Top Row: Left. Giant Panda; Right, Komodo Dragon
Bottom Row: Left. Marabou Stork; Right, American Beaver

Photo Credits: Larry Freedman, Docent, Detroit Zoo
Kori Bustards: Feathered Balloons of the African Plains

By Patsy McAteer, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Sara Hallager, a researcher at the National Zoo, has worked with kori bustards for several years. This is a summary of her presentation at the AZAD convention.

During the breeding season, males gather either singly or loose lek-like formations and perform “balloon” displays to attract females. Displays can occur throughout the day, but are usually most intense in the early morning and late afternoon/evening. During the height of the male display, the esophagus inflates to as much as four times its normal size and resembles a balloon. This display may be seen up to two miles away. With the neck expanded, the tail and wing feathers pointed downward and the crest erected, the male emits a low-pitched booming noise as he snaps his bill open and shut. Females are attracted to the male with the superior display.

Koris are the largest of the flying birds. Males can weigh up to 32 pounds and stand four to five feet tall. Females are about half the size of the male. In Africa their habitat is the eastern and southern grassland and lightly wooded savanna. In the wild their diet consists of Acacia gum, seed pods, seeds, eggs, insects, worms and small vertebrates. Zoo foods are mice, horsemeat, insects, fruit and vegetables. Females lay two eggs which hatch in 23 days. Males are involved in neither the incubation nor the parenting process. Breeding is closely tied with rainfall and in drought years, may be greatly reduced or not even occur. Chicks are born precocial with very long legs. They grow quickly. Although fully grown at six months, they remain with their mother for over a year. Females are sexually mature at three years. Natural predators of the kori include eagles, leopards, lions, and jackals. Life span in captivity is 30 years.

The species is listed on Appendix II of CITES as Vulnerable. It’s estimated that in the next three generations, the population in South Africa is expected to decline by 10%. The habitat of both subspecies is under threat from crop farming, over grazing by livestock and bush encroachment. Although the kori bustards are listed as “protected game” they are still hunted over much of their range. The kori is commonly referred to as the “Christmas turkey” in Namibia and the “Kalahari Kentucky” in South Africa.

In 1997, the first kori bustard chick hatched at the National Zoo. With this hatching, National Zoo became the fifth zoo in the world to breed this species. Since 1997, nearly 30 chicks have been born at the zoo. All chicks have been hand raised, requiring 24/7 keeper care for the first seven weeks. Chicks are sent out to zoos at nine months. Koris are found at Cheyenne Mountain, Denver, Atlanta, White Oak, Miami, Baltimore, Birmingham and Kansas City zoos.

In 2000 the National Zoo began a Kori Bustard Behavior Watch to understand the bird’s needs in captivity. The goals of the watch are:
- determine what effect multiple males have on each other during the breeding season
- identify behaviors which indicate the eminence of egg laying in females
- discover if certain activities vary with the time of day and season
- determine if activities vary between the sexes and between breeding and non-breeding birds
- understand how the birds make use of the exhibit
- watch the birds interact with each other
- calibrate the effect of crowd level on members of the flock.

National Zoo docents participate in the watches. Specific behaviors are counted. The watch begins every year on Mar 1 and ends on Dec 31. Data collection occurs every day of the week for one hour at a time. Depending on the level of daylight, watches are conducted from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the summer, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter.

Sara’s final message was: koris are cool. For more information, see the National Zoo’s web page compiled by Sara Halleger at http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/TropicalEcosystems/KoriBustards/Biology/default.cfm.

Originally published in the Dec 2005 issue of the “Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary Zoo Line.”
From the Editor

I hope you enjoy the virtual visit to the Smithsonian’s National Zoo via Larry Freedman’s photos in this issue. In a future issue you’ll hear from writers I met at the conference writing workshop.

Upcoming issues will focus on using stories, recruiting and training, and dealing with difficult issues. I’d love to hear from you.

Best regards,
Ellen Kulie
First Timer’s Report: 2005 AZAD Conference
By Carol Conant, Seneca Park Zoo

This was my first time attending an AZAD conference. If I could, I would sign up for the next conference right now. That’s how impressed I was with what I saw and what I learned. National Zoo’s mission is to “celebrate, study, and protect the diversity of animals and their habitats.” Celebrate means having fun, educating and enjoying. Study means offering leadership in conservation science. Protect means building a commitment to protect animals and their habitats through education, relationship building and engaging communities throughout the United States and the world. This mission became the theme of the conference.

My first speaker at the conference was Rob Mies of the Organization for Bat Conservation (www.batconservation.org). Rob was an engaging speaker and came with several bats for us to view up close. I was surprised to learn that there are 45 species of bats in the U.S. and 1,105 species of bats worldwide. The very endangered golden bat, found only on Rodriguez Island in the Indian Ocean, is endangered because of habitat loss. Numbers have risen to about 4,500 bats from a low of about 500. This is a result of a full-time researcher on the island and education of children. Others found this program as interesting as I did, with some people attending more than once. My second program was on kori bustards, Africa’s largest flying bird. I can attest to the size, having seen one a few days prior to this at the Baltimore Zoo.

After some free time, this very informative first day ended with an Ice Breaker at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. We had the museum to ourselves and could wander through the new mammal exhibit, the large dinosaur display, view the Hope diamond or browse in the gift shop. Our group managed to do all of this. The mammal exhibit caught our eye, especially because we knew they had a Bornean orangutan in the exhibit.

A traditional part of an AZAD Conference is Zoo Day with docents spending the day at the hosting zoo. Smithsonian’s National Zoo was established in 1889. The 163-acre park in Washington, D.C. is home to 2,400 animals representing 400 species. There are 300 employees and 1,600 volunteers supporting the zoo.

There was a lot we had to see and do. Choices included a number of talks (panda, gibbon, hippo, macaque, great cats, etc.), many feedings (spider, giant elephant shrew, stingray, komodo dragon, to name a few), enrichments (cheetahs, great ape, etc.) and other demonstrations. Because of the size of the zoo and the variety of activities, we decided to start near the main entrance and work our way to the other end of the zoo. We started in a room that had four cameras on the pandas. The cameras provided an excellent view of the mother and rapidly growing baby. Docents supplemented the cameras by showing pictures taken during each of the baby’s medical exams and answering our questions. We then walked to the exhibit so that we could see the father. Our timing was good as he was eating and lounging at the front of his exhibit.

Our next stop was the cheetah exhibit. National Zoo has nine cheetah cubs, all born in the last year. Tumai, a four-year-old female, gave birth to two males and two females on Nov 23, 2004. Zazi, a three-year-old female, gave birth to two males and three females Apr 14, 2005. All cubs are thriving with these two first-time mothers. Besides seeing the cubs, we were attracted to this exhibit to see an enrichment demonstration. The keepers rigged a flag on a line that could be pulled through the exhibit at a fast rate. The flag would catch the eye of one or more of the cheetahs who would then give chase and try to catch the “prey.” It was obvious that both the cheetahs and the visitors enjoyed this stimulation. It was great to see the adult cheetah running and the cubs learning to hunt.

We ended our day with the Komodo dragon. We came early to the exhibit as there would be a feeding. It was a good opportunity to learn about the dragons and their care. The keeper actually went into the exhibit to feed the dragon his white rat dinner.

We visited a number of other exhibits during the day, too numerous to describe. We headed back to the hotel, tired but happy, after a great day at National Zoo. National Zoo has a wonderful website, with cameras on several of the animals. It’s worth taking a look at it. The address is: www.nationalzoo.si.edu.

Ape Awareness Day for Your Zoo

By Juanita Kempe, Docent, Los Angeles Zoo

Many of you attended the Ape Awareness Day presentation at AZAD 2005. You will be able to see part of that presentation by going to the AZAD web site. Our day at the Los Angeles Zoo was an outstanding success with almost 6000 people stopping by our 13 tables to see what we had to offer. Our docents and general volunteers came up with some additional wonderful ideas that I was not able to share with you in Sep and I would like to tell you about them now.

Because the great apes are so strong I asked the people in charge of that station to come up with something that would demonstrate that idea - well this one can’t be beat. It not only got the kids going but adult males too - and you know how hard it is to impress them. There were four trash barrels filled with water. The first one had an amount of water to represent the strength of a human male. The next one had more water and represented a chimpanzee, next came the gorilla and the last can represented the strength of an orangutan. Orangutans have tremendous upper body strength so that they can support their weight as they move through the trees each day looking for food. Three grown men could not move that can. They tried and tried and of course managed to gather an amused audience to watch.

The next great idea came from a long time docent and gorilla behavioral enrichment volunteer. At the moment, we have no gorillas because they live at the Denver Zoo while we are attempting to build a new exhibit for them. That did not stop us from having a gorilla table. Our docent made colorful gorilla cutouts for kids and adults to sign or write a note on. Over 350 of these little gorilla notes were sent to our guys at the Denver Zoo saying that we miss them.

At the bonobo table - and we have no bonobos - two volunteers came up with a wonderful game that was played on a laptop computer. There were sets of pictures. Kids had to guess which picture was a bonobo and which was a chimpanzee. If they got them all correct then they got a lollipop. While the kids were doing this, the fathers were listening to the interesting practices the bonobos use to handle stress. The fathers were so interested that a suggestion was made to have a peep show for them next year.

Our docents were very enthusiastic about working this event and part of that is because so many love the apes. However that is not the main reason for putting on an Ape Awareness Day. As we all know the great apes are disappearing at an alarming rate. Here is some recent information from The World Atlas of Great Apes and Their Conservation - a book I highly recommend. The apes close to extinction are the Sumatran orangutan, the eastern lowland gorilla and the cross river gorilla. Next in line are the Bornean orangutan and the bonobo. These two sets represent a one star and a two star rating out of a possible five stars. No species received a five star rating.

Just to give you one more idea for your Ape Awareness Day - the San Diego Zoo auctioned off paintings done by their orangutans. One of the paintings that was quite good had an opening bid of $650.00. All the paintings sold. On their web site they even had a video of the orangutans carrying around their paper and paints while attempting to be creative. Let’s see what you can come up with and then share with us.

2006 Delegate Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

By Diane Cooney, AZAD Chairman, Director-Extension

This year we will be holding the Annual Delegate Meeting at the Columbus Zoo Regional Conference in Columbus, OH, on Jul 20, 2006. The timeline for Delegate Confirmation forms will be moved up and they will be sent out to the Organizational members of AZAD in Feb. The attendance at the Columbus Regional will be limited to 300. Registration will begin in Mar. Please choose your organization’s Delegate prior to Mar 1 so that they can send in their registration for the conference as close to that date as possible. Columbus will be holding a limited number of slots open for Delegates so they need to register early. This will be the official 2006 Annual business meeting for AZAD.

There will also be a Regional Conference at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Sep 15-17, 2006. It will also have a limited number of registrants (200). There will not be a business meeting at this Regional.

Registrations are limited at both of these Regionals because the institutions are unable to accommodate larger numbers of people. If you want to attend, please make your choices early and respond as soon as the registration materials are sent out. It will be very important for you to plan ahead.

At AZAD 2007 we will return to the longer six day format and we will allow for a larger number of registrants when we meet again in St. Louis, MO, Sep 25-30, 2007.
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Regional Conference

Preconference Activities

By Jeannine Leary, Program Chairman, ASDM Regional AZAD Conference

The ADSM regional conference hosts are offering the following preconference activities for Sep 15, 2006.

1. Tucson Attractions. An activity fee ($30) will provide transportation, admission and docent led tours at two Tucson attractions. The Reid Park Zoo is a small zoo set in a beautiful park where a leisurely stroll takes you past hundreds of fascinating animals from around the globe. The Tucson Botanical Gardens has sixteen different gardens within the grounds representing a variety of gardening traditions and botanical themes.

2. Tohono Chul. Tohono Chul, translated as “desert corner,” is a piece of the desert in the midst of a rapidly developing urban area. The Park invites exploration and discovery of the Sonoran Desert with its nature trails, demonstration gardens and exhibits. Your program, “A Taste of the Desert,” will start in the classroom with a slide presentation on the plants used today and in the past by the peoples of the Southwest. Then you will enjoy a guided tour of this 49 acre desert preserve followed by a lunch prepared of native foods. Cost of this experience is $40 and will be limited to the first 33 people who register for it.

3. Photography Workshop. A photography workshop, presented by David Horwitz, internationally published award winning photographer, will be offered from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Doubletree on Sep 15, 2006. The cost will be $25. At the conclusion of this two hour workshop the participant will be able to:
   - Identify at least three general requirements for taking better photographs
   - Name at least two specific strategies for improving their own photography
   - Critique their photos using methods learned.

Collared Peccary (Javelina)

By Marilyn Hanson, Registration/Publicity Chair, ADSM Regional Conference

The docents at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum would like to take the opportunity to clear up a common misconception concerning one of our favorite animals, the Collared Peccary (Javelina). The information in last month’s Symbiosis article “About Biofacts” indicated that Collared Peccaries are wild American pigs. In fact these animals are in an entirely different family than pigs. While both are in the order Artiodactyla, pigs belong to the family Suidae and Collared Peccaries to the family Tayassuidae. Think Old World (pigs) and New World (Collared Peccaries). There are three species of javelina and they range from Argentina to Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and cover a wide range of habitat, including desert scrub, semi-desert grasslands, woodland and chaparral. In addition they are primarily herbivores. Those of you who are planning on attending the Southwest Regional Conference in Sep 2006 will have an opportunity to see these wonderful animals up close.

AZAD’s Crocodile Class

AZAD members will gather in Jacksonville, FL on Thursday evening, Mar 9, 2006 for a get-acquainted affair as our 3-1/2 day adventure commences. On Friday we will spend the day exploring the Jacksonville Zoo. Up early Saturday morning, we will board our bus for a full day at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm which exhibits all 23 species of crocodylians. Our day will be full with tours, behind-the-scenes looks, hands-on workshops, and lectures by local crocodilian experts. (St. Augustine is also the host for the annual AZA crocodile class attended by zookeepers and animal management personnel.) After class, we travel back to Jacksonville for an evening on your own.

The following day we will return to St. Augustine Alligator Farm for a day on your own in the park. Attend animal shows featuring reptiles, alligators, rainforest animals, and local Florida animals; wander the byways crowded with crocodilian exhibits. Then return to Jacksonville for a late flight home or spend the night with an early morning departure. The cost for this fun and inspiring event is $180 for AZAD members. There is only room for 30 participants and the registration deadline is Jan 31, 2006. See the complete itinerary and registration form on the AZAD web site. Still have questions? Contact trip leader Gloria Koch, Oregon ZooGuide, at her email address: zoovolunteer@aol.com.
“What we do for ourselves dies with us.

What we do for our community lives long after we are gone.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Highlights of the AZAD Executive Board Conference Meetings Washington D.C.

By Michael J. Gillen, 2005-2006 Secretary

The AZAD Executive Board arrived in Washington DC for AZAD 2005 on Sep 26, 2005 with a full agenda for their meeting on Tuesday Sep 27. The following is an overview of some of the issues discussed and actions taken by the Board at their meeting.

- The Agreed Upon Procedures report prepared by Wade & Company LLP, a Houston based CPA firm stated: “In summary, all deposits and disbursements as reported in the bank statements for the above noted period have been included in the Treasurer’s report of Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balances that is provided to the Board.”

- The Board approved the production of a sixth issue of *Symbiosis*. This will contain mainly administrative information. The information has historically been split up amongst the other issues of *Symbiosis*.

- AZAD Education Grants will be offered to organization members. Applications are available on the web site. The Board voted to continue having the grants available.

- The Board will ask that the 2005-2006 Bylaws Committee clarify the wording of the AZAD Conference section of the AZAD Bylaws to allow for Annual Delegates Meetings if no National Conference is planned.

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Come to Columbus and Enjoy the Zoo!

By Joyce Talkowski, Co-Chair, Columbus Regional AZAD Conference

The Columbus Zoo Docent Association -more than 300 strong- is looking forward to hosting an AZAD Regional Conference on Jul 21-23, 2006. We hope you will join us to “Protect, Educate and Conserve.”

The entire conference will be held on Zoo grounds and is limited to 300 attendees. Activities include: AZAD Delegates’ Meeting (Jul 20), pre-conference trip to The Wilds, Ice-breaker, Sessions, Zoo Day, and Banquet.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is a strong supporter of conservation projects around the globe. You’ll learn more about these efforts and local partnerships. In fact, registration fees are already supporting Partners in Conservation (PIC). And we know you will want to see how My House, an interactive exhibit on zoo grounds, was built through a partnership with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). Even the pre-conference trip to The Wilds, a 10,000-acre animal preserve where conservation and research are the priorities, showcases another unique partnership.

Our Docent Association promotes the educational, recreational, conservation and biological inquiry missions the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Join us in Jul and see how we protect, educate and conserve. We’re looking forward to your visit!

Joyce Talkowski, Co-Chair
onedDateTime@sbcglobal.net
(614) 288-3048

Jim Bartos, Co-Chair
jbartazad@columbus.rr.com

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Newsletters

Thank you to the many Organizational Members who send me their newsletters. Historically, AZAD has made use of organizational member newsletters by occasionally reprinting articles in total or in part, always giving proper credit to the original author (if known) and newsletter/zoo or aquarium, without seeking item by item permission.

If you have any concerns or questions about the potential use of your newsletter, please contact me. Thank you for helping to educate our members.

*Symbiosis Editor*

*Symbiosis* is available on-line or via hard copy. Contact the Membership Chairman to change your subscription format. You need an active email address and Internet access to view the newsletters online.

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Symbiosis

*Barn Owl*  
*Photo Credit: Laurel Shannon, Cameron Park Zoo*
Maryland Zoo Biofacts
By Jim Hubbard, Maryland Zoo Docent

Let me start by noting that the Maryland Zoo hosted an excellent post-conference tour for AZAD members on Sunday, Oct 2, 2005, and everyone enjoyed the event tremendously!

One of the highlights of our hosting activity was a visit by AZAD members to our Shaffer Artifact/Biofact Room. All who visited were extremely impressed with the organization of the room and the availability of the biofacts/artifacts for use on grounds by our docents and members of the zoo’s education staff. Bill and Carolyn Shaffer, long-term dedicated docents, in whose honor the room has been named, hosted the AZAD visit and enjoyed the experience of escorting visitors through the room while explaining the lay-out of the artifacts and the check-out procedure. Ideally, every artifact/biofact in the extensive inventory is either on hand and available or is known to be in use by a specific individual. The system works very well most of the time, even to the point that long-term loans to the Education Department are recorded, as well as long-term assignment to a training station on grounds.

We have lockable containers in our on-grounds stations, and artifacts/biofacts are stored there for easier access by docents and edzoocators in their efforts to entertain and enlighten zoo visitors of all ages. We frequently use these “teaching tools” when filling in for keepers at scheduled Keeper Encounters. Almost without exception, use of the artifacts and biofacts helps to bring our verbal presentations alive, giving adults and children some real focus on the animals.

One of our docents, Fran Frattali, put it most succinctly when she noted “Biofacts are a quick “hook” to initiate and/or stimulate discussion with visitors. You can approach a visitor and ask if they’d like to see whatever it is you have to get a conversation started. If I am not at a station, obviously, smaller artifacts work the best -- teeth, claws, hair, feathers, etc. -- especially something that a visitor can also touch. When at one of the stations, it allows one to use larger artifacts/biofacts as well as to use them in a different manner. As an example, I created a “guessing game” to use while in the Tundra Buggy using three different bear claws -- a polar bear, a grizzly bear and a black bear. I have pictures of each bear and I ask guests to match the claw to the bear. It’s quick and an excellent lead in to comparing and contrasting each bear’s adaptations, habitats, etc. So far, no one has gotten them 100% correct -- even the visiting AZAD docents!”

Symbiosis
AZAD EXECUTIVE BOARD
2004 - 2005 and 2005 - 2006 Joint Board Meeting Held on October 1, 2005

AZAD Chairman Bob Shaff called the meeting of the 2004 - 2005 and 2005 - 2006 Executive Boards to order at 10:39 am. Present were: Diane Cooney, Ellen Kulie, Kaye Quintin, Bob Shaff, Judy Thompson, Ben Carpenter, Michael Gillen, Jim Bartos, and Mary Murphy. Bob welcomed Mary Murphy Director of Conference Advisory and Jim Bartos, Membership Chairman.

Bob asked if everyone if they wanted to continue the monthly winners for AZAD membership. Board members have chosen to continue with this program.

Judy Soresen, Omaha’s Henry Doorley Zoo, will be asked to chair the education grant committee and choose two new members for the committee. The board decided it would be best if the entire education grant committee didn’t get changed every year.

Judy Thompson informed the other board members that she will continue to assist with Conference Advisory duties until Mary Murphy returns home. She will also continue to accept funds for the St. Augustine trip.

The board presented the departing board members with thank you gifts in appreciation of their service to AZAD. Both thanked the other board members.

Bob Shaff, departing Membership Chair, and Judy Thompson, departing Conference Advisory, left the meeting.

The election of the 2005-2006 AZAD Chairman was held. Diane Cooney was elected.

Ben Carpenter, Professional Registered Parliamantarian and Memphis Zoo Docent, was re-appointed AZAD Parliamentarian.

Board Member Reports

Conference Advisory: Mary Murphy had no additional reports. She did state that she has been given some names of member organizations that might be interested in hosting future conferences. She will report back to the board with any new developments. Mary will also report the names of her committee members after the conference.

Secretary: Michael Gillen passed around a sheet to have all board members list their contact information. The completed list will be sent to all board members. He also asked if they were missing anything from their board books and find that they are missing something at a later date, they can contact him and replacement documents will be mailed. Michael Gillen has also asked that everyone send him their committee members as soon as possible after the conference.

Extension: Diane then announced the following committee appointments: Extension Committee Members - Dave Heim (Brookfield Zoo) and Mary Anne Lefevre (Phoenix Zoo); they are working on the database survey and will be getting it compiled in a format so that it can be accessible. She hopes to have something ready by the interim. Travel Committee - Roberta (Bert) DeVries (Philadelphia Zoo), Chair, has one vacancy on her committee since Mary has joined the board and one filled (Gail Neher, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo), members; Webmaster - Liz Turner (Houston Zoo) selected members Carissa Cooney (Lincoln Park Memorial Gardens), Trish Abbene (Saint Louis Zoo) and Jane Barron (Zoo Atlanta).

Elizabeth Lyons, Chair of AZAD 2005, gave an update on the 2005 conference. She gave us a run down of the schedule of speakers for the banquet.

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum - The Chairperson gave the presentation for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum regional conference. Their theme is “Treasure the Desert.” The dates for the conference are Sept 15-17. They are finalizing the details of the conference. They did provide their proposed budget for the conference. The registration fees are as follows: $80 early, $90 regular, and $100 for late. They have limited the conference to 200 people.

Columbus Zoo - The chairperson gave the presentation for the Columbus Zoo Regional Conference and Delegates meeting. Their theme will be “Protect, Educate, Conserve”. The dates for the conference are July 20th - 23rd. They also provided their proposed budget. Their registration fees are as follows: $85 early, $95 regular, and $105 for late. They have limited the conference to 300 people.

The proposed budgets for the Columbus Zoo and Arizona-Sonora Desert were approved.

Saint Louis Zoo - The chairperson gave the presentation for the 2007 National Conference in St. Louis. The dates for the conference are Tuesday Sept 25 through 30th 2007. The title for the 2007 national conference is “All Aboard for Conservation”. They are still finalizing plans for the conference. They will be at the Columbus Zoo Regional conference to give the board an update.

Membership: Jim Bartos had nothing to report.

Newsletter: Ellen said that the next newsletter deadline was Oct 12.

Public Relations: Kaye announced that the members of the Public Relations Committee would be Marge Drugay (Arizona Sonora Desert Museum) and she will contact Carole Hughes (Houston Zoo) to see if she is interested in serving on the committee again.

Treasurer: Signature cards would be sent out at a later date since she was unable to attend the conference due to the hurricane.

There was no Unfinished Business

New Business, it was decided to reappoint Carol Petrone, Detroit Zoo, as the chairperson for the Bylaws committee. She will then choose her committee members.

Announcements- Jim Bartos will check on possible interim meeting dates for late February or early March. He will send the board some possible dates and we will select from those.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Michael J Gillen
Secretary
An Unfortunate Happening
By Kaye Quentin, Saint Louis Zoo Docent

In the last Symbiosis, I wrote of the great anticipation we had at the Saint Louis Zoo concerning the birth of the first of our three pregnant elephants. Unfortunately this pregnancy ended with a dead calf and still not delivered. Everything had been going just the way it should and no problems were anticipated. At the proper time Sri’s, the pregnant cow, hormone levels dropped as the start of her labor period. A 24 hour watch was put in place and all were excited. Days went by and nothing happened and the staff began to worry and called all the consultants that had been helping throughout Sri’s 22 month pregnancy. After 13 days of waiting and many tests it was decided that the calf, a girl, had died. It was also determined that the calf never was in the right position for delivery. Why? No one is sure. Once the dead calf is delivered there will be a necropsy, but when that will happen is an unknown factor. It seems that Sri could carry this dead fetus from a short while to as long as four to five years.

Sri seems to be fine, is eating well and acting normal. The staff feels that as long as the calf is within the amniotic fluid in the birth sack as it is now, there should be no problems. Sri will be carefully watched for any changes.

On a happier note, it was confirmed that our pregnant cow Ellie is carrying a female calf. Her due date is in late Jun or early Jul. As for our third cow Rani, it is too soon to know the sex of the calf. That answer will come near the end of 2006. As for now, all hopes are for two successful pregnancies and most importantly, births.

Membership Winners
Dec 2005
Caryn Neumann, Columbus
Pat Reavy, Lincoln Park

Jan 2006
Georgia Nuss, Louisville
Catherine Torrillo, Bronx

Committee Members
Selection of committee members for 2005-2006 is currently underway.

AZAD Patch & Pin Order Form
Patches are oval, 2 3/4” long, white with blue AZAD logo.
Cost $1.00 each (no shipping charge)

Number of patches ordered _______ Amt _______

Pins are oval, 1 1/8” by 5/8”, cloisonné blue letters on white
Cost $3.00 each for orders of less than 10
$2.75 each for orders of 10 or more

Number of pins ordered _______ Amt _______

Total enclosed _______

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All prices U.S. dollars and must be payable through a U.S. bank.

Please do not send cash. Make checks payable to “AZAD” and mail to:
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Saint Louis, MO 63109-3567

AZAD refund policy: No refunds will be issued for amounts of $5 or less. These funds will be considered a donation to AZAD. AZAD returned check fee: $10

AZAD Merchandise (not to scale)
Top, AZAD Patch Photo credit Debi Vetz, Saint Louis
Bottom, AZAD Pin Photo credit, Bob Shaff, Seneca Park

Please use this current order form. Orders placed on old forms are subject to return.
AZAD Travel Committee Chair, Bert DeVries, Joins Educational Travel Conference Advisory Board

The Educational Travel Conference (formerly Nonprofits in Travel Conference) was initiated in 1987 by Travel Learning Connections, Inc. as a pioneering effort to facilitate program development and collaborative networking between nonprofit organizations and tour operators, travel suppliers and destinations working within the field of educational and affinity travel. Usually 150 nonprofit institutions and organizations from across the USA and Canada participate in the ETC. The agenda is designed for key decision makers and support staff of travel programs such as: art, science and natural history museums; alumni associations; zoos and aquariums; and conservation and preservation organizations. Also participating are approximately 30 domestic and foreign government tourist offices and, in addition, more than 120 special interest tour operators and travel suppliers.

When the conference was initiated, the Advisory Council was formed, whose job still includes helping to plan the conference and scheduling the events, recommending and reviewing, proposing speakers and evaluating the conference. The council consists of 12 members, including several representatives from alumni groups, tour operators, destination suppliers, museums and/or natural history organizations. Advisory Council members have included: the Presidents or Managing Directors of Elderhostel, Geographic Expeditions, Micato Safaris, and Egypt Air; alumni travel planners from Harvard, Cornell, Duke, the Naval Academy and Notre Dame; representatives from the tourist boards of Mexico, Hong Kong, Thailand and Wales; and travel program directors from the American Museum of Natural History, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Santa Barbara and Oakland Art Museums.

Following the 2005 Conference in Washington, Bert was asked to join the Advisory Council. She is only the second volunteer to serve on the Council and also only the second person affiliated with a Zoo. Bert has attended seven consecutive conferences and has participated as a seminar moderator, speaker and facilitator and is still serving on the Responsible Ecotourism Committee. For more information about the 20th Anniversary Educational Travel Conference Feb 21 - 24, 2006 in Baltimore, please visit www.travelearning.com.

Travel the World with AZAD in 2006

EGYPT - THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS and THE ETERNAL NILE
A Five Star Luxury Adventure Created Especially for AZAD
Feb 17 - 28, 2006 $3,295 from JFK in New York
Egypt is a glorious open-air museum of astounding mega structures, all raised to honor powerful leaders and a pantheon of gods. We will take in the full measure of Egypt’s epic 5,000 yearlong story, from the Great Pyramids to the legendary Nile, where we cruise in the wake of Cleopatra and the pharaohs aboard our luxury vessel from Aswan to Luxor and see the greatest antiquities that the past has left us. In Alexandria where Cleopatra reigned, we’ll visit the renovated greatest library of ancient times. All this and more will be yours during your 12-day trip to the Land of the Pharaohs. An optional post trip is available to Sharm El Sheikh and wonderful snorkeling in the dazzling Red Sea. Limited space available.

THE GREAT AFRICAN PRIMATE EXPEDITION IN RWANDA and UGANDA
May 13 - 28, 2006 $4,300 Land Only
Tracking gorillas on foot is one of the world’s most profoundly thrilling wildlife experiences. The thrill of meeting these animals face-to-face in their own habitat is one you will remember for the rest of your life. In Uganda we will visit the new Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary on Lake Victoria that offers a home to orphaned chimps in a natural environment. We will also search for red and black and white colobus, red tails, gray-cheeked mangabey and other primate species. We’ll spend several days in Queen Elizabeth Park, where we can see lion, leopard, Uganda kob, and waterbuck, buffalo and herds of elephants. In Maramgambo Forest we will visit bat caves seeing thousands of bats and often a monitor lizard catching the bats. An optional pre-trip to extension to Murchison Falls is also offered. Two spaces left.

THE PANTANAL - BRAZIL’S GRAND SAVANNAHS
RIO and IGUAZU FALLS
First departure waitlisted Oct 28 - Nov 7, 2006 (second departure) $3,650 from Miami
Join Steve Morello, expert naturalist guide and wildlife photographer and 2004 Conference keynote speaker, on a journey of discovery to the Pantanal, Rio and Igazu Falls in Brazil. Wildlife viewing in the Pantanal is often likened to what one experiences while on the plains of Africa. While in Rio we will explore Tyuca National Park and Corcovado, the statue of Christ that watches over Rio with open arms. We will also visit Poco das Antas Biological Reserve, a stronghold for the golden lion tamarin and center for the Smithsonian Research Center. Our adventure also includes the incredible Igazu Falls, one of the largest waterfalls on Earth with over 275 cascades plunging through the rich Atlantic rainforest.

For more information and/or reservation form, please call “Bert” DeVries, AZAD Travel Committee Chair at (215) 357-7150 or email Travel@AZADocents.org. Detailed itineraries can also be found on www.AZADocents.org under Conferences and Travel.
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2006-2007 Dates to Remember

Mar 2006 Regional Conference Registration
Check the AZAD web site

Mar 9-12, 2006 Crash Course on Crocodilians,
Jacksonville and St. Augustine, FL
Visit Jacksonville Zoo and St. Augustine Alligator Farm

Apr 1, 2006 Symbiosis Copy Deadline
Theme: Stories as Interpretative Tools

Jun 1, 2006 Symbiosis Copy Deadline
Theme: Recruitment and Training

Jul 20-23, 2006 Columbus Zoo & Aquarium,
Columbus, OH
Delegates’ Meeting and Regional Conference
“Protect, Educate, Conserve”
Conference Co-Chairs: Jim Bartos, Joyce Talkowsk

Aug 1, 2006 Symbiosis Copy Deadline
Theme: Dealing with Difficult Issues

Sep 15-17, 2006 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum,
Tucson, AZ
Regional Conference
“Treasure the Desert”
Conference Chair: Marge Drugay


For writer’s guidelines, please contact the editor. Each issue focuses on a theme. Articles are edited for content, length or grammar. Articles may be placed on the AZAD web site.