

Education

Professional development continues to move in a forward direction through its revised conference structure and distance learning formats. With over 20 workshops available at each conference, attendees are able to attend morning paper presentations on advances in animal care, as well as select workshops in the afternoon. Afternoon workshops now feature 12-hour certification workshops, focusing on specific basic and advanced skills.

The 2015 AAZK conference in St. Louis 12-hour certification workshops will concentrate on elephant care and husbandry, ungulate care, and advanced zoo keeping skills. While the elephant and ungulate workshops will concentrate on husbandry and training skills, the advanced zoo keeping certification track will emphasize leadership, decision-making, advanced behavior husbandry, advanced animal health, and communication and problem solving. These 12-hour workshops will be taught by industry leaders, subject

matter experts with an emphasis on both instruction, hands-on learning, and skills assessment through our distance learning format.

Supplementing the conference learning format, AAZK has expanded its animal care education by providing online, distance learning opportunities. AAZK has entered the 21st century of collaborative learning and communication through distance learning and expanded communication and networking. Using our own branded version of San Diego Zoo Global Academy, AAZK Online provides users with opportunities to learn from subject matter experts at their own pace.

Changes to our education components represents a huge paradigm shift for AAZK by not only enhancing our conference learning experience, but also by expanding our learning opportunities through distance learning and collaborative networking. Striving to fulfill our mission of advancing excellence in animal care, AAZK Online will be made available to all AAZK Professional members as a membership benefit.

Thank You for Your Support!

AAZK traditionally recognizes its Chapter partners during the AAZK National Conference during the Awards Luncheon with a PowerPoint backdrop (loop) presentation of Awards. Below is a list of the Chapter partner Fee/Duty Obligations by recognition category followed by, if so directed by the Chapter Partner, where the support is directed.

Platinum
\$2,000 and Above
Greater Cleveland Chapter

Gold
\$1,000 - \$2,000

Little Rock Zoo Chapter
Indianapolis Chapter
Detroit Chapter
St Louis Chapter
Omaha Chapter
Cape May County Zoo Chapter
Galveston Chapter
Puget Sound Chapter
Point Defiance Chapter
Toronto Zoo Chapter

Silver
\$500 - \$1000
Birmingham Zoo Chapter
Phoenix Zoo Chapter
San Diego Zoo Chapter
Santa Barbara Chapter
Exotic Feline Breeding
Conservation Chapter
Los Angeles Zoo Chapter
Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Chapter
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Greater Sacramento Chapter
Rocky Mountain Chapter
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Chapter
Southern Colorado Chapter
National Capital Chapter
Jacksonville Chapter
Santa Fe Teaching College Chapter

South Florida Chapter
Brookfield Zoo Chapter
Topeka Zoo Chapter
Louisville Zoo Chapter
Zoo New England Chapter
New Bedford Chapter
Greater Baltimore Chapter
Lake Superior Chapter
Greater Kansas City AAZK Chapter
Ozarks Chapter
Jackson Zoo Keepers' Association
North Carolina Chapter
Greater New Jersey Alliance Chapter
New York City Chapter
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Chapter
Seneca Park Zoo Chapter
Columbus Chapter
Tulsa Zoo Chapter
Portland Chapter
Pittsburgh Chapter
Greater Philadelphia Chapter
Riverbanks Chapter
Nashville Chapter
Memphis Chapter
Dallas Zoo Chapter
Greater Houston Chapter
San Antonio Zoo Chapter
Milwaukee County Zoo Chapter

Bronze
Up to \$500
Midnight Sun Chapter
Wildlife World Zoo Chapter
Tucson Chapter
California Desert Chapter
Orange County Chapter

Redwood Coast Chapter
Beardsley Zoo Chapter
Brandywine Zoo Chapter
Greater Orlando Chapter
Palm Beach Chapter
Lion Country Safari Chapter
Tampa Bay Chapter
Naples Chapter
Georgia Chapter
Quad Cities Chapter
Heart of Illinois Chapter
North Carolina Chapter
Central Illinois Chapter
Little Turtle Chapter
Mesker Park Zoo Chapter
Baton Rouge Chapter
Chesapeake Chapter
Battle Creek Chapter
Minnesota Zoo Chapter
North Carolina Piedmont Chapter
Toledo Zoo Chapter
Greater Cincinnati Chapter
Oklahoma City Zoo Chapter
Wildlife Safari Chapter
Elmwood Park Zoo Chapter
Roger Williams Park Zoo Chapter
Greenville Zoo Chapter
Red River Chapter
El Paso del Norte Chapter
Utah Chapter
Utah Valley Chapter
Rainier Chapter
Assiniboine Park Zoo Chapter

AKF Issue Underwriting - \$1,000
Little Rock Zoo AAZK Chapter
Rocky Mountain Chapter (\$500)

Indianapolis Chapter
St Louis Chapter
Omaha Chapter
Cape May County Zoo Chapter
Galveston Chapter

Committee Support - \$250
Awards
Mesker Park Zoo Chapter

Conservation
Los Angeles Zoo Chapter
Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Chapter
Detroit Chapter
North Carolina Chapter
Greater New Jersey Alliance Chapter
Seneca Park Zoo Chapter
Portland Chapter
Greater Philadelphia Chapter
Memphis Chapter
Puget Sound Chapter

Communication
Detroit Chapter
Utah Chapter
Milwaukee County Zoo Chapter

Professional Development
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Detroit Chapter
Roanoke Valley Chapter
New York City Chapter

Behavioral Husbandry
Santa Fe Teaching College Chapter
Detroit Chapter
Battle Creek Chapter
Jackson Zoo Keepers' Association

Finances

EXPENSES 2014	
AAZK Online	\$3,000.00
AKF Mailing	\$17,868.94
AKF Printing	\$50,129.92
Banking Fees	\$233.00
Board Travel/Lodging	\$3,494.91
CEO Expenses/Travel/Lodging	\$3,003.89
Committee	\$7,684.43
Donation	\$69.00
Insurance	\$1,030.00
Office Supplies	\$2,259.06
Office Rent	\$6,267.30
Payroll	\$77,601.03
Payroll Taxes	\$29,761.77
Postage and Delivery	\$3,487.18
Product Purchase	\$5,095.40
Professional and Legal Fees	\$4,276.58
Professional Membership (AZA)	\$475.00
Refund	\$49.70
Staff Expenses/Travel/Lodging	\$1,635.10
Tax and Licenses	\$935.00
Utilities	\$2,362.53
Web Management	\$1,800.50
Total Expenses	\$222,520.24

INCOME 2014	
AKF Advertising	\$24,981.41
AKF Sponsorship	\$1,250.00
BFR Registration Fee	\$960.00
Business Refund	\$3,101.54
Conference	\$37,897.00
Donation	\$20.00
Membership	\$116,375.00
Miscellaneous	\$174.57
Product Sales	\$10,462.88
Recharter Fee and Duty Obligation	\$59,948.00
Total Income	\$255,170.40

MEMBERS	January 1, 2015
Affiliate	547
Commercial	22
Conservation Partner	21
Contributing	11
Exchange	17
Institutional	112
International	27
Library	16
Lifetime	17
Professional	1534
Student	195
Total	2519



American Association of Zoo Keepers
(520) 298-9688 | info@aazk.org | www.aazk.org

The mission of The American Association of Zoo Keepers is to advance excellence in the animal keeping profession, foster effective communication beneficial to animal care, support deserving conservation projects, and promote the preservation of our natural resources and animal life.

American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.

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Annual Report 2014

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the American Association of Zoo Keepers' first-ever annual report to the membership!

AAZK can trace its roots back to 1967 when keepers from the San Diego Zoo conceived an association of animal keepers in a garage of a founding member. In the 48 years since that initial gathering, AAZK has evolved into an educational and conservation force in the profession of exotic animal care.

From an initial operating account of \$56.00 AAZK has grown to become a financially stable 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization through membership dues and support from our 104 Chapter partners. In 2014, our Chapter partners raised and donated just under 1 million dollars for worldwide conservation projects or programs, and also invested in conservation at their host facilities and within their local communities. The financials of AAZK are detailed within this report.

With a membership approaching 2600 members and partners worldwide, AAZK continually seeks opportunities to provide continuing education and husbandry information to our membership. The flagship publication of AAZK, the *Animal Keepers' Forum*, has been continually published in varying forms since 1968. Take a moment to read about the progress and plans for the AKF in an article written by Shane Good, AKF Editor, in this report.

In 2011, AAZK shifted from the traditional conference presentation of papers and posters to a defined destination learning process of hands-on workshops that has since evolved into Discipline-specific Certification for animal keepers. Coupled in partnership with San Diego Zoo Global, AAZK now offers distance learning through AAZK Online, an opportunity for continuing education, peer discussion and problem solving for our members. Learn more from Bob Cisneros, President of AAZK, in his report on Education.

AAZK is also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our flagship conservation program Bowling for Rhinos. This program is not only unique in its title, but AAZK is especially proud to state that 100% of all event profits held by our Chapters and 100% of all donations go directly to support species and habitat conservation on two continents. AAZK and our Chapter partners underwrite all administrative costs associated with Bowling for Rhinos. To learn more about where your conservation dollars are spent, please take a look at the report from Patty Pearthree, Program Manager of BFR.

Ed Hansen
AAZK CEO/CFO

Questions regarding the AAZK Annual Report may be directed to Ed.Hansen@azk.org.

Bowling for Rhinos

The American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) Bowling for Rhinos (BFR) program was conceived as a local fundraiser and has grown tremendously over the past 25 years into a recognized international conservation program. AAZK's BFR has now raised over \$5.4 million since 1990 with 2014 being the most successful year to date with over \$581,000 raised by 80 AAZK Chapters, individual donations and online giving.

AAZK's BFR program is fully supported by AAZK, its Chapters and membership, allowing 100% of all event profits and individual donations to go directly to *in-situ* species conservation. AAZK's BFR Program has benefited greatly from American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) and Zoological Association of America (ZAA) institutional support of their AAZK Chapter's events. Increased support from host facilities/AZA will benefit both AZA and AAZK though increased event success.

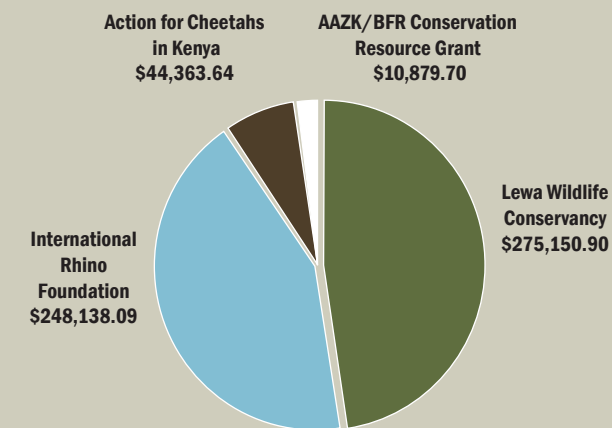
Championed by Anna Merz in the early 1980's, the Craig family established a rhino sanctuary on their cattle ranch in northern Kenya at a time when the black rhino population was facing the brink of extinction. The Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary has evolved into the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) and is now home to 15% of Kenya's black rhino population, over 60 southern white rhino and the world's largest population of Grevy's zebra. Find more information at Lewa.org

In the mid and late 1990's, AAZK expanded funding efforts to include Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia to help protect the Javan rhino, and National Parks in Sumatra, Indonesia to save Sumatran Rhinos, in partnership with the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). In Indonesia, the AAZK/IRF partnership now protects nearly 1.5 million acres of crucial lowland rainforest habitat for the survival of the Javan and Sumatran rhinos and other species living in their ecosystems including Sumatran tigers, elephants, tapirs, Javan gibbons and sun bears in one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet. Learn more at rhinos.org.

Total BFR Funds Raised

by deadline December 15, 2014

\$578,532.33



In 2009, AAZK's BFR support expanded to include Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK). This support added to the protection of not only cheetah but also rhino through education and conservation of shared habitat, creating a larger buffer zone of protection for critically endangered species. Visit actionforcheetahs.org.

Each year, AAZK dedicates 2% of the funds raised through AAZK's BFR to fund the AAZK/BFR Conservation Resources Grant which is awarded to an *ex-situ* or *in-situ* rhino conservation effort. Recent awards have been granted to support organizations such as RhiNOremedy that create, promote and distribute educational information to counter and eliminate the demand-side for rhino horn, elephant tusks and other illegal wildlife trade products. See rhinoremedy.org for more information.

AAZK's Bowling for Rhinos protects all five species of rhino and by association conserves habitat protecting everything from orchids to sea turtles to elephants. AAZK, with our BFR partners now protects over seven million acres of wildlife habitat in some of the most unique ecosystems in the world. AAZK's BFR program has raised over \$5.4 million with 100% event profit and individual donations going straight to conservation in the field where it is most needed to save wildlife for future generations.

Animal Keepers' Forum

Readers of the *Animal Keepers' Forum* have experienced an exciting evolution of the journal over the last few years. Many of you remember the AKF as a smaller 6" x 9" journal, printed with black and white text and photos.

As early as 2007, we started experimenting with color covers on the 6" x 9" format, but exciting things were on the horizon. In July of 2013, we converted the journal into a four-color, 8.5" x 11" magazine with glossy paper. Our goal was simple: continue to provide you with the same educational and informative content that our readers have always enjoyed in the AKF, while presenting it in vibrant color, easy-to-read formats, eye-pleasing fonts, and highlighted with high-resolution photos and graphics.

Our hope was that a better product would be more attractive to advertisers, and ultimately, more people in the industry would be reading and sharing the AKF.

In 2014, with a goal to improve our product, get it to the membership more efficiently, and keep printing and mailing costs as low as possible, we changed our printing and mail house companies. The journal is now printed by Watt Printers in Cleveland, Ohio and mailed from Weekley Mailing Service in Berea, Ohio. Our goal is to keep costs low while still giving you a great product, while in turn, keeping your membership rates as low as possible.

Thank You!

Contributors to the preservation of all species in Asia and Africa

Sondaicus
\$50,000 and Up

Los Angeles AAZK Chapter

Sumatrensis
\$20,000 to \$49,999

Columbus Zoo Chapter of AAZK*
Oklahoma City Chapter of AAZK
Portland AAZK Chapter
Utah Chapter of AAZK
Zarrafra's Coffee of Australia

Unicornis
\$5,000 - \$19,999

Blue Rhino/Ferrell Gas
Brookfield Zoo AAZK Chapter
Buffalo Zoo
Dallas Chapter of AAZK
Detroit Chapter of AAZK
Greater Cleveland AAZK Chapter
Greater Houston AAZK Chapter
Greater New Jersey Alliance Chapter of AAZK
Greater Philadelphia AAZK Chapter
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Jacksonville AAZK Chapter
Kansas City AAZK Chapter
Lincoln Park Zoo AAZK Chapter
Mesker Park Zoo AAZK Chapter
Nashville Zoo AAZK Chapter
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New York City Chapter of AAZK
North Carolina AAZK Chapter
Ozarks Chapter of AAZK
Phoenix AAZK Chapter
Pittsburgh AAZK Chapter

Puget Sound AAZK Chapter
Riverbanks AAZK Chapter
Rocky Mountain AAZK Chapter
Roger Williams Park Zoo AAZK Chapter

St. Louis Chapter of AAZK
San Antonio AAZK Chapter
St. Louis Chapter of AAZK
South Florida AAZK Chapter
Tampa Bay AAZK Chapter
Tulsa AAZK Chapter
Tucson Chapter of AAZK
Toronto Zoo AAZK Chapter
Zoo Boise*

Bicornis
\$1000 - \$4999

Akron Chapter of AAZK
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Battle Creek AAZK Chapter
Birmingham AAZK Chapter
Brandywine AAZK Chapter
Cape May County AAZK Chapter
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*Includes 2013 Event (Late)

The new format of the journal has proven to be very popular with advertisers, Commercial Members, and sponsors. Revenue generated from the journal has significantly increased every year since it was reformatted in 2013. We created premium placement packages in 2013 and those were so popular that they have sold out for the last three years.

The most important thing about the AKF is still its educational content and information-sharing component. The members of AAZK continue to provide the journal with top-quality articles that highlight best practice and innovation in animal husbandry, and the latest developments in conservation. In the past year we created some popular dedicated issues: (Reptiles

and Amphibians) (Gorillas) (Bowling for Rhinos). We are already working with the Prosimian TAG to feature our next dedicated issue on Prosimians later in 2015. Our AKF team invites you to submit an article, update, or photo for the AKF.

- » Shane Good, Editor
- » Elizabeth Thibodeaux, Graphic Designer
- » *Enrichment Options Column Coordinators:*
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- » *Training Tales Column Coordinators:*
Kim Kezer, Jay Pratte, Beth Stark-Posta
- » *Conservation Station Column Coordinators:*
Amanda Ista, Mary Ann Cisneros