



The Crash

The newsletter for rhino professionals

IRKA

May 2010

2010 Board of Directors Nominations

IRKA Board of Directors Elections

The International Rhino Keeper Association is holding its fourth annual elections for the Board of Directors (BOD). The IRKA Election Committee is seeking dedicated individuals for nomination for four positions on the BOD in 2010.

The Election Committee is accepting nominations for the BOD from May 16–June 16, 2010. The election will take place in July and the results will be announced on August 15, 2010. The BOD positions will begin on September 1, 2010 and last three years.

This year the four positions to be voted on are currently filled by Lance Aubrey, David Geurkink, and Randy Pairan. All are available to be elected for an additional term.

Nominations can be made in accordance with the bylaws, Article VI Sec. 5:

- Any professional member in good standing may submit nominations for another professional member in good standing.
- Nominations received must be accompanied by the written endorsement of at least one professional member in good standing, who must not work at the same institution as that of the nominee.
- No more than two members of the Board may be from the same institution.
- Professional members must be willing to abide by the bylaws, meet the criteria in Article VIII, and support the code of ethics governing the organization.

Nominees must be willing to share their knowledge and expertise to benefit the organization while participating in annual BOD meetings. The BOD is dedicated to ensuring the IRKA progresses toward its goals, and is accountable to the membership. As an organization, we need all BOD input to improve the future for all species of rhinoceros as well as directly addressing conservation, education and captive management issues.

When making nominations please include your name and contact information along with that of your nominee's). Nominees will be contacted to accept their nomination. They will also be asked to supply a brief bio prior to the elections to better inform voters about their qualifications.

Please send names and e-mail/contact information of willing nominees May 1-31, 2010 to Election Committee Chairperson, Stephanie Richmond at: richmo41@msu.edu.

IRKA was created to benefit rhinos and rhino keepers worldwide. Become a professional member before June 15, 2010 and have a voice in the 2010 BOD election process.

Stephanie Richmond

Election Committee Chair

**** IRKA Incentive Program ****

Who likes free stuff!!!! We would like to increase a more regular and consistent participation with submissions to "The Crash", so we have implemented a incentive program of free polo's and decals to everyone that submits an article for publication. Our newsletter allows us to keep each other informed of current training, management and research issues that affect our daily care of rhinos! So, dust the cobwebs off your computers and get your FREE polo and decal!!!

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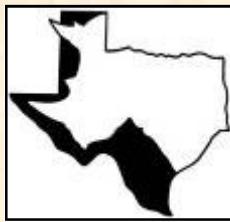
Annual Report : By Adam Felts, President IRKA

During the past six years the International Rhino Keeper Association (IRKA) has been dedicated to sharing knowledge as it related to the five species of rhinoceros. As a young organization, we have fulfilled many of our objectives and will continue to grow. Our Board of Directors, with guidance from Dr. Susie Ellis and support from the International Rhino Foundation, continues to develop and fine tune programs that allow rhino keepers from around the globe to enhance their husbandry skills and knowledge while participating in world-wide conservation programs. Thanks to your support, our membership is currently over 100 members with 16 institutional members!!



2009 Rhino Keeper Workshop:

This past year the team at Busch Gardens, Tampa hosted another successful Rhino Keeper Workshop which brought in the largest number of international rhino keepers, to date. The IRKA was able to provide scholarships for many of these participants, which enabled them to connect with other rhino keepers. This workshop had all the components that make these events worth while, which presentations focusing on research, veterinary medicine, husbandry, and conservation. Delegates also enjoyed the opportunity to visit both Lowry Park and Busch Gardens and we would like to thank the dedicated staff at those facilities for making these days memorable.



2011 Rhino Keeper Workshop:

The IRKA Board of Directors met in early this year to start planning for the 2011 workshop. The workshop will be at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center (Glen Rose, TX) in May, 2011. This workshop promises to be the most successful to date and will center around the focal points of conservation, education, veterinary medicine, husbandry and research provided by you, the IRKA membership through your workshop survey. Be sure to watch for updates, and call for abstracts, on this workshop in upcoming issues of *The Crash* and on the website.

Keeper Professional Development Program:

The Keeper Professional Development Program is in its second year, and still continues to provide the unique experience of working alongside their colleagues at different institutions. In addition, the IRKA was able to provide reimbursement opportunities for keepers participating in our Rhino Keeper Exchange Program.

IRKA 2009 Statement of Revenues and Expenses:

Gifts, grants, contributions received : (IRF)	\$3000.00
Membership fees received:	\$3658.00
KPD fees received:	\$10.00
Gross receipts from merchandise sold (polos, decals):	<u>\$ 604.00</u>
Total Revenue:	\$7272.00
Fund raising expenses (polos, decals):	\$ 967.00
Contributions, gifts, grants paid out (RKW scholarships):	\$ 4650.00
KPD scholarship:	\$ 368.00
Speaker for RKW (Arief Rubianto: ½ airfare):	\$ 957.00
Disbursement to or for the benefit of members (RKW):	\$ 5099.00
Florida Dept of State (annual fee):	\$ 61.00
Other expenses (new checks, stamps, rubber stamp):	<u>\$ 88.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$12,190.00



What's to come in 2010?

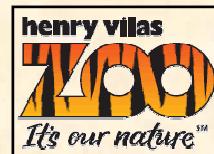
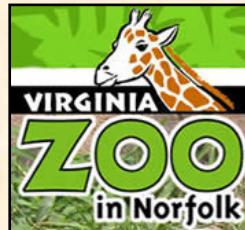
The Board of Directors has already set aside the funds to try and provide as many scholarships as possible for persons interested in attending the 2011 Rhino Keeper Workshop. In addition, your BOD has voted to continue the Keeper Professional Development program and the reimbursement opportunities that are available to interested persons.

And, in an effort to foster more international cooperation, we have created an International Liaison Committee. This committee will have a number of international representatives to help provide input and encourage IRKA involvement in other continents. Please look in an upcoming issue of *The Crash* for more details about this innovative program.

And, on a final note, the Election Committee will begin the nomination process for the Board of Directors in April. The call for nominees will be announced in *The Crash*, on the website and through g-mail so be sure to participate in this important membership opportunity. Be sure to visit our website www.rhinokeeperassociation.org for additional information and feel free to contact any Board of Director member if you have any questions, or comments on how we can better progress towards the goals you have established for this organization. Thank you!

Institutional Members

Buffalo Zoo
Cleveland Metro Parks
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Earth Promise
Henry Vilas Park Zoo Soc., Inc
Howletts Wild Animal Trust
Paignton Zoo
Peoria Zoo
Toronga Western Plains Zoo
Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum
Virginia Zoological Society
White Oak Conservation Center
Zoological Society of London
Zoological Society of San Diego
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens
International Rhino Foundation
North Carolina Zoological Society, Inc
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo





INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

The International Rhino keeper Association (IRKA) would like to make an active effort to incorporate international support from our colleagues in Australia and Europe. The Board of Directors have decided to have a minimum of two representatives (one from Europe, and one from Australia) to serve on this committee and help guide IRKA in this plan. The responsibilities of these individuals will be as follows:

Participate in discussions related to IRKA through the Board of Directors

Promote the IRKA in a professional manner

Encourage memberships and active involvement in the region

Communicate to IRKA members in the region

Assist in soliciting presenters to the Rhino Keeper Workshops

Assist in securing financial support of these presenters

These liaisons would also be invited to attend our annual board meetings, and to participate in discussions related to our mission. It is our hope that these liaisons will help not only promote the mission of IRKA, but increase our communication on a global basis, guide the IRKA on how to communicate and gain active participation from these regions.

We would like to welcome our Australian representative Deb Ryan from the Australia Zoo, and our European representative Stephan Rijnen from the Beekse Bergen Safari Park. We look forward to our international partnership!

Thank you!

IRKA Board of Directors



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I would like to request the feasibility of locating any footage that individuals or institutions may have archived that explicitly details the mechanics of rhinoceros copulation specifically the entire process including (mounting, insertion, penetration, intromission and dismount). I am currently working on rhinoceros reproductive behavior, an any assistance would be of great help!

Sincerely,

Tim Isles

ethologist@gmail.com





Institutional Supporters

The Supporting Institutional Membership is for any conservation organization , or zoological institution which supports rhino conservation in accordance with the objectives and purpose of the IRKA. These memberships are available for \$100, \$500 and \$2000. Why should your zoo be interested in joining on this level? If your institution contributes on the \$500 level then all rhino keepers membership fees at your zoo are waived! It is important that as the IRKA grows that we continue to garner the support from all facilities that are responsible for the protection and management of all species of rhinoceros. We would like to extend our appreciation for this substantial support to the following institutions, and hopefully we can add your zoo to this growing list! If you have questions about institutional memberships or any other questions please contact us at

internationalrhinokeeperassoc@gmail.com.

Partners



Corporate Sponsors



***** 2010 Sponsors at \$2000 and Above *****



BREATH

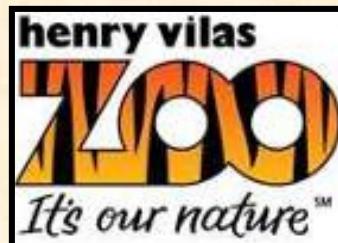
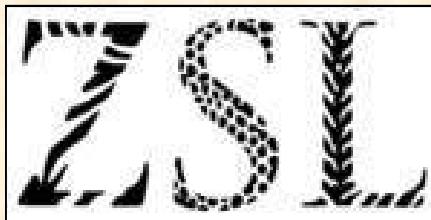
Zoological Society of San Diego

Sponsoring \$5000 for 2011-2012

Hosting the 2012 Board of Directors Meeting



2010 Sponsors at the \$500 level



2010 Sponsors at \$100 level

