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The American Association of Zoo Keepers
San Diego Chapter's
Quarterly Newsletter—Summer 2006

Message from the President

By Robert Cisneros, SD AAZK President

Be active. Be effective. These were two exhortations that I picked up while at the International Congress on Zoo Keeping 2006. I heard these two simple sentences at the tail end of Steve Martin's keynote address, "Passing the Torch." Steve was encouraging zoo keepers to be mindful of their relationships, both with their animals and their peers. He encouraged zoo keepers to be deliberate in all they do at their work place, to emphasize relationship building (both with animals, peers, and supervisors) and to establish a personal mission statement.

Be active. Be effective. Establish a personal mission statement. The Zoo has one, AAZK has one, but do you have a mission statement? Are there a few key sentences that sum up your goals and your direction? An organization without a mission statement is like a sailboat without a rudder. All the wind in the world isn't going to amount to anything if you can't steer the boat. Do you know which direction you are headed in our profession?

Are you familiar with the Mission Statement of SD AAZK? Read below and compare it to yours.

To promote and establish good relationships among professional zoo keepers; to promote and establish a means to stimulate incentive and greater interest in the zoo keeping profession.

To support deserving conservation projects to include educating the general public of the need for preserving our natural resources and animal life through these worthwhile efforts.

To establish materials beneficial to zoo keeper education.

Communication, conservation, and professionalism—three words that greatly describe our mission at SD AAZK. Your participation is what helps sustain the success of our organization.

Have you thought of becoming an SD AAZK board member? Your ideas, your energy, and your enthusiasm are requested. Getting involved is your way of "passing the torch" to other keepers.

Look for more information about joining the Board of Directors. Elections are just around the corner.

Be active. Be effective. Be on the Board of SD AAZK.

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Elite Divers of the Antarctic with Dr. Paul Ponganis

By Robert Cisneros, SD AAZK President

On average, humans can hold their breath for less than a minute. In the water, we can dive to a depth of 35 feet, unassisted. Penguins, on the other hand, can stay under water for over 22 minutes and dive as deep as 2,000 feet! Thanks to modern technology, Paul Ponganis of Scripps Institute of Oceanography, UCSD is able to accurately document the diving behavior and physiology of the Emperor Penguin in its native habitat—the Antarctic.

Besides attaching transmitters to the penguins, Ponganis also uses a mini cam referred to as a critter cam to video-document the penguin's dive. This has allowed researchers to monitor the eating habits of the diving penguins. According to Ponganis, the penguins are very efficient at catching fish.

Speaking to a crowd of over 45 people, Ponganis used a powerful slide presentation with incredible photos to describe the weary life cycle of the emperor penguin using a powerful slide presentation with incredible photos. He detailed the challenges of courtship, incubation, fasting, migration to the sea and back to feed the young, and just life in general in the unforgiving coldness of the Antarctic.

Do you want to see more of Ponganis, the penguins of Ross Island, and his critter cam? Rent the DVD ***March of the Penguins*** and check out the special features section at the end of the movie.

WAP Cookout & Social

By Robert Cisneros, SD AAZK President



SD AAZK hosted its first barbecue social at the Wild Animal Park on Wednesday, May 17 at the Park's Kapanda Falls.

Keepers and staff enjoyed hotdogs and burgers courtesy of the Park's Mammal Department.

Although most AAZK events take place at or near the Zoo, we hope that we can incorporate more workshops and socials for our membership at the Park.



If you have any ideas on how AAZK can enrich WAP keepers, please e-mail us at updates.sdaazk@gmail.com.

We look forward to providing more activities at the Park in the future.

Wine Steals Fundraiser

There was good news and bad news circulating among some of the board members at our biannual wine social at Wine Steals in Hillcrest. It was a dichotomy that was not so obvious to most. In fact, there was not one drop of disappointment swirling in anyone's glass of wine that evening. But if you ask any of the SD AAZK board members, they'll tell you. San Diego lost the bid to host the 2009 International Congress on Zoo Keeping/AAZK joint conference. That was the bad news.

The good news was that we were all having a very good time, sampling wine, chatting with fellow keepers and friends, eating great food, and bidding on another incredible assortment of hotels, restaurants, and artwork. We were having fun doing what we do best—raising money and having a great time! By the end of the evening, we had raised over \$1,200 to be used for our Keeper Continuing Education and Conference fund, a benefit for local members.

Special thanks go to Matthew Akel who orchestrated the free food and many of the high-end auction items. Thanks also to Aimee Goldcamp, Laurie Brogan, Nicki Boyd, and Yvette Kemp for helping with setup, membership, and breakdown. Also, SD AAZK wishes to thank Wine Steals for being so generous in providing their bar as a venue for our fundraisers.



Welcome New and Returning San Diego Chapter AAZK Members!

By Laurie L. Brogan, SD AAZK Secretary

Renewing Members:

Laurie Brogan, Zoo Birds
 Tim Davis, Zoo EKC
 Phil Giralte, Zoo Hospital Vet Tech
 Beth Hammond, WAP Mammals
 Yvette Kemp, Zoo HOZ

Kelly Murphy, Zoo Polars
 Eileen Neff, WAP Mammals
 Lisa Townsend, Zoo Education
 Edna Publicover, Associate

New Members:

Evan Ames, Zoo Security
 Anne Holmes, SeaWorld, Birds

Edna Publicover, Associate
 Patricia Poulin, Associate

Thank you one and all, we are nothing without your support!

Animal Behavior Management Alliance Conference

By Bridgette Mulholland, Sr. Keeper, TRT

The sixth annual Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA) conference was held in San Diego on March 5—10, 2006. It took place at the Bahia Resort Hotel in Mission Bay and was sponsored by the Zoological Society of San Diego and Sea World, California.

The ABMA's mission is "To advance behavior management in order to enhance the husbandry and welfare of animals".

The theme of this year's conference was *Behavioral Buffet* and provided conference attendees with training theory and methods through lectures and workshops. There were formal presentations and posters, training workshops in a round robin format, along with enrichment and leadership workshops. The conference keynote speaker was Ken Blanchard, who is the co-author of several books on management and personal empowerment including "*The One-Minute Manager*" and "*Whale Done!—The Power of Positive Relationships*." The conference also included tours, training, and enrichment presentations at the San Diego Zoo, the Wild Animal Park, and Sea World, California.

This was a very informative conference and a great opportunity to meet animal trainers, zoo keepers, curators, researchers, and many others working in animal professions from around the world. If you would like more information about the Animal Behavior Management Alliance, check out their web site at www.theabma.org.

Thank you to the San Diego AAZK chapter for paying for my registration fees as well as the Collection Husbandry Science department at the San Diego Zoo for paying for my time off to attend this conference.

Conservation Fair

By Bob Cisneros, SD AAZK President

San Diego AAZK joined forces with the Zoo's Internal Conservation Committee (ICC) co-hosting the first local conservation fair on Sunday, April 23 at the Zoofari Party area at the San Diego Zoo. The goal of the fair was to promote local conservation here in San Diego County. Twelve booths were staffed by both Zoo and outside conservation organizations, including: The California Wolf Center, The San Diego River Park Foundation, UC Davis' Mountain Lion Research Project, The Sierra Club, and Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Card Program. The Zoo's horticulture, reptile, and education departments were well represented.

Zoo guests were invited to browse around the tables and chat with organizations that are committed to helping preserve San Diego's habitat and endangered species. Guests were treated with shade-grown coffee and SD AAZK refrigerator magnets that included links to the websites of all participating organizations.

Guests and their children were entertained by the San Diego Zoo's zany Dr. Zoolittle, who kept visitors informed and entertained with an hourly conservation cakewalk. Local conservationists also helped inform visitors by providing educational workshops. Workshops included demonstrations on making plant presses, information on mountain lions and wolves, and how to use the Seafood Watch Cards issued by the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Children's Zoo provided animal walk-arounds, adding to the fair's educational value.

SD AAZK wishes to thank all of the above mentioned organizations for making such a huge contribution to our first of many annual conservation fairs. For more information about the organizations that presented at the fair, check out our website at www.sdaazk.org and click on the Local Conservation Fair logo.

The Zoo's Keeper Enrichment Group

By Yvette Kemp, SD AAZK Vice President

In August 2005, the Wildlife Conservation Society hosted the 7th International Conference of Environmental Enrichment (ICEE). Several San Diego Zoo keepers attended and returned to the Zoo eager to share information and get the keepers interested in formalizing enrichment again.

As of September 2005, keepers at the Zoo have been meeting regularly to discuss enrichment ideas and needs for the animals in their care. With support from managers, curators, and our veterinarian staff, organizing and implementing enrichment has become not only something we like to do, but something we want addressed and formalized into our daily routine.

To do this, we had to start with some basics. First, not only did we want to make enrichment required for all animals throughout the zoo, but also document and evaluate the enrichment they are receiving. After several attempts, a formal document with enrichment categories and a rating system was devised. The rationale—for keepers to be able to view the enrichment they are giving their animals, see if the animals really are utilizing that enrichment, and make sure that repetition is not occurring. As of February 2006, this document is being used throughout the zoo and for every animal exhibit. The documentation also provides an easier way for keepers to prove their enrichment when an inspection occurs.

The next line of business was to determine if there was a natural history document for all species in the collection. To be able to provide the best enrichment, an animal's natural and individual history needs to be known. We generated a list of all species in the zoo that included their locations, and determined which ones already had a completed natural history form. Keepers now are able to select a species they are interested in and work on that species' information. Since there are so many different species in our collection, this is a work in progress.

By this point, our enrichment meetings had been all work and no play. After getting permission from managers and operations, keepers hosted the first Enrichment Weekend Highlight event. During the weekend of April 15 and 16, keepers scheduled enrichment activities and talks throughout the zoo to share and explain to guests what enrichment is and answer questions. The weekend was successful and the hope is that we will be able to do provide an Enrichment Highlights Weekend the second weekend of every month. The goal is to rotate the activities throughout the zoo, spotlighting different animals so guests may learn about all of them equally. This way, different keepers will be able to participate at some point during the year. Even though enrichment is provided every day, guests are not always aware of what is happening or know what enrichment is. Through these weekends, keepers hope to educate guests and give the animals in their care a little extra activity for that day.

One of the hardest parts of providing enrichment for our animals is the extra effort sometimes needed for the more elaborate activities. For example, providing orangutans with bubbles seems like it would be easy and fast. Not really. By the time you put the machine together, find and attach all the extension cords you'll need, and add the bubble juice, at least 20 minutes have gone by. Then it turns out the wind changes direction and you have to start all over again. Even something as simple as getting palm fronds, browse, or cutting pieces of bamboo can take extra time.

By having not only keepers but people from various departments involved in the Keeper Enrichment Group, we have created a support system that will eventually be able to help keepers with various enrichment needs. The Education Department has volunteered help from their kids in Camp Programs. Camp participants will be able to make simple enrichment items for animals throughout the zoo. Our goal is or keepers to be able to make an enrichment request, such as painted bags, papier-mache' items, ice blocks, etc., and the kids create it. Help from Horticulture personnel who can gather palm fronds, bamboo sections, burlap bags, etc., is also useful. The Public Relations Department will assist with announcements, and Operations will provide signs at the Zoo's entrance to inform guests.

Eventually, we hope to hold workshops where keepers will be able to construct more elaborate enrichment items, share ideas, and help one another with objects needed. For now little step, but big dreams.

(Continued on page 7)

Remembering Marvin Jones

By Art Goodrich, San Diego Zoo Keeper, Retired

When I first heard about Marvin Jones, I had been a keeper for about 5 years. I was told, “If you want to know the history of an animal, ask Marvin.” So I did. From there grew a friendship that lasted until he passed on.

At least once a quarter we would spend an hour or so on the phone. Sometimes I would visit his apartment or we would go out to lunch. He knew the lineage and travel history of every animal I could think of. This information gave me insight into the past care and problems of my charges. Marvin had a photographic mind; once the information was read, it was his from then on. Many folks didn't appreciate his knowledge, probably because it went way beyond the “behavior” studies we read in the animal books. When I retired from the San Diego Zoo and moved to Arizona, our friendship continued.

Marvin knew people from all over the world and was constantly receiving calls from them. They needed to know where an animal came from, who the parents were, the animal's age, if it had any past problems, who to contact, etc. If he had to look something up, he'd call you back in a few minutes. The files in his apartment were so extensive it only took a few steps to obtain the information.

I remember once when he went to an AAZK conference in Milwaukee. Every day at lunchtime we would gather around his large table, standing room only, and listen to the stories of animals and people he knew. Most of us lost weight because there wasn't time to eat, Marvin's knowledge was more important.

He spent many of his early years at the Philadelphia Zoo, living with some friends of the family. One of them was Edward M. Boehm, the great porcelain bird sculptor. He had admired a bird sculpture that was on E.M. Boehm's desk and when Boehm died, the statue was sent to Marvin by Boehm's widow. The fact that it was a “one-of-a-kind” was immaterial.

Marvin knew so many people in the zoo world that he just assumed I knew them too. Our conversations were interspersed with many names I had read about or heard of, but didn't know. It was much easier to let him go on and look the names up later. Just knowing he shared rooms, flights, and conversations with the likes of Fowler, Durrell, Attenborough, Crandall, Grzimek, MacDonald, Boehm and many others was enough to amaze anyone. His stories were always fun as he described the highlights of the many trips to the zoos of Europe and the U.S.

You always knew it was Marvin when you saw the German train-man's hat coming down the path. It was given to him by a very special friend and he wore it everywhere he went.

The zoos of the world will miss Marvin for the knowledge and passion he had for the animals of our planet. I will miss him for the wonderful stories and the information he provided me throughout the 30+ years I knew him.

Of all of the AAZK members, Marvin was one of the very few who was given an Honorary Life Membership by the founding fathers of the organization. Jimmy Stewart was the only other one I am aware of; he's in good company.

Thank you Marvin for all your great work and information!
You'll be greatly missed.



San Diego Chapter Projects

The San Diego Chapter of AAZK has always been very active in raising funds for various conservation projects and organizations. We also assist active SD AAZK members with conference fees or funds through our Keeper Sponsorship Fund.

The majority of our funds are raised through our Wine Steals fund raiser, bi-annual Kobey's Swap Meet sales, and Bowling for Rhinos. The rest comes from your SD AAZK membership. Have you ever wondered where all that money goes? Here is a break down of where the money went in 2005 and where it has gone so far this year.

We are always in need of volunteers for all our fundraising events; especially the swap meets. You can contact us via email (TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net) or phone (619/231-1515 ext. 4672) for more information.

Thank you for helping us help others!

DATE	PROJECT / ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT DONATED
January 2005	Grevy's Zebra Project (in coordination w/ St. Louis Zoo)	\$ 500.00
February 2005	Cat Survival Conservation Group	\$ 1,227.00
February 2005	AAZK Inc. (Conservation Grant)	\$ 250.00
February 2005	Keeper sponsorship / ABMA	\$ 250.00
April 2005	Keeper sponsorship / Enrichment Conference	\$ 250.00
April 2005	Keeper sponsorship / Enrichment Conference	\$ 250.00
June 2005	Keeper sponsorship/ AAZK Conference	\$ 250.00
June 2005	Las Pumas Rescue Shelter in Costa Rica	\$ 250.00
June 2005	Grevy's Zebra Project	\$ 300.00
July 2005	AAZK National Conference/ sponsored a break	\$ 250.00
July 2005	Keeper sponsorship / Enrichment Conference	\$ 150.00
September 2005	Bowling for Rhinos	\$ 7,762.00
September 2005	CA Wolf Center dinner / keeper sponsored	\$ 70.00
October 2005	Polar bear study / keeper sponsored	\$ 500.00
December 2005	Wolf Immobilization Class / keeper sponsored	\$ 250.00
December 2005	CA Wolf Center fundraiser	\$ 2,056.00
December 2005	Keeper sponsorship / ABMA	\$ 220.00
January 2006	Keeper sponsorship / Wildlife Exposition	\$ 220.00
February 2006	Red Panda Project	\$ 500.00
February 2006	AAZK Inc. / operational expenses	\$ 250.00
February 2006	Grevy's Zebra Project / anthrax vaccinations	\$ 150.00
March 2006	Keeper Sponsorship / ICZ	\$ 250.00
GRAND TOTAL DONATED		\$ 16,155.00

Enrichment cont'd ...

(Continued from page 5)

If you would like to attend the meetings and/or *become more involved, please let us know. You can email me at TheKeeperSDAAZK@cox.net, or Suzanne Ferror at Sferror@sandiegozoo.org. Our meetings are open to all staff members. We try to post the times and alert all managers and CHS Team Area Leads as to their location and time. We can also add you to our email list. Come and join us; it'll be fun for everyone.*

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The San Diego AAZK Chapter

the environmental ethic we are trying to promote. Opinions expressed on these pages do not necessarily reflect the view of the San Diego Chapter of AAZK, AAZK, Inc., or the board of either chapter or parent organization.

Send us your email address so we can notify you when the latest issue of *The Keeper* is on the web site.

CALENDAR

LOCAL EVENTS:

JUNE 3, 2006: BFR—Bowling for Rhinos. Kearny Mesa Bowl. Clairemont Mesa Blvd. 5:30 pm check in, 6:00–9:00 pm bowling, raffle, silent auction. Sign up now! Start collecting your team sponsorship also! All welcome.

JULY 11, 2006: Keepers Dustin Black & Mike Langridge share "Grevy's Zebra Project & Africa experience." Zoo's Rondavel. 2:30 social, 3:00 presentation. All welcome.

AUGUST 12, 2006: Kobey's Swap Meet: fundraising. Volunteers needed.

SEPTEMBER 2006: TBA

OCTOBER TBA: WAP Photo Caravan. Open to 24 guests only (1 member free + \$25 1 guest). Deposit required

to save spot. More info to come.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

2nd Zoo Animal Training Workshop: Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, U.K. Info at www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/conferences/zatw/coninfo.htm

2006 International Gorilla Workshop: June 23–26, 2006 at Paignton Zoo, Devon, England. More info to come.

33rd AAZK National Conference: September 15–20, 2006 in Chicago, IL. Hosted by the Lincoln Park Zoo AAZK Chapter. Info at www.aazk2006.org

AZA Annual Conference: September 25–30, 2006. Hosted by Busch Gardens, Florida Aquarium, & Lowry Zoo Tampa, FL. More info at www.aza.org/ConfWork/AC_Intro/

Managing Animal Enrichment & Training: October 7–13, 2006 in Portland, OR. www.aza.org/prodev/

8th International Conference on Environmental Enrichment: August 5–10, 2007. Hosted by Schonbrunn Zoo, Vienna, Austria. More info to come.

Past SD AAZK presentations on DVD: If you missed an AAZK presentation, you can find a copy at the ZSSD library. For more info, contact the ZSSD Library.

Go to the SD AAZK web site, www.sdaazk.org, to find out more about upcoming events !