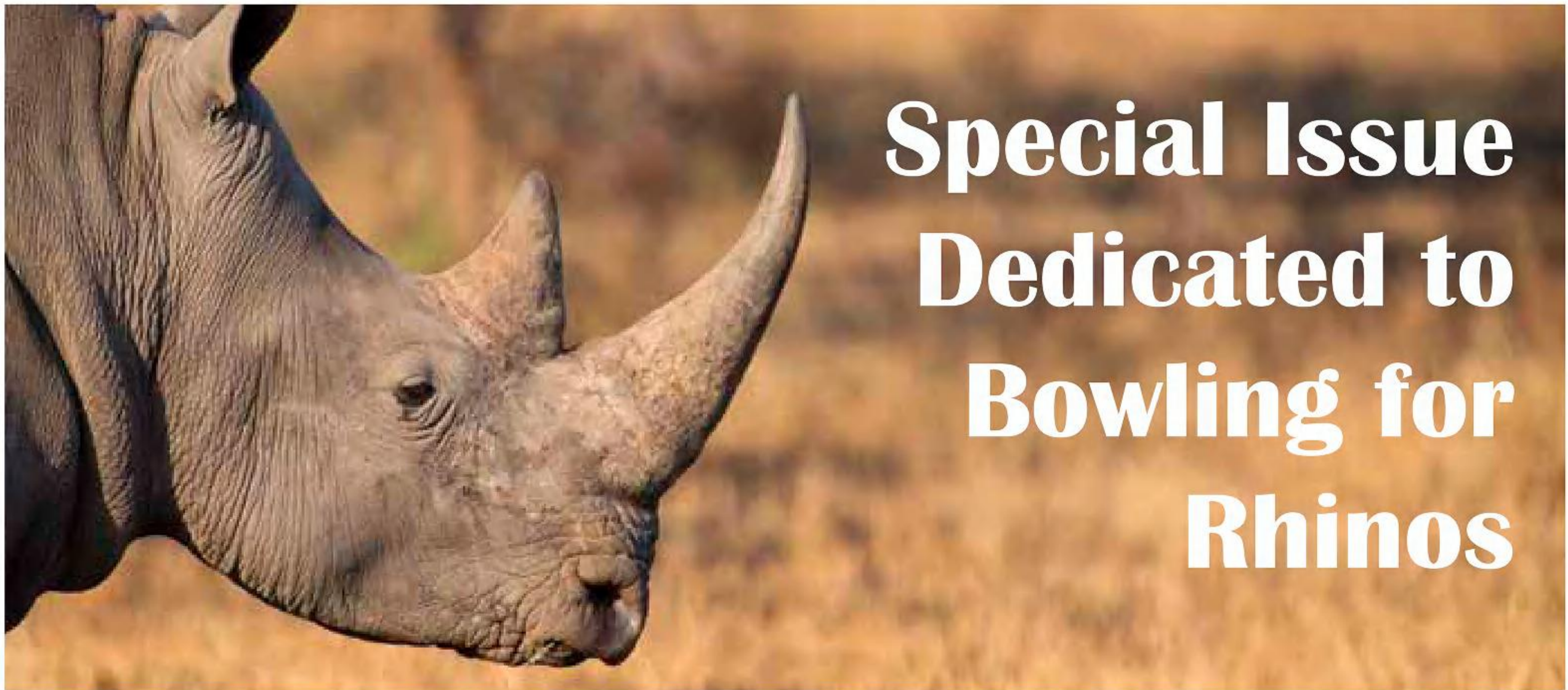


Animal Keepers' Forum

AAZK





Special Issue Dedicated to Bowling for Rhinos

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MISSION STATEMENT

American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. exists to advance excellence in the animal keeping profession, foster effective communication beneficial to animal care, support deserving conservation projects, and promote the preservation of our natural resources and animal life.

ABOUT THE COVER

To help us celebrate 30 years of phenomenal teamwork, our friends at Peppermint Narwhal helped us design the shirt you see on the cover of this issue. It is available for purchase on the AAZK website at aazk.org, and the design can also be used at your events. We hope you enjoy it, and the other major changes for 2020, as much as we do. We hope this special issue of the *AKF*, dedicated to Bowling for Rhinos, inspires all of you to make this our best BFR season ever.

Articles sent to *Animal Keepers' Forum* will be reviewed by the editorial staff for publication. Articles of a research or technical nature will be submitted to one or more of the zoo professionals who serve as referees for *AKF*. No commitment is made to the author, but an effort will be made to publish articles as soon as possible. Lengthy articles may be separated into monthly installments at the discretion of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit material without consultation unless approval is requested in writing by the author. Materials submitted will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, appropriately-sized envelope. Telephone, fax or e-mail contributions of late-breaking news or last-minute insertions are accepted as space allows. Phone (330) 483-1104; FAX (330) 483-1444; e-mail is shane.good@aazk.org. If you have questions about submission guidelines, please contact the Editor. Submission guidelines are also found at: aazk.org/akf-submission-guidelines/.

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A Letter to the AAZK Membership

Kym Janke
BFR Program Manager

Dear AAZK members,

Thank you! Thank you for all the amazing work that you do throughout the year and especially for the work and dedication that it takes to host Bowling for Rhinos events. It is incredible for me to think that as an organization AAZK members have raised a staggering \$8,251,194.59 for the conservation of rhinos, cheetahs, and their habitats. I personally have been involved in BFR at a Chapter level for the past 13 years so I know that hosting an event is no easy task. Having volunteered for the BFR Program team for the past three years, I applaud the diversity, creativity, and success of the many different event types hosted by Chapters throughout North America.

While each Chapter plans, hosts, and accounts for their own events, there is a whole team of people who are here to help you! AAZK has multiple resources that may be unknown to our membership. A few to highlight are the on-line store and our tireless CEO, Ed Hansen.

Have you visited the AAZK on-line store recently? There are many items available for purchase that support BFR. Bottle openers and magnets are always great to have around and make great doorprizes for your event, and with 100% of all sales going directly to BFR it's a win-win! The BFR program team is also excited to release a new t-shirt, designed by our friends at Peppermint Narwhal, which will be available this month. All profits from these shirts will be donated to BFR. All of these items can be found by visiting the AAZK Shop <https://aazk.org/shop/>

AAZK offers many promotional and informational items to help with your BFR event. Your event coordinator will be given access to a resource drive filled with items to help make your event a success. Read more about the content of the drive in the article outlining the program changes and deadlines by Matt Mills included in this issue. Keep an eye out for updates from our conservation partners, important reminders, and tips for hosting your event by following the AAZK Facebook page. I highly encourage every one of our members to choose to see these posts first in their newsfeeds so that you don't miss a thing! Additionally AAZK has developed an educational Promotional Brochure regarding AAZK and BFR. The Brochure is intended to help Chapters promote their local event. Bulk copies may be obtained from AAZK by contacting Ed.Hansen@aazk.org

Did you know that AAZK can provide your Chapter with insurance coverage for your BFR event? In many cases, bowling alleys and other similar facilities will already have the necessary insurance but for some events that take place outside of an established venue, proof of insurance is required and can be an additional expense. Contact Ed.Hansen@AAZK.org to get the required paperwork started!

As the Bowling for Rhinos program grows and fundraising efforts are increasingly linked to social media and online platforms we encourage every Chapter to register in their state as a charitable organization. For more information on the requirements of your state and guidance on to how to register your Chapter contact Ed.Hansen@AAZK.org.

Managing the program has been a rewarding but difficult experience, and one I couldn't have done alone. The program team consists of five members; Matt Mills who is the vice manager, Lisa Haggadone who is the event coordinator, Selenia Murillo who is the conservation resource grant coordinator, Jacqueline Weeks who is the communications coordinator, and Stephanie Miller who is the conservation partner liaison. We can all be reached at any time through BFR@AAZK.org. We will be sure to keep you updated if there are ever any changes to our team, and I hope that you will do the same for us. After completing your registration and providing the BFR team with contact information for your Chapter, if these contacts should change then please reach out to us with an update. This will ensure that all pertinent information reaches the correct individuals and all needed forms and documents are on hand.

We sincerely hope that with the resources provided by the BFR program and the enthusiasm that you all bring, 2020 will be the best year yet! We are excited to help you with any BFR related inquiries or ideas to grow your event; please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,



Kym Janke
BFR Program Manager

