

The Crash

RKA Newsletter

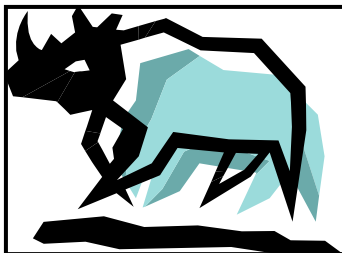
Volume I, Issue I

May 1, 2006

Welcome to the Rhino Keeper Association

Welcome to The Crash!

This newsletter will be an online quarterly publication devoted to rhino keepers and enthusiasts for the distribution of information regarding conservation, education and management issues dealing with all five species of rhinoceros.



Mission Statement

The Rhino Keeper Association is an international coalition of rhino keepers and rhino enthusiasts committed to improving the future of all species of rhinoceros by making meaningful contributions to the care of in-situ and ex-situ rhinos. This will be accomplished by sharing knowledge and experiences with other keepers, directly addressing conservation, education and captive management issues

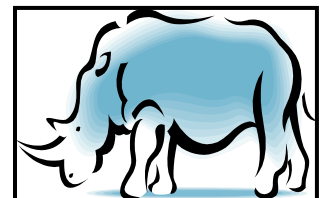
Logo competition

The RKA is now an official organization that needs a logo that represents our goals and mission statement to the world. In keeping with the heart of the past workshops, a competition for a permanent logo will take place this summer. All zoo employees are encouraged to recruit artists in their local area to enter this competition. Anyone interested must submit what they feel is the best image to represent the RKA by **June 15th 2006**. The artist must be willing to permanently donate all rights of the image, and sign an agreement with the RKA. The winner will receive special recognition and an award at the Australia 2007 Workshop. Please send all submissions to Jane Kennedy at: jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org

**FUTURE
RKA LOGO
HERE**

Inside this issue:

<i>Board of Directors</i>	2
<i>Scholarship program</i>	2
<i>RKA Website</i>	2
<i>Membership Information</i>	3
<i>2007 Workshop Australia Update</i>	3
<i>North American Save the Rhinos Campaign</i>	3
<i>RKA Membership Application</i>	4



Rhino Keeper Association Executive Officers

On March 23-25th, 2006 the initial steering committee of the RKA met at White Oak Conservation Center.

Over this three day period the committee reviewed and adopted the associations bylaws, assigned committees, and elected the Board of Directors and Executive Officers. Dr. Thomas Foose of the International Rhino Foundation

provided invaluable insight and guidance throughout the meeting as Advisor to the Board.

The RKA Board of Directors and Executive Officers formally elected on March 25, 2006 qualify as professional members in accordance with the bylaws.

Executive Officers

President	Adam Felts, Columbus Zoo
Vice President	Jane Kennedy, San Diego WAP
Secretary	Wendy Shaffstall, Cincinnati Zoo
Treasurer	Vickie Steele, White Oak Conservation

Rhino Keeper Association Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Lance Aubrey	San Diego WAP
Christine Bobko	Denver Zoo
Dave Clawson	The Wilds
Becky Grieser	Disney's Animal Kingdom
Randy Pairan	Cincinnati Zoo
Brooke Squires	Werribe Zoo
Derek Weatherford	Busch Gardens, Tampa
Dr. Thomas Foose	International Rhino Foundation



RKA Board at March meeting
White Oak Conservation Center

Rhino Populations:

Black rhino - 3,610

White rhino - 11,330

Indian rhino - 2,500

Javan rhino - 60

Sumatran rhino - 300

One of the main priorities of the RKA is to promote and foster education and experience of rhino keepers. Past workshops have enabled participants to gain this knowledge through presentations, demonstrations and facility tours. With this in mind, a scholarship program has been implemented with the goal of financial assistance to those keepers that would like to attend a workshop. A scholarship application and instructions will be available from our website:

<http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org>

Or from the scholarship chairman, Wendy Shaffstall.

wendy.shaffstall@cincinnatiatoo.org

All applications will go through the scholarship committee for review, and then voted on before being awarded.

All applications must be received six months prior to a domestic workshop and eight months for an international workshop. The scholarship committee chair will notify all applicants of the awards.

Scholarship Categories and Award

Australia 2007 Workshop

Previous workshop attendee:

\$7500 scholarship money allocated

Up to \$500 each award

New workshop attendee:

\$3000 in scholarship money allocated

Up to \$500 each award

Total awards = \$10,500

RKA Website: <http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org>

USE CAUTION! Our website is under construction by webmaster Dave Clawson of The Wilds! This site will be a great forum for all rhino keepers and enthusiasts to keep up to date on the current news and information regarding anything pertaining to RHINOS! If anyone is interested in helping with the construction of the website please contact Dave at :

dclawson@thewilds.com

Web page categories currently under construction include:

1. Rhino Facts: Black, White, Indian, Sumatran and Javan rhino
2. Rhino Management: Nutrition, Training, Enrichment, Design and Research
3. Rhino Workshops: Scholarships, Disney 1999, SWAP 2001, Denver 2003, Columbus 2005, Australia 2007.

4. Rhino News: Current rhino news, rhino archives and Rhino Resource Center link
5. Members only: membership information, application and on-line newsletter.

In the following newsletters look for features on institutional updates, highlights of specific research, births/deaths and transfer information. Look for the unveiling of this great website by the end of May 2006!



Apples, Carrots... Anybody, Please!!!!

Membership

In this introductory year of the RKA, the first year of membership to this organization will be free. Starting January of 2008, the following categories and fees will be implemented.

Professional: \$25.00

Voting members who actively participate and work in training, husbandry, research, and/or management of any rhino species for at least 2 years, within the last 4 years. Professional members can hold elective office, chair and serve on committees.

Supporting Professional: \$20.00

Members in management, other professional levels, or from an organization who indirectly participate in the training, husbandry, research, and/or management of rhino. Supporting professionals also include members who have not yet met or no longer meet this categories requirements. Supporting professionals may not vote or hold elective office, but may serve on select committees.

Associate: \$15.00

Members interested in the conservation of any rhino but are not otherwise professionally affiliated with any of the rhino species. Associates may not vote, hold elective office, or serve on committees.

Supporting Institution: \$100

A conservation organization, or zoological institution which supports rhino conservation in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the RKA.

Corporate: \$500

Any corporation that does not qualify for supporting institution membership, yet supports rhino conservation in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the RKA.



2007 Australia Workshop

The 2007 Rhino Keeper Workshop will have participants departing to the land down under! The Werribee Zoo is the host for the 5th Workshop to be held May 8-12, 2007.

The Werribee committee is hard at work finalizing all the details of this next workshop, but here is some important information for those who would like to plan on participating in this incredible workshop.

Registration: \$100

Hotel: \$90 per night double occupancy

@ 5 nights = \$450.00

Flight costs: At this time, we are looking in to booking a charter flight package that would bring the cost of the ticket down to around \$900 per person. Information on the flight will be made available on the website as the arrangements are finalized.

The following is a brief itinerary for the 2007 Workshop.

2007 Australia Workshop

May 7th– Arrival and Icebreaker

May 8th– Activity

May 9th– Papers/Werribee

May 10th– Papers/ Melbourne

May 11th– Papers/Werribee

May 12th– Post Conference trip



North American Save the Rhinos Campaign

The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) and in partnership with the AZA Rhino Advisory Group/ Species Survival Plans (AZA RAG/ SSP) and Ecco Unltd, have formed a unique team in hopes of raising critically needed funds for rhino conservation in Africa and Asia, while also creating awareness among zoo visitors and the general public.

This Campaign was ignited by the multi-year commitment to the IRF

in January of 2005 by Marc Ecco, founder and CEO of Ecco Unltd., a New York based company specializing in urban wear using the rhino as it's logo. This campaign involves all zoos with rhinos (and some without!), plus corporations, foundation and individual donors.

The purpose of this campaign is to raise \$850,000 in new funds to supplement \$1,150,000 pledged by North American sources to support rhino conservation. This

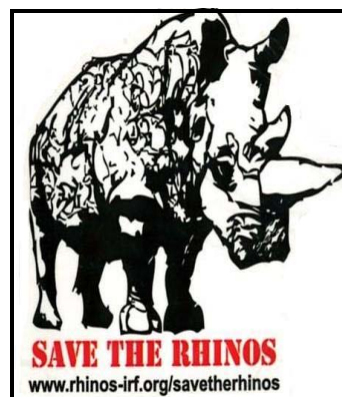
\$2,000,000 will be used to expand populations (in situ and ex situ) and ranges of three critically endangered rhino species. Black, Indian/Greater One-horned and Sumatran rhinos.

For more information about this campaign please visit:

www.rhinos-irf.org/savetherhino

Or contact Julie Anton Dunn, Campaign Manager:

NASaveTheRhinos@rhinos-irf.org





RKA Newsletter

LOGO HERE

**details below*

**Rhino Keeper Association
Membership Application**

LOGO HERE

**details below*

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____
EMAIL: _____
FACILITY: _____
OCCUPATION: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX

<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSIONAL</p> <p>VOTING MEMBERS WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND WORK IN TRAINING, HUSBANDRY, RESEARCH, AND/OR MANAGEMENT OF ANY RHINO SPECIES FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS, WITHIN THE LAST 4 YEARS. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS CAN HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE & CHAIR AND SERVE ON COMMITTEES.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL</p> <p>MEMBERS IN A MANAGEMENT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL LEVEL WHO INDIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING, HUSBANDRY, RESEARCH, AND/OR MANAGEMENT OF RHINO. SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALS ALSO INCLUDE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET MET OR NO LONGER MEET THE PROFESSIONAL MEMBER CRITERIA. SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALS MAY NOT VOTE OR HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE, BUT MAY SERVE ON SELECT COMMITTEES.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ASSOCIATE</p> <p>MEMBERS INTERESTED IN THE CONSERVATION OF RHINOS, BUT ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROFESSIONALLY AFFILIATED WITH ANY OF THE RHINO SPECIES. ASSOCIATES MAY NOT VOTE, HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE, OR SERVE ON COMMITTEES.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTING INSTITUTION</p> <p>A CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION, OR ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTION, WHICH SUPPORTS RHINO CONSERVATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE RKA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CORPORATE</p> <p>ANY CORPORATION THAT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR SUPPORTING INSTITUTION MEMBERSHIP YET SUPPORTS RHINO CONSERVATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE RKA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JOIN NOW!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNUAL DUES ARE FREE IN 2006 & 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNUAL DUES WILL COMMENCE JANUARY 2008.</p>

*If you would like to submit a logo idea, email Jane Kennedy — JKENNEDY@SANDIEGOZOO.ORG

By June 15th with your original artwork

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:
RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION
C/O BECKY GRIESER
142 N. PARK AVE
WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787