

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

Nikki Dzialowy, Facilities Manager, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park



It has been over a month since we all journeyed home from the conference. I quickly jumped back into my work routine, as I am sure many of you did, but I am here to remind you of the energy and inspiration you felt as we wrapped up the conference. The AZFA is at a point

of growth, and as our membership numbers increase, so does our potential for collaboration. The AZFA has so much to offer but it is only as effective as we all make it. Did you exchange contact info with someone at the conference? If so, make sure to reach out. Continue to build those relationships and follow up on conversations you started. I know I owe a few folks a call about "Just Culture". Do not worry, I will be reaching out!

Zoos and Aquariums are continually raising the bar when it comes to standards in operations and the expectations on our teams and institutions are always changing. Some Facilities teams are experiencing growing pains when it comes to keeping up with the ever-changing world. While the maintenance of the physical facilities within our organizations is a major piece of our responsibilities, team dynamics, the way we inter-

view and hire, and even our problem-solving strategies are all evolving. We are starting to talk about mental health and self-care, we are challenged with meeting new or higher standards of care for all kinds of species, and increased sustainability goals are directly impacting operations. The best way we can be efficient and successful is by working together. Using each other as resources. Picking up the phone and calling someone you can bounce an idea off. Using the forum to ask an out of the box question, because it needs an out of the box solution.

We have many committees and opportunities for growth as an organization and we can only do so with your help. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up for a committee at the conference, but are still interested, reach out to me or Sam Peterson and we will get you in contact with committee chairs.

I want to end by thanking everyone that attended the conference, and the management at your respective institutions for supporting us by sending folks from your team. It is always difficult to justify sending away your facilities members for any length of time. Thank you to the vendors that continue to sponsor and support us. The conference would not be the same without them.

We Network. We Build. We Protect.

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Smarter Operations Means Keeping Animals Connected

By Andy Tonge

For decades, the internet has been connecting humans around the world. We are able to share information the instant it happens and spread important news quicker than ever. What if you were able to take that ability and apply it to the animals you care for in your zoo or aquarium?

While internet of things (IoT) technology has been around for a while, recent advancements have made them more accessible than ever. Sensors have dropped in cost and are now more reliable. Brightly, formerly Dude Solutions, has found success pairing IoT with their powerful software in zoos and using it to improve animal care, drive down costs, and even improve the experience for visitors.

Critical equipment that you rely on cannot afford to go offline. Using strategic asset management software and IoT technology can not only keep these machines or systems operational, but also automate tasks and work orders for improved efficiency. Understand baseline data so you can see when machines aren't performing up to standards and get notified if something breaks.

Sensors can be used in a variety of ways to benefit your operations. Wearables allow you to monitor the location of employees with regards to safety and security, risk prevention, and emergency situations. They can also be attached to animals and used to

track their movements, allowing you to tailor experiences for guests.

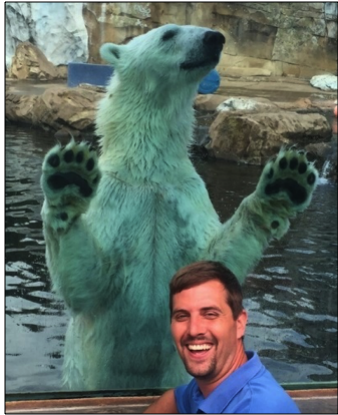
Using wearable trackers or sensors on animals may seem strange, but they can be critical in improving your operational efficiency while not sacrificing care. For example, Marwell Zoo in the UK deployed thermal sensors that triggered infrared heating lamps in animal enclosures. By making this shift, the zoo cut their energy costs drastically while still providing the comfortable environment animals rely on.

Staying connected is critical to the success of any business, but even more so for zoo and aquarium operations professionals. While IoT trackers and sensors are great, they are nothing if not paired with the right strategic asset management software to help you interpret the data. At Brightly, we have spent the last 20 years building software for smarter assets and more sustainable communities. Leverage IoT technology in your facility and pair it with our powerful suite of solutions to save money, improve operations, keep assets running for longer and most importantly, make it easier to care for your animals. To learn more or to get a free custom demo, visit www.brightlysoftware.com.



Meet the New Officers

These newly elected officers will join President Nikki Dzialowy (Northwest Trek), Past-President Trisha Crowe (Houston Zoo), Treasurer Florence Tang (Houston Zoo), and Directors at Large Mark Fisher (Cincinnati Zoo) and Bob Wengel (Shedd Aquarium) on the Board for 2023:



President-Elect
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.

Vice President John Borgmeyer, Woodland Park Zoo

John Borgmeyer has been with the Woodland Park Zoo full time since 2007, working in a variety of roles including Exhibit Technician, WildLights Installation Coordinator, and Exhibits Manager. He currently holds the position of Sr. Manager of Exhibits & Maintenance (interim). John and his team focus on providing exceptional animal welfare in naturalistic exhibits by mimicking natural habitats whenever possible, combining the increasing use of data and keeper collaboration with specialized materials and artistic expertise to result in sustainable and enriching experiences. John holds certificates in both Project Management and Facilities Management from the University of Washington as well as the Facility Management Professional credential from IFMA. Outside of work, John enjoys chasing his nine-year old Black Labrador up mountains, having National Park adventures with his wife, and rooting for his hometown St. Louis Cardinals. keep him on his toes.



Secretary James Mancari - North Carolina Aquariums

James Mancari was a Construction Project Manager for the North Carolina Zoo for 8.5 years. During his time at the zoo, James over-

saw many smaller and intermediate sized projects culminating with overseeing the design phases for the upcoming Asia and Australia expansion projects. Prior to the zoo, James attended the University of Tennessee and graduated with an architectural degree. While working for a structural engineer, he again graduated from UT with a second degree in civil engineering and eventually obtaining his engineering license. James then worked for an architectural firm where he completed the architectural intern program. In October 2021 he moved from the zoo to be the Division Project Manager for the North Carolina Aquariums. There, James oversees construction projects for the state's three aquariums at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Fort Fisher. Included in that mix also is Jeanette's Pier - a facility that combines a 1,000-foot-long pier out into the Atlantic Ocean with educational exhibits and research facilities. Since joining AZFA in 2016, James has served on the Conservation and Site Selection committees for the past several years.



Treasurer-Elect Earle Blomberg, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

Earle Blomberg is the Facilities Maintenance Lead at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma. He has worked at Trek for over 36 years, starting as a seasonal employee while he was in high school. Over the years he has been responsible for all aspects of maintenance and mechanical work throughout the park and is the certified operator for the park's water system. He has designed and overseen the construction of multiple animal holding areas. Earle is a native to the Washington area and has enjoyed running, camping, and hiking in these Cascade Mountains. Outside of work, Earle spends most of his time with his wife, dogs Yui and Lumen, and with his growing granddaughter, 3-year-old Lily. Earle has been active in AZFA since attending his first conference in 2006 and has been on several committees over the years.



Director-at-Large Allmon Forrester, John Ball Zoo

Allmon has been with John Ball Zoo since 2000 and is now the Vice President of Facilities, Planning, and Sustainability. He holds degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, with over 35 years' experience in facilities and construction. He oversees the

maintenance, building and grounds, master planning, sustainability, security, and owners' representative for capital projects at the Zoo. He is a professional member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums since 2001 and Aquarium & Zoo Facilities Association since 2007, where he has served in for several years on the Board of Directors and is a past President. He also serves on the Board of the West Michigan Sustainable Business

Thank you to the volunteers who ran for office or joined committees to help lead AZFA for the coming year! If you missed the chance to sign up for a committee at the Denver conference, please contact sam.peterson@sazoo.org.



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NEW MEMBERS

New Members

Professional

Rusty Arnold, Director of Facilities, Artesian Alliance

Glenn Bachelder, Director of Facilities, John Ball Zoo

Roger Boggs, Facility Maintenance Manager, Caldwell Zoo

Matthew Sewell Burch, Construction Manager, Smithsonian Institute/NZP

Chris Chitty, Construction and Maintenance Director, Fort Worth Zoo

Bud Clayton, Grounds Manager, Caldwell Zoo

Christopher Collins, Vice President of Facilities and Engineering, The Florida Aquarium

Michael Corbin, Assistant Maintenance Manager, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Terry Czerwonka, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

John di Domenico, Principal, di Domenico + Partners

Mark Donaghue, Manager, Maintenance, Wilder Institute Calgary Zoo

Dolores Dunsford, Administrative Manager, Saint Louis Zoo

Dennis Ethier, Director, Plant Engineering, Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium

John Foster, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Maria Gallegos, Director Health, Safety and Security, Houston Zoo

Daultan Gibson, Maintenance Technician, Blank Park Zoo

Jesse Golden, Assets & Safety Manager, Hamilton Zoo

Caitlin Harris, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Wade Harris, Director of Facilities, The Florida Aquarium

Kasee Hayes, Project Manager, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Mark Hughes, Saint Louis Zoo

Alex Hunter, Life Support Manager, Aquarium at the Boardwalk

Alyssa Jarrett, Gardener, Pueblo Zoo

Kurt F. Karschnik, Lead Maintenance Tech, Great Plains Zoo

Dale Leeds, Director of Special Projects, Denver Zoological Foundation

Ricky Liu, Associate Principal, di Domenico + Partners

Scott Maddox, COO, Caldwell Zoo

Steve Marshall, President/CEO, Caldwell Zoo

Charlie Martinez, Facilities Director, Houston Zoo

Stephen Micciche, Assistant Building Manager, Smithsonian Institution

Erin Mowatt, Lead Conservationist, Rivendale Farms

Robert Nafie, Designer, di Domenico + Partners

Chris Record, Senior Project Manager, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Ben Reinstein, Facilities Maintenance I, John Ball Zoo

Anthony Rich, Grounds Maintenance, Pueblo Zoo

Stuart Ashley Richter, HVAC Boiler Technician, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Logan Roberts, Facilities Manager, Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo

Cody Ruble, Facilities Maintenance I, John Ball Zoo

Tina Sharpe, Life Support Systems Manager, Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center

Derek Strunk, Manager of Special Construction and Metal Working, St. Louis Zoo

Lisa Tipis, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Gregory Charles Toth, HVAC/R Manager, Saint Louis Zoo

Richard Toth, Managing Director, Audubon Aquarium

Jacob W. Wade, Grounds Manager, Denver Zoological Foundation

Sarah Blake Warner, VP of Infrastructure & Construction, Indianapolis Zoo

Michelle Yeider, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Kirsten Ysasi, Business Office Admin/Accounts Payable, Caldwell Zoo

Amanda Nicole Yzaguirre, Health Safety & Security Supervisor, Houston Zoo

Organization

Ben Knoop, Project Manager, Toronto Zoo

Michael Russin, CEO, NexGen Pharmaceuticals

Associate

Matt Lapshan, Facilities Manager, Detroit Zoological Society

Commercial

Ben Ashe, CEO, MDM Pumps

Charlene Gilman, Business Development Manager, Existing Conditions

Matthew David Jensen, Vice President of Sales and Operations, Oceans Design / Gemini Fiberglass

Roger Naumann, President, Naumann Nature Scapes

Scott M. Sloan, Business Development, Virus Shield Biosciences

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