



*The newsletter for rhino
professionals*

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January 2013

THE CRASH

International Rhino Keeper Association

NOTE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It is already 2013, and the Rhino Keeper Workshop is quickly approaching and it promises to be a memorable one !! As we look towards the future, I encourage our membership to think about what direction they'd like the organization to go, help us continue to grow, and meet our lofty goals.

We have a group of very dedicated professionals leading this organization but we want to know what else we should be doing for our members. Our mission is to promote professional collaboration and development while striving to improve conservation efforts world-wide. Looking at this mission, I would like to ask each of our members and supporters to let us know what the IRKA can do to accomplish this task.

We have some great opportunities for our membership, such as the Keeper Professional Development Program, Rhino Keeper Workshop,

Facebook page, etc., but are there more things that you as a member would like to see? In this edition of The Crash you will find a list of committees and opportunities present within the IRKA, and I encourage you to get involved. The Board of Directors will also be putting together surveys and questionnaires to help guide us, but don't wait to let us know if you have some ideas for improving the organization now!!

On a personal note, I would like to thank our dedicated board members for getting this fledgling organization where it is today, and I look forward to another year of working with them.

Adam Felts

President, IRKA

INTERNATIONAL RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OVERVIEW

Below is a list of committees, responsibilities and members of committees. These are brief descriptions of the expectations of committee members. The hopes of the IRKA Board of Directors are that members of these committees have the initiative and motivation to take ownerships of the committee they sit on and develop a plan, initiate the plan, and see the plan to completion, while communicating to the BOD of their progress. This is an opportunity for members and BOD to become actively involved, but will require self motivation and dedication to be successful. The BOD will give guidance when needed.

CINCO DE RHINO – Persons on this committee are responsible for organizing, creating, and communicating activities and ideas to help IRF promote this event. Persons on this committee will engage the IRKA membership to attempt to have as many participants in North American zoos hosting an event on May 5th.

Chairperson	Randy Pairan
Committee members	Jonnie Caprio

CORRESPONDENCE – Persons on this committee will be charged with the responsibility of communicating to the membership and other rhino organizations about major events, such as births, deaths, daily news, as well as organizing and communicating to others about these events, which will include major holidays. This committee will communicate these things via the Gmail account as well as Facebook and possibly Twitter.

Chairperson	Alisa Sandor
Committee members	Christine Stephan Jonnie Caprio Kristin Forker (Facebook)

ELECTION – Persons on this committee will be charged with organizing annual board of director's election. It includes planning, setting up a time frame of nominations, and then voting, receiving nominations, ensuring nominations are members, and submit professional descriptions. Write a document to be submitted to the Crash, Face book, IRKA website and sent to members. Count the votes, and report them back to the BOD.

Chairperson	Stephanie Richmond
Committee members	Jade Tuttle Christine Stephan

ETHICS – An ethics committee has been created to oversee any ethics violations and to ensure that members are abiding by the code of conduct according the IRKA bylaws. This ethics committee will investigate and report and violations to the BOD.

Chairperson	Lance Aubrey
Committee members	Jane Kennedy

FINANCE AND UNDERWRITING – This committee was created to oversee financial assets of the IRKA as well creating, initiating and reporting other ideas to increase funding that the IRKA may receive.

Finance Chairperson	Vickie Steele
Finance Committee members	Adam Felts
Underwriting Chairperson	Jane Kennedy
Underwriting Committee members	Dave Clawson

GRANTS – The grants committee will be responsible for seeking, applying and investigating grant opportunities that the IRKA may be eligible for. These efforts will include seeking funding to support the keeper development program, the Rhino Keeper Workshop, and in-situ/ex-situ rhino conservation work.

Chairperson	Lara Metrione
Committee members	Jonnie Caprio

KEEPER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE – Members of this committee are assigned the task of receiving applications, processing applications, and communicating to the hosting institution on behalf of the rhino keeper wanting to participate. This committee will also be responsible for deciding what (if any) reimbursement will be acceptable to give, not exceeding \$500.

- Chairperson Randy Pairan
- Committee members Christine Bobko
Lance Aubrey

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP – This committee is designed to bring in local funding to the institution hosting the Rhino Keeper Workshop. This committee can accept in kind donations as well as monetary donations. This committee is responsible for seeking out willing partners in the region where the Rhino Keeper Workshop is held.

- Chairperson Jane Kennedy
- Committee members Lance Aubrey

MARKETING – This is a committee design to promote, market, and raise awareness of the IRKA. This committee is responsible for creating ideas, opportunities and other avenues that can raise money for the IRKA. This committee is also responsible for acknowledging institutions that have supported the IRKA via plaques, website, and other avenues.

- Chairperson Christine Bobko
- Committee members Randy Parian
Sara Wunder

MEMBERSHIP – The membership committee is responsible for ensuring an up-to-date membership roster and sending an updated listed periodically to the BOD. This is generally going to be chaired by the IRKA Treasurer and someone who has access to a 5/3 Bank.

- Chairperson Sara Wunder
- Committee members Jennifer Conaghan
Vickie Steele

PUBLICATIONS

- Chairperson Christine Bobko
- Committee members Jennifer Minichino
Mindi Scott
Christine Stephan

RHINO KEEPER WORKSHOP – Members of this committee will be responsible for the planning and raising of funds for the up coming Rhino Keeper Workshop. In general the chairperson of this committee will be an employee of the institution that is hosting the workshop. This chairperson is responsible for assigning responsibilities, raising funds, and the over all planning of the workshop which includes finding a hotel sight, speaker invitations, call for papers, etc.

- Chairperson Jane Kennedy
- Committee members Lance Aubrey
Dr. Chris Tubs
Jonnie Caprio
Gloria Kendal
Matt Gelvin
Charlie Hyde
Jennifer Minichino
Laura Weiner

SCHOLARSHIP – Members of this committee are responsible for reading and voting on Rhino Keeper Scholarship submissions. The chair will receive the scholarships and then copy and distribute copies of the applications to the committee members and then a vote will be taken.

- Chairpersons Dorothy Forman
- Committee members Vickie Steele
Adam Felts
Kristin Forker

WEBSITE – The chair of this committee will be responsible for designing, updating and creating the IRKA website.

- Chairperson Dave Clawson
- Committee members Adam Felts
Jonnie Caprio

WORLD RHINO DAY – The chair of this committee will be responsible for World Rhino Day activities. This includes preparing information, and communicating to members on how to get involved with World Rhino Day. To this date, it is a simple concept where we are asking members to go to their favorite local bar or restaurant and give them the pre-written letter on behalf of the IRKA and ask for their financial support on World Rhino Day.

- Chairperson Adam Felts
- Committee member Christine Stephan

EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE RHINO

Written by Bill Konstant, Program Officer for IRF

That may be a bit presumptuous, but no one can deny that Andatu, the first Sumatran rhino born in captivity in Indonesia, was a media favorite from the instant he plunked down onto the tropical forest floor in Way Kambas National Park earlier this year. Andatu entered the world shortly after midnight on June 23, 2012, his mother, Ratu, having endured a pregnancy of almost 16 months and her caretakers having pulled out all the stops to ensure a successful delivery. Ratu's



veterinarians had placed her on a hormone replacement regimen to decrease the chances of miscarriage (she suffered two previously); the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary staff had constructed a special boma for mother and calf, complete with closed circuit video cameras to provide round-the-clock surveillance; and the International Rhino Foundation had flown in rhino specialists from Australia and the United States to be present before, during and after the birth. Nothing about this very special event was left to chance.

Andatu's birth weight was estimated at 60 pounds, which placed him squarely at the bottom of the ladder among the four Sumatran rhinos that have been born in captivity this century. The other three hail from the Cincinnati Zoo. Andatu's father, Andalas (September

13, 2001), weighed 73 pounds, his aunt Suci (July 31, 2004), weighed 75, and his uncle Harapan (April 30, 2007), weighed a whopping 86 pounds. Had they been a litter, Andatu would have been the runt.



Rhinos grow very quickly, however, and he is no exception. At six months of age, the little guy now lugs around about 500 pounds of perissodactyl. By the time he's a year old, he'll probably tip the scales at close to half a ton. In essence, Andatu will increase in weight from a wet sack of corn to a classic Harley Davidson motorcycle (with driver) in just 365 days. That will require some serious "bulking up" – putting on at least two and maybe three pounds per day - which he's very capable of doing.



Andatu stands nearly shoulder to shoulder with his mother.



Only a few weeks before Andatu was born, the president of Indonesia officially announced the International Year of the Rhino, using the impending birth to call attention to the world's two rarest rhino species – the Sumatran rhino and the Javan rhino – both of which are native to Indonesia. Subsequently, Andatu's arrival made national and international headlines, he was filmed as part of the new wildlife documentary, Attenborough's Ark, his photo has been chosen for the cover of International Rhino Keepers Association's 2013 calendar, and he's been friended on Facebook by more than 1,200 people around the world. His horn may not grow to the largest of the world's rhinos, but if he had an ego it surely might.

As we follow Andatu's progress in the months and years ahead, we'll be looking forward to the day when he's fully mature and can make his own contribution to the

Sumatran rhino gene pool. In the interim, his father and mother may produce additional calves, and there's perhaps a 50/50 chance that Andalas will eventually mate with one of the other two adult females in residence at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary – Rosa and Bina. All of these potential pairings increase the likelihood that conservation efforts on behalf of this critically endangered species will be successful.



Become friends with Andatu on Facebook by going to :

<http://www.facebook.com/andatu.rhino>

Or check out the International Rhino Foundation website for the latest updates and pictures of Andatu by going to :

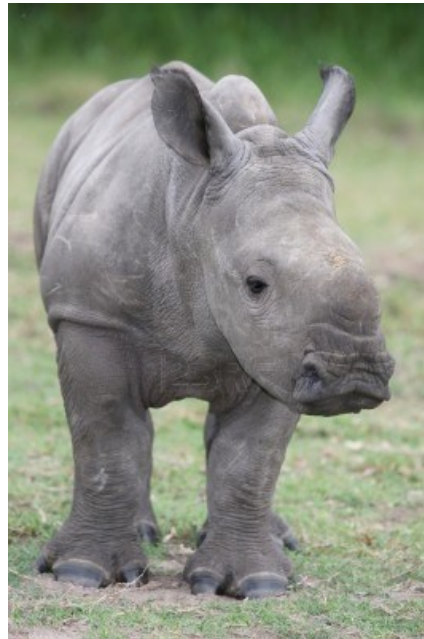
<http://www.rhinos.org>

CORRESPONDENCE EVENTS OF 2012

Our correspondence committee is committed to acknowledging the latest rhino happenings all around the world. 2012 was a great year for births, exhibit openings and special events such as Bowling for Rhinos and World Rhino Day. We would like to take this chance to congratulate all the institutions with these great accomplishments. We apologize if we are missing anyone, but we would love to acknowledge in our next issue.

RHINO BIRTHS

Fort Worth Zoo
International Rhino Foundation
Cleveland Metropark Zoo
Zoo Basel
Pittsburg Zoo
Chester Zoo
Busch Gardens
Knowsley Safari Park
The Wilds



NEW RHINO ACQUISITIONS

Brookfield Zoo
Bronx Zoo
Port Lympne
Birmingham Zoo
Cameron Park Zoo
Albuquerque Biological Park
Blank Park Zoo
Oklahoma City Zoo
Kansas City Zoo

SPECIAL EVENTS

Potter Park Zoo	Fossil Rim
Houston Zoo	Auckland Zoo
St. Louis Zoo	Taronga Zoo
Knowsley Safari Park	Monarto
Port Lympne	Redwood Coast AAZK
Edinburgh Zoo	
Zoo Basel	
Lewa	
Ol Pejeta	
San Diego Zoo and Safari Park	
Phoenix Zoo	
Cameron Park Zoo	

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome the following for becoming the newest members of IRKA and continuing our goal of promoting professional collaboration, development and practices to advance rhinoceros conservation worldwide.

Linda Reifschneider	St. Louis Zoo Docent and President of Asian Elephant Support
Merrill Buettner	Docent at St. Louis Zoo
Jean Mano	Racine Zoo, Volunteer in Animal Care
Erin Fitzgerald	Maryland Zoo, Animal Keeper
Jillian Huwe	Kansas City Zoo
Trina R. Singley	
Megan Lumpkin	Dallas Zoo, Lead Keeper
Chris Andrus	San Diego Zoo, Animal Care Manager
Kristina Nelson	San Diego Zoo, Senior Animal Trainer
Krista Perry	San Diego Zoom Senior Animal Trainer
Kelly Elins	San Diego Zoo Global, Senior Animal Trainer
Michael Suhn	San Diego Zoo, Zoo Keeper
Barbara Letton	San Diego Zoo, Zoo Keeper
Jennifer Moll	San Diego Zoo, Lead Keeper
Douglas Kresl	San Diego Zoo Global, Senior Mammal Keeper
Ivory Ortega-Martinez	San Diego Zoos Safari Park, Buildings & Grounds Attendant
Sonja Jaramillo	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Education Assistant
Mindy Albright	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Elephant Keeper
Danielle Crawford	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Photo Caravan Safari Guide
Justine Zafran	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Senior Keeper

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Jake Sheperd	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Mammal Keeper
Meghann Sweeney	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Keeper
Justin A. Shaw	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Caravan Guide
Paatricia Huntley	San Diego Zoo Safari Park,
Mike Veale	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Mammal Keeper
Kelsey Brandt	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Educator
Alex Higley Konold	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Educator
Stephanie Norling	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Elephant Keeper
Sasha Stallard	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Operations Supervisor
Ian Chatfield	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Caravan Guide
Amanda Lussier	San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Educator
Megan Morrison	Busch Gardens, Associate Animal Care Specialist
Brian Hart	Busch Gardens, Senior I Keeper
Beverly Ervin	St. Louis Zoo, Volunteer
Barbara Hammershoy	
Lynn Rice	San Diego Zoological Society, Volunteer
David Rice	San Diego Zoological Society, Volunteer
Sorell V. Murillo	Sponsored by Dean Kawi
Tamara McCartney	
David Sacco	

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 RPU's 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.



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



2012 SPONSORS AT \$2000 AND ABOVE



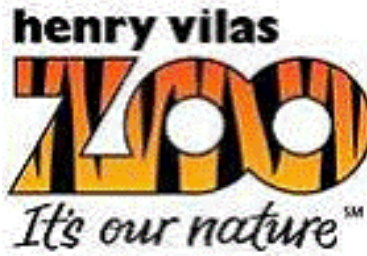
Zoological Society of San Diego

Sponsoring \$5000 for 2011-2012

Hosting the 2012 Board of Directors Meeting



2012 SPONSORS AT THE \$250—\$500 LEVEL



2012 SPONSORS AT \$100 LEVEL

