

SSP REPORT

White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*)

The AZA White Rhino SSP has undergone numerous changes since the last annual report. Randy Rockwell, the previous Species Coordinator, resigned in fall 1993. Michael Fouraker (Fort Worth Zoological Park) was approved as Coordinator by the WCMC in September 1994. More recently, in February of this year, Tom Foose (International Rhino Foundation) applied to become the regional studbook keeper for rhinos. Dr. Foose has been updating information, and the publication of a regional studbook will give the SSP Coordinator accurate data with which to direct the program. Additionally, a husbandry manual addressing all rhino species is being coordinated for the AZA Rhinoceros Advisory Group by M. Fouraker and T. Wagener at the Fort Worth Zoological Park. To date, two meetings have been hosted by the White Oak Conservation Center to gather information for this manual. The manual will be published in fall 1995 by the Fort Worth Zoo with substantial financial support from both the AZA TAG and the International Rhino Foundation.

Since its initiation, the ultimate goal of the AZA White Rhino SSP has been to develop a self-sustaining captive population to provide for genetic and demographic support of the wild population. Following extensive analyses in an

African Rhino Master Plan (draft published in June 1994), it has been found that the captive white rhino population is in a demographic and genetic crisis, because the age structure is senescing and not enough of the wild-caught founders have reproduced. Immediate concerns for the SSP, then, include the demographic status of the population and the need for adequate captive space for herd management.

Currently, 122 (52.70) animals are managed in 40 institutions. As a result of the analyses conducted in the draft SSP Master Plan, 34 white rhino transfers have been recommended. In addition, many institutions holding pairs of animals have been recommended to increase their herd size to a minimum of three (1.2) or investigate changing to another rhino species which can be appropriately exhibited in pairs. Surveys are being sent to rhino holding institutions to determine the status of these recommendations. It is essential that these transfers be made for the SSP to meet its genetic goals. Due to lack of successful reproduction in the species, demand for white rhino is greater than the current number of individuals available.

(M. Fouraker, Species Coordinator)



Literature Review

The Zoo Book, A Guide to America's Best, by Allen W. Nyhuis. Published by Carousel Press, P.O. Box 6061, Albany, CA 94706. 278 pp. \$14.95 softbound.

The author provides a detailed description of the 53 zoos he has visited in the United States and includes his impression of each institution's featured exhibits. Where appropriate, he also includes those exhibits or areas especially designed for children. Less extensive descriptions are provided of other zoos and aquariums in the U.S., as well as some European, Mexican, and Canadian zoological facilities.

Lee Simmons, DVM, provides the foreword in which he notes the difficulty of ranking zoos, but congratulates the author for attention to detail.

(R. Wagner)

AZA REGIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION POLICIES SET

The AZA has established registration fees for the 1995 Regional Conferences at \$75 member, \$75 member's spouse, and \$100 nonmember. Daily fees are \$40 member, \$40 member's spouse, and \$55 nonmember. Persons registering less than 21 days prior to the conference will be charged an additional late fee. Refunds can only be sent to those canceling seven days prior to the conference.

All AZA individual members are provided a membership card indicating their membership number, which is to be provided when registering. It is important to remember that staff members are not automatically members under their organization's membership. The chief executive officers of Institution, Society, and Related Organization members have been provided forms on which they may designate persons to receive AZA individual Supporting membership. Commercial and Registered Animal Supplier members may have their representatives (and their spouses) register at the member rate.

(C. Blon)

Conservation Academy

CONSERVATION ACADEMY UPDATE

The 1995 Conservation Academy was conducted from 18-23 February in St. Louis. Sixty-eight students participated in the three separate course offerings, bringing the total number of Conservation Academy graduates to 248: 132 from Studbook I; 71 from SSP Coordinator Training; and 45 from the Science of Zoo and Aquarium Animal Management Course. The graduates of each individual course are listed below:

STUDBOOK I COURSE

Theresa Alderman, Kansas City Zoological Gardens
Johnny Arnett, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Sue Benson, Denver Zoological Gardens
Lorrie Boldrick, DVM, Santa Ana Zoo
David Blody, Fort Worth Zoological Park
Gail Brandt, Brookfield Zoo
Elizabeth Bryant-Cavazos, Audubon Park & Zool. Garden
Michelle Claud, Santa Ana Zoo
Barbara Davis, Sea World of Ohio
Amy Dumas, San Diego Zoo
Martha Fischer, St. Louis Zoological Park
Elizabeth Frank, Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens
Cheryl Ann Frederick, Franklin Park Zoo
Katherine Fulkerson, San Diego Wild Animal Park
Ryan Gulker, Sunset Zoological Park
Mary Gunther, National Aquarium in Baltimore
Sara Hallager, National Zoological Park
Karen Killmar, San Diego Zoo
Chriss Kmiecik, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Barbara Lester, Houston Zoological Gardens
Susan Lindsey, Wild Canid Survival Center
Fran Lyon, Oklahoma City Zoological Park
Karin Newman, Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens
Jimmy Pichner, Minnesota Zoological Garden
Rochelle Plassé, Houston Zoological Gardens
Linda Rohr, Franklin Park Zoo
Stan Searles, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Jonathan Seltz, Sedgwick County Zoo
Al Sironen, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Dena Strange, Houston Zoological Gardens
Eve Watts, San Francisco Zoological Gardens
Anthony Wisnieski, The Baltimore Zoo

SSP COORDINATOR TRAINING

Margaret Abadie, Houston Zoological Gardens
Diane Callaway, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

James Fish, Oklahoma City Zoological Park
Helena Fitch-Snyder, San Diego Zoo
Lewis Greene, Prospect Park Wildlife Center
E. William Houston, St. Louis Zoological Park
Penny Kalk, Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park
Arlene Kumamoto, San Diego Zoo
Bill McMahan, Louisville Zoological Garden
Joseph Roman, Virginia Zoological Park
D. Peter Siminski, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Steven Taylor, Louisville Zoological Garden
Valerie Thompson, San Diego Zoo
Lynne Villers, Indianapolis Zoo
Linda Wachsberg, Detroit Zoological Park

SCIENCE OF ZOO & AQUARIUM ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Steve Bircher, St. Louis Zoological Park
Ravi Chellam, Wildlife Institute of India
Jay Christie, Metropolitan Toronto Zoo
Roger Clawitter, Burnet Park Zoo
David Ellis, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
Michael Garlach, Miami Metrozoo
Donald Goff, Beardsley Zoological Gardens
Joe Grubic, Cameron Park Zoo
Mike Keele, Metro Washington Park Zoo
Suzanne Kirby, The Living Desert
Donald Kuenzer, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Diane Ledder, San Diego Wild Animal Park
John Linehan, Franklin Park Zoo
Joe Norton, St. Louis Zoological Park
Tammery Olsen, Silver Spring Nature Park
Lori Perkins, Zoo Atlanta
Dawn Petefish, Glen Oak Zoo
Michael Quick, Sunset Zoological Park
Catherine Short, Kentucky Down Under
Connie Sweet, Santa Ana Zoo
Michelle Willette-Frahm, Gladys Porter Zoo

The St. Louis Zoo is to be commended for its leadership and continued support of the Conservation Academy programs, which are serving a vital need for scientific collection management training to the AZA membership.

The Conservation Academy is administered by the AZA Board of Regents, a standing committee charged with developing and coordinating all AZA professional training and development programs. The twelve-member committee also administers the Management School and Applied Zoo and Aquarium Biology School.

(C. Dinsmore)