



The International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ) regularly receives requests from zoological facilities around the world seeking teaching and training materials for their new and/or under-experienced keepers.

Finally, in one volume, the solution has arrived.

Zookeeping: An introduction to the Science and Technology is a collaborative effort, with 73 contributing authors and seven contributing artists,

a diverse group of experts from varying backgrounds and regions of the world. Contact information for these experts is conveniently included in the appendix.

The 66 major chapters discuss an impressive range of topics, from Animal Welfare and Ethics to Wildlife Rehabilitation; taxon-specific husbandry guidelines to Nutrition; Preventive Medicine to Behavioral Husbandry; Enrichment to Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management. The comprehensive array of content covers every aspect of successfully running a modern zoo.

Ostensibly a handbook for new zookeepers, this book is in fact a resource which will prove useful to even the most seasoned zoo professional. Irwin states, "Surprisingly, there is little consistency in how keepers are trained and credentialed, and there has been few foundational textbooks targeted to entry-level keeper training".

Considering the fact that there are thousands of zookeepers worldwide — an estimated 6,000 just in ICZ-related associations — educational opportunities for these professionals is very limited. The number of schools which offer curriculum for prospective zookeepers is quite limited (a complete list is thoughtfully included in the appendix). This is especially true in developing countries.

Irwin considers zookeepers "an under-utilized resource". He states, "When fully utilized, a professional, well-rounded, and properly trained keeper will be one of a facility's greatest assets".

By producing this wealth of information covering hundreds of best practices unique to the zoo field, Irwin has filled a huge void in our profession. It seems fair to say that the future of zookeeping will be greatly improved by Irwin's work. He proposes, "effective zoo operation will increasingly depend on having an effective team of skilled, trained, professional keepers".

Providing a copy of this book to every zoological institution would make great strides in achieving the mission of the ICZ, which reads in part: "... knowledge will improve the professionalism of zookeepers for the benefit of the animals under their care and promote awareness and actions that will contribute to the preservation of wildlife everywhere"

Thank you, Mark Irwin, for providing a solid foundation for zookeepers everywhere!

Norah Farnham, ICZ Steering Committee



AAZK CHAPTER NEWS



It has been a good year for the St. Louis Chapter of AAZK. This past year our Chapter has grown to over 40 members. We hope to continue to grow, as we gear up for the 2015 AAZK conference being held here in Saint Louis. We continue to reach out to more people through our Facebook page to make them aware of the work we do, events we are having, and how they can help. Our page now has 550 followers!

Fundraising in our Chapter has been going very well this last year. To celebrate International Polar Bear Day, St. Louis AAZK held an event at a local restaurant where we were able to raise \$466 and provide information on how to help save polar bears. Our 2013 Bowling for Rhinos event was a great success. We were able to raise \$8553 for wild rhinos and animals that share their home. World Rhino Day, on September 21st, was celebrated by River's Edge keepers to educate the public about rhino populations in the wild. Through the sale of rhino paintings, they were able to raise over \$1800 to donate to the Northern Rangelands Trust. We also hosted our 2nd annual Spots and Stripes trivia night where we were able to raise over \$2400 dollars and had a fun evening.

We are very proud of three Saint Louis Zoo keepers who won AAZK awards this past year. Chawna Schuette won the Certificate of Merit in Conservation for her work with hellbenders, an endangered salamander. Rebecca Heisler won the AAZK Excellence in Journalism award for her article in the AKF, "What we have learned from a shifty ibis (shift training



for sacred ibis)." Carrie Felsher was recognized for her work with the zoo's Enrichment Committee by receiving the Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment Award.

We look forward to this coming year. We will be working on making our events, like Bowling for Rhinos, even better, and we will continue to try to grow our Chapter with membership drives. Our largest goal of this year will be working on fundraising and planning for the 2015 AAZK Conference. It is being held September 27th - October 1st, 2015, and we hope everyone plans on coming to what is sure to be a great conference!



2014. "Book Review: Zookeeping: An introduction to the Science and Technology." *Animal keepers' forum* 41(4), 106–106.

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