

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

## President's Message

By Brian Timm, Director of Facilities at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium



Greetings from a chilly nation's heartland where the wind chill was below zero this morning. It has been over two months since we congregated for our annual conference in Washington D.C. but it seems like only two weeks have passed. Time seems to fly by as we are all getting ready for the holiday season and preparing for the closing of another year.

2018 was a successful year in many ways and we all worked hard to make it that way. Some of us felt the consequences of lower than expected attendance while others may have experienced growth in unforeseen areas. New exhibits were opened, and others were re-vamped. New ideas and improvements to guest experiences were installed and new education opportunities promoted. Sustainability and conservation practices were championed in efforts to protect our environment and all living creatures who are affected by our ever-changing surroundings. The list could go on and on.

The New Year presents an opportunity to reflect on past accomplishments and to set professional and personal goals

for growth going forward. We are excited to kick off another year focused on finding solutions that promote sustainability, conservation, animal well-being, guest experiences, and best construction practices, as well as strengthening our partnerships within the industry and in the community. We take pride in being a solution-oriented, initiative-driven organization.

I think back to the chart that Dean Violetta, Director of Planning & Exhibit Design at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden shared with us at our annual meeting illustrating the growth of the AZFA over the past few years. It is impressive to see the numbers continue to rise for new members and first-time attendees at the annual conference. Our growth can be traced to each of the supporting committees and the people who take the time to serve and promote ideas. All committees are vitally important to our success and I want to say thank you to those who serve and take ownership of them. As 2019 begins, continue to support our committee needs by meeting on a regular basis throughout the year and sharing new concepts that arise. These efforts only make us better.

Now is a great time to begin to make plans to attend this year's annual conference hosted by Tommy Bryant, Director of Facilities, and the Oklahoma City Zoo October 20th

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through the 24th. Each year we get better and better and this year will be no exception. You can help make it a success by joining a committee, reaching out and networking with your colleagues, and seeing if you can find a few new members or institutions to join. Our mid-year meeting is fast approaching and I look forward to seeing those who are able to attend. Thank you to Dave Ruhl, Chief Operating Officer, and the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden for hosting us April 7th through the 9th.

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# Getting a Seat at the Design Table

**By Dean Violetta, Director of Planning & Exhibit Design, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden**

At the 2018 AZFA Conference in Washington D.C., I conducted a presentation called "Have you ever wanted to shoot the Architect?...well, here's your chance!" This was, of course, a tongue and cheek tactic to get participants in the door and by the turnout it appears quite a few of you have issues with architects on buildings you currently manage. One of the first questions I proposed to the group was "If you were asked, would you have participated in the Design Process?" and, of course, the overwhelming response was "Yes!"

From that point on, I focused on two ideas. The first was to understand the role of the architect and their relationship with the owner. If a project does not meet the owner's expectations (even if that expectation is not the architect's direct responsibility), the architect will most likely be held accountable. Therefore it is critical to the architect that all aspects of the project be successful. The second was realizing that architects cannot be experts on every facet of a project. It is simply too overwhelming.

From an architect's perspective we need to draw upon the expertise of other people and for the sake of this article, those in Facilities Management. We not only want you at the table, we need you at the table. It is quite simple, architects know a little bit about a lot of things. Our profession stretches out and touches so many other disciplines that it is nearly impossible to be experts at everything. On any given project architects interact with animal management, marketing, donors, attorneys, educators, botanists, zoning and permit examiners, engineers, electricians, HVAC consultants, LSS engineers, IT consultants, and on, and on, and on. We simply do not have the knowledge to make good, well thought out decisions for the betterment of the project without good information. We need to rely on experts to help with those decision and as far as I am concerned, those experts range from the initial design team members right down to the front line staff who have to work and maintain all aspects of the completed project, most of all the Facilities crew.

Our philosophy at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is that at least once during the design process, every person associated with the project has the opportunity for input. That is everyone from the animal care specialist who operates a transfer chute to the folks keeping the project operating properly and efficiently. Why would an architect not engage these experts or end users? Remember, if something goes wrong with the project, it is most likely the architect who gets a butt chewing. It just makes common sense to engage the folks who will actually have their hands on the project, the end user and maintenance staff. By engaging this group of knowledgeable individuals, architects will avoid re-design, delays in the work, running over budget, and grumpy people who now have to manage his poor design. Win, win, and win!

If an architect does not want you at the table then they are either arrogant, unaware, or both. Now the big question is "why aren't you at the table?" What is it about your organization that is blocking you from being a valued member of the design team? Figure it out and somehow claim your seat, we really do need you! If you cannot figure it out... let's talk...maybe I can help!



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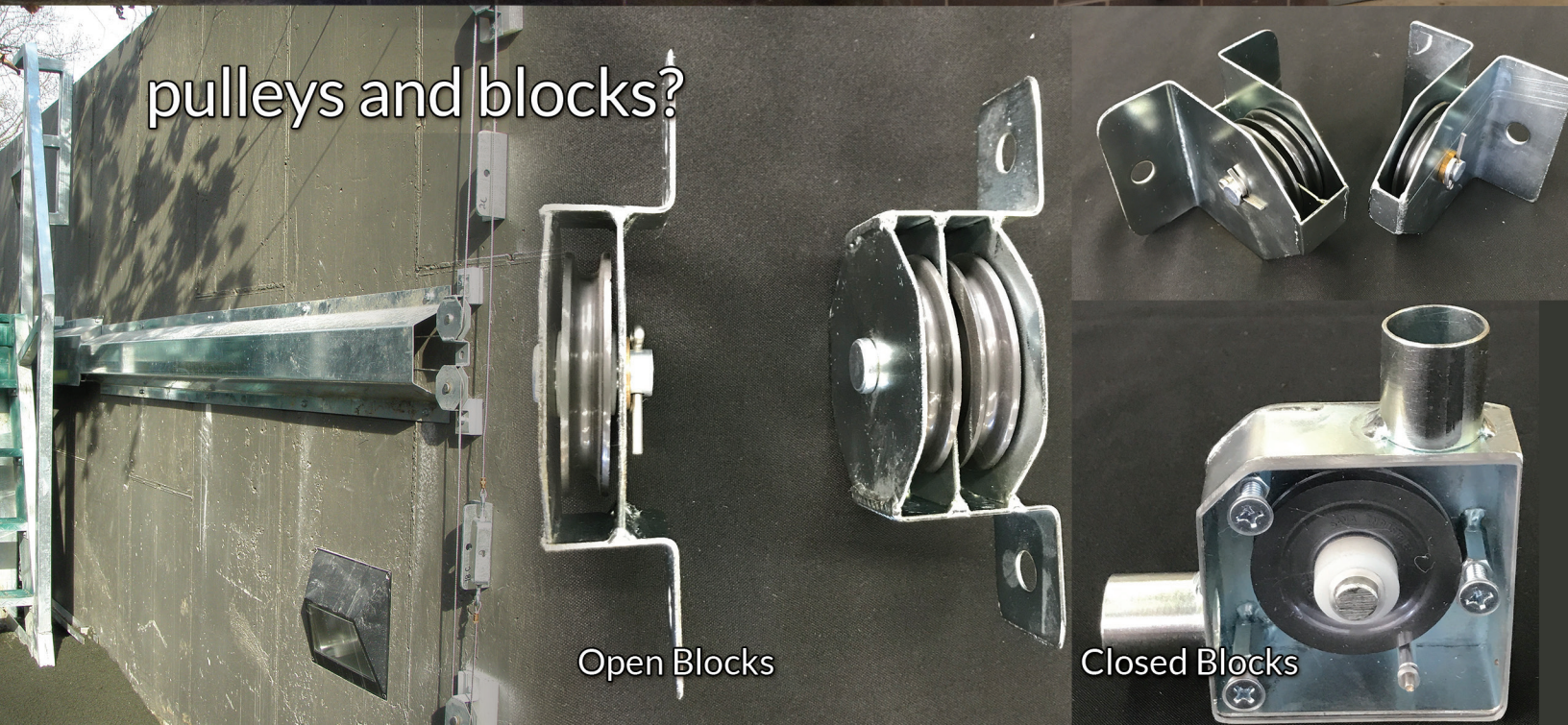
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# Two Million Reasons to Celebrate for Madagascar!

By **Brian Timm, Director of Facilities,**  
**Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium**

The Aquarium and Zoo Facilities Association developed the Clark Waldram Conservation Fund in the true spirit of conservation with the goal of helping zoos and aquariums achieve their conservation objectives by providing much needed supplies, building materials, and expertise. Anyone interested in applying can find an application on the AZFA website under the conservation tab.

Dr. Edward Louis Jr., Director of the Conservation Genetics Department at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium and founder of the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP) received a grant from the AZFA in 2015 for funds to fix up a shed in Madagascar as part of the MBP program. Since 2012 the Zoo's and MBP's efforts have been focused on reforestation to provide habitat for lemurs, the most threatened group of mammals in the world.

Nearly all species of lemurs, which only live on the African island of Madagascar are threatened due to habitat loss caused by deforestation. In 2012, the Zoo and MBP set a five-year goal, to plant one million trees, which was reached in 2017. Fueled by support from the Arbor Day Foundation, the Zoo and MBP were able to plant an additional one million trees in less than two years. The two millionth tree was planted in August 2018 in Kianjavato and was a "Ramy" tree or *Canarium* species which fruits are eaten by the Black and white ruffed lemur and the seeds are eaten by aye-aye.

From the beginning of the project, Dr. Louis has aimed to balance the welfare of the Malagasy people with protecting the nation's biodiversity. Commercial trees, such as bamboo, banana, and cinnamon are a vital part of the reforestation program as they provide community members additional income. Each tree grown for the project begins as a seedling and is nurtured to maturity within a nursery by Zoo staff, MBP, and the local community.

Next year, Dr. Louis will expand the reforestation project by creating a woodlot program, which will provide timber and firewood to the community. This newest initiative will plant 600 acres of approximately three million trees in the region. Why does this matter? It will provide local communities with the opportunity to grow their own timber without it negatively affecting forest habitats, of which many lemur species call home.



Dr. Louis with the two millionth tree



Planting the two millionth tree

# 2018-2019 AZFA Committee Chairpersons and Members

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## New Members

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Greensboro Science Center

Tamzin Bullock, Property Services Administrator, Zoos  
South Africa (Property and Development Department)

Ernest "Trey" Elfer, Director of Operations, Audubon  
Aquarium

Marco Lazo, Chief Electrician, Audubon Aquarium of  
the Americas

Moses Patlan, Grounds Supervisor, Reid Park  
Zoological Society

Tommy Wilken, Managing Partner, zoOceanarium  
Group

### Associate

Remington Kaempfe, Maintenance, Rolling Hills Zoo

Don Manzek, Design Manager, Smithsonian National  
Zoological Park

Mary Winkler, Safety Manager, Smithsonian Institution

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Isaac Hoff, Director of Operations, Beanstalk Builders LLC

Noriaki Kawara, Business Development, Asahi/America Inc.

Evan Kolb, President, EisenShine

Lisa Korklan, VP of Marketing, Keltron



# Calendar

Deadline for the next newsletter April 17th

26th Annual Conference October 20-24, 2019 - Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Garden

## 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.

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## 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](mailto:jgolden@zoonewengland.com)

If you are a Commercial Member interested in advertising please contact me at [jgolden@zoonewengland.org](mailto:jgolden@zoonewengland.org)