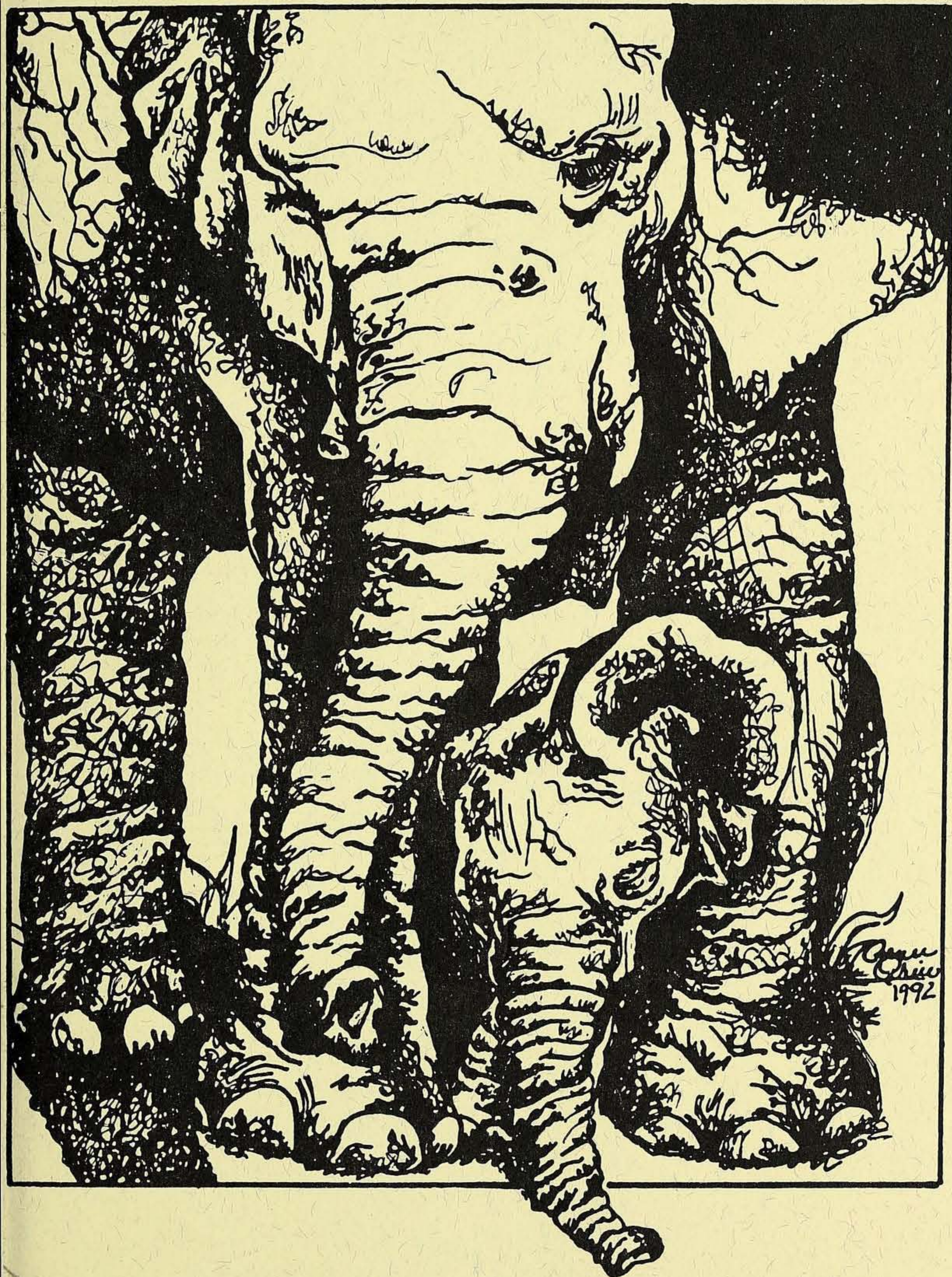


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Animal Keepers' Forum

The Professional Journal of AAZK, Inc.

January 1995



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

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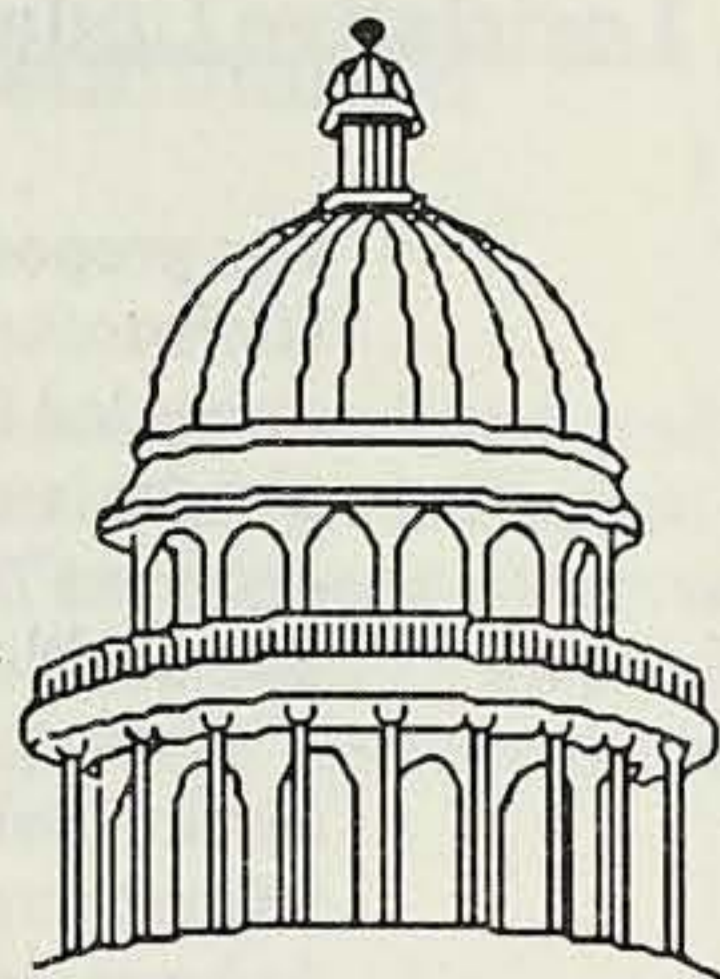
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Legislative Outlook

Compiled by
Phyllis Nilson-Wojcik
Legislative Advisor



Rhino and Tiger Conservation Fund Signed Into Law

After receiving recommendation from the Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 4924 (Rhino and Tiger Conservation Fund) was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in October. The Fund established by legislation could receive as much as \$10 million per year. The money would be allocated to conservation projects of nations whose activities directly or indirectly affect rhino and tiger populations.

USDI Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced that the U.S. would immediately make \$100,000 available to the rhino and tiger fund. This money would come from other programs within the USDI budget during the current fiscal year. U.S. officials said the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. was committed to contributing an additional \$100,000 to the fund as well.

The "Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act" marks the third time in recent years that the U.S. has established an account to aid specific species. In 1988, legislation was enacted to establish funding for African elephant conservation projects. To date, more than \$3 million has been spent on 41 projects in 13 countries. In 1993, the U.S. established a fund for wild bird conservation projects, but no money has been made available yet.

>Excerpted from *African Wildlife Update*, Vol. 3, No. 6, Nov-Dec 1994 from *African Wildlife News Service*, P.O. Box 546, Olympia, WA 98507-0546

CITES Meeting Draws 118 Nations

Delegates from 118 nations gathered in Fort Lauderdale, FL in November for the biennial meeting of the parties to CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. More than 1600 people gathered for the two-week session to discuss a wide range of wildlife trade and conservation issues.

The following touches on some of the main outcomes of the meeting:

- The proposal by South Africa to transfer its population of African elephants from Appendix I to Appendix II for trade in "commodities other than ivory" was withdrawn. They had been seeking approval to sell hides and meat from the hundreds of elephants culled annually in Kruger National Park.
- The Sudan's proposal to transfer its population of African elephants from Appendix I to Appendix II for the purpose of exporting a stockpile of 10,884 tusks during 1995 was withdrawn. While acknowledging that its proposal did not meet the biological criteria established by CITES for the downlisting of elephant populations, the Sudan delegation said its intent in offering the proposal was to have the Parties address "the forgotten issue of stockpiled ivory in Africa".

Legislative Update, *Continued*

- The proposal by South Africa to transfer its population of Southern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) from Appendix I to Appendix II was approved in amended form by a vote of 66-2. South Africa amended its proposal so that only the "sale of live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations and hunting trophies" would be allowed. The original proposal would have allowed trade in perishable white rhino products (such as hides) as well.
- Benin, Belgium and France proposed the inclusion of the Common hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibus*) in Appendix II because trade in its ivory teeth appears to have grown in recent years. Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe sought to have their hippo populations excluded from the listing, but proponents were unwilling to amend the proposal. TRAFFIC expressed concern that a split-listing would create enforcement problems. Approval came on a 70-2 vote. About 160,000 hippos remain in Africa.

The Conference also adopted resolutions calling for continued efforts to protect endangered rhinos. Parties agreed to increase efforts to educate people and discourage the use of products made from rhinos. Consumer countries - including China and Korea - agreed to work with physicians and pharmaceutical companies in the search for alternative medicines that do not use rhino parts.

>Excerpted from *African Wildlife Update*, Vol. 3, No. 6, Nov-Dec 1994 from *African Wildlife News Service*, P.O. Box 546, Olympia, WA 98507-0546



Wild Bird Conservation Act Updates

The finalization of the approved captive-bred species list, allowing importation of 45 exotic species and color mutations of three captive-bred species without a WBCA permit went into effect on 3 January 1995. Other necessary requirements continue to apply, however, such as permits or documents required by CITES, other federal laws, and the exporting country. This approved list of captive-bred species does not regulate the breeding, selling, transport, interstate commerce, or export of birds bred in the United States.

>CITES UPDATE #31, December 1994, U.S. Department of the Interior

Endangered Species Act Update

Creation of a stronger, more ecosystem-based ESA, overdue for reauthorization, may be put on hold for an even longer period of time. Due to the elections held in November, some environmental groups fear pushing for a revised version of a reauthorized ESA may actually result in a weakened ESA. The ESA is automatically reauthorized in its present state but for revisions it must be debated in the House and Senate.

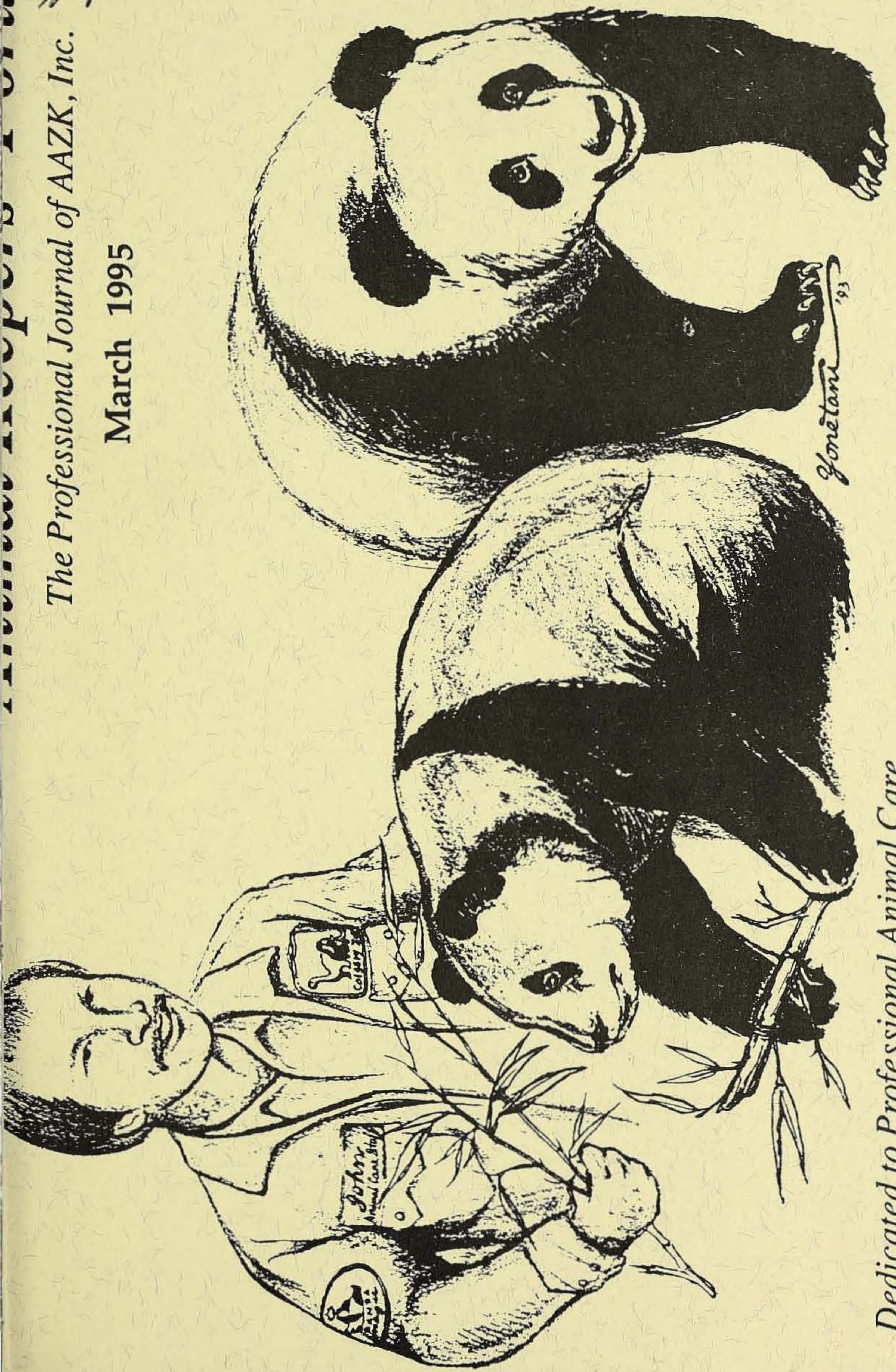


AAZK, Inc. Professional Journal of AAZK, Inc.

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March 1995



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

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Chapter News

Burnet Park Zoo AAZK

Burnet Park Zoo Chapter had a very busy and productive 1994. We did a membership "drive" and gained several new members from the keeper staff, docents, and two members from the Utica Zoo!

We had four lunch seminars: Glen Johnson did a presentation on his field research on the endangered Massasauga rattlesnake; and Dr. Anne Baker, our Zoo Director, gave a talk explaining all the committees of AZA (SSP, TAG, etc.). Keepers Debbie Roth and Peg Louer gave "dress rehearsals of the papers they presented at the National Conference in Omaha. Funds raised by our Chapter helped with the major travel expenses for the conference.

In June we participated in Bowling for Rhinos and were very successful. In December we ran a booth and bonfire during the zoo's annual holiday lights festival. We sold hot chocolate, gingerbread cookies, wildlife notecards, and our own T-shirts and buttons ("If elves had reindeer..." with a picture of our Reeve's muntjac). We also had a "Croaker" at a local bar to raise additional funds. Liz Balko did a presentation on her field research on the lemurs of Madagascar and several of the bar patrons watched and learned despite themselves.

Other fund raising projects include can and bottle recycling, "Tour with a Keeper" and "Sponge-a-Keeper" raffles at zoo picnics, patches, T-shirts, and Burger Bucks. Money raised goes toward sending keepers to the National Conference, funding grants for local wildlife research projects, and funding educational projects including outreach programs and an exhibit about zoo keepers.

Our new slate of officers for 1995 is:

President.....Debbie Roth
Vice Pres.....Peggy Louer
Secretary.....Kate Hannon
Treasurer.....Jeff Hewitt

Additionally we have liaisons for the docents and Board of Directors of the

Friends of the Zoo. We look forward to a great and exciting 1995!

--Charlotte Tagtmeyer, former Secretary

Omaha AAZK Chapter

In December elections were held and the results are as follows:

President.....Bob Lastovica
Vice Pres.....Gary Pettit
Secretary.....Carla Wieser
Treasurer.....Larry Lacoma
Chapter Liaison.....Jay Tetzloff

The Omaha Chapter is trying to move on after hosting the National Conference. We want to keep the intensity that it takes to host a conference and turn that focus into local activities and conservation.

In our January meeting, Dr. Corrine Brown, one of our veterinarians, spoke about her involvement with waterfowl rehabilitation. Dr. Brown is also one of the leading people at the Omaha Zoo on animal enrichment. She helps the keepers maintain their focus on the animals.

In February, Dr. Naida Loskutoff, Henry Doorly Zoo's reproductive physiologist, spoke about her trip to Africa last year. Dr. Loskutoff's talk also showed the Chapter how easy it is to store sperm for almost any mammal.

--Jay Tetzloff, Chapter Liaison

San Diego AAZK Chapter

Our speakers for January were Marty Durham and Kim Weibel, former Wild Animal Park keepers, who spoke about their recent Hyena research project in Africa. This general meeting tied in perfectly with the tape that the Enrichment Committee at the San Diego Zoo is working on. This new committee, made up of keepers from all over the zoo, evaluates different animals, their enclosures and possible enrichment ideas.

In February, we had the Curator of Birds, Bill Toone, speak about his recent butterfly project in Costa Rica. We are donating some of our Animal Buns calendar proceeds to this conservation project.

Bowling for Rhinos is coming up again. We would like to thank Scott and Cindy Woodward for their years of hard work

Chapter News, Continued

as chairpersons of BFR in San Diego. They are turning their positions over to Ron Ringer, Ann Dahl and Dustin Black, three rhino keepers at the San Diego Zoo. We also want to thank Ron, Ann and Dustin for volunteering--we always have a great time at this fundraiser.

Our Animal Buns calendar sales have definitely slowed down. We are still selling them for our wholesale cost of \$5.00 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. Our Chapter memberships and subscription orders to *The Keeper* have still been coming in steadily. We are proud to announce that we now have 285 subscribers and members. Subscriptions to *The Keeper* magazine are \$12.00.

Those of you already receiving the magazine should have our latest issue by now. We are always looking for new ideas, articles and comments which may be sent to the Chapter c/o San Diego Zoo, P.O. Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112.

We are also still accepting proposals for worthy conservation projects to which profits from the calendar sales may be designated. We are looking forward to spring - enjoy!

--Nicki McGahey, President

Central Florida AAZK Chapter

The Central Florida Chapter AAZK proudly presents our new logo (see inset). The Chapter's logo features the Florida panther and the West Indian manatee.

It took over two years for members to complete this project. Denise Nelson came up with the general design and Henrick Lockhart, David Nathan, and Jamie Sincage put it all together.

Our November meeting featured "open slide night", where a few of our braver members brought in slides of zoological experiences. This was an informative and humorous event. December's holiday party was held at Rossi's Pizzeria. Tim Green MC'd a humorous "Secret Santa" gift exchange.

January's meeting was held at the Brevard Zoo where Marvin Thomas gave an excellent slide presentation about his recent trip to Africa. We held our February meeting at the Central Florida Zoo and finalized most of this year's plans. (Another camp-out is included in our plans!)

Please note that our meetings have changed from the first Monday to the first Wednesday of each month.

--Rick Smith, Co-Vice President

Philadelphia Zoo AAZK Chapter

The following new officers for 1995 were elected at our December meeting:

President.....Maggie Liguori
Vice Pres.....Beth Schwenk
Secretary.....Denise McClelland
Treasurer.....Leslie Mitchell
Chapter Liaison.....Ken Pelletier



Chapter News, Continued

Minnesota Zoo AAZK Chapter

The Minnesota Zoo AAZK Chapter recently re-elected its officers for a second term. They are:

President.....Laurie Trechsel
Vice Pres.....Tim Hill
Secretary.....Pascale Tolan
Treasurer.....Karla Anderson
Chapter Liaison.....Tim Hill

This past year saw the official formation of our Chapter and our first annual Bowling for Rhinos fundraiser. We've been active in collecting aluminum cans for recycling, and are still trying to decide which conservation organization we will help sponsor with the money we raise. We also sold San Diego Zoo's "Animal Buns" calendars.

Planning for our spring fundraiser is now underway. The event is being called Dog-O-Rama, and will involve a dog show for children, dog cart rides, demonstrations, information booths, games, food and prizes. In addition, we are starting to gear up for this year's Bowling for Rhinos scheduled for early June.

Hopefully, 1995 will be a profitable year for everyone and will see an increase in participation in Chapter activities by all of our colleagues.

--Tim Hill, Chapter Liaison



Minnesota Zoo AAZK Chapter logo design by Tim Hill. Adopted by the chapter in 1994. Logo features a Dolphin, Horned Owl, Tiger and Tapir.



The Central Florida Chapter is closing out the final stock of Petencito Zoo Patches. These patches are \$3.00 each. They were used to cover up the Sea World logo on out-of-date uniform shirts which were donated to the Petencito Zoo in Guatemala. Proceeds from this sale will help recover some of the production costs for the patches. The patch features a Jaguar on a gold background.

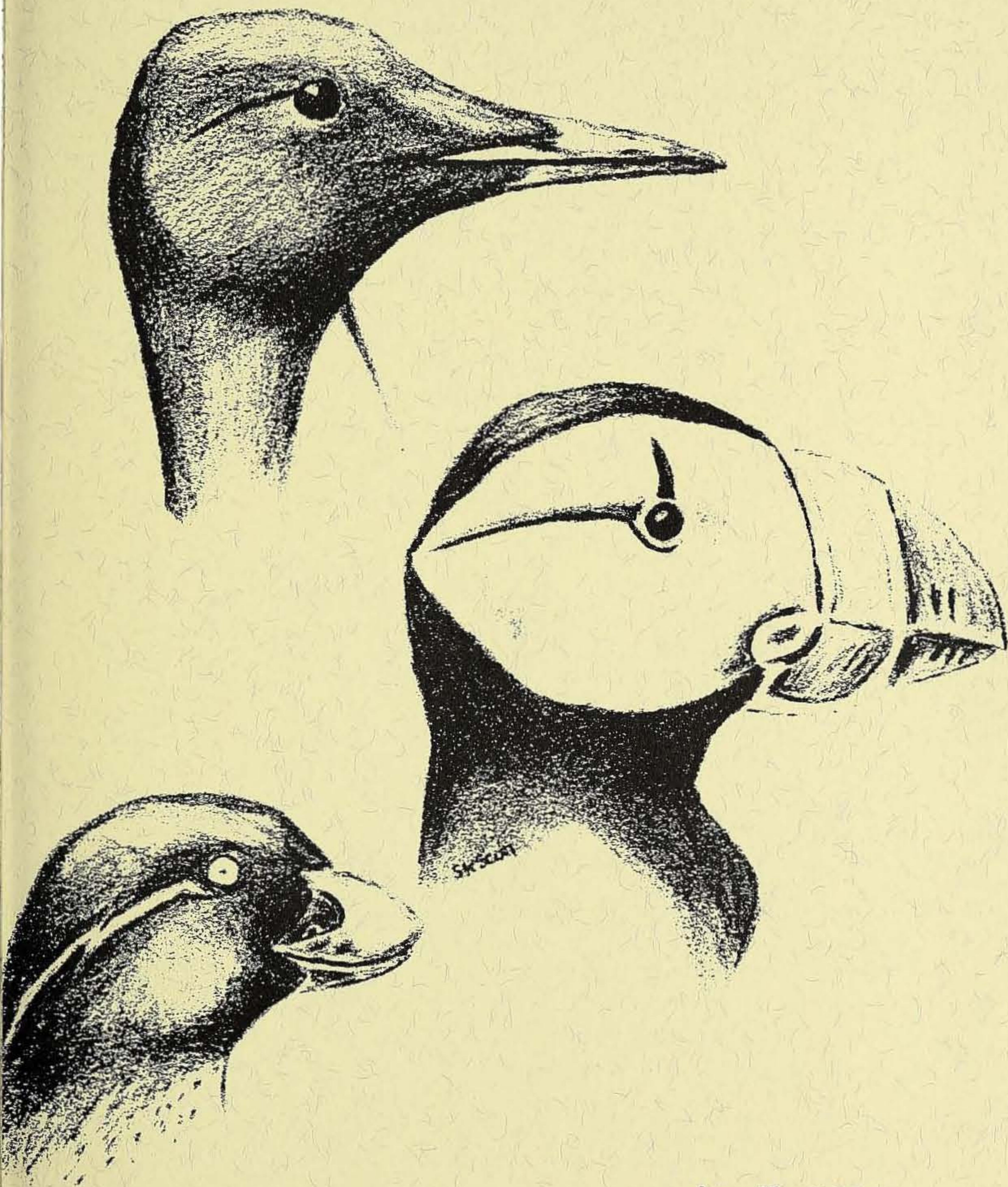
To order, send check or money order for number of patches desired to: Rick Smith, Sea World of Florida, Aviculture Department, 7007 Sea World Dr., Orlando, FL 32821-8097. Make checks payable to Central Florida AAZK Chapter. Be sure to include your complete return mailing address.



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Animal Keepers' Forum

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April 1995

Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

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Bowling for Rhinos UPDATE

from Patty Pearthree, BFR Coordinator
Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, IN



One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) was sent to Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary (now called "Lewa Wildlife Conservancy" or L.W.C.) in Kenya and \$6,475.00 was sent to Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia from the 1994 Bowling for Rhinos fundraiser. Everyone should be very proud that their hard work and great efforts allowed us to have another very successful year! We still need everyone's continued support of this effort in order to continue to expand our funding to possibly include Sumatran rhinos in the near future! Fundraising efforts in 1995 will continue to send the first \$100,000 to Ngare Sergoi (L.W.C.) and the rest to Ujung Kulon.

Funding for Ngare Sergoi (L.W.C.) will continue to support conservation education, purchase replacement vehicles, translocation of additional rhinos into the sanctuary, increased security patrols and equipment. funding for Ujung Kulon will be used to build a new guard post at the western tip of Java and a new security patrol boat (the best mode of transportation around the park).

I will be completing an internship this summer from **May 15-August 10 in Kenya**. **All BFR needs or questions should be addressed to Herbie Pearthree at the same address and phone as before.** As of the writing of this update on 12 March, I have not heard from the following Chapters or institutions as to whether or not they will hold an event this year. Please respond to me ASAP as to your proposed event date and any sponsor sheets or information you may need so that I can address these needs prior to May. If you will not be able to hold an event this year, please also respond with that information.

Assiniboine
Birmingham
Chaffee
Denver
Detroit
Franklin Park(Metro Boston)
Hogle Zoo
Honolulu
Jackson
Lake Superior
Lincoln Park
Little Rock
Mesker Park
Memphis

Metro Toronto
Miami Metro (South Florida)
Pittsburgh
Potawatomi
Queen's Wildlife Center
Robert Russo's Jungle Club
San Antonio
Sedgwick County
Topeka Zoo
Virginia
Walk in the Wild
Werribee
Western New York

- Remember, to be a trip winner, all money must be received by me no later than **1 September 1995**.
- Please be sure to write "For Deposit Only" on the back side signature area of any checks sent to me through the mail! This will prevent anyone besides AAZK from being able to cash the check.
- For additional information on BFR needs, please call Patty Pearthree at (317) 322-8723 or write to me c/o Bowling for Rhinos, P.O. Box 199026, Indianapolis, IN 46219-9026.
- **Between 15 May - 10 August**, please contact Herbie Pearthree at the above address and phone number.

Good luck with all your events in 1995!



Animal Keepers' Forum

The Professional Journal of AAZK, Inc.

May 1995



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

Special Enrichment Issue

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A Garden of Enrichment, Continued

The woolly monkeys are not the only species using the herb gardens. Other species that share the area with the woollies-like sakis, marmosets, tamarins, capuchins, and lemurs have also been observed eating the plants. Monkeys in other areas, like our squirrel monkeys, have also shown an interest in the herbs. We now see our herb garden project not only as a nice experiment but also as an important part of the way we keep our primates.

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Animal Enrichment at the Columbus Zoo

By Dianna Frisch, Head Keeper/Bonobos
Lori Monska-Wright, Head Keeper/Cats
Columbus Zoo, Powell, Ohio



Keeping animals stimulated and mentally challenged in a zoo environment can be an enriching challenge for the keeper staff as well as the animals involved.

Being aware that mental health can relate to the physical health of the animals, enrichment has moved to become one of the most important responsibilities of today's zoo staff.

Gorilla Enrichment

A new gorilla exhibit built in 1984 gave the Columbus Zoo's gorilla (*Gorilla g. gorilla*) collection a new lease on life. However, once the animals had become familiar with their new home the boredom of the routine set in and many of the stereotypical behaviors that had disappeared, returned. The keeper staff set out to make changes in family groups and enrichment items to keep their charges active and challenged.

The outside gorilla yard is a grassy area enclosed by 10.16cm x 10.16cm (4" x 4") wire mesh. This allowed for yearly changes and additions without worry of building an escape route for the gorillas. Climbing structures, grassy hills, ladders to upper levels, various sized tree limbs and cargo nets have been added each spring to provide new environmental challenges for the season.

On a daily basis the animals are given the opportunity to forage for their diets by having the food cut up in varying sizes, and scattered and hidden throughout the exhibit. Along with the fruits and vegetables, parrot mix, monkey biscuits, dry cereals, nuts and dried fruit bits are also scattered. Several of the large logs in the yard are drilled with different sized holes and a portion of their diet as well as peanut butter, yogurt and "special" treats are stuffed down into these holes. Most of these holes are too small for adult gorilla fingers. This gives youngsters an opportunity to get some goodies. Larger animals must spend more time manipulating the log and using sticks to work the food item out of the hole - thus "tool using". Large Boomer Balls®, PVC pipe, and pieces of .61m x 1.2m (2' x 4') with holes also provide a time consuming challenge getting out seeds and favorite foods.

Gorillas are known not to be particularly fond of water, however, not even the most finicky great ape can resist a run through a sprinkler or mister on a hot afternoon. Frozen fruit juices called "gorilla pops" and large blocks of ice are real crowd pleasers for both the animals and the visitors.

Since gorillas seem to believe the old adage "the grass is greener on the other side of the fence" and often want what is planted outside of their exhibit, a variety of herbs and edible plants are planted within a gorilla's arm's reach. Not only are these a tasty treat they can also be self medicating.

Animal Enrichment at the Columbus Zoo, Continued

The inside enclosures present a different set of challenges for both the keepers and the animals. There is no public viewing into the bedroom quarters, and being a northern zoo a good portion of the cold winter months are spent indoors. Heavy plastic flaps were placed on outside chute doors allowing individuals or groups to come and go outside without letting heat out of the building. During the winter, the building temperature is turned down so the animals will remain more active and become more accustomed to the cooler temperatures when they choose to wander outside. Bedding is added on a daily basis and the type of bedding used is rotated. It is not unusual to have bedding three to four feet deep in some areas and night nests deep enough that keepers occasionally have to look twice to find the silverback. The same forage foods that are placed in the outside yards during the summer are now scattered in the inside areas. Also, the PVC pipe feeders and drilled 2' x 4's are used. Cardboard boxes and yellow-pages phone books are provided to give opportunities just to tear something up.

The bedroom quarters measure approximately 3.048m x 7.62m (10' x 25') with block walls at the back and half way between each enclosure. The rest of the enclosure is 5.08cm x 5.08cm (2" x 2") interwoven mesh. This mesh allows for a variety of enrichment activities. Whole food items are thrown on top of the enclosures encouraging animals to spend time manipulating the item while hanging or standing in awkward positions. Tubs of monkey biscuits and seeds can be set on top, scattering them into the hay when poked at from below.

Outside each enclosure is a wooden stand with three holes large enough to hold 16-ounce cups. These cups may contain honey, yogurt, catsup, baby foods, and dry Kool-Aid®. Keepers provide branches, which each animal modifies and dips into the cups on the treat stand.

In the front aisle while classical music is played the family groups have a 25-gallon aquarium with gold fish for both listening and visual stimulus.

The back and side aisles have block walls to allow back aisle viewing without interrupting behaviors. An occasional block was removed and a mesh frame inserted. This also permits an additional level for seeds and treats to be placed, again making it time consuming to retrieve the items.

Instead of ropes hanging inside the enclosures, 7.62cm (3") fire hose, donated by local fire departments, is hung connecting both ends to the enclosure top, to make a comfortable swing for even the largest silverback. Each enclosure has a differently designed climbing structure and mesh beds at varying heights.

Enrichment For Large Cats

In the large cat area, enrichment has begun. To give the large carnivores activity and provide stimulus, large bones are hidden throughout the yard to be hunted as a time consuming activity. Catnip has been used with varying amounts of success with several of the large cats.

All cats have large logs in their areas either lying on the ground or hanging. These are used for sharpening their claws, rubbing, and as toys. The spotted leopards (*Panthera pardus*) and snow leopards (*Panthera unica*) have shown a particular interest in smaller logs which they can carry throughout the exhibit. Stumps with large root attachments are a challenge for the lions (*Panthera leo*), tigers (*Panthera t. tigris* and *Panthera tigris sumatrae*) and jaguars (*Panthera onca*). The Sumatran and Bengal tigers are provided with large pieces of PVC pipes sealed at both ends. The tigers practice their stalking and hunting skills when these prey items are thrown into their pool.

Boomer Balls® are also given as toys for the cats. However, we have had a leopard chip a canine tooth and several balls have been destroyed, causing some concern by our veterinary staff. A continued close-eye is suggested with any new item.

Other Enrichment Ideas

The black footed penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*) have shown an interest in dragging sticks and small branches around their enclosure. Plastic gallon jugs, a hula-hoop, and small PVC pipe were placed in their area with an almost immediate increase of activity.

Animal Enrichment at the Columbus Zoo, Continued

In the Children's Zoo, the Capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*) have a small log hanging with several holes drilled in it to retrieve their goodies.

The woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha poeppigii*) are especially fond of their mealworm PVC pipe. Not only do they enjoy investigating it for insects, it is easy and fun to transport by their tail.

Keeping bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) occupied is always a challenge. By rotating a steady variety of browse and forage along with the Boomer Balls®, burlap bags and bedding, they continue to keep busy. Advance Drainage Systems, Inc. (3300 Riverside Drive, P.O. Box 218902, Columbus, Ohio, 43221), makers of heavy-duty polyethylene drainage pipes, has been very receptive to the idea of using their drainage pipes as enrichment items. They have gladly donated several different sized pipes to the zoo to be used for animal enrichment. As a thank you, we have sent them photos of the animals using the drainage pipe.

Brush piles and hanging browse are provided for hoofstock for eating and rubbing against.

In the pachyderm department, enrichment is given in several different ways. The primary purposes of elephant training is for enrichment as well as management. Above the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) pen a large plastic barrel is suspended. This permits the rhino to charge the barrel and use his horn to crash against it. Mud baths are provided for both the black and white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*), warthogs (*P. aethiopicus*), Baird's tapirs (*T. bairdii*) and African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). These mud baths serve a tri-fold purpose of husbandry, skin care, and stimulus. Peat moss is provided to the black rhinos, warthogs, Baird's tapir and both the African and Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*). One of the advantages of peat moss is that it can be used indoors as well as out.

The keepers in the bear department have reported a great activity response when the polar bears (*U. maritimus*) were given live carp or trout. The second most popular item was fruit frozen into large blocks of ice. Grizzlies (*U. arctos*) and black bears (*U. americanus*) forage for hours when raisins and peanuts are scattered throughout their yard.

A variety of browse is provided on a daily basis to all animals for eating, skin care, olfactory stimulus, and foraging.

Conclusion

Before it was given a title many keepers made enrichment a daily part of their job. Now we have the opportunity to develop new techniques and to share the information of what works and what does not with our fellow caregivers through Animal Keepers' Forum and The Shape of Enrichment newsletter. A first time ever enrichment conference was held in 1993 and hosted by the Metro Washington Park Zoo, Portland, OR. It was deemed an overwhelming success and it was unanimously agreed that these constructive workshops must continue.

Enrichment items discussed here are just the "tip of the iceberg". With the development of an enrichment committee and the support and encouragement of zoo management and veterinary staff, as well as the keepers, the Columbus Zoo has made the enrichment commitment.

Acknowledgment

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Product mentioned in the text:

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