



The Crash

RKA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2006

Rhino Keeper Association

In Memory of Dr. Thomas Foose (1945-2006)



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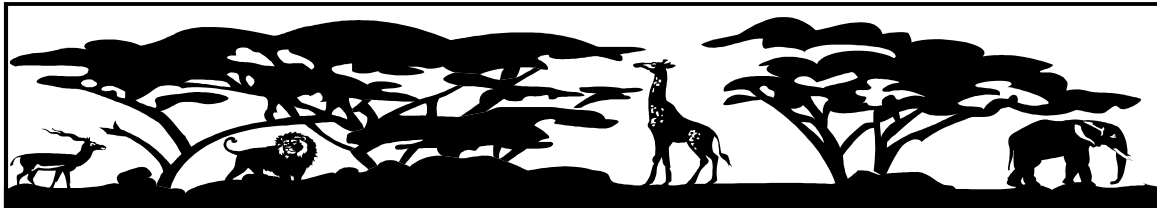
The Rhino Keeper Association Board would like to send our heart felt sympathies to the family of Tom Foose as the rhino world grieves his loss. The RKA has begun to flourish, but without his insight and irreplaceable guidance we would not be the organization we are today. The RKA Board had the honor and privilege to know him not only as a friend, but as an Advisor to the Board. The weekend we spent with him in March was an opportunity for all of us to see him work his magic and allow us to create an organization that keepers can be involved in. In addition, he also guided us in a direction that would enable the RKA to not only effectively contribute to the conservation of rhinos, but educate professional keepers in the nuances of rhino husbandry. Unfortunately, we will not have his guidance to help us grow, but we will work to create an organization that he would be proud of, and we will always have him in mind when making decisions about rhino conservation.

With great sadness, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) announces the loss of its most beloved ambassador for rhino conservation. Dr. Tom Foose, 61, IRF Program Director, died on May 17th at his home in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Tom was one of the founders of IRF, which embodies his lifelong passion for rhino conservation, both in zoos and in nature. He dedicated his life to bridging gaps among people with diverse interests and perspectives, as well as using science to foster national and global collaborations for threatened species management.

Author of numerous scientific publications,

Tom received a BA from Princeton University in 1969 and was awarded a PhD in biology for the University of Chicago in 1982. He served as the Conservation Director of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) for 1981 to 1990, and along with Dr. Ulic Seal developed the first Species Survival Plan program for Siberian tigers in 1983. SSP Plans now are a cornerstone for captive species management for the AZA as well as other regional zoo associations. From 1990 to 1992, Tom served as Executive Officer of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, shaping its programs and

Focus to include using computer simulation modeling to examine the risks for species extinction, as well as global risk assessments of broad taxonomic groups including identifying species management and research recommendations. Over the past 20 years, his tireless efforts to facilitate cross-organizational and truly international conservation efforts resulted in integrated action plans for species groups ranging from primates, rhinos and tigers, involving zoo experts and field biologists from around the world.



Throughout stints as Program Officer of the IUNC/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group and the International Black Rhino Foundation, as well as through his work with AZA, CBSG and IRF, Tom touched people across the world and inspired them to set aside their personal, national and institutional agendas to focus on preventing species extinctions. Over the past ten years, his primary focus was leading development and implementation of global and national conservation strategies and action plans for rhinoceros in Asia and Africa. Most recently, Tom initiated the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign with the goal of doubling the number of critically endangered rhino populations in select protected habitats in the wild within ten years.

The family has requested that contributions in Tom's memory may be made the International Rhino Foundation and will be designated for this Campaign.

We will miss Tom's many unforgettable characteristics - his sporty safari attire, his penchant for bow ties, his mischievous smile, and the twinkle in his eye whenever a rhino came into view. We will miss his dry sense of humor, and his love for the smelly - but - delectable durian fruit (which got him politely ejected from many Asian hotels), as well as many other things. Memories abound - many long-time colleagues can't see a Coca-Cola can without remembering the early days (before globalization) when Tom brought several suitcases filled with Coke whenever he traveled overseas.

Tom is survived by his children, Rebecca Foose Nesmith and Thomas John Foose III, and their mother Virginia Foose; and his children Susan Foose and Michael Foose and their mother, Ellen Foose.

The IRF sends its most profound condolences to the family of our beloved colleague, and know the all his colleagues and friends around the world share in our sadness. Tom's dedication and integrity, his love for his family and colleagues, and his beloved rhinos - as well as his unabashed appreciation for the contributions of all people with a love for wild species - will live on through all of our future endeavors.



North American Save the Rhinos Campaign

Marc Ecko's Save the Rhinos 2nd Annual Benefit Concert was held June 8, 2006 in Central Park. The evening event starred the two most heralded up and coming rap acts of 2006, Common and Rakim as well as several popular groups including Lupe Fiasco, DJ Z-Trip, Rhymefest, and DJ Kid Capri. This year's event followed up last summer's inaugural event which featured The Roots, De La Soul and MF Doom which raised \$150,000. Graphics this year featured "Save the Rhinos" and drew attention to the cause. Ecko Unltd. Founder, Marc Ecko, announced the Campaign to the audience before the event started, and dedicated the concert to Dr. Tom Foose. In an interview following the concert, Common commented on his admiration for Marc's commitment to saving threatened rhinos. The concert raised an unexpected high level of diverse media coverage, ranging from the New York Daily News to Vibe. COM. To review footage of the event, visit spinemagazine.com and click on June 12, 2006/Save the Rhinos Concert.

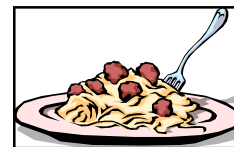


Special Events

Featured articles in the August issue of the *Communiqué*, the magazine of the AZA will focus on rhinos, including programs supported by this Campaign!!

Host an Event for a Rhino

IRF is seeking a few good zoos to host high-dollar benefit dinners organized by zoo volunteers from which proceeds can be shared as a recognizable zoo contribution to the Campaign. IRF can help secure a speaker from the field to talk about real rhino conservation efforts on the ground. IRF can also supply educational material focused on rhino characteristics and conservation programs to help generate contributions from individual donors. Form more information, please contact Julie Dunn, Campaign Manager at NASavetheRhinos@rhinos-irf.org



Over the last several months the Rhino Keeper Association (RKA) has developed into a group of dedicated individuals who, collectively, are working to help both *in situ* and *ex situ* rhinos. As stated in our bylaws one of the purposes of the RKA is to assist with fund raising for rhino conservation projects. As a result, the RKA has recently begun assisting the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) with the North American Save the Rhino Campaign (NA Save the Rhinos Campaign), which will directly affect the survival of this critically endangered species. Your zoological institution has been provided with an information packet that guides the program and provides practical information on how to involve your institution in the Campaign. The packet contains a "toolkit" with educational materials, brochures on field projects of all 3 species of rhinos targeted by the Campaign, and ideas for grassroots fund raising for the Campaign. 100% of campaign funds will go directly to these rhinoceros conservation projects.

At the 2005 AZA Conference the NA Save the Rhino Campaign (managed by the International Rhino Foundation) received the endorsement of the RAG and SSP, and 30 zoos joined the campaign. However, there are 50 AZA member zoos that are rhino holding facilities that have not yet joined the Campaign. The goal of this endeavor is to raise 2 million dollars for in situ conservation projects focusing on Black, Indian and Sumatran rhinos. The Campaign has been seeded by the generous donation of \$1,150,000 from Marc Ecko, CEO and owner of Ecko Unlimited. The logo for his worldwide recognizable urban wear is the RHINO! It is the goal of this Campaign to raise an additional \$850,000 in funds to supplement his pledge.

Each rhino keeper was sent a request letter of support from the RKA asking for your participation of special behind-the-scenes tours of your rhino facility. As keepers we have been asked to help this fundraiser by providing these special tours of our zoological facilities to those individuals or groups who make significant contributions to the Campaign.

The purpose of these tours is to connect people to rhinos locally, so we can all make a difference globally. With your help the NA Save the Rhinos Campaign will make significant contributions to the future of rhinos, and all species on our planet.

Will your zoo be interested in participating in these special tours? Please respond to your RKA Regional representatives listed on the following page. Upon confirming your facilities participation, an RKA representative will be contacting you with the guidelines of these special tours. The tours should be done in full compliance within any regulations that your institution currently implements.

Remember...

A hands on experience with a rhino challenges a person's perception of this gentle giant in an immediate and powerful way that words alone can not convey.



Conservation



2007 Australia Workshop Update



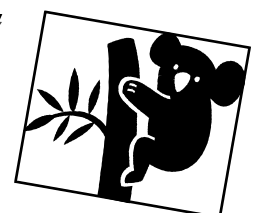
The dates for the next Rhino Keeper Workshop to be hosted by the Werribee Zoo in Melbourne, Australia have been finalized and are May 7-11, 2007. Two hotels have been secured with 65 rooms blocked for participants.

- Hotel Y: 2 people per room at the cost of \$120 (AUS) or \$60 per person.
- Hotel Meequie: The Meequie is located down the street from the Y, and has larger rooms for those traveling with families. The cost per room is \$120 (AUS)

Several buses will be available to shuttle people between the two hotels. Both hotels have reserved the prices of the rooms three days before and three days after the workshop for those wishing to spend more time in the area.

The 2007 Workshop Committee can be contacted at the following e-mail address for additional questions regarding the upcoming event.

rhinoworkshop07@yahoo.com.au



RKA Regional Representatives and Zoos

Adam Felts:

Adam.Felts@columbuszoo.org

African Lion Safari

Baton Rouge Zoo

Birmingham Zoo

Buffalo Zoo

Chicago Zoological Park

Columbus Zoo

Kansas City Zoo

Toronto Zoo

Becky Ellis-Grieser

beckyhellis@cfl.rr.com

Brevard Zoo

Cameron Park Zoo

Disney's Animal Kingdom

Garden City

Gulf Breeze Zoo

Lowry Park Zoological

San Antonio

Christine Bobko:

rhinoqueen@yahoo.com

Denver Zoological Gardens

Audubon Zoo

Henry Vilas Zoo

Little Rock Zoo

Oklahoma City Zoo

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

Racine Zoological Gardens

Sedgwick County Zoo

Derek Weatherford:

dweather@iwon.com

Busch Gardens

Caldwell Zoo

El Coyote Ranch

Ellen Trout Zoo

Fort Worth Zoological Park

Lion Country Safari

Jane Kennedy:

jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org

Albuquerque Biological Park

Hogle Zoo

Los Angeles Zoo

Oregon Zoo

Phoenix Zoo

San Diego Zoo

San Diego Wild Animal Park

San Francisco Zoo

Wildlife World Zoo

Randy Pairan:

r.pairan@cincinnati-zoo.org

Baltimore Zoo

Cincinnati Zoo

Erie Zoological Gardens

Knoxville Zoo

Memphis Zoo

Miami Metro Zoo

National Zoo

Philadelphia Zoo

Dave Clawson:

dclawson@thewilds.org

Glen Oak Zoo

Granby Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo

Mesker Park Zoo

Montgomery Zoo

St. Louis Zoo

The Wilds

Virginia Zoological Park

Wildlife Conservation Society

Vickie Steele:

vickies@wogilman.com

Chehaw Wild Animal Park

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

Jacksonville Zoo

North Carolina Zoological Park

Peace River Refuge

Rolling Hills Wildlife Center

White Oak Conservation Center

Zoo Atlanta

Lance Aubrey:

laubrey@sandiegozoo.org

Great Plains Zoo

Honolulu Zoo

Oregon Wildlife Foundation

Racine Zoological Park

Reid Park Zoo

Richmond Animal Park

Tulsa Zoo

Wildlife Safari

Wendy Shaffstall:

Wendy.Shaffstall@cincinnati-zoo.org

Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo

Detroit Zoo

Indianapolis Zoo

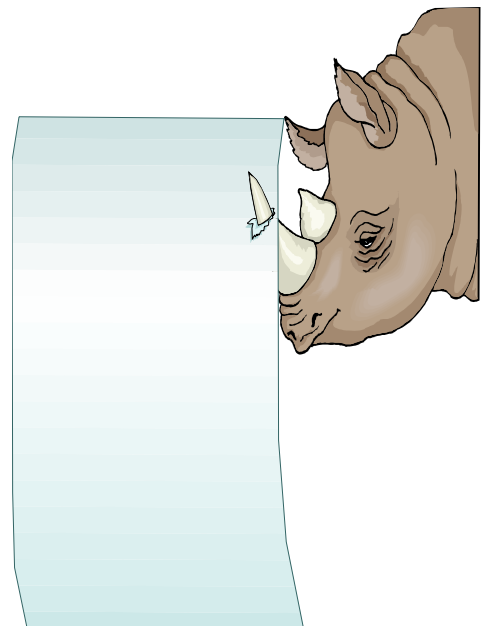
Jackson Zoological Park

Louisville Zoo

Milwaukee County Zoo

Potter Park Zoo

Toledo Zoo



RKA Logo Competition

The RKA is proud to present the following logos for selection as the permanent logo for our organization. The final logo must be reproducible in many different formats, so please keep that in mind when voting. The logo will be black and white, with the words Rhino Keeper Association, or possibly RKA if that logo is voted on as most popular. If a logo submitted for the competition has other wording, please use your imagination and substitute our organization's title in the appropriate area. If there is no wording, please consider the picture surrounded by our title. All of the artists are willing to modify their logos to accommodate our requirements. Artists were allowed to submit up to two logos for the competition.

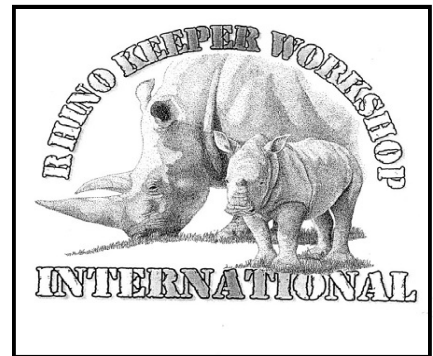
A special thanks to the following artists who submitted logos for the competition! Cathy Lester, Chad Harmon, Jeff Wells, Jason Pootoolal, Angela Webb and The Tulsa Zoo, Cydney Peterson, Brad Lympany and Sandra Jordan. Now GO VOTE!!!

Rules for Voting

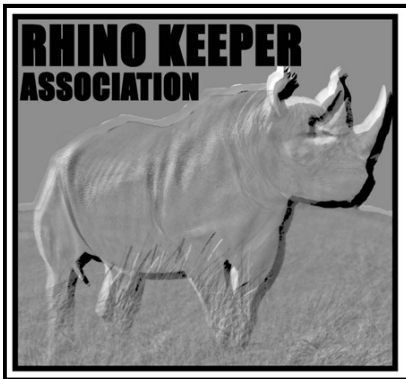
1. Vote for only one of the thirteen logos
2. Vote must be e-mailed to Jane Kennedy no later than August 15, 2006.
3. Make sure your name and e-mail are in your reply.
4. If you have any questions please call Jane Kennedy at (760)489-7131

janekenedy_rka@cox.net

VOTE!



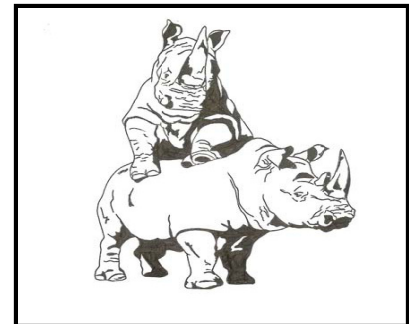
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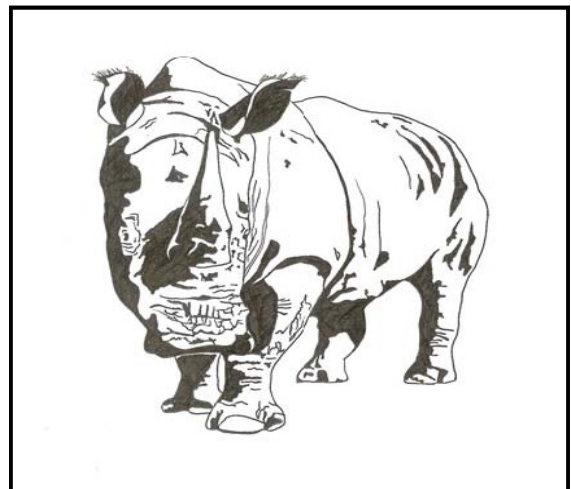
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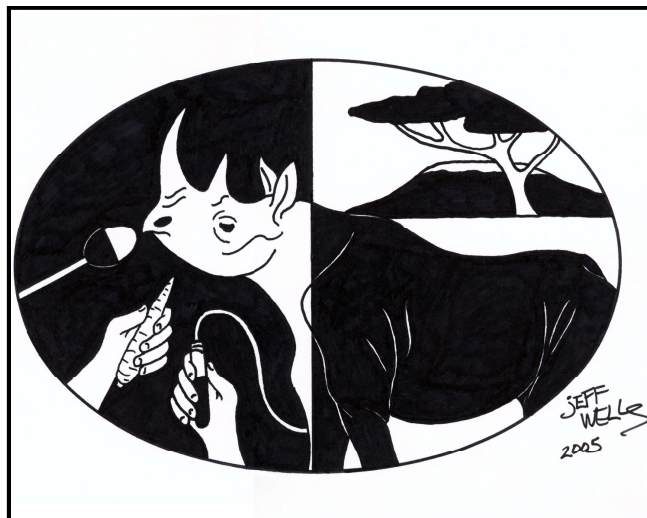
#10



#11



#12



#13

