

THE 2013 RHINO KEEPER WORKSHOP IS THIS YEAR!

Written by Jane Kennedy

May 5-9, 2013, the San Diego Zoo Safari Park will host the RKW at the Town and Country Resort, San Diego Ca. A pre-conference trip to the Los Angeles Zoo May 4th and post-conference trip to SeaWorld San Diego May 11th will also be offered. The Los Angeles Zoo visit will feature a behind the scenes look at their Sumatran rhino Haripan and their greater one-horned rhino Rhanda, the oldest female in captivity. Entrance and lunch will be provided for registered workshop attendees. Family members will need to purchase entrance tickets but will be allowed behind the scenes and receive a free lunch courtesy of the LAZ. Participation is limited to 50. SeaWorld San Diego will also have a limited number of free tickets for conference attendees and a behind the scenes tour. More details will follow.

Workshop speakers will focus on in-situ and ex-situ conservation and research, pathology, transportation, breeding, and hand rearing. The visit to the San Diego Zoo will feature a behind the scenes look at our pathology lab, and group discussion on rhino pathology. During the Safari Park visit a morning break out session with classroom and hands-on rhino training will be offered. (20 people maximum.) Park tours will include our state of the art research facility located at the Safari Park-The San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, the Beckman Veterinary Hospital and our field enclosures. Field tours will visit all 4 species of rhinos housed at the Safari Park and highlight the day. The Park houses over 2,600 animals from over 300 species including 1.7 greater one-horned rhinos (one born Dec. 13th 2012 being bottle raised with mom), 2.1 black, 2.6 southern and 1.1 northern white rhinos; we expect 2 more rhino calves by May of 2013!

At the Ice Breaker May 5th, Cinco de Rhino, a Mexican themed fund-raiser will support the International Rhino Foundation's Rhino Protection Units. VIP guests will be able to attend the Ice

Rhino Keeper Workshop 2013



Breaker and hear Dr. Susie Ellis, Director of the IRF, share her keynote address for the Workshop. This year's funding will go to support RPUs in South Africa.

Scheduled Workshop speakers include Dr. Amit Sharma, Rhino Conservation Coordinator, WWF-India, Dr. Dedi Chandra of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, and Dr. Peter Buss of SANParks. Dr. Buss will be discussing the poaching crisis in Africa, along with rhino transportation. Cathy Dean of Save the Rhino will also be a featured speaker. Dr. Oliver Ryder of the Institute for Conservation Research will be discussing stem cell research on northern white rhinos; Dr. Chris Tubbs also of ICR will present a follow up discussion on white rhino phyto-estrogen receptors. SSP coordinators Randy Rieches-GOHRs, and Adam Eyers-SWRs will be discussing rhino transfers. Additionally there will be speaker spots filled by other researchers and rhino keepers, and up to 12-5 minute facility focuses. Each facility focus will be a short PowerPoint presentation on zoos or parks from around the world, focusing on their facility's work with rhinos. Keepers are encouraged to submit their facility for presentation, as these spots will fill up quickly. This is a great way to "get your

feet wet” by doing a PowerPoint presentation on your zoo. A template is available for anyone interested in sharing about their facility. An unlimited number of poster session spots are also available. For a full list of scheduled speakers see the IRKA website.

May 9th the night of the closing banquet, the Safari Park will also offer the opportunity to participate in the Park’s “Roar-n-Snore” program. You will spend the night at the Safari Park campground, offering panoramic vistas of the Park’s East African field enclosure. (55 acres, over 140 animals from 11 species including 1.6 southern white rhinos and 18 giraffe.) After waking to the sounds of exotic animals you will receive private behind the scenes tours. This package is a \$75 additional cost and will be limited to 30 attendees. Your own transportation from the hotel is required. (A carpool list has already been started for those not having a rental vehicle.)

Roar-n-Snore’s campground is also the location of our closing banquet. Attendees will enjoy a buffet style banquet overlooking the African Plains exhibit. A silent and live auction will raise money to help defer the costs of the 2013 RKW and raise money for the next Workshop. Be sure to bring your dollars and items to donate to this fund raiser!

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. (Not all will qualify for KDP scholarships so apply early!) You will work from a truck with your 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. We look forward to hosting all of you and hope to see you in San Diego next year!

For more details contact Jane Kennedy or Lance Aubery at jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org, janekennedy_rka@cox.net, laubery@sandiegozoo.org

HELPFUL REMINDERS AND INFORMATION!

February 1st is the early bird registration deadline.

Here's the link to the registration form. You can fill in this form online, and send check or money order only payable to IRKA to the address on the form.

http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/workshops/Registration%20form_distributed.pdf

The deadline for the 2nd and final call for papers/posters for the workshop is January 15th! Send us an abstract about whatever cool rhino project you are working on. Submission info can be found here:

http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/workshops/2013_rkw_call_for_papers.pdf

There's more scholarship funding available for the workshop. Visit the IRKA website link for the application and instructions. Deadline is February 1st.

<http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/workshops/scholarship.htm>

Do you need a roommate for the Rhino Keeper Workshop? Do you have any questions about the Workshop? Let us know! Post them on our Facebook page or send us a message.

