

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

Tommy Bryant, Vice President of Facilities, Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden



Many things have happened since I last wrote a note to everyone. We have entered into a strange new world where everyone is wearing a mask and we accept it as normal. It sounds like something out of a science fiction movie.

key to survival, who knew? Many of the things we took for granted as commonplace are now luxuries. Moreover, through all of this we find we can lean on each other to make it through. We reach out to people we have not spoken to in ages, or send a note to a distant relative that we thought of out of nowhere. Nevertheless, when we need them they are there to lend a hand. The point is, why did it take a pandemic or tragedy to get us to be thankful for all we have, health, friends, family, co-workers, food, and many other things that have been there all along.

The Oklahoma City Zoo is open and trying to return to as normal of a process as we can. After being closed for two months it was challenging to try to establish any sense of normal operations. It was strange transitioning into a new routine of opening our facilities where we schedule visits and limit access. Like all of you, we have instituted new safety measures including additional hand sanitizing stations, and continuous cleaning of all high touch surfaces. Each day may present an extreme change from the day before so we continuously prepare for new contingencies.

Adjusting to the COVID-19 response is a learning process, and man have we learned some things we did not know about ourselves. Toilet paper is apparently the

Thank you to all of our essential workers and employees who continue to march along and do their jobs. We know they were always there but man do we appreciate them now, especially since all of this has happened. Please take a moment to say thank you to all those folks toiling along and keeping everything operating.

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Louisville 2020 Conference Update

Sam Peterson, Sustainability Coordinator & Office Manager, San Antonio Zoo & Aquarium

We can now regretfully confirm that the 2020 Annual Conference planned for Louisville this October has been cancelled due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would like to thank Louisville Zoo, host Sean Woods, and the Seelbach Hotel for their work planning the conference and their flexibility in permitting us to cancel without penalty. We look forward to the conference returning to Louisville in an upcoming year as soon as possible.

The Conference Committee will now continue exploring options for some sort of virtual conference to be scheduled this fall. The annual membership meeting and elections will be conducted electronically as well. If you would like to help, are available to record an educational session, or have input on vendor engagement, please contact sam.peterson@sazoo.org

THE GREEN SCENE

A Framework for Change and an Opportunity to Lead

Wayne Warrington

We Network. We Build. We Protect. Such a succinct and appropriate mission statement for a group of professionals dedicated to expressing their passion for conservation through the construction and maintenance of aquarium and zoo buildings, exhibits, and systems.

As we navigate the disruption of a global pandemic and many of our institutions oscillate between closings and openings, your teams have been called to lead on multiple fronts – continuity of care for our animal ambassadors, reduction of costs through resource efficiencies, and novel sanitation processes and procedures to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and guests are but a few. You reached within your Networks to garner new ideas and share practices. You Built trust internal and external to your organizations through transparency of challenges and successes. You were called on again and again as experts to Protect the assets you have built and maintained. Now a new opportunity to lead exists, and you and your teams are well-positioned to create much needed change.

Many of us embed sustainability in our daily practices to reduce resource use and mitigate the direct

impacts toward the wildlife and wildlands we seek to conserve. As conservation organizations, we frequently emphasize the environmental integrity pillar of sustainability over social equity and economic stability. An awakening of consciousness around social inequities is exposing the disparities that exist within our systems though; largely based on an imbalance of emphasis of one sustainability pillar (economy) over the others (social and environment). As experts in monitoring and managing systems you have the opportunity to highlight for your organizations the links between environmental, social, and economic systems, and the importance of integration versus isolation.

The significance of social equity to sustainability is illustrated in the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopted in 2015, the UN Sustainable Development Group describes the global goals as a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" and acknowledges that the goals were designed to be interconnected; activities in one or multiple goals affect outcomes in other goals. Of the 17 goals, 10 relate to reducing inequalities. A sustainable future requires equity.

A Framework for Change and an Opportunity to Lead

Wayne Warrington

For organizations interested in understanding how they can integrate social equity into their sustainability strategies and for tracking their progress toward the SDGs, a new tool was launched in January of this year, the SDG Action Manager (www.unglobalcompact.org/sdgactionmanager). It is a free online platform that allows for establishing a baseline, benchmarking against similar entities, and tracking improvement toward identified goals. Lise Kingo, CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, reinforced that social and environmental sustainability is not an either/or and

that businesses have “an opportunity to impart real change for those who face poverty, inequality and injustice, and to safeguard our environment.”

The unfolding global unrest requires systemic solutions from all stakeholders and leadership from those in positions to act. Do not let the opportunity to prioritize social equity in decision making slide by.

We Network. We Build. We Protect. WE LEAD.



New Members

Professional

Anthony Adair, Maintenance Worker #4, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Karl Ahlers, Maintenance Coordinator, Texas State Aquarium

Max Albers, Maintenance Worker, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Dale Bachmann, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, John G Shedd Aquarium

Mitchell Biggs, Director of Facilities, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

Tim Binder, Senior VP Animal Care & Health, The Florida Aquarium

Juan Diaz, Custodial Services Manager, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

Paul Floyd, Maintenance Manager, Birmingham Zoo

Lee Gerber, Maintenance Supervisor, Utah's Hogle Zoo

Tom Glover, Maintenance Lead, Oregon Zoo

Ignacio Hernandez, Director of Facilities and Capital Projects, San Francisco Zoo

Russell Hoptowit, Maintenance Worker, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Laurey Lucree, Project Manager, Houston Zoo

Heather Marquard, Architect + LEED Faculty, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Crista McGee, Director of Facilities Operations, North Carolina Zoo

Sydney Pense, CAD Manager, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Brooke Pertile, Maintenance Worker, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Heidi Ray, Director of Facilities, Sea Mercy

Glen Schilke, Maintenance Supervisor, Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Matt Shelby, Director, Housekeeping and Grounds, Saint Louis Zoo

Arianne Smith, Water Quality Technician, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Dan Smith, Director of Facilities, Utah's Hogle Zoo

Ben Trawford, Project Specialist, San Antonio Zoo

Aaron Williams, Maintenance Worker #4, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Associate

Robin Alcorn, Project Manager, Municipal Facilities, City of Moncton

Joe Rose, Central States Regional Sales Manager, Plast-O-Matic Valves, Inc.

Commercial

SStephanie Heffernan, Applications Engineer IPEX USA, LLC

Brian Oblisk, Owner, Total Water Management, LLC

Heather Amro, Senior Project Manager, Project Management Advisors, Inc.

Holly Dempsey, President, Longhorn Organics

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AZFA member since 1997

AZFA's Clark Waldram Conservation Fund helps critically endangered Cuban crocodile!
Kelvin Alvarez, Wild Animal Keeper, Herpetology, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx Zoo

The critically endangered Cuban crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*), is threatened by illegal hunting, habitat modification, and hybridization with the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). Due to the high level of hybridization in the free-living populations, captive management and introduction of genetically pure *C. rhombifer* to the Zapata swamp is a key component of conservation management for this species.

Lack of proper incubation temperatures at the Zapata Crocodile Farm (ZCF) in Matanzas province, Cuba, had resulted in an over-abundance of female hatchlings with very few, male offspring. The goal of this study was to improve ZCF *C. rhombifer* hatchling sex ratios by improving egg incubation facilities and techniques. Funds received were used to build new incubators on-site at ZCF that provide temperature and humidity regulation.

We received \$1,493.89 from the AZFA. Two trips were made to Cuba, travel funded by other sources, to supply the funds for in-country purchases of supplies and guidance on building and managing the new incubators with temperature and humidity controls. A pilot study was performed using supplies purchased with these funds. The team built three incubators based on our suggested drawings with different locally purchased materials for each box to assess which material maintained the most appropriate incubation temperatures. We were able to stay on schedule for building incubators in time for the 2019 egg season. The final purchases for nursery improvements were made in spring, 2020.

We are currently analyzing the results now, but are happy to say that the work has been successful to date. It is too early to conclusively say that this pilot study produced male offspring, but early observations are promising in that of 26 viable eggs, 22 appear to be male at first evaluation.

During the second trip to ZCF, the US-based team was able to further discuss the next step in converting the rest of the incubation boxes to the new type of incubators for next hatching season. Improvements needed to the larger incubation room were identified, including whole room temperature control, which can be difficult. The staff at the ZCF will purchase solar panels, install insulation, and an air conditioner for better temperature control. Funds from the Saint Louis Zoo and Bronx Zoo will be used to cover some of the costs incurred above the current grant.

We continue to work with the ZCF staff to better understand their egg/hatchling data entry system at Zapata and assess areas for improvement. They have records for each clutch, including sire/dam information, clutch identification, and other important parameters for sustainable population management. This data will be very useful moving forward with improvements. Written protocols are being developed for incubator construction, incubator maintenance, and hatchling husbandry.

If you have a conservation project at your institution that needs help with funding, check out our website for details on how to apply.



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Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden, Operations Project Manager, Zoo New England

I hope you and your families are doing well as you continue to respond to and negotiate through this profoundly challenging time.

Calendar

Deadline for the next newsletter October 17th