



# The Crash

Newsletter for rhino professionals

June 2018

## President's Perspective:

Details for the 2018 IRKA's Rhino Keeper Workshop are really starting to take shape at this point! We are excited to announce a few of our keynote speakers, which will be Sectionov Inov, the International Rhino Foundation program coordinator for Indonesia, Dr. Susie Ellis, the Executive Director of the International Rhino Foundation, and Elise Serfontein, the Founding Director of Stop Rhino Poaching. We will also have a few special guests joining us, but we will keep that announcement a surprise. Make sure to check out further details for the pre- and post- workshop trips, and deadlines for registration and scholarships in this issue of the CRASH.

I hope everyone had a very successful World Rhino Day this year! There were so many rhino events around the globe supporting conservation initiatives and spreading educational messages. To be honest, my favorite announcement that was made for World Rhino Day was the announcement of the Sumatran Rhino Rescue. The International Rhino Foundation, National Geographic, Global Wildlife Conservation, World Wildlife Fund, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature has partnered for one of the largest conservation projects to prevent the Sumatran rhino from going extinct in our lifetime. The IRKA's Board of Directors is fully supportive of this effort and are working to identify the ways the IRKA can contribute to this exciting endeavor.

Be sure to check out the article Cormac Kenny wrote about the success of the Association of British Wild Animal Keepers Rhino Workshop, hosted by Fota Wildlife Park in Country Cork, Ireland. Keepers from around the globe attended this workshop and had great presentations on crate training, foot problems, hand-rearing calves and much more. It is great to see rhino professionals collaborating to share information on an international level!

Finally, I would like to welcome our three newest members to the Board of Directors, Angie Snowie (Metro Toronto Zoo), Clarice Brewer (White Oak), and Cassy Kutilek (Brookfield Zoo). They are great additions to the team and I look forward to their contributions to the IRKA!

See you all in February for the 20th anniversary of the IRKA's Rhino Keeper Workshop at Disney's Animal Kingdom!



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# IRKA

## INTERNATIONAL RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION

## 2019 RKW Pre-trips

### **Jacksonville Zoo, Thursday, January 31, 2019**

Contact Person: Janel Jankowski, [jankowskij@jacksonvillezoo.org](mailto:jankowskij@jacksonvillezoo.org)

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, located in Jacksonville, Florida, sits at the mouth of the Trout River.

The zoo occupies approximately 117 acres and has over 2,000 animals and 1,000 plants in its collection.

Jacksonville Zoo houses white rhinos. <http://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/>

#### **Pre-RKW Trip Includes:**

- Travel is up to each delegate.
- 25% off (Employee Discount) for Restaurant & Gift Shop
- Operating Hours: 9am-5pm
- Behind the Scenes Tours: Rhino Meet & Greet at 9:10am meet at African Herp House.
- Free Admission.
- Capacity: 40 delegates

\*Accommodations Recommendations: The Aloft Airport Hotel & Double Tree by Hilton JAX Airport

### **White Oak Conservation Center Friday, February 1, 2019**

Contact Person: Clarice (Reese) Brewer: [cbrewer@white-oak.org](mailto:cbrewer@white-oak.org)

White Oak promotes endeavors in conservation through innovative science, education, training, and collaborations. We are committed to providing conservation options for the species that need them the most. We invite you to explore our over 16,000 acre haven for people, animals and ideas, and join in our effort to save species. White Oak houses black, white, & greater one-horned rhinos.

<https://www.whiteoakwildlife.org/>

#### **Pre-RKW Trip Includes:**

- Travel is up to each delegate.
- \$15 lunch per person.
- Behind the Scenes Tours: 10am(~3hrs), most likely rhino focused. Delegates must be at WO at 9:45am.
- Free Admission.
- Capacity: 60 delegates

\*Accommodations Recommendations: Many hotels available in Kingsland, GA directly off I-95.

Jacksonville is also +/-45 mins away & has plenty of hotels

### **Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Saturday, February 2, 2019**

(Note: Same day as the RKW Ice Breaker!)

Contact Person: Nichole Bouwens [nicholeb@centralfloridazoo.org](mailto:nicholeb@centralfloridazoo.org)

The Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens is a 116-acre zoo and botanical garden located north of Orlando. The Central Florida Zoo houses 1.0 greater one-horned rhino. <http://www.centralfloridazoo.org/>

#### **Pre-RKW Trip Includes:**

- Travel is up to each delegate.
- Lunch: On your own.
- Behind the Scenes tours: 1-3pm at rhino barn
- Free Admission.
- Capacity: 15 delegates
- Zoo Hours: 9am-5pm

## 2019 RKW Post-trips

### Trip A RKW Post-Trips

#### **Busch Gardens, Thursday, February 7, 2019**

Contact Person: Sara Wunder Steward [Sara.Wunder@BuschGardens.com](mailto:Sara.Wunder@BuschGardens.com)

Busch Gardens Tampa is a 335-acre African-themed animal theme park located in the city of Tampa, Florida. Busch Gardens houses black rhinos & white rhinos in a mixed species exhibit. <https://buschgardens.com/tampa/>

#### **Post-RKW Trip Includes:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel is up to each delegate.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Admission.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: On your own.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity: 25 delegates    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Tours: Delegates must be at Busch Gardens At 10am. | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Hours: 10am-6pm |

#### *\*Accommodations Recommendations:*

1. Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa USF (3705 Spectrum Blvd, Tampa, FL 33612)
2. La Quinta Inn & Suites USF (3701 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33612)
3. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Tampa-USF-Busch Gardens (2807 E Busch Blvd, Tampa)
4. Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Tampa Busch Gardens Area (3333 E Busch Blvd, Tampa)

#### **Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park, Friday, February 8, 2019**

Contact Person: Mike Burns, [Mike.Burns@ZooTampa.org](mailto:Mike.Burns@ZooTampa.org)

ZooTampa at Lowry Park is a 63-acre non-profit zoo located in Tampa, Florida. Zoo Tampa houses black rhinos & Greater One-Horned rhinos.

<https://zootampa.org/>

#### **Post-RKW Trip Includes:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel is up to each delegate.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Admission.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: On your own                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Hours: 9:30am-5pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity: 20 delegates (2 groups of 10). | <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Tours:    |
|   | oWhite Rhino Husbandry 9:45am.                       |
|   | oPainted Dog Feeding 10:45am.                        |
|   | oGOH interaction 2pm.                                |

#### *\*Accommodations Recommendations:*

1. Aloft Tampa Downtown (100 W. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa)
2. Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Harbor Historic District (1700 E. 9h Ave, Tampa)
3. Comfort Suites Tampa Airport North (5421 W. Waters Ave, Tampa)

## 2019 RKW Post-trips

### Trip B RWK Post-Trips

#### Lion Country Safari, Thursday, February 7, 2019

Contact Person: Ashleigh Kandrac, 954-263-7970

Lion Country Safari is a drive-through safari park and walk-through amusement park located on over 600 acres in Loxahatchee, in Palm Beach County, Florida. Founded in 1967, it claims to be the first 'cageless zoo' in the United States. Lion Country Safari houses white rhinos.

<http://www.lioncountrysafari.com/>

#### **RKW Post-Trip Includes**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel is up to each delegate  | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Admission         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: \$10-\$15   | <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity: 60 delegates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Hours: 9:30am-5:30pm. Gates close at 4:30pm  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Tours: Throughout the day as requested (use above contact to request time) |   |

*\*Accommodations Recommendations:*

Hampton Inn & Suites Wellington 2155 Wellington Green Dr, Wellington, FL 33414

#### Zoo Miami, Friday, February 8, 2019

Contact Person: Matt James, [Matthew.James@miamidade.gov](mailto:Matthew.James@miamidade.gov)

The Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens, also known as Zoo Miami, is a zoological park and garden near Miami, and the largest and oldest zoo logical garden in Florida. Miami Zoo houses black & Greater One-Horned rhinos. <https://www.zoomiami.org/>

#### **Post-RKW Trip Includes:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel is up to each delegate.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Admission.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: Attendees wearing RKW badges will get 20% off all concessions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity: 60 delegates    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Tours: 11am & 2pm at Black & GOH rhino              | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Hours: 10am-5pm |

*\*Accommodations Recommendations:*

Holiday Inn Express Kendall Tamiami Airport  
Woodspring Suites Miami Southwest

## Important dates for RKW

### Some important information & tips to the 11th Biennial IRKA Rhino Keeper Workshop at Disney's Animal Kingdom

To save money, we encourage all delegates to register ASAP. Early registration is closed.

The Scholarship deadline is **Oct. 1st** (\$750 International & \$400 USA).

It is HIGHLY recommended to book your Disney Accommodations by **Oct. 2nd** to receive discounted pricing.

*(\*Note: You pay for one night at the hotel during booking! You pay the remainder when you arrive)*

There are nearby accommodations, but please be aware even if those hotels appear close in proximity on a map it is not safe nor will you be allowed to walk from hotel to hotel. Please keep this in mind when booking your accommodations!

*Don't forget to also schedule your complimentary transportation from the Orlando International Airport via Disney's Magical Express to the Resorts.*

**The Call for Papers deadline is Dec. 1st.** We do have a few Keynote Speakers joining us already; Sektinov Inov of SRS, Elise Serfontein of StopRhinoPoaching.com, & Susie Ellis of IRF. A friendly reminder, the DAK Zoo Day behind the scenes tours & Workshop round tables will only be open to Professional & Supporting Professional IRKA members.

#### The RKW Schedule is as follows:

Sat., Feb. 2nd Icebreaker- Epcot Dessert Reception (Partner Tickets can be purchased for \$75.)

Sun., Feb. 3rd Workshop

Mon., Feb. 4th Workshop

Tues., Feb. 5th Workshop & Banquet Dinner & Silent Auction (Partner Tickets can be purchased \$85.)

Wed., Feb. 6th Zoo Day at DAK (You cannot purchase a 1-Day registration for the DAK Zoo Day.)

**Don't forget to sign up for those Pre & Post RKW Trips. We have a closed Facebook Group**  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2380105888666551/?ti=icl> If you have any question, please email

[Sara.Wunder@BuschGardens.com](mailto:Sara.Wunder@BuschGardens.com)

## Focus on Sumatran Rhinoceros



The Sumatran rhino is the most endangered of all rhinoceros species due to its rapid rate of decline. Because of poaching, numbers have decreased more than 70% over the last 20 years, with the only viable population now in Indonesia. The species was declared extinct in the wild in Malaysia in 2015. Sumatran rhinos exist only in protected areas where they are physically guarded by Rhino Protection Units. Continued protection, combined with consolidating small, fragmented populations into larger ones, and intensifying captive breeding efforts, are the best hope for the species' survival.

### **Biology**

The Sumatran rhino lives in dense tropical forest, both lowland and highland, mainly on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

This species is a browser and an opportunistic feeder with a very varied diet that may include more than one hundred plant species.

Sumatran rhinos live between 35 and 40 years. Gestation lasts approximately 15-16 months, and cows are believed to give birth to one calf about every 3 years.

These tropical forest dwellers are generally solitary in nature.

### **Current Sumatran Rhino Numbers and Distribution**

Fewer than 100 Sumatran rhinos survive in fragmented populations in Indonesia's Bukit Barisan, Gunung Leuser, and Way Kambas National Parks, and a small population was recently found in central Kalimantan.

CITES: Appendix I

### **Common Names**

Sumatran Rhinoceros

Asian Two-Horned Rhinoceros: the only two-horned rhino in the Asian region.

### **Scientific Name and Origin** *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

"Dicerorhinus": from the Greek di, meaning "two" and "ceros", meaning "horn" and "rhinos", meaning "nose" and "sumatrensis" referring to Sumatra (with the Latin-ensis, meaning locality)

### **Physical Characteristics**

Weight: 1,300 - 2,000 pounds (600 - 950 kg)

Height: 3 - 5 feet (1.0 -1.5m) tall at shoulder

### **Horn**

Sumatran rhinos have two horns. The front horn is larger and measures 10 - 31 inches (25-79 cm) long. The second horn is smaller, generally less than 3 inches (10 cm).

**Other Features:** Fringed ears and reddish brown skin, and fur.



## ABWAK Rhino Workshop comes to Fota Wildlife Park in July 2018



With one of the hottest summers on record in Ireland, the weekend of the ABWAK Rhino Workshop was no different. After approaching ABWAK's Rhino representative, Vicky Snook, in the winter of 2017 we put plans in motion to bring this workshop to County Cork. This was a great opportunity for Fota Wildlife Park to showcase its brand new greater one horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) exhibit which was completed in early 2015 as part of a new 27-acre Asian themed expansion of the collection. The first rhino to arrive at Fota Wildlife Park was Jamil, who came from ZSL Whipsnade on the 23 June 2015 followed by Shusto, who came from Terra Natura in Spain on the 26 November 2015.

This year we were very fortunate to have two sponsors; the International Rhino Keepers Association and Top-Spec. A big thank you goes out to both. Keepers came from far and wide, including the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Dublin Zoo, Gaia Zoo, Marwell Zoo, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Wildlands Adventure Zoo Emmen, Edinburgh Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade, to name a few.



The predominant theme throughout the whole workshop was training and there were some very interesting talks on both days. Mike Veale, President of the Global Conservation Force, sent us a video showing us some of the incredible work that he and his team are doing for rhino conservation on a global stage. Any profit generated from the workshop will be sent over to help the wildlife rangers of the Global Conservation Force.

Weston Popichak from the San Diego Zoo Safari park gave a talk on recall training with six wild caught southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) cows. Hayley Mullaney from the Cotswold Wildlife Park who gave a talk on her little Tinkerbell, a southern white rhino calf that had to be hand-reared due to complications at birth. This very in-depth talk is a great resource for any other rhino keepers who might have to hand-rear a calf in the future.

The workshop kicked off with a warm welcome, or Cead Mile Failte as we say in Ireland, from the Fota Wildlife Park Director, Sean McKeown. The opening talk of the day was done by me and my colleague, John Leahy. We are both part of the Hoofstock Team, which look after the two greater one-horned rhino bulls that reside at Fota Wildlife Park. We discussed initiating the first steps in our training program; from getting the rhinos used to presenting all four feet on blocks, to moving on to toe curls and the future for blood draws. We were able to demonstrate our routine weighing of the rhinos in our crush and how all the team now takes part in the training of both rhinos.



## ABWAK Rhino Workshop comes to Fota Wildlife Park in July 2018



Rhino keepers hard at work on their bamboo enrichment.

Afterwards Ken Mackey, from Dublin Zoo, gave a talk on crate training southern white rhino for transport. Sarah Kirby, from West Midlands Safari Park, gave a talk on routine safari management of their greater one-horned rhino. The last talk of the day was from Vincent van Dalen, from Wildlands Adventure Zoo Emmen, who gave a talk on how rhino healthcare can be improved by training.

Sunday morning's opening talk came from Christine Bobko of Denver Zoo. She described common foot problems she had seen in her black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) and how she came up with a remedy for putting boots on affected feet to help with pain relief and to speed up recovery times.

Jonathan McLoughlin, an architect from Gillespies LLP, gave a talk on enclosure design that focused on creating enriching environment. Alisa Stockwell from Marwell Zoo gave a very interesting talk on early detection of lameness in southern white rhino. Afterwards we had probably one of the most exciting talks on bullet bound care, by Weston Popichak, on his southern white cow, Wallis. Next, we had a very informative talk on black rhino training from Jack Gradidge in Folly Farm.

After lunch we all met at the rhino house where we showcased some of the training we are doing with our greater one-horned bulls at Fota Wildlife Park. We demonstrated some recall and stationing, followed by foot work presentation and washing on a block.



The final talk of the weekend was a mini workshop, headed by Barbara Heidenreich, on Training and Behaviour Problems.

I would like to thank all my colleagues at Fota Wildlife Park for their assistance in organising and running this event. In addition we extend a big thank to our sponsors TopSpec and International Rhino Keepers Association.

Finally, a big thank you to ABWAK's Vicky Snook for helping us to bring this great workshop to Fota Wildlife Park. We very much look forward to ABWAK Rhino Workshop in 2019!



*Cormac Kenny  
Hoofstock Ranger  
Fota Wildlife Park*



## Welcome New BOD Members!

### ANGIE SNOWIE

#### **What is your favorite species of rhino and why?**

My favorite species of rhino is the greater one horned rhino. Mainly because they are the only species of rhino that I have worked with, and they are great!

#### **Favorite travel destination that you've been to?**

I have been privileged enough to travel to Kenya, Africa and I would return in a heartbeat!

#### **Dream travel destination and why?**

To Nepal and North East India to see GOH's in the wild!

#### **Favorite movie?**

I am not much of a movie buff, all of the John Hughes movies from my teenage years were amazing - "Sixteen Candles", "Pretty in Pink", "The Breakfast Club" just to name a few.

#### **Favorite animal you've worked with and why?**

I don't specifically have a favorite rhino, but I do appreciate our big male "Vishnu". He is so patient with a lot of the foot work we have had to do to him. I really do feel that he gets that we are trying to help him and for that I have a special place in my heart for him.

#### **Other than rhinos, what is your favorite species and why?**

I first started my animal career working with marine mammals, specifically, dolphins and sea lions. Dolphins were the reason I worked so hard to become a marine mammal trainer. They are smart, curious, playful and charismatic and a great species to work with.

#### **What would your talent be in a talent show?**

I cannot sing or dance, but I could be the emcee as I am pretty comfortable talking in front of a crowd...

#### **Do you have any pets?**

I currently have 3 dogs and one cat, and I am fostering 2 other cats – anyone need a cat??!

#### **What is an item on your bucket list?**

Traveling to see the GOH in the wild would be the first item on my list.

I have seen black and southern white rhino in Kenya, and I was also able to meet the remaining 3 (at the time) northern white rhino. In April I traveled to Java and Sumatra and was able to see the footprint and chewed browse from a Javan rhino (which the rangers figured had been there that morning!) and I have visited the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary to meet Sumatran rhinos. Being able to see all 5 species in their natural habitat would be outstanding (second item on the bucket list would be to go back to Indonesia and try to find Sumatran's and Javans in the wild before it is too late...).



## Welcome New BOD Members!



**CLARICE  
BREWER**



**What is your favorite species of rhino and why?**

Black rhinos. I've only worked with southern black rhinos, but assume I would enjoy working with easterns just the same. I think black rhinos provide the greatest challenges for us to manage under human care. We still have a lot to learn about caring for them, and I enjoy working towards better management for black rhinos ex situ.

**Favorite travel destination that you've been to?**

I've been fortunate to travel to Kenya and spend over a week in the Maasai Mara. Although we didn't encounter any black rhinos, it was an inspiring trip.

**Dream travel destination and why?**

I have a long list of dream travel destinations! Nepal and India are high on that list, would love to see greater one horned rhinos in the wild along with seeing the Himalayas.

**Favorite movie?**

I have trouble sitting still for a full length movie, but Best In Show is one I've always enjoyed.

**Favorite animal you've worked with and why?**

I am lucky to work with a white rhino, Bully, that has helped the species in many ways over his years at White Oak. He has been the first rhino that many guests, interns, students, summer campers and many more have interacted with. Bully has stood patiently for new animal care specialists, veterinary students and interns to learn where to find leg and ear veins and how to find just the right spot to scratch! He continues to be a great ambassador for rhinos and has opened many individuals eyes as to why saving rhinos is so important.

**Other than rhinos, what is your favorite species and why?**

Saiga antelope, what a unique looking species! Critically endangered, much like most of our rhino species, Saiga have declined more than 80% over the last 10 years. This species has some great conservation initiatives and groups working together to reverse their decline. I think there's a great chance for them to be another conservation success story! I hope to one day say I've seen Saiga in the wild.

**What would your talent be in a talent show?**

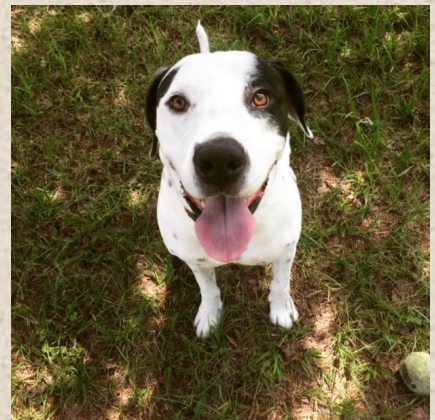
Playing the saxophone (haven't played since 8th grade, but I'm sure it's like riding a bike, right?)

**Do you have any pets?**

A dog Hank, cat Keyes and 3 lovely chickens

**What is an item on your bucket list?**

Skydiving!



## Welcome New BOD Members!



### CASSY KUTILEK



**What is your favorite species of rhino and why?**

Black rhinos, they are sassy and always keep you on your toes.

**Favorite travel destination that you've been to?**

I love the serenity of the Upper peninsula of Michigan, especially during the fall when all the leaves are changing colors.

**Dream travel destination and why?**

Africa, it is a must see! I can't imagine how thrilling it would be to see rhinos in the wild.

**Favorite movie?**

Anything with Tom Hardy in it, but if I had to pick, probably Inception.

**Favorite animal you've worked with and why?**

Layla, our female Eastern black rhino. Layla and I have been primary trainers of each other for the last 4 years. She has an exorbitant amount of gumption and strength to get through the illness she has had and the obstacles that come with any medical case. Throughout it all, we have been able to maintain our relationship resulting in easier medical care and extra corn on the cob for her.

**Other than rhinos, what is your favorite species and why?**

African Painted dogs. These guys have such an intense social structure and are always a challenge...albeit fun challenge...to work with.

**What would your talent be in a talent show?**

Singing...horribly, but singing.



**Do you have any pets?**

A insanely spoiled English mastiff named Hadley.

**What is an item on your bucket list?**

Shark cage diving in the Guadalupe Islands.

## September Correspondence

### **Births:**

North Carolina zoo: 2 Female white rhino

White Oak: Male GOH rhino

Virginia Safari Park: Male white rhino

Chester Zoo: Male black rhino

Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo: Black rhino

San Diego Zoo Safari Park: GOH



### **Transfers:**

San Diego Zoo Safari Park: Female White "Adahi" from Zoo Tampa

### **New Exhibits:**

Seneca Park Zoo: New white rhino exhibit

Oklahoma City Zoo: New GOH exhibit "Sanctuary Asia"

## New and Renewing Members

Megan Wright Walker

Amy Hewitt

Kristin Bryant

Kevin McKenna

Shane Elsinger

Caitlinn O'Brien

Megan Cooper

Roxane Losey

Ray Hren

Matt Goodwin

Stacy Strother

Nicole McEvily

Kim Caldwell

Maggie West

Shelby Golonka

Meaghan McCarthy

Jamie Newsom

Mandy Reiter

Sara Shanahan

Stephanie Richmond

Dr. Susie Wiseman

Jennifer Fedesna

Ashley Vasseur

Benny Van Dyck

Marisa Elizalde

Tamara Thompson

Lisa Henderson

Charles Hardin

Kathleen Suthard

Kelli J Brown

Angie Snowie

Patrick Fountain

Faye Gould

Gaetan Petit

Edward Beyer

Julia Burke

Jade Tuttle

Julie McGilvray

Ariel Bailey

Ellen Wieczorek

Ariel Bailey

Brittany Phillips

Craig Van Der Meid

Jessica Sigle

Bill Smith

Aaron Gabriel

Gavin Livingston

Janel Jankowski

Bonnie Reda

Brenda Gunder

### **Supporting Institutions**

Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Columbus Zoo

The Wilds

Zoo Tampa

San Diego Global

Denver Zoo

## Keeper Professional Development Program

### Don't forget our

#### Keeper Professional Development Program

The 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 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.

Busch Gardens: Both species of African rhinos

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens: Black and GOH rhinos

The Wilds: White and GOH rhinos

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium: Black rhinos

Denver Zoo: Black and GOH rhinos

San Diego Safari Park: Black, white and GOH rhinos



## International Rhino Keeper Association and Horns and Heroes Collaborate for Conservation

Christine Bobko, Denver Zoo- Vice President IRKA

We are excited to announce a special collaboration with the Horns and Heroes Foundation at the upcoming 2019 Rhino Keeper Workshop silent auction. Unique pieces of artwork will be available for purchase that have been created by dozens of artists from across the country and donated for this event. A limited t-shirt will also be designed by Horns and Heroes celebrating IRKA's 20th workshop anniversary and our first of hopefully many collaborative projects between our two dedicated organizations. Money raised from this project will then go to designated rhino conservation projects chosen by each organization. In the upcoming months, look for posts on our Facebook and Instagram pages for some of these incredible pieces that will be available for auction at the workshop. Get ready for some bidding wars!!!!



## 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).

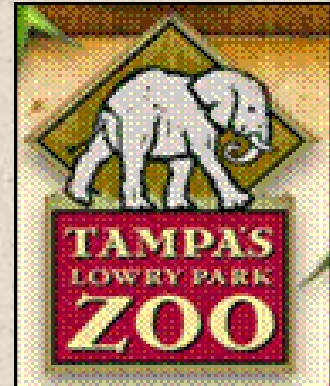
## Partners



## 2018 Sponsors at \$2,000 and Above



2018 Supporting Institutions



2018 Corporate Sponsors

