

What is the IRKA ???



***Jane Kennedy, President
International Rhino Keeper Association
Lead Keeper
San Diego Zoo Safari Park
NA Regional Studbook Keeper, GOHR***

What is the International Rhino Keeper Association?



Rhino keepers and other rhino professionals:

- Share captive management, enrichment, and training ideas.
- Strive to improve rhino husbandry practices.
- Gain knowledge and become involved in in-situ and ex-situ conservation efforts.
- Form a network for communicating with other professionals.

INTERNATIONAL

A faint, artistic background image of a rhinoceros, showing its head and front legs in a stylized, almost watercolor-like manner. The rhino is facing right, with its head slightly turned towards the viewer. The colors are muted, blending with the overall light beige and brown tones of the slide.

Mission Statement

***The International Rhino
Keeper Association (IRKA)
promotes professional
collaboration, development,
and practices to advance
rhinoceros conservation
worldwide.***

RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION

IRKA highlights

**2003 RKW @
Denver Zoo**

**2006 IRKA organizes with a
formal set of bylaws and
Board of Directors**

**2015 Chester Zoo
RKW**

**1999 First Rhino
Keeper Workshop
held @ Disney's
Animal Kingdom**

**Oct. 2008 recognized as a
non-profit organization in
Florida**

**March-filed national 501c3
May-2011
RKW @ Fossil Rim**

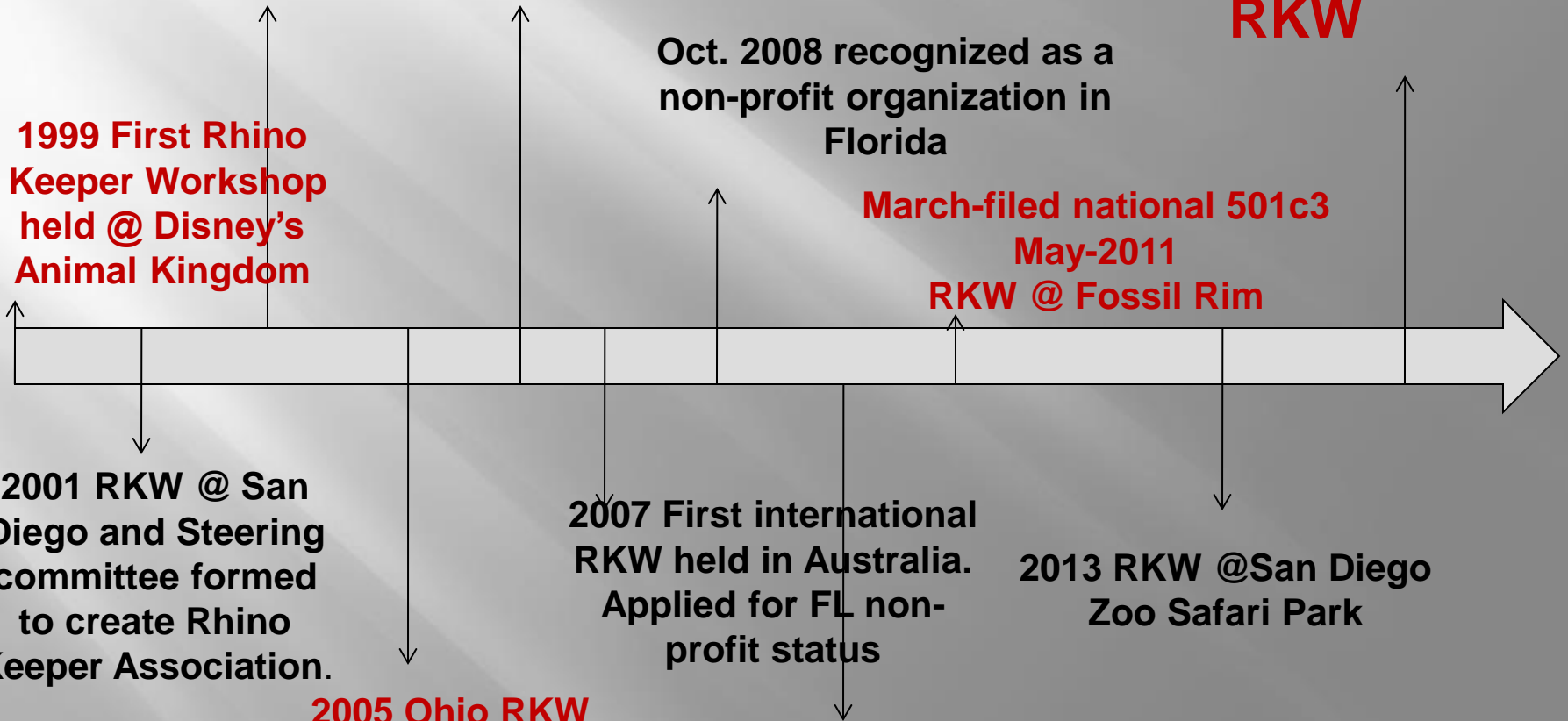
**2001 RKW @ San
Diego and Steering
committee formed
to create Rhino
Keeper Association.**

**2007 First international
RKW held in Australia.
Applied for FL non-
profit status**

**2013 RKW @San Diego
Zoo Safari Park**

**2005 Ohio RKW
@ Columbus
Zoo & Aquarium**

**2009 RKW @ Busch
Gardens**





IRKA Goals

- ▣ Promote and advance the knowledge of rhino husbandry
- ▣ Improve communication between rhino keepers world-wide and conservationists in the field
- ▣ Disseminate accurate and scientifically-based information regarding all rhino species
- ▣ Support Rhino Keeper Workshops and Keeper Development



Jane Kennedy, IRKA , president at the 2005 RKW in Ohio, USA



Professional



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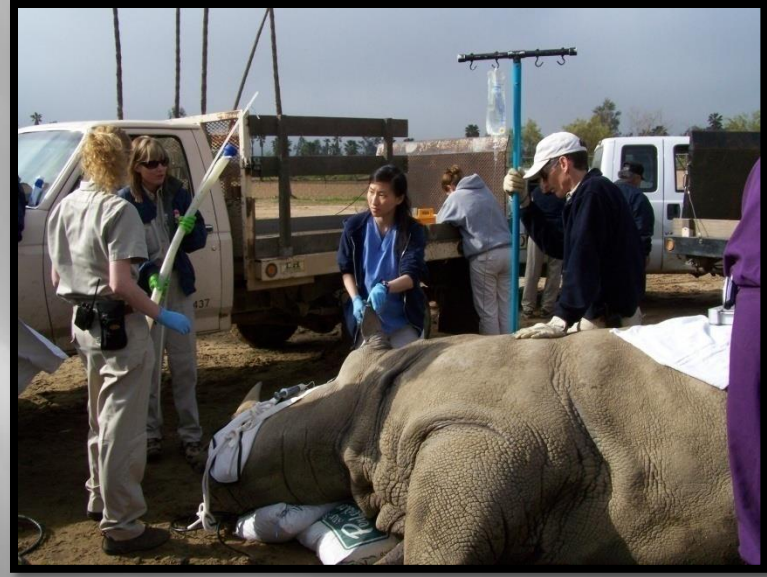
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- 2 Years experience actively participating in rhino training, husbandry, and/or research
 - Voting members
 - Serve on committees
 - Hold an elective office

Supporting Professional



Professionals who indirectly participate in rhino husbandry, research, training, or management (for example: rhino keepers with less than two years of experience and other supporting positions who do not directly work with rhinos)

- Can serve on committees





Associate

Persons interested in rhino conservation such as Docents, Volunteers and rhino enthusiasts

- Can serve on selected committees



Supporting Institution

A zoological institution or organization which supports rhino conservation

- \$100-Bronze level
 - Certificate of membership
- Logo displayed on website

Newsletter

\$500-Silver level

Desktop Award

All professional members fees waived

\$2000-Gold level

Recognition Plaque

One free registration to next RKW

Corporate Sponsor

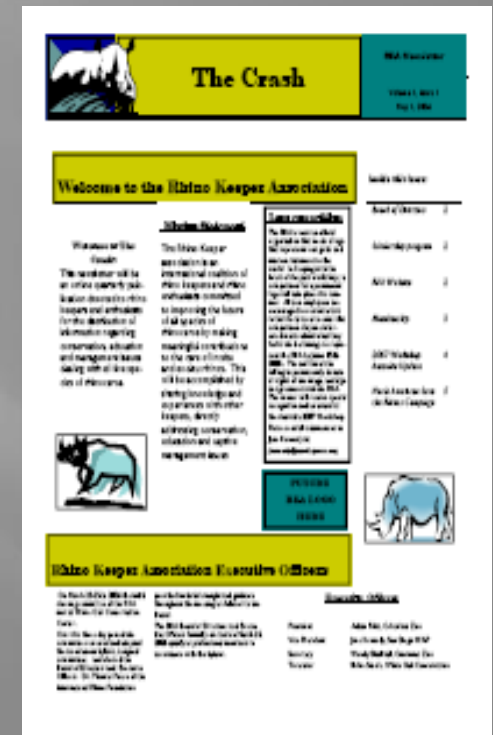
Corporate Sponsor shall be a for-profit corporation which supports rhino conservation



THE HORNS AND HEROES PROJECT
★ SAVING RHINOS THROUGH ART ★

IRKA Membership Benefits

- ▣ Receive quarterly electronic newsletter, “The Crash”, which will have rhino-relevant information, institution and researcher focal points, Workshop information, etc
- ▣ Members receive a decal with the IRKA logo



IRKA Membership Benefits

- Ability to participate in Keeper Professional Development Program expanding your skills

Reimbursement of up to \$500 in costs



San Diego Zoo Global, Columbus Zoo and The Wilds,
Cincinnati Zoo, Busch Gardens, Denver Zoo, YOUR
ZOO?

Rhino Keeper Workshops

- Eligible for scholarships to help defer some of the costs associated with attending the Rhino Keeper Workshop

Scholarships-\$250 domestic travel, \$500 international travel



Participants at the 2005 RKW,
Columbus Zoo

Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship



Criteria:

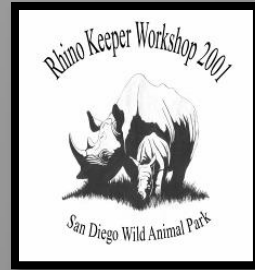
Any active member of the IRKA can be nominated for this award by a member of the Board of Directors, or by the Advisor to the Award, Dr. Don Paglia.

Nominee's contributions to the IRKA will be objectively reviewed and evaluated based on the criteria and the recipient's ability to attend the next workshop.

A majority vote of the Board and the Advisor to the Award will determine the recipient. Receiving this award does not preclude the recipient from applying for additional Rhino Keeper Workshop scholarships.



Biennial Rhino Keeper Workshops



- ▣ 1999 Disney's Animal Kingdom
- ▣ 2001 San Diego Wild Animal Park
- ▣ 2003 Denver Zoological Gardens
- ▣ 2005 Ohio/Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
- ▣ 2007 Werribee Zoo, Melbourne, Australia
- ▣ 2009 Busch Gardens, Tampa, Fla.
- ▣ 2011 Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Texas
- ▣ 2013 San Diego Zoo Safari Park



Chester Zoo, UK 2015



2017?

- ▣ New York?
- ▣ Denver?
- ▣ Chicago?
- ▣ Tulsa?
- ▣ North Carolina?
- ▣ Your zoo?



International Rhino Keeper Association Website

www.internationalrhinokeeperassociation.org

- ▣ **About the IRKA**
- ▣ **Rhino facts**
- ▣ **Rhino Nutrition**
- ▣ **Rhino Research**
- ▣ **RKW proceedings**



Website Information

- ▣ Links (IRF, Rhino Resource Center, BFR, AAZK, AZA, ICZ etc.)



International Rhino Keeper Association Board of Directors

- ▣ Jane Kennedy (President) – San Diego Zoo Safari Park, California
- ▣ Adam Felts (Vice-president) – Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Ohio
- ▣ Lara Metrione (Treasurer) – SEZARC
- ▣ Vickie Steele (Secretary) – White Oak Conservation Center, Florida
- ▣ Wendy Shaffstall–Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Ohio
- ▣ Christine Bobko – Denver Zoological Gardens, Colorado
- ▣ Jonnie Capiro-San Diego Zoo Safari Park, California
- ▣ Joe Hauser-Buffalo Zoo, New York
- ▣ Ray Hren-Milwaukee Zoo, Wisconsin
- ▣ Sara Wunder-Steward, Busch Gardens, Florida
- ▣ Dave Clawson, The Wilds, Ohio

- ▣ **Advisor to the Board-Dr. Susie Ellis, IRF Executive Director**



Don't just sit there . . . Join the International Rhino Keeper Association!



- ▣ Download membership form from website,
www.internationalrhinokeeperassociation.org



Photo credits to:

- ▣ Wendy Shaffstall
- ▣ Vickie Steele
- ▣ Adam Felts
- ▣ Randy Pairan
- ▣ Jane Kennedy
- ▣ Monica Stoops
- ▣ IRF
- ▣ SDZG

