



The Crash

The newsletter for rhino professionals

IRKA

May 2012

Rhino Keeper Workshop 2013:

Jonnie Capiro and Jane Kennedy



The San Diego Zoo Safari Park would like to invite you all to the 2013 Rhino Keeper Workshop! The workshop will be held Sunday, May 5th – May 9th, 2013 at the Town and Country Resort in the heart of San Diego. It will feature day visits to the San Diego Zoo & Safari Park and may include optional trips to Sea World and the Los Angeles Zoo (TBD).

The San Diego Zoo Safari Park is home to black, southern white, northern white, and greater one-horned rhinoceros, 21 rhinos in all. Come visit us to learn how we care for these rhinos and other animals in large mixed-species exhibits.

Kick-off Party – Cinco de Rhino!

Sunday, May 5th

We are in the middle of planning an exciting and innovative workshop for you! We will kick off the week with a rhino-sized Cinco de Rhino party on May 5th at the Town and Country Resort. As we celebrate the five species of rhinos, there will be raffles, auctions, info and vendor booths, and lots of margaritas and tacos to enjoy! Proceeds raised from this event will be donated to IRF's ongoing support of Rhino Protection Units. Start brainstorming ideas for something unique to bring along with you, as a raffle or auction item for this event. Cinco de Rhino San Diego will be open to the public - a brand new audience who will be thrilled to have the chance to bid on animal artwork, ostrich egg artwork, photos, and whatever creation you can come up with. This event is a huge opportunity to really raise some funds for rhino conservation. There will be a separate reception area for RKW attendees for registration pick up and a private ice-breaker.



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The Workshop

Amidst all this partying, we will have to get down to business. The workshop will feature talks on rhino pathology, reproduction, breeding, transportation and both in-situ and ex-situ conservation.

A new feature, the *facility focus*, will be a chance for keepers to share a brief summary of their facility in an informal presentation; more details to follow.

There will be two separate day trips: one to the San Diego Zoo, during which attendees can tour the Pathology Lab, Rhino Backstage Pass, and Elephant Odyssey and another trip to the Safari Park, featuring behind the scenes tours of the Paul Harter Veterinary Medical Center, rhino field exhibits, and the renowned Institute for Conservation Research. Workshop days will also include daily poster sessions, round table discussions, and working groups. Finally, there will be a night out in the Gaslamp district where members can enjoy dinner and exploring the nightlife of San Diego. This workshop is going to be packed full of new and exciting rhino information, opportunities to network, socialize, and to have fun!

Keeper Participation

While we continue the planning for this workshop, keep in mind this is a keeper organization – that means we want to hear from YOU! We encourage keepers to share the wonderful and interesting projects that they are all working on. If you need some ideas of what the membership wants to hear about, refer to the RKW 2011 survey results in which some of the desired topics include: black rhino information, nutrition, and breeding challenges and breakthroughs (these are just a few, visit http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/workshops/2011/2011_rkw_survey_results.htm for the complete list). If you would like to present something, but need a little guidance to prepare for a conference, please ask us for help! We want to see more keeper participation and we are happy to guide you in the right direction. See this issue of The Crash for information about the call for papers.

Participating in the IRKA Keeper Development Program can enhance your stay, and help fund your trip here; professional members qualify for reimbursement funds. San Diego can accommodate up to 12 keepers who are interested in honing their keeper skills by working side by side with park or zoo keepers in San Diego; 6 pre-conference and 6 post-conference spots are available. (Not all will qualify for KDP scholarships so apply early!) You will work from a truck with the rhinos in huge exhibits housing hundreds of animals. You will learn how to work around large groups/herds of animals, field immobilization techniques, and field training methods. Visit the IRKA website for more details.

Rhino Keeper Workshop 2013



2013 Rhino Keeper Workshop

Banquet Night

The night of the final workshop banquet, the Safari Park will also offer the opportunity to participate in the Park's "Roar-n-Snore" program. You can spend the night at the Safari Park's campground, offering panoramic views of our African Plains field enclosure; (55 acres, over 140 animals from 11 different species, including 19 giraffe, 1.6 southern white rhino, and possibly a new rhino calf!) This package is limited to 25 people and will be an additional cost.(TBD). There will also be our traditional "future workshop" fundraiser held during the ending banquet at the Safari Park, so save an item or two for that auction also!



Stay Tuned...

There are so many ways to stay connected between conferences and we encourage you to like us on Facebook and respond to any emails sent out. In preparation for this workshop, we will have a *communication committee* that will send out surveys to learn more about the attendees and gather some information to share among the organization. This committee will be in touch frequently as the workshop gets closer, to ensure that everyone has all the info they need to book travel arrangements and answer any questions that might arise.

Helpful websites:

- ⇒ <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/>
- ⇒ <http://www.sdzsafaripark.org/>
- ⇒ <http://www.towncountry.com/>
- ⇒ <http://www.gaslamp.org/>
- ⇒ <http://www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors>

Quick reference for planning your travel to San Diego

Dates – May 5th – May 9th

Hotel -Town and Country Resort San Diego. Rates are \$129 a night. Be sure to mention RKW 2013 when you make your reservation to reserve this rate. Discounted rate is available 3 days prior and 3 days post conference.

Local Airports – Lindbergh Field, San Diego International Airport (SAN)

The airport runs a shuttle service to the Town and Country Resort for \$11 each way.

Carlsbad International Airport, (CLD) (25 miles north, car rental may be necessary)

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) (100 miles north, car rental will be necessary)

Registration Fee – \$225 (\$250 after April 15, 2013)

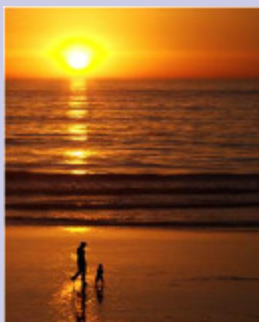
Early registration for professional and supporting professional members

\$175 by Feb. 1, 2013.

Associate Members - \$300 (\$250 early registration by Feb. 1, 2013*)

*There is a limit of 10 Associate member registrations to this Workshop.

Non-member-\$300, no early discount.



INTERNATIONAL RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION

Call for Papers

San Diego Zoo Global will be hosting the 2013 International Rhino Keeper Association, Rhino Keeper Workshop from the 5th to the 9th of May 2013. The workshop will feature papers discussing the following topics: The population status of Asian and African Rhino Species, Pathology trends of African and Asian Rhinos, Ex-situ and in-situ breeding of all rhino species, Captive research on rhinos, Transporting rhinos, and Hand-rearing of rhinos. A poster session will also be included in the program. Please submit a one-half page abstract by **August 1, 2012**.

Guidelines for abstract submission:

- 350 word limit.
- Use Arial, Times, or other highly legible 12 point font.
- Include author's names, affiliations, an contact information.

Contact information:

Send submissions to Lance Aubery,
Animal Care Supervisor, San Diego
Zoo Safari Park,

laubery@sandiegozoo.org



IRKA Keeper Development Program: by Dave Clawson

In March of this year, I was fortunate to participate in the IRKA Keeper Professional Development Program at two separate facilities. The Denver Zoo and the San Diego's Zoo's Safari Park. This combination of a traditional zoo setting at Denver along with the more open range setting at San Diego was a very suitable experience for me in that the Wilds where I currently work is somewhat of a hybrid facility in how we manage rhinos. While the Wilds is very much an open range facility during the summer months we do care for the rhinos in inside barns with adjacent yards in the winter. Although I have been to both Denver and San Diego before it was many years ago and it was energizing to see new things, old friends, and how facilities change over time. This was certainly the case at Denver as they were preparing for the opening of their new area Toyota Elephant Passage (TEP). I originally planned just going for three days to the IRKA Board of Directors meetings in San Diego but decided to take two weeks and combined it with the KPD experience. I'm glad I did. I stayed a week in Denver where I worked three days at the Zoo and a week in San Diego where I attended the BOD meetings then worked three days at the Safari Park. The rest of the time I spent with family in Golden just outside Denver where I stayed while I was visiting. I also stayed with keepers while in San Diego. Both of which saved allot in accommodation expenses.

This was Denver's first time participating in the KPD program and as the first participant I was grateful to work alongside their staff and with the relatively new collection of animals brought in for TEP opening. Especially since the area was still under construction and all the challenges of keeping people and animals safe and secure. In fact one of the animals brought in was a four year old Greater One Horned rhino born at the Wilds that was moved to Denver in November. She had a rough time of it due to being separated from her old surroundings and familiar family but was in good hands and doing well in her new home. Her new home was impressive. The inside facility had large stalls, well thought out shift spaces and access points, two huge indoor pools, organized keeper areas, and technology throughout. Several touch screen panels that operated the hydraulic door system was the most visible, but the chute with scale and remote cameras were also impressive. The rhinos were just being introduced to the outside areas when I was visiting. There were I believe six yards of different configurations and a cross chute system that allowed either the rhinos or the adjacent elephants to access each of the yards although not at the same time. Several of the yards had large deep pools that had multiple access points and was filtered by a system that looked like it could run a small town. So too was the biomass gasification system that will convert most all of the zoo's waste into energy. It was obvious that a lot of effort went into the planning this entire area. Inevitably tens of thousands of people will be exposed to, and educated about rhinos and other species in this new area of the Zoo.



On my first day I came into work and met up with Christine Bobko, and we headed to their morning staff meeting where they discussed animal issues and the day's events. Throughout the morning I helped the keepers service the GOH facility (which also housed Malayan tapirs), observed training routines, and discussed outside yard introduction scenarios. That afternoon we patrolled the outside yards looking at what still needed to be done before animals could occupy the area. The next day I again helped with the morning routine at the GOH barn. We then went to an AAZK lunch meeting where we heard a presentation and they discussed upcoming projects. It was good to be a part of such an active chapter if even for a day. Later that afternoon I was able to spend some time with the black rhino and crew in an existing facility also soon to be renovated. I met Dave Johnson who told me at length about Team Nepal, a project to help support rhinos in Nepal. Read Dave's article in the March 2011 edition of *the Crash*. My last and final day at Denver, I worked with the elephant crew and their new facility, an equally impressive building with a horseshoe shaped set of stalls and a large parlor room in the center. The Wilds does not have elephants but it brought back memories of when I worked elephants at the Columbus Zoo years ago.



The Denver area and where I stayed in Golden is a favorite of mine with the mountains and 300 plus days of sunshine. Oh and yes I was in town during the 24 hour a day news of Peyton Manning replacing Tim Tebow for the Broncos. Many exciting new things are happening in Denver.



Keeper Development Program



As in with Denver it's been a while since I have been to San Diego. Sunshine was also abundant here and even though the mountains weren't quite as high the rock cropped canyons and sea air was hospitable this time of year. The Safari Park's collection of animals is always impressive and their staff is very knowledgeable and none more experienced. After the BOD meetings I reported to work at an early 6:00am the next morning. Quite possibly too early for the previous night's activities, but I made it none the less. After checking in and discussing the day's activities with the sections crew we headed out to load the trucks with feed and hay before heading to field. A familiar routine not unlike what we would do at the Wilds. Another visiting colleague Jennifer Conaghan from Western Plains Zoo in Australia, and I were led that day by Jane Kennedy who took us through the African and Asian areas. The first task was to count each individual referring back to a specimen sheet for the correct number and noting any subtle changes within the groups. Some species were easier than others to get accurate count. Six rhino were fairly obvious but thirty or forty black buck was more challenging. This was also the time to locate any animals that had been scheduled for a vet procedure later that morning.

Along the way we fed bags of feed and flakes of hay in different sized troughs which assisted us in the days count as the animals came up. As most of you know San Diego has a prodigious history of breeding rhinos. This was again the case when we came across a GOH calf and her mom who was just put back out into the field a week prior. Within forty yards or so were the other females of the group. After a few passes in the field we had located all the animals and headed to the field boma where the male GOH was being held. From the back of the truck we swung open an access panel and tossed him some feed and hay as well. He would have to wait until the calf and the rest of the group was ready for his return to the field.

Later that morning there was in fact an animal procedure planned. It was a routine dart and capture procedure for relocation of an impala. The vets and the animal keepers met prior to the procedure, discussed the approach, and implemented the plan. It was clear the staff was experienced and proficient throughout the procedure. The animal was darted the field by the lead vehicle, observed as it went down, surrounded by follow vehicles, examined while the trailer was positioned, then loaded in the trailer and taken to their holding facility. Not sure of the exact numbers but each and every day the crew seemed be discussing or implementing some sort of animal move. This was evident in the number animals ready for off-site shipment at the shipping / receiving area. Afterwards the crew explained they would move larger animal such as the rhinos and giraffe into the field bomas for holding or individual care while smaller sick or injured animals were taken to the animal hospital. Neither of these actions was needed while I was there.



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The next day I arrived at the park and met up with Jonnie Capiro, a keeper at the Park that I have worked with in the past at the Wilds. She helped develop a training routine for our GOH rhinos as part of her Master's degree project. Behavioral research and operant conditioning continues to be her passion working with the rhinos and other species at the Park. After loading our truck we went into the field to observe and attempt to collect fecal samples from the white rhinos. A task that may succeed quickly or take several hours as I have experienced with my group of whites. We did retrieve a couple samples from the 7 animals we were watching but would have to come back later for more. In the afternoon we toured around to some of the areas, I was not able to see the day before including the public walking areas of the Park. Later that night I had dinner with Jonnie and her husband on the beach where I briefly stuck my feet in the still cold Pacific Ocean before heading home the next day. A very good two weeks.

I would like to thank Dale Leeds, Christine Bobko and all the staff at Denver for accepting me to participate and sharing their knowledge and facility. Also thanks to Lance Aubrey, Jane Kennedy and all the staff at San Diego for the same. Finally thanks to Ed Kennedy, Daniel and Jonnie Capiro for letting me stay at their houses while I was in San Diego.

If given a chance you should definitely participate in the IRKA KPD program. Those who are just starting out in rhino care, or even an old dog like me can learn new tricks, you never stop learning. It also connects you with colleagues who become friends after spending a few days learning from one another. There are 5 institutions now participating in the KPD program, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Denver Zoo, San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, and The Wilds. Details about the program can be found at the IRKA website. The Wilds have hosted a few KPD participants and I welcome others to apply.





IRKA Board of Directors Elections – Call for Nominations!

The International Rhino Keeper Association is holding its sixth annual elections for the Board of Directors (BOD). The IRKA Election Committee is seeking dedicated individuals for nomination for five positions on the BOD in 2012. The Election Committee is accepting nominations for the BOD from May 1-31, 2012. The election will take place in July and the results will be announced on August 15, 2012. The BOD positions will begin on September 1, 2012. The nominees with the top 4 votes will hold positions on the BOD for three years. The nominee with the next highest vote will have a one year term. This year the five positions to be voted on are currently filled by Adam Felts, Vickie Steele, Dave Clawson, Christine Bobko, and David Geurkink.

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.

As an elected member to the IRKA Board of Directors, you will have the following responsibilities:

- Be willing to abide by the IRKA by-laws, meet criteria in Article VIII and support the code of ethics which govern the organization.
- Be actively involved in all BOD discussions (electronic and annual meeting).
- Participate in bi-ennial Rhino Keeper Workshop and assist hosting institution and/or its members, when needed, to ensure timely completion of tasks.
- Be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the membership through a variety of venues.
- Participate in annual BOD meeting.
- Be accountable to the BOD for any commitments made to IRKA.
- Expected to volunteer as chairperson or participate in a number of committees.
- Assist chairperson in developing a plan, securing BOD approval and ensuring the committee reaches its goals.

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, 2012 to Election Committee Chairperson, Stephanie Richmond at: srichmo41@gmail.com.

IRKA was created to benefit rhinos and rhino keepers worldwide. Become a professional member before June 15, 2012 and have a voice in the 2012 BOD election process!

Stephanie Richmond

Election Committee Chair



Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship

Historical perspective: Dr. Tom Foose was instrumental in forming the International Rhino Keeper Association (IRKA), becoming the first advisor to the IRKA Board of Directors. When the original Steering Committee was formed, Tom helped guide this fledgling organization on its mission to help in the conservation of rhinoceros by educating the people that directly take care of them, the keepers. Tom touched people across the world and inspired them to set aside their personal, national and institutional agendas to focus on preventing rhinoceros extinction. The founding members of the Board of Directors would like to establish this scholarship to recognize his exceptional guidance and tireless dedication to rhinoceros conservation.

Objective: To acknowledge IRKA members who have demonstrated initiative and leadership by assuming responsibility for a particular project or committee. The Board of Directors would like to recognize those individuals who have significantly contributed their time and professional expertise to benefit the IRKA.

Criteria:

1. Any active member of IRKA can be nominated for this award by a member of the Board of Directors
2. Nominee's contributions to IRKA will be objectively reviewed and evaluated based on the aforementioned information

Award: IRKA will pay the registration fee for the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship recipient for the next Rhino Keeper Workshop. In addition, their contribution to the IRKA will be acknowledged by Certificate Award presented at that workshop, announcement posted on the Website, in The Crash, and will be recognized at the annual membership meeting.

The BOD is proud to announce the first recipient of the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship is Sara Wunder (Busch Gardens).

Sara took the initiative to develop the idea of a rhino calendar, presented it to the BOD, and handled creating the calendar and delivering the final product. Sara also secured the funding for the initial printing costs through Busch Gardens and, in the end, raised \$8,400 which was donated to IRF's "Operation Stop Poaching Now"

CONGRATULATIONS SARA ! YOUR HARD WORK IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED BY THE BOD!



American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Bowling for Rhinos Conservation Resource Grant

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is pleased to announce the call for proposals for the Bowling for Rhinos Conservation Resource Grant. This competitive grant is designed to fund projects focused on rhino conservation and research. The total amount of funds available in 2012 is \$2,300.29. Successful proposals will reflect AAZK values and meet award criteria in one of four categories:

- **Category 1 - In-situ Rhino Conservation and Research-**

Short-term (less than one year), specific, field research projects on African or Asian rhino species conducted by an individual or organized group of individuals working under the auspices of a zoological facility, educational entity or AAZK Conservation Partner.

- **Category 2 - In-situ Community, Educational or Medical Programs (Africa or Asia)-**

Community education, school support or medical programs developed or administered by an individual working under the auspices of a zoological facility, educational entity or AAZK Conservation Partner restricted to the continents of Africa or Asia. Preference may be given to local programs established and/or administered by LWC (Lewa Wildlife Conservancy), IRF (International Rhino Foundation) or ACK (Action for Cheetahs in Kenya) endorsed partners.

- **Category 3 - In-situ Species Conservation-**

Short-term (less than one year), specific, field research projects on any species that shares the exact same ecosystem as: Asian, Java, Sumatran, and African Black or White rhino.

- **Category 4 - Ex-situ Rhino Conservation and Research -**

Short-term (less than one year), specific, zoological research projects on African or Asian rhino species conducted by an individual or organized group of individuals working under the auspices of a zoological facility, educational entity or AAZK Conservation Partner. Researcher(s) must be able to demonstrate evidence of partnership with a rhino conservation entity operating in Asia or Africa combined with a tangible benefit to an in-situ conservation project.

Eligibility

Affiliation or partnership with AAZK is not required, but preference may be given to AAZK Members or Conservation Partners.

Applications are due no later than June 1st, 2012. Award announcements will be made on July 1, 2012.

Please visit www.aazk.org or contact Amanda Kamradt, Conservation Committee Co-Chair at amanda.kamradt@aazk.org for application or more information.



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



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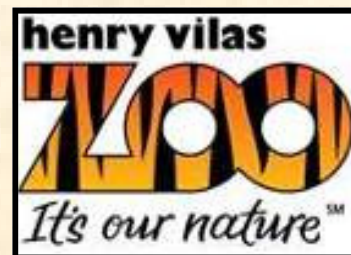
Zoological Society of San Diego

Sponsoring \$5000 for 2011-2012

Hosting the 2012 Board of Directors Meeting

BRavo!!!

2012 Sponsors at the \$250-\$500 level



2012 Sponsors at \$100 level

