew Marti. Mike Patera has been this organization's Treasurer since before some of our current members were born. Not only has he judiciously and honorably managed the AZFA's finances, he also has played a critical behind the scene role at every conference. Mike, well done and many, many thanks. Do not worry though, while Mike may be relinquishing his abacus, I do not think we will get rid of him that easy. See you all in DC!

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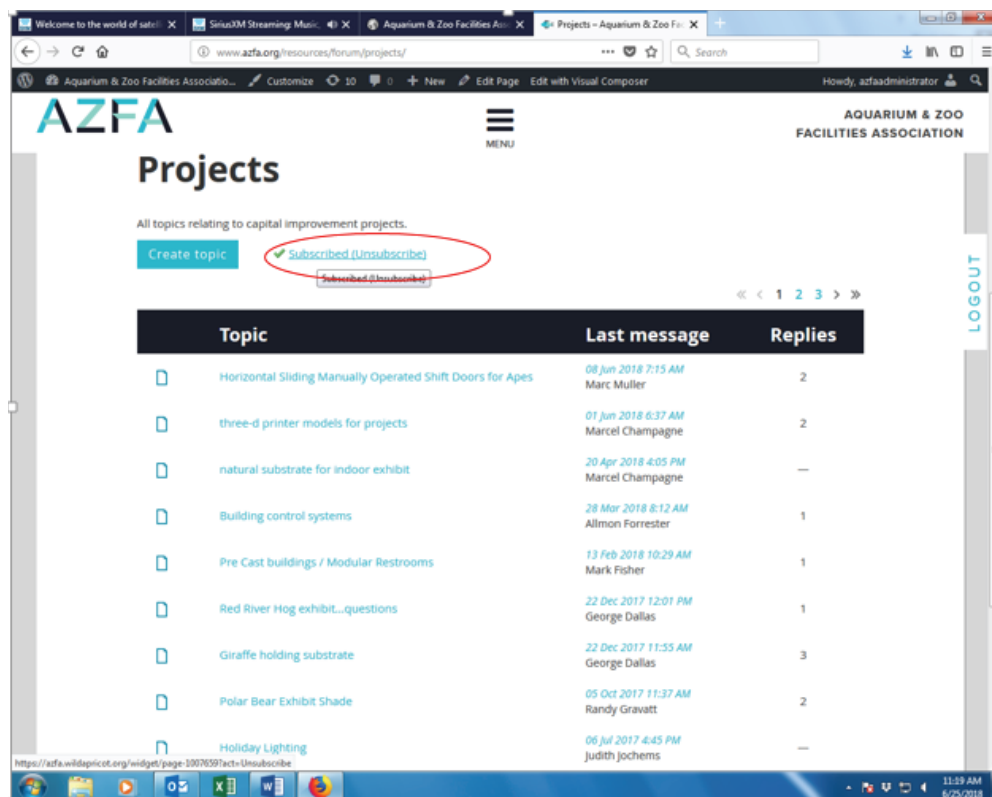
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Website Forum

By John Kanzia, AZFA Website Administrator

Have you ever been stumped on a project, had a question about a product or exhibit, or just had a great idea that you would like to share? Our Forum page on the website is a very powerful tool and a great way to share ideas but we need to increase member participation in order to help get questions answered in a timelier manner.

Subscribing to a forum is easy; from the AZFA Home page, click on the Menu button at the top of the page, click on Resources, and then click on the Visit Forum button under Forum. You can also follow the link here: <http://www.azfa.org/resources/forum/>. Click on the topic that you would like to subscribe to, then click Subscribe (circled in red in the screen shot next to the Create Topic Button). You will be notified any time there is activity on that forum topic so you can chime in. Please sign up for as many forum topics as you can to help maximize our knowledge base. I am subscribed to all of the forum pages because even though I cannot answer every question that comes in, I may know someone in another department that can.



If you don't see a conversation thread under a forum topic relevant to your post, click on the Create Topic button under the relevant forum topic to start a new conversation thread. We currently have 22 forum topics, but can create new ones if what you would like to share does not fit into one of the existing topics. If you need a new forum topic created, please e-mail me at john.kanzia@czs.org.

Please consider taking a few minutes to subscribe to Forums. Our Forum page has a lot of potential, but it is up to you to take it to the next level and participate. It is great to network at our annual conferences, but our Forum and Facebook pages are great ways to keep the conversation going all year long!

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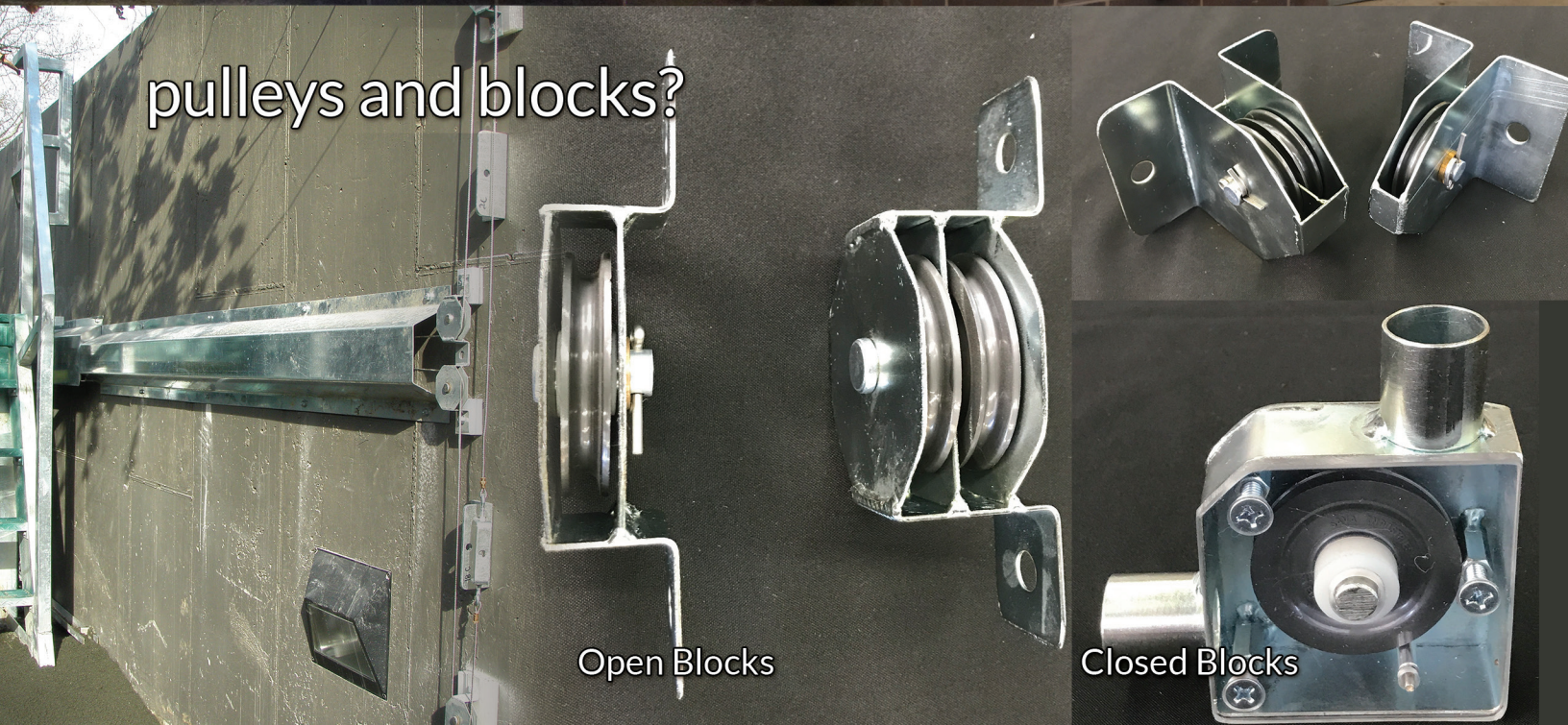
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Saying Goodbye to a Friend

By Mark Patzer, Director of Facilities, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

The zoo and animal world and the AZFA lost a special person when Pat McCafferty passed away on May 22, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer. Although Pat was the Director of Facilities at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for only six ½ years before his retirement in 2014, his zoo/aquarium/park career began decades earlier. He worked at two different Six Flags parks and at SeaWorld in Aurora Ohio, where we believe he first fell in love with walruses!

Here in Columbus, he quickly became a part of our zoo family. His passion for the animals was evident in everything he touched, whether it was helping with animal transport, a medical procedure, or a simple exhibit change. He took great pride in getting all the details right for the sake of the animals and staff. Pat was enthusiastic about making our guests happy as well and he was heavily involved in choreographing the Columbus Zoo's spectacular Christmas light and music shows. He also actively supported many of the Zoo's conservation efforts. The passion Pat brought to the Zoo was equal to the passion he had for life, for nature, for a cold Guinness, and a great story. Pat was a good person and a good friend. He will be greatly missed.



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Safari Golf Club at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Recognized For Environmental Excellence

By Barb Revard, Director of Sustainability, Columbus Zoo

Safari Golf Club at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Ted Hunker, Golf Course Superintendent, led the effort over the last three years to obtain the sanctuary designation and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Only 2.7 percent of the 33,000 golf courses worldwide have achieved the distinction of holding the title of Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

“Safari Golf Club at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property,” said Christine Kane, executive director at Audubon International.

“To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas,” explained Kane. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

“We are absolutely pleased and honored to receive this designation from Audubon International,” said Columbus Zoo President and CEO Tom Stalf. “Our team at Safari Golf Club has worked tirelessly to ensure the course has a positive impact on both the environment and our guests. Thanks to their dedication to this cause and the resulting designation from Audubon International, Safari Golf Club is situated as a leader both in the sport and in sustainability.”



Since 2013, up to six acres have been made “native areas” by removing invasive non-native vegetation and managing for or planting native species. There are expanded areas that are managed without chemicals or pesticides. Additionally, Safari Golf Club has a butterfly garden that is used by monarchs during their annual migration. In 2017, 81 bluebirds and 147 purple martins fledged from nest boxes and rigs constructed just outside the fairway. Safari Golf Club has fledged 563 purple martins and 452 bluebirds since the program began in 2008.

In addition to the sustainability efforts, a link was established between the golf club and field conservation. Each of the 18 holes have been named after a species that benefits from some of the 70 conservation projects in 30 countries that the Columbus Zoo and The Wilds support annually.

WE LEARN – An Educational Update for the Annual Conference Washington D.C.

**Brian Timm, AZFA President Elect,
Education Committee Chairman & Aquarium**

Learning is creatively using our talent, our skills and experiences, our desires, and that which interests us to move beyond who we are today. Learning is an opportunity to use, today, what we are good at to broaden our horizons and become better than we were yesterday. Learning is discovering what motivates us to produce and be creative in delivering, and executing a plan to work toward goals.

The 25th annual AZFA Conference is fast approaching and I hope you are all able to make the trek to Washington D.C. this year to learn something new and network with other professionals in our industry. Marc Muller has done an excellent job putting together what is sure to be a top-notch conference this year.

The AZFA Program & Education Committee has been hard at work putting together our educational sessions. We know one of the main reason your institution sends you to the AZFA conference is for the education program and we have many opportunities to learn something new, improve on something you already knew, become certified, or just be able to share experiences with others. Some of the topics that we have lined up to date are: Active Shooter, Green=Green, Slips and Falls, Fire Systems, Program Access and ADA, Job Hazard Training, Asbestos Awareness, Pest Management, GIS, Accidents on the Job, Anticipating the Future, Keeping the Ball Rolling, Architecture, OSHA 10 Certification, and Career Success. Other topics in the works, but not confirmed are: Work Order Management, Building Assessments, and other Shared Experiences. Check in on the website for further updates <http://www.sifacilities.si.edu/azfa/index.html>.

I look forward to seeing you in October!

Big Hanna

By Chris Norman, Director of Capital Projects and Sustainability, Akron Zoo

Your mother probably told you to clean your plate as a kid, and now we know why. The National Resource Defense Council estimates that over one third of food in the United States is wasted, at a value of \$165 billion annually. The unconsumed food is largely going to landfills, where in an environment devoid of oxygen, it decomposes and releases methane gas.

Methane is 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a heat trapping gas, although it makes up a much smaller percentage of the heat trapping gases in the environment. Methane is a bad actor that contributes to the negative impacts of climate change. If it was viewed as a country, methane generation by food waste would rank third, behind China and the U.S. <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/01/150122-food-waste-climate-change-hunger/>

Fortunately there are many common sense solutions to minimizing methane generated from food waste in our society. The simplest and most regenerative is composting. In a residential setting, compost should not include meat and dairy, simply because most residential piles are too small to effectively break these items down, which could attract pests and cause a nuisance. The Environmental Protection Agency has a very practical guide for more details on how to set up a home compost pile <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>.

When dealing with food waste, the Akron Zoo aspires to be a “zero waste facility” as part of our sustainability plan. Zero waste means exactly that. While we are nowhere near attaining that goal, we accept the challenge to keep eliminating sources of waste. This includes reducing packaging, increasing recycling, and eliminating food waste. In 2013, we began to pay a third party to divert our food waste. We installed food sorting stations around the park and conducted staff and docent training. This initiative resulted in tons of food waste being diverted from the landfill, but it was not perfect.

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Dumpster dives from 2015-2016 revealed that the zoo still had significant food waste in the trash. We met with ReWorks (our local county Solid Waste District) and explored options for better diversion. We wanted a proven technology, simple to use and versatile enough to handle material our current hauler would not accept (carnivore waste, compostable flatware, etc.). ReWorks recommended Big Hanna <http://www.bighanna.com>.

Big Hanna is the name the Swedish company Susteco calls its line of in-vessel aerobic composters. The machine was invented by Torsten Hultin, a Swedish sociologist in 1991. Torsten wanted to create awareness about how our society uses and misuse its resources, and how dependent we are on our local and global environment. Big Hannas have been in use around the globe since 1991, including several correctional facilities in Ohio.

The system is simple. Organic material is fed into the cylinder inside a stainless steel box. The cylinder rotates automatically and temperature sensors track the heat of the pile throughout the process. Reaching sustained heat of 130-140 degrees Fahrenheit for over 4-6 weeks, harmful pathogens are eliminated and finished compost is generated.

The Akron Zoo is the first zoo or aquarium in the world to install a Big Hanna. We think of the community of bacteria in Big Hanna that digest the organic materials, as another animal in our care. We monitor its diet, its health (temperature, moisture, smell) and its activity; the production of compost. To keep Hanna happy, we need to maintain the correct carbon to nitrogen ratio. It can be tricky, as we must adjust for the seasonal fluctuations in our feedstock. We make a lot of food waste in summer, and much less in winter. As a general rule, we are using a 1:5 ratio (20# of carbon for every 100# of food waste, for a total feed of 120# a day).

Early learning has been significant. On the down side, the straw we have been using for animal bedding, did not provide readily available carbon in the Big Hanna and the large chunks of food prep waste needed a grinder to feed into the cylinder properly. That took significant research and experimentation to get sorted out.

On the upside, we have had a lot of interest from the business community. We were able to forge new relationships with the local university, food suppliers, and the foodbank when we were looking for additional food waste to supplement our start-up phase. We had early and strong support from ReWorks, as well as the Ohio EPA. A correctional facility manufactured a biofilter for us based on their experience working with their own Big Hanna.

The staff have been very engaged in the whole process. It has sparked renewed interest in our zero waste goals, as we want to feed Hanna the right stuff. Staff training, special event policy, and purchasing have all seen renewed energy toward reducing our carbon footprint and reducing food waste. We have also been able to accept food waste from select community events, making them zero waste as well and increasing awareness of the conservation effort.

We are still early in the implementation of Big Hanna (the ribbon cutting was April 23, 2018), and work continues on our composting recipe and the policies to support it but already Big Hanna has been a major new step in supporting our conservation mission. We can all reduce food waste, and must if we want to reduce a cause of greenhouse gases. The zoo's Big Hanna is a model for large scale diversion efforts, and the partnerships and action it is inspiring may be just as important. Your mom would be so proud!



AZFA Nominations 2018

President-Elect

Tommy Bryant, Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden

Tommy Bryant is the Director of Facilities at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden. He has been with the zoo for ten years, where he has been strategically involved in six major projects, from design to completion, totaling around fifty million dollars. He started his career as a machinist in the agriculture industry working his way up to lead position. He was there for six years when another opportunity came open and he accepted a position as a machinist in the fine paper industry where he worked for six years in tight tolerance production. Iscar Metals approached him as a factory representative assisting clients with problems and applications for many industries from aerospace to medical implants. After six years, he changed professions and entered into plant maintenance for a local hospital working closely with all staff to maintain buildings and systems in the facility. After a short two years here, he moved to Oklahoma City to take the position as Maintenance Manager for OU Medical Center. Here he was responsible for the compliance to Joint Commission and all local and state health codes for three hospitals and two clinics. Upon leaving OU Medical Center he went to work for a local architectural firm as a construction manager, and while there he was approached about the position at Oklahoma City Zoo. He accepted this position and never looked back. Tommy has been a member of AZFA since he took the position at OKC.

Vice President

Sean Woods, Louisville Zoo



Sean Woods is the Facilities Operations Manager for the Louisville Zoo. His primary areas of responsibility include the Maintenance, Horticulture, Life Support, and Safety Departments. Sean began his work career at the Zoo as a seasonal Guest Services employee when he was in high school. After working in several different departments, Sean left the Zoo and was the Facilities Manager for downtown Louisville Metro Buildings. After working this job for several years and earning his Project Management Certification, Sean was thrilled to receive an opportunity to go back to the Zoo in a role he was very passionate about. Sean joined the AZFA several years ago when he returned to the Zoo and has enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many people and learn about the amazing things other zoos do around the country.

Treasurer-Elect

Nikki Myers, Denver Zoo



Nikki is the Director of Facilities Operations and Sustainability at the Denver Zoo in Colorado. She has been with the Denver Zoo for four years. In her role, Nikki currently oversees the operations team, which includes deferred maintenance projects, fleet management, and holding the door open for peacocks. With her new sustainability responsibilities, Nikki will help the Zoo work towards its zero-waste goals, ISO14001 compliance, and improved green procurement. In her spare time, Nikki is a long-time volunteer of the American Cancer Society, chairing local Relay for Life events around Denver. At home, she enjoys the dichotomy of her energetic shepherd mix, Athena, and her 65-pound tortoise, Tink the Tank.

Secretary

Dean Violetta, Cincinnati Zoo



Dean Violetta, a University of Cincinnati alum, has worked on Zoo projects for the past 25 years and the last 15 of those years as the main architectural contact as vice president of Cornette/Violetta Architects. His Zoo-based architectural design experience also includes projects for the Nashville Zoo, Riverbanks Zoo, and Detroit Zoo. For the past 3 years, Dean has served as the Director of Planning and Exhibit Design at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Dean coordinates all master planning and long range vision planning while arming the Zoo with the knowledge and experience necessary to continue as leaders in Zoological & Exhibit design.

Director-at-Large

Bob Wengel, Shedd Aquarium



Bob Wengel has been with Shedd Aquarium since 1995 and is currently the Vice President of Facilities. Bob's responsibilities include managing the Maintenance, Operations, Environmental Services, and Safety & Security departments and the administration of 20 maintenance service contracts that include elevator, chiller and fire system testing and maintenance, roofing and tuck pointing, and landscaping services. He was named the 2012 Facility Executive of the Year by Today's Facility Manager, a leading specialized trade publication for the nation's top corporate facility executives in all industry and service sectors. In 2002 and 2003 he attended the American Association of Aquariums and Zoological Parks Zoo Schools. Bob attended Moraine Valley Community College and graduated from Lewis University with certification as a FAA licensed aircraft mechanic. He currently lives in Lockport with his wife and two daughters.

John Kanzia, Brookfield Zoo



John began his career at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, and has been the Chicago Zoological Society's Environmental Quality Manager since 2006. His responsibilities include routine water quality testing on all of the aquaria within the park, seasonal indoor air quality testing for airborne fungal spores, Thermal Neutral Zone testing, and basic lake management. John utilizes over thirty different pieces of instrumentation to perform his duties. He has been involved in AZFA for many years, particularly with site selection and publications, and is currently filling the crucial role of website administrator.

Mike Patera, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (retired)



Mike retired from his position as Lead General Maintenance at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in January 2013 after 32 ½ years. He has been heavily active in AZFA, serving as Treasurer since 1999 and has not missed a conference since 1995. Despite his retirement, Mike still does seasonal construction work for Cleveland Metroparks.

Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter: October 22nd

2018 Annual Conference: October 7th – 11th, Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute, 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.

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Membership

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Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden, Operations Project Manager, Zoo New England

I am 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

New Members

By Samantha Peterson, San Antonio Zoo & Aquarium

Professional

Carlos Duarte, Zoo Facilities Superintendent, El Paso Zoo

Ernesto Gaytan, Zoo Garden Supervisor, El Paso Zoo

Roberto Martinez, Facilities Supervisor, El Paso Zoo

Mike Ulrich, Facilities Contract Manager,
Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium

Gilbert Villagomez, Facilities and Maintenance Operations Manager, Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium

Jennifer Hale, Senior Director of Campus Management and Sustainability, Denver Zoological Foundation

Deborah MacEvoy, Horticulture and Operations,
Turtle Back Zoo

Joshua Ennen, Aquatic Conservation Biologist,
Tennessee Aquarium

Noah Furmanek, Director of Facilities and Construction,
Buffalo Zoo

Aaron Fudge, Maintenance Superintendent,
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Organization

Ron Pendergrass, Director of Engineering,
The Florida Aquarium

Commercial

Raea Leinster, Chief Yuck Officer, Yuck Old Paint, LLC

Greg James, Account Representative, Dude Solutions

Joseph Grubic, President/CEO,
Sydney Flooring Solutions, LLC

Evan Douglas, Events & Business Development
Coordinator, Rad Power Bikes

Sarah Drees, Marketing Coordinator, Weber Group, Inc.
Lantz Crawley, President, BugJammer, Inc.