



# The Crash

Newsletter for rhino professionals

November 2016

## Presidents Perspective:

As I write this, a year ago today November 22, we lost our beloved Nola, the northern white rhino. She was an icon, one of the world's most well known rhinos. She was sweet, and beautiful, and brought a keen awareness to rhino conservation worldwide. It has also been a quick year. It's hard to believe I have been working with rhinos for over 30 years, and part of the IRKA and Rhino Keeper Workshops since 1999. As I wind down my career, and time with the IRKA, 2016 has been both a great year and a sad year. At my home institution we have seen 3 rhinos born (1 stillborn), 2 rhinos shipped, 1 rhino received (Monica!), and the last of our original rhinos die - Macite came from Africa to the Wild Animal Park in 1971, then transferred to Audubon Zoo.

While for wild rhinos defined poaching numbers might be lower than last year, the drought and other causes still have rhino deaths too high. People are coming together from around the world recognizing the plight of rhinos, but we're still losing them. As members of the IRKA we are doing something: we're stepping forward to help rhinos by learning more about our ex-situ rhinos and sending needed funds overseas to help protect in-situ rhinos. We're also sharing our knowledge of captive management with facilities like Way Kambas to develop a greater understanding of rhinoceros management. An easy way you can help is to buy a Rhino Conservation Calendar. 100 percent of the proceeds goes to the IRF for funding in-situ conservation.

Several of our members have focused on raising funds for protection of rhinos. Two, Chad Harmon and Angie Snowie, were nominated for the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship because of their efforts. Additionally, one of our newest members, Ofat Sofwatuddin Turmuzdie, was nominated for his work bringing the story of his local Javan rhinos to his countrymen and the world. All three were nominated for their dedication to saving rhinos worldwide. The TFMS is nominated and voted on, by the board of directors. Read my article on this award and how and why it was established; any member can be nominated for this award, maybe it will be you in 2018!

Our KPDP article is by Cassandra Kutilek. She traveled to Cincinnati to learn about black and greater one-horned rhino taking what she learned back to Chicago's Brookfield Zoo. Her article is very informative and describes working with rhinos in a smaller zoo setting, something many of us do. The Cincinnati crew at CREW does an amazing job teaching others about how they manage rhino. (Two of our former board members Randy and Wendy are on this team.)

The board of directors has some new faces this year, Jade Tuttle and Christy Nitz. Both Jade and Christy have been with IRKA for many years and bring valuable and extensive experience to the job. Read their bios to learn more about our newest BOD members. Returning as board members are Ray Hren and Chris Bobko.

Chris is working hard as our RKW Denver Zoo chair, workshop preparations are keeping her busy. I'm very excited to be in Denver this August where, for me, the highlight will be visiting the Arsenal. The Arsenal is where the United States stores all of its confiscated deceased endangered species. It will be a very emotional visit but something I think we all need: perspective. We all need to continue on the path that we are on so we can continue making a difference for endangered species - especially rhinos. Early registration is open now and closes January 31st. The first scholarship application process closes December 15th, so if you would like to apply for a scholarship, be sure to get your paperwork in on time. A second application may be offered if there are additional scholarships available. We have increased the amount of our domestic scholarships to \$300. Denver is also a KPDP institution, another way you can get funding to attend our Workshop. Joe Hauser is chair of both committees so get your paperwork to him on time so you can be considered for these scholarships, yes they can be combined. See Joe's article for more details.

This newsletter's correspondence updates are rewarding and sad for me personally. With 3 new rhino births at the park we are blessed, but losing one as a stillborn, and losing Macite is sad. Macite was the oldest southern white rhino in captivity at 53! She transferred to Audubon Zoo many years ago and lived out her life at Audubon. Thank you Audubon Zoo for taking such good care of our girl; she will be missed.

As this year winds down I would like to thank you all for being so dedicated to your charges and to the IRKA. If you have not yet figured out your perfect present may I suggest this. December 1st we will be rolling out a new way for you and others to help save rhinos through the IRKA. We will be establishing a monthly giving campaign where individuals or corporations can donate monthly to our organization. The funds raised will be used to help both in-situ and ex-situ rhinos. For only \$19 a month, 64 cents a day, you can help our organization remain strong, delivering the best in rhino care by supporting our mission and its goals. The International Rhino Keeper Association makes a difference in this world. If you can help monthly, or would like to help in another's name please consider the IRKA. I will be dedicating my pledge to my dear sweet Nola, knowing she benefited from the care the IRKA had to offer. I will be giving to the IRKA so they can remain RHINO STRONG! Thank you, and remember, what you do makes a difference.

Jane, Learn Share Save

### Inside this issue:

#### President's Perspective:

Jane Kennedy 1

KPD Program: Cassandra Kutilek 2

#### New BOD Directors:

Rhino Conservation Calendar 3

#### Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship :

Nominees and Winner! 4-5

#### 2017 Rhino Keeper Workshop Update:

Call for papers  
Registration 6-9

#### Rhino Buddies

Correspondence Updates 10

Keeper Development Program 11

#### IRKA New and Renewing

Members 12

Institutional Supporters 13-14



Katie Kennedy-Garagarza, Jane and Nola

## Keeper Professional Development Program : Cassandra Kutilek

It was a chilly and damp morning outside, but inside the rhino barn, it was warm and filled with the earthy scent of rhinos. The cheery good morning that the two black rhinos got from their zookeeper roused them enough to plod their way to the front of their enclosure for some breakfast and extra attention.

This was the scene every morning in the rhino barn at the Cincinnati zoo where a pair of Eastern black rhinos and a saucy Indian rhino named Manjula call it home. The black rhinos Utenzi, the male, and Zuri, the female, are a young pair that have been paired together since March. The usual fireworks that are often associated with black rhinos seemed to have settled down, and the two were in a routine that involved breakfast, yard access, and being together all the time. For me, having come from a background where rhinos were only paired during the time of estrous, I was a bit incredulous at the apparent indifference that the pair had with one another. Every pairing that I had seen was with a 28 year old male and a 7 year old female that had erupted in chasing, sparring, and undivided attention to one another. This world, where a pair sleeps next to each other was totally foreign to me, but very clearly worked since the zoo has since announced Zuri's pregnancy due in the summer of 2017.

My main purpose for going to the Cincinnati zoo was to see how another institution paired their rhinos. What they looked for behaviorally and physically and what safety measures were taken for both the rhinos and the staff alike. I had previously worked at Lincoln Park zoo in Chicago, where we used behavioral observations and fecal hormone tests to confirm where Kapuki, our seven year old female, was in her estrous cycle. We would howdy her and our male, Maku, daily to gauge his reactions to her, noting flehmen, erections, foot shuffling. Maku is a like a stodgy old man, and he demands a certain amount of respect. Kapuki, on the other hand, is as sweet as they come. If a muppet came in rhino form, it would be her. When finally the day came for introductions, it was all hands on deck, and it was an intense, but well managed day. There was little interest from Kapuki, seemingly quite the opposite as she ran cautiously away from him, but in captive populations where females are often sent to other institutions at the age of two, I feel like this is often to be expected with young females. Maku was all business and nothing would deter him, but maybe some fresh browse and alfalfa cubes that we used would distract him while we shifted her out of the stall. Sometimes the introduction would last ten minutes and sometimes hours depending on their behavior. Introductions went on like this for over a year, until the day they bred. One breeding session, 150 ejaculations, and fourteen months later we had a little boy calf named King.



Recently, I moved facilities and found myself at the Brookfield Zoo, where once again a five year old female, Layla, and a twenty six year old male, Nakili, have a breeding recommendation via the Species Survival Plan. In only having been at Lincoln Park zoo and seeing how their successful rhino breeding plan went, I would often find myself leaning on my prior experience and some of the difficulties we had had at Lincoln Park. What if they won't separate? What if we miss her cycle? What if there is paramount aggression? Going to Cincinnati and working with their amazing staff, especially Marj Bruzina-Barthel and Wendy Shaftstall, was an exercise in education. The staff understands their animals and they act accordingly, recognizing signs for when the rhinos need a break from each other, or when and whom to shift first, or even when the rhinos might need some extra attention from their keepers. The fact that these two rhinos coexisted during the day together without any aggression or frustration left me with more questions than I had started with, such as if they would come into a "friend zone" or by bucking the natural history if it would spark a quicker attraction. I would fire question after question to the saintly Cincinnati staff, who would answer them as patiently and diligently as possible.



By the end of my week long foray, I was left with the irrefutable proof that the supposed solitary black rhino might not mind being paired together for extended periods of time.

I was also fortunate enough to become better acquainted with CREW and the research that they are doing. I am also proud to say that Brookfield zoo has become a participant in one of their rhino studies as well, which is a direct effect from being at Cincinnati.

At this point, we, at Brookfield zoo have done a handful of introductions and unlike Lincoln Park zoo rhinos, Nakili and Layla seem to want to be around each other, and unlike the Cincinnati rhinos, Nakili and Layla have no issues shifting to wherever we ask. The best lesson learned is that each set of rhinos is unique and

although you should plan for the worst case scenario, it doesn't hurt to hope for the best case scenario. As we learn our animals and strive to do the best we can for them, it's good to know that there are people to lean on and places to go to ask for help, before reinventing the wheel. A special thank you to their fearless and magnificent leader, Christina Gorsuch, who was beyond welcoming and thoughtful with the entire experience. Randy Pairan, Marj Bruzina-Barthel and Wendy Shaftstall, and the rest of the Cincinnati staff, my thanks again for allowing me to infiltrate your daily life, and a thanks to IRKA and Joe Hauser for their help in setting up this exchange. As always a heartfelt thanks to both Lincoln Park Zoo and Brookfield Zoo for your support and cooperation.

## Board of Directors Introductions:

I have been a member of the IRKA for ten years and I am excited to be on the Board of Directors and have a chance to give back to a community that has provided me with so much support over the years. After recently taking on the Membership Chair I would like to see our numbers continue to grow. The more people we have involved the more ideas and experiences we all have to feed off of, both at the conference and in the Facebook group discussions. I am working on ways to increase the opportunity for members to share their triumphs or trials with the rest of the association and am always open to suggestions. This is also the first time I've had the opportunity to help plan a conference and I expect Denver will be a great week next year. Everyone has something worth sharing so consider submitting a paper or a poster, and lets keep learning together.



Jade Tuttle

I'm excited to be joining the BOD's to help further develop and grow the organization. I have found this association to be a wealth of information that has helped in my career. I would like to see IRKA grow in numbers and make sure new rhino keepers are finding the organization as useful as I have. I would like to get a understanding on what the members are looking for when joining IRKA especially as new members.



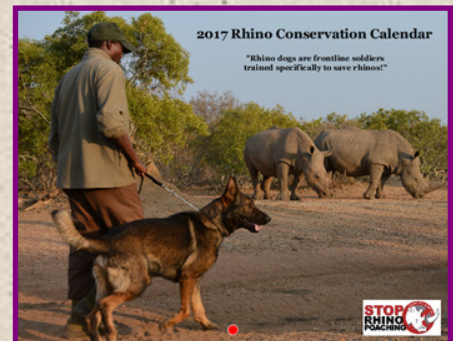
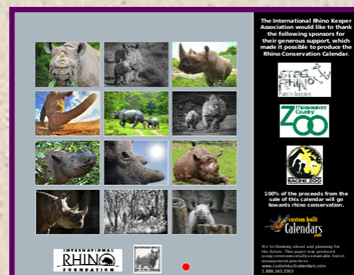
Christy Nitz

WELCOME!

## 2017 Rhino Conservation Calendar!!!

Don't wait until the last minute to order your 2017 Rhino Conservation Calendar! Get your holiday shopping done early! Order a calendar today!

The 2017 Rhino Conservation Calendar will be supporting rhino dogs! Rhino dogs are frontline soldiers trained specifically to save rhinos. The work these dogs do is invaluable to the conservation and protection of rhinoceros. The International Rhino Foundation, along with South Africa's organization Stop Rhino Poaching will be the recipient of all funds raised by the 2017 Rhino Conservation Calendar. For each \$5,000 we raise, we fund another rhino dog soldier and all of its training needs. Calendars are \$27 each with FREE shipping (Including International shipping!). You can purchase them at the International Rhino Keeper Association's (IRKA) website <http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org>



# Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship Program



## Historical Perspective:

Dr. Tom Foose loved rhinoceroses. He was the Director of the International Rhino Foundation and was instrumental in establishing Rhino Keeper Workshops. As the first Advisor to Board of the International Rhino Keeper Association (IRKA), he helped guide the original Steering Committee establishing the direction and focus of the organization: education. Tom believed if people across the world could work together to learn about, and then save rhinos, things could change. His enthusiasm made people stop and think about what they could do to help rhinos. He inspired people to set aside their personal, national and institutional agendas to focus on preventing rhinoceros extinction. The founding members of the Board of Directors established the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship to recognize his contribution to our organization and encourage others to step forward and make similar contributions. This scholarship is to recognize his irreplaceable guidance and tireless dedication to rhinoceros conservation.

## Purpose:

To acknowledge International Rhino Keeper Association members who have demonstrated a dedication to rhinoceros conservation through educational efforts resulting in the direct benefit of rhino conservation. The recipient will receive up to \$1,000 in scholarship to defer costs for travel, lodging, registration and meals not funded by the attendee's home institution in order to attend Rhino Keeper Workshops. Recipients will share their educational and conservation efforts at the Workshop. With this award the Board of Directors and the Advisor to the Award recognizes those individuals who have significantly contributed their time to promote and advance rhinoceros education and conservation.

## Endowment:

Dr. Don Paglia, friend and colleague of Dr. Tom Foose, has endowed the IRKA to make this award possible for the next 10 workshops! Dr. Paglia, like Dr. Foose, has worked tirelessly to educate the rhinoceros community about iron storage disease, a fatal disease found in captive black rhinoceroses. With this endowment Dr. Paglia will ensure the education of future generations of rhinoceros caretakers.

## Criteria:

Any member in good standing 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's mission 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.

## Award:

The IRKA will present the award to the recipient at the next Rhino Keeper Workshop. In addition, their contribution to the IRKA's mission will be acknowledged at the Workshop, on the IRKA website, in The Crash, and in the annual membership meeting minutes. Recipients will be required to provide an article to the Crash about their work and contributions to rhinoceros education and conservation.

*The nominees for 2017 are Angie Snowie, Ofat Sofwatuddin Turmuzdie, and Chad Harmon. All 3 have worked to share the plight of the rhino. Read why these 3 members earned their nomination...*

### **Angie Snowie: Toronto Zoo, Rhino Keeper**

Since attending her first Rhino Keeper Workshop in San Diego 2013, Angie has become a driving force in the fundraising community, and an active participant in IRKA. Through her work with her foundation "I heart Rhinos", and other fundraising activities she has raised over \$67,000 for rhino conservation. With her infectious energy, passion and drive for rhinos, Angie funneled this into a fundraising strategy including selling various cool T-shirts, sweatshirts, bracelets and hosting events including silent auctions.

Her passion was fueled by attending one workshop where she took full advantage of all the knowledge and experience at her finger tips. This information then became the critical building block for a fledgling rhino keeper that would soon experience the birth of her first GOH calf. In the last two years, Angie's focus has been on fundraising to attain a lifelong goal of traveling to Africa. In 2015, she won the national "Bowling for Rhinos" trip, and once again this year to Sumatra. Angie embodies the spirit of the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship in which the love of learning can empower us to make a huge impact not only in the lives of wild rhinos, but in our daily journey as a rhino keeper.



### **Ofat Sofwatuddin: "BADAK CLUB"**

Ofat Sofwatuddin serves as a conservation officer, and lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. He is new to the IRKA and is one of our Rhino Buddies. Local people need to eat but many are jobless; conservation must be in harmony with the economy. Ofat tries to find alternative resources and incomes for local community by inspiring ecotourism. The Community Empowerment Program is one of the solutions to decreasing Javan rhino habitat encroachment. The program entails ecotourism development to increase awareness and knowledge about the conservation of rhinos for visitors. It also creates business opportunities and employment to increase the income of local communities and the economic growth at local, regional, and national levels. As an alternative and sustainable source of income for local communities, Javan rhino conservation can build both the population of rhinos and the welfare of the surrounding community. Ofat serves as a link to these communities.

In 2003 Ofat established the "BADAK CLUB" (RHINO CLUB) to educate his community in conserving flora and Fauna. By 2010 he helped build the Ujung Kulon Guides Club and in 2012 Ujung Kulon Ecotourism Service Provided Forum for local people. Ofat also sponsors a Facebook page titled "Friends of Rhinos." You can connect with him here and follow him!

### **Chad Harmon: Horns and Heroes Project**

Chad Harmon created and manages the Horns & Heroes Project which began in 2012. The Horns and Heroes Project's mission is to help ensure the survival of all rhinos. Involving the efforts of local and international artists, Horns and Heroes fosters a community supported event, advocating awareness, raising funds, and assisting in conservation efforts. An art show and auction is held benefiting the International Rhino Foundation and the survival of rhinos throughout the world.

Not only does this event raise money, but it brings awareness and educates the public about rhinos and the threats rhinos face. Chad's Project has also been supported by Disney's Animal Kingdom by displaying the art pieces at the Park and the Animal Kingdom Lodge to educate guests about rhino conservation. People from around the world visit Disney and take back to their home country the plight of rhinos worldwide. Since 2012, Chad's Horns & Heroes Project has raised \$56,000 all for rhinoceros conservation!



While all three nominees are deserving, the board of directors has chosen Chad Harmon for his Horns and Heroes Project. He has demonstrated a commitment to the IRKA, IRF and rhino conservation through educational and fundraising efforts resulting in a direct benefit to rhinos. Chad has earned the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship, come meet him in person at the next Rhino Keeper Workshop!

Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible to receive this award.

## 2017 Rhino Keeper Workshop Update : Christine Bobko, Denver

Greetings everyone!! I am really excited to unveil our 2017 Workshop logo created by the talented artist Cathy Lester whose work you are familiar with because she also created our organizations logo. We would like to extend our true gratitude to Cathy for all her hard work and collaboration over the past few months.

The Workshop Committee has been hard at work over the last few months hammering out the hotel and logistical basics that are a large part of producing a quality workshop for all of our attendees. Please find below an overview of our schedule of events for the week:

August 6th: Optional Trip: Dinosaur Ridge Tour and Hike at Red Rocks Amphitheater

August 6th: Registration and Icebreaker

August 7th: Talks 8:00-5:00 pm

August 8th: Talks 8:00 –12:00; Tour of Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Repository

August 9th: Zoo Day 9:00 to 9:00; Tours, Lunch, Dinner and Cocktails, Silent/Live auction and world class comedy of Josh Blue!

August 10th: Final day of Talks, close of Workshop

August 11th: Optional trip to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

August 12th: Optional trip to Pikes Peak Cog incline Railroad

OR

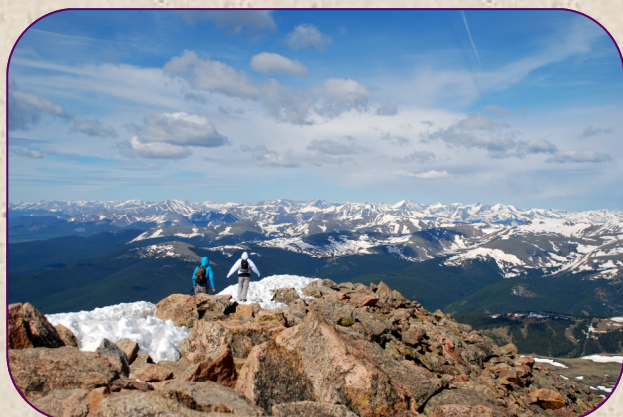
Climbing for Rhinos: Conquer a fourteener! Climb to the top of Mt. Bierstadt for RHINOS!



Dinosaur Ridge



Pikes Peak Cog Incline Railroad



This could be you on the Summit of Mt. Bierstadt!!



## 2017 Rhino Keeper Workshop Hosted by the Denver Zoo



**Call for Papers Deadline March 1, 2017**



The International Rhino Keeper Association is announcing the first call for papers for the 2017 Rhino Keeper Workshop in Denver, Colorado. We are accepting abstracts for all rhino related topics for presentation. The Workshop is a dynamic week of presentations about: in situ research, husbandry, care and training methods and accomplishments, ex situ medical case studies, reports from the field, ideas for fundraising. Additionally, there will be Keynote Speakers, expert led round table discussions, and Facility Focus presentations.

Most presentations are 15-20 minutes, including time for Q & A. The Facility Focus is a five minute PowerPoint of your facility highlighting your zoo's rhino program. These are a great way for a novice speaker to gain public speaking experience in front of a friendly and supportive audience. A template for Facility Focus presentations will be provided on the website in early 2017. Additionally, there will be a poster session, and all topics are welcome for this session.

If you have an idea for a presentation and need help developing it further, please contact us! We encourage a lot of keeper participation in this Workshop and love having a variety of topics available for learning opportunities. Below are the guidelines for submitting an abstract for consideration and they are also posted on the IRKA website. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and participation in this organization and we look forward to what exciting topics you have to share with this group. Please submit a 500 word (maximum) abstract to Jonnie Capiro ([jcapiro@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:jcapiro@sandiegozoo.org)) no later than March 1, 2017. Abstract submissions will also be accepted via the IRKA website.

Please use the following format for submission:

Name:

Job Title:

Institution:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Type of Presentation (choose one) - PowerPoint, Facility Focus, Poster

Topic: Relevant Species:

Time Requested: Max 20 mins, including Q & A

Presentation Needs:

Title: Body of Abstract (500 words max):



## 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Rhino Keeper Workshop, Denver Colorado

**August 6-12, 2017**

Pre-RKW trip August 6, post-workshop trips August 11 and 12, 2017

### REGISTRATION FORM

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No (include country code) \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION FEES

FULL REGISTRATION FEES <small>Includes icebreaker, refreshments, arsenal / zoo visit and dinner</small>	Professional Member rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Early registration before 31 January 2017	\$245.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registration from 1 February-June 15, 2017	\$280.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registration after June 16, 2017	\$310.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>

Associate Member rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
\$255.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$290.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$320.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non-member rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No discount	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$325.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$350.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>

DAILY RATES*	Professional Member rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monday August 7, 2017	\$75.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday August 8, 2017	\$90.00 USD**	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday August 9, 2017	\$85.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday August 10, 2017	\$75.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>

Associate Member rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
\$75.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$90.00 USD**	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$85.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$75.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non-member rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
\$85.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100.00 USD**	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$85.00 USD	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*Daily rates will be accepted only after all full registrations have been processed.

\*\*Daily rates for the Arsenal will be limited, and will be awarded to members before non-member requests are processed.



PRE AND POST WORKSHOP TRIPS

**Sunday: August 6th, 2017-Dinosaur Ridge Hike.**

Dinosaur Ridge is a local hiking area that offers very low cost access (\$2) and tours (\$6). It features fossil remains including those of extant rhino species. Costs including transportation are expected to be less than \$15 per person. Those member interested will be encouraged to connect via the RKW chair, Chris Bobko. Contact her at rhinoqueen@yahoo.com.

**Friday: August 11, 2017-Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Trip**

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo features the largest herd of giraffe in North America. The new \$13.5 million Encounter Africa features a herd of African elephants, lions and black rhino. The surroundings of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo truly make this a unique facility that you don't want to miss! This trip will be limited to 20 people and will include admission, tour, and lunch. Cost to be determined but is expected to be less than \$25 per person.

**Saturday: August 12, 2017-Pike's Peak Cog Railway**

Pike's Peak is one of the most beautiful regions in North America. It features Pike's Peak at 14,115 feet. The Cog Railway (an inclination railway) winds up the mountain offering one of kind views of the Rocky Mountains region. This trip will be organized by the workshop committee and be limited to 25 people. Costs will include admission to the Cog Railway (\$38) and transportation to and from the railway depot. Costs are expected to be less than \$50 per person. Reservations will be a must for this trip to ensure seats on the railway. Tickets are non-refundable, but may be used/sold to another RKW participant if you are not able to make the trip. Reservation deadlines are June 1, 2017.

**Saturday: August 12, 2017 - Mt. Bierstadt**

Join us for "Climbing for Rhinos" scaling Mt. Bierstadt in the name of rhino conservation! Participants NEED to be in good physical health to participate!!! Mount Bierstadt is a fourteener in Colorado. Fourteeners are mountains with at least 14,000 feet of elevation at their summit. Bierstadt is a great mountain to start on for those that are new to hiking fourteeners. It is still strenuous on beginner hikers but manageable if you pace yourself. It is highly recommended to prepare yourself physically before attempting any fourteener, plus, getting in shape beforehand will make the experience that much more enjoyable. We will limit the number of participants to 20 people! We would like to fundraise for rhino conservation on this climb, so sponsor sheets will go out to those interested in participating. Fee \$20.00 for snacks, water and gas.

I am interested in attending

Dinosaur Ridge August 6, 2017 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo trip August 11, 2017 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Pike's Peak Cog Railway August 12, 2017 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Mt. Bierstadt Climb August 12, 2017 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me via email at \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

Payment method:

- Enclosed Check \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to IRKA)
- PayPal via IRKA website
- Credit card Please charge \_\_\_\_\_ to  VISA  MasterCard

Card No \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Paper registration forms and checks made payable to IRKA can be mailed to:

IRKA  
581705 White Oak Road  
Yulee, FL 32097

# “Rhino Buddies”

## Sponsor an IRKA Professional Membership for an International Rhino Keeper!

The International Rhino Keeper Association is based in North America. Membership dues are based on American costs of living and English is our primary language. The brain child of our past president Adam Felts, the Rhino Buddies program helps our international colleagues be part of the association. Those members who can afford to sponsor an out of country member pay the annual dues for another, paying forward to anyone who would like to be a "Rhino Buddy." Members are paired and then establish an electronic connection, developing each other's skills as rhino caretakers and growing a friendship in the process.

We invite you to either be a recipient or a sponsor. We will pair you with an international rhino caretaker and get the ball rolling. There is an easy to fill out form for each position. You can also request someone you already know, and we can pair you as Rhino Buddies and let you take it from there. If you are interested in connecting with someone outside of your country please contact me and we will connect you with someone who will help you develop your rhino knowledge, and you help develop theirs. We will try to connect like minded members, meaning a professional will connect with a professional, a supporting professional will connect with a supporting professional, and an associate member will connect with an associate member. Exceptions to this rule can be requested when Rhino Buddies already know each other. For more information contact me at [jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org) or [janeKennedy\\_rka@cox.net](mailto:janeKennedy_rka@cox.net). Or Jennifer Conaghan at [jconaghn@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jconaghn@zoo.nsw.gov.au)

I hope you consider becoming a rhino buddy, helping to expand our membership and better serve our charges, the rhinos.

Jane Kennedy

President, IRKA Learn. Share. Save.

# BUDDIES!

*Chuck the SWR and Eric the Eastern black rhino successfully paired at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park! True rhino buddies!*



## Correspondence Updates:

The IRKA send our congratulations and celebrate with the following institutions:

- ◆ Milwaukee County Zoo: Received female black rhino “Josie” from Pittsburg zoo
- ◆ Blank Park Zoo: Birth of female black rhino
- ◆ Lowry Park Zoo: Birth of female SW Rhino
- ◆ Dublin Zoo: Birth of male SW Rhino
- ◆ Great Plains Zoo: Birth of male black rhino
- ◆ White Oak: Birth of female SW rhino
- ◆ Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo: Received male black rhino “Forrest” from Busch Gardens Tampa
- ◆ Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo: de-acquisitioned male black rhino “Juba” to Africam Safari in Mexico
- ◆ San Diego Zoo Safari Park: birth of GOH rhino named Taj
- ◆ The Wilds: birth of male GOH rhino
- ◆ SW bull moved from SDZSP to Wildlife Safari Oregon ( Kayode)



The IRKA sends our condolences to the following institutions:

- ◆ Audubon Nature Institute: Death of beloved female SW rhino “Macite”
- ◆ San Diego Zoo Safari Park : still birth of male SW rhino

## Keeper Professional Development Program:

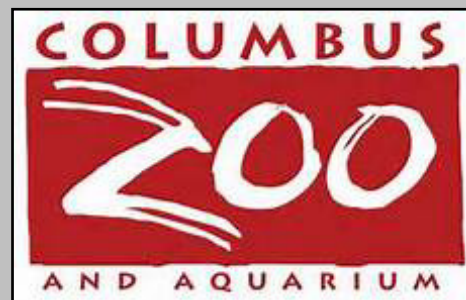
The International Rhino Keeper Association (IRKA) has developed a program that will provide rhino keepers the opportunity to expand their knowledge and husbandry experience. This program has been designed to enable rhino keepers to work at other institutions to familiarize themselves with different management styles. Due to the professional nature of this program, it is only available to Professional or Supporting Professional Rhino Keeper Association members.

The IRKA has selected facilities with different management styles to maximize the keepers' potential for enhancing their expertise. It is the hope of the IRKA that the institutions participating in this program will take this opportunity to share their trials, tribulations, triumphs and successes with their professional colleagues. At this time, the hosting institutions are: Busch Gardens Tampa, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens, The Wilds, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, and Denver Zoo. The concept of the program is quite simple, but we feel it is an invaluable tool for expanding the skills of rhino keepers by providing them the opportunity to work alongside their colleagues and learn the nuances of that institution's husbandry practices.

### Approval process:

The keeper participating in this program must not only have their institution's authorization, but agreement to pay their wages. The institution's approval requires that employee is covered by their institution's workmen's compensation and will provide documentation of personal health insurance. This will provide assurance that the hosting institution will not be liable to cover medical costs. When application has been approved, there will be a fee of \$10 to be contributed to the IRKA scholarship fund.

### Participating Institutions include:



## 2016 New and Renewing Members to IRKA

Jacob Norris	
Jennifer Fedesna	Racine Zoo
Melissa McGee	
Ofat Sofwatuddin Turmuzi	Ujong Kulon NP
Jean Mano	Racine Zoo
Janel Jankowski	Jacksonville Zoo
Jason Pootoolal	African Lion Safari
Jade Tuttle	North Carolina Zoo
Carol Bresnay	Detroit Zoo
Kathryn Clemens	Birmingham Zoo
Taylor Kess	
Gaetan Petit	CERZA Zoo, KwaZulu-Natal
Edward Beyer	
Ellen Wiczorek	Kansas City Zoo
Jeff Dolan	Disney Animal Kingdom
Jennifer Gruenewald	
Cassandra Kutilek	
Denise Wagner	
Leendert Rookmaaker	Editor, Rhino Resource Center
Susanne Wyatt	Indianapolis Zoo
Alice Elliott	
Lawrence Sammarco	
Natalia Oviedo	
Wendy Grave	
Jill Remington	
Jorel Martin	Tulsa Zoo
Sarah King	San Francisco Zoo
Katie Edwards	Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
Alex Droma	Uganda Wildlife Education Center
Carly Barron	The Maryland Zoo
Clinton Kennedy	
Daniel Soler	Lion Country Safari
Natasha Walker	Monarto Zoo
Robyn Johnson	Disney Animal Kingdom
Sam de Belle	FlamingoLand Resort, UK

### **Supporting Institutions New or Renewing**

- ◆ The Wilds
- ◆ Columbus Zoo
- ◆ Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum
- ◆ Lowry Park Zoo
- ◆ International Rhino Foundation
- ◆ Jacksonville Zoo
- ◆ Austin Savanna
- ◆ Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
- ◆ Brian Caldwell– Hyland Way Productions
- ◆ Taronga Zoo and Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- ◆ Henry Vilas Zoo
- ◆ African Lion Safari
- ◆ Cincinnati Zoo
- ◆ White Oak
- ◆ Tanganyika Wildlife Park
- ◆ The Maryland Zoo
- ◆ Rhino Resource Center
- ◆ Horns and Heroes Project
- ◆ San Diego Zoological Society

Anita Scalf	
Herny Opio	Uganda Wildlife Education Center
Jayne Hoffman	Little Rock Zoo
Linda Reifschneider	St. Louis Zoo
Jillian Philips	Buffalo Zoo



*Thank you everyone for renewing your IRKA membership &/or just joining our organization. If you have not been receiving the Crash newsletter or the weekly rhino news emails, please email Jade Tuttle, Membership Chair, at [jade.tuttle@nczoo.org](mailto:jade.tuttle@nczoo.org) so we can make certain that we have your correct 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

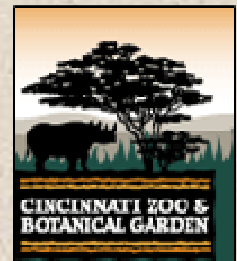
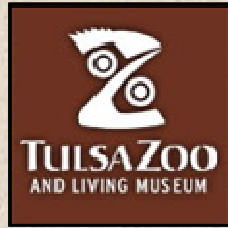
[internationalrhinokeeperassoc@gmail.com](mailto:internationalrhinokeeperassoc@gmail.com).



## 2016 Sponsors at \$2,000 and Above



2016 Sponsors at the \$500 – \$1,999 level



2016 Sponsors at \$100 level

