

Nate worked with me on this and at one time there were 30 member zoos in India but people got transferred and the next one wasn't interested. Now at least ISIS is established in a some of our better zoos thanks to the Central Zoo Authority.

Nate and Tom took me to meet Dr. U. S. Seal who was interested in India as he had taught capture methods there earlier. He asked me what I was doing and I launched into it all ... ZOOS' PRINT, ZOO ZEN, training, etc., till he said "whoa!". I think it was the first time someone managed to talk more in a conversation with Ulie Seal than he did himself. We became good friends however and I stay with Ulie and his wife Marialice then and later when I visited Minneapolis. I met a number of people in Minneapolis that remain dear friends, such as Fred Swengel who is the kind of friend that even if you don't talk for years, you just pick up right where you left off.

I also visited Bob Wagner who was the long time director of the American Zoo Association or then called the American Associations of Zoos and Parks and is now called The Zoo and Aquarium Association. I attended their conferences a few times but with my raggedey appearance and questionable status, found it kind of hard going. Next week I am to attend another conference of AZA and am wondering how to find appropriate clothing for this event.

Even in those days I was interested in the zoos in other countries in Asia (always Asian zoos, but not always Indian). I was worried about my visa situation ... those were the days of the "foreign hand" and people were really suspicious of Americans, even American zoo girls. I came up with a plan for a Zoo Outreach Organisation, International and even got it registered in my home state. I thought if I couldn't return to India I could perhaps help from a distance or get involved in other countries. That was one reason why I went to see Peter Karsten in Calgary Zoo, Canada. Peter was Chair of the IUDZG's International Zoo Liaison Committee. I thought he would be pleased and help out in some way. He and Bob were not at all pleased as they had their own plans and didn't relish a zoo NGO partner. I realised it was harder than I had imagined and dropped the idea. I could pick it up about 25 years later by starting SAZARC, which has been a pleasure (most of the time).

As Susan mentioned, after serving on Central Zoo Authority for some years, I turned all my attention to the other South Asian zoos. Now ZOO is working with those countries to pass legislation for regulation and control of their zoos.

ZOO gained a lot from foreign countries which I continued to visit and learn from. We have been helped out by too many to name but I have a soft spot for the zookeeper organisations throughout the world. And as for Greyhound busses, I haven't got on one since! **Sally Walker**

Insider Perspective Geetha*

Zoo Outreach Organisation has completed 25 years of service and celebrated its Silver Jubilee very recently. In the 25 years of ZOO's history, I am part of this ZOO family for 15 years and worked in two terms. I joined in this distinctive and prestigious organization in 1993 and worked up to 1995 in the first term. One of our colleagues Mr. Marimuthu introduced me to Madam Sally Walker, who was a close friend of my father during that time. Initially, I joined as Office Assistant and my jobs were looking after incoming/outgoing mail entries, data entry for Zoo's Print/Zoo Zen articles, photocopying, helping ZP/ZZ dispatch etc., Through this, I gained good communication skills and learned computer software such as PageMaker and others while working for ZP articles with the help of my colleague Latha.

In 1995, I had to quit ZOO for my personal reasons. But I was yearning for a chance to work again to our organization. As I expected, after 2 years in 1997, I had a good opportunity to rejoin, without any hesitation I joined again. Since then, for the last 13 years I have been working in my second term forever. In the second time, my nature of work has been changed exclusively and it is different from the previous period. Now, I am working full time under Latha in accounts and administration work and I learned accounts and all types of administration works from then. If you look at any other organizations, staff are allowed to do only the work assigned to them. But our organization is so different in this aspect, here we are allowed to work on different kinds of work related to projects and gained enormous amount of experience. So we could learn new things from time to time and have a confidence we can do any kind of work.

Our ZOO is like a small family and we are all working as a team. I have a high regard for Madam Sally Walker for her passion on wild animals, dedication, activeness and sincerity to the work she is involved. She is always very kind, caring and concerned about our ZOO staff welfare. I learned so many good things from her. I take this opportunity and personally thank our Madam Sally for giving me wonderful opportunity to work with ZOO for second time.

As well, I would like to thank my colleagues Sanjay, Latha, Radhika, Daniel, Marimuthu, Pravin, Manju, Ravi, Arul, Raveendran and Sarojamma who all helped me directly or indirectly for my career development. My special thanks goes to Latha, who taught me all the works whether it is account or administration and moulded me in a better way by developing my skills in this organization. My desire is I have to work with ZOO, when it celebrates Golden Jubilee.

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