

## A legacy of conservation: Rochester native leaves his mark on wildlife worldwide from the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

*Editors' Note : Someone put this on the Natural History Network List Serve and commented that Dave Ferguson would probably be embarrassed by it. We know for sure he would be and to further torment a dear friend, wize advisor and dispenser of my father's (tax) money, we are delighted to include it in ZOOS' PRINT. Dave Ferguson has been a rock throughout almost all my 25 years in zoos and wildlife work. I used to refer to the grants that periodically came our way as "not grants at all but my father's money" since my father has been and is a taxpayer in USA for probably about 70 years. I would not like to carry on without Dave Ferguson and since he is just retiring and not dying, I have asked him to join my board of ZOO USA. I hope he will. His help has been as a friend and advisor as well as grantsman and his salty and dry sense of humour have given me good laughs when I needed them most. We often insulted one another in the name of humour and then got mad at one another when a comment made in just cut too close to the bone. I wish there were more Dave Fergusons out there ! S. Walker*

(May 8, 2005) Dave Ferguson never let not knowing slow him down; Not when he graduated from high school in 1957 and went to Cornell University to study wildlife conservation despite having no direction but his love for the outdoors to spur him on. Not when he returned from military service in Korea, still unclear about a career, and joined the Peace Corps in 1966. Asked for his first three choices of where he would like to serve, he wrote: 1. Far East; 2. Africa; 3. Any place else.

"They offered me any place else," recalls Ferguson, 65, the branch chief for the Near East, South Asia and Africa in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of International Conservation. Any place turned out to be Iran. "I didn't know anything about Iran other than it was in the Middle East," says Ferguson. Ferguson was assigned to the agricultural extension program in Iran. Agriculture was nearly as foreign to him as Iran. "When I got to Iran, they told me, 'We forgot to tell you there's a fish and game department. Would you be interested in that?'" Ferguson recalls. How do you say, "You bet I would" in Iranian? "That was a big fork in the road that I went down," Ferguson says. "The experience with that department changed my life. It gave me an interest and charged me up with what I wanted to do for the rest of my life." It was on the job training with a capital ON THE JOB. A 26-year-old Ferguson, working in the wildlife field for the first time, started a division of research and development in Iran's fledgling fish and game department. "I kind of knew it was the best job I'd ever have from the standpoint of variety and challenges," he says. "It was a good match. They were a young organization and I was a young person and we learned together." Ferguson wasn't afraid to ask questions and to ask people for help. He learned about local wildlife from local people. He met and befriended Lindon Cornwallis, a British ornithologist who was collecting information on wetlands and waterfowl in Iran. "That's the best way to learn, when you're with someone who really knows his stuff," says Ferguson, who remains friends with Cornwallis nearly 40 years later.

That's a lesson he may have unknowingly passed along to others, who have learned from him. When Ferguson first encountered Cornwallis, the Rochester native had no way

of knowing where it would lead. Many years later, Ferguson was playing a critical role in the conservation of the Siberian crane, one of the rarest birds in the world, which winters in India, as well as the great Indian bustard and several species of vultures.

Nowadays, his department also oversees \$1MM in funding for the ever-expanding Multinational Species Conservation Acts, programs established since the early 1990s to help elephants, rhinos, tigers, apes and marine turtles, among others. More acts are in the works to cover cranes, small cats and "keystone species". "His efforts in India over the years have contributed directly to the conservation of many rare and endangered species," says Ed McCrea of the Bird Coalition of Rochester. "Perhaps more important to wildlife conservation in the long run are his efforts to support local conservationists and wildlife biologists in order to increase basic management and research capabilities in many countries." That may be Ferguson's legacy when he retires in September from the job he took 30 years ago. "When you're younger you aspire to be a hero all the time. You want recognition," Ferguson says from his office in Washington, where he lives with his wife Judy. "If you're modest, you want someone else to recognize you rather than toot your own horn." Humbly, Ferguson would like to think he has been a hero of sorts in some out-of-the-way places parts of the world in which conservation might have been ignored had he not come along. While Ferguson admits he didn't know much when he started out in the field, he did know he wasn't interested in being a wildlife biologist in the United States. "One of the things that attracted me about international stuff is there weren't too many people out there doing anything," he says. In fact, of the nearly 8,000 employees of U.S. Fish & Wildlife, only 20 are attached to the international division. "Intl conservation doesn't have a high profile even within the agency," Ferguson says. Yet the world has grown perceptively smaller. The message in Ferguson's presentation "Birds and Conservation on the Other Side of the World" on Saturday will be this: There are similarities in conservation problems no matter where you're living.

"While it seems weird that we might be interested in something in India," Ferguson explains, "there's a lot we need to work together on. We affect each other. It's always been that way, but there's more and more of a realization of it now. "If we're thinking outside of our little box, we can share what we know and empower others to do things for themselves." McCrea, and by extension the Bird Coalition of Rochester, can be counted among those who have been influenced by Ferguson. "Dave took me under his wing when I started working internationally," says McCrea. "He is a quiet, unassuming person, but he is universally liked and respected by his colleagues." For some time, Ferguson wrestled with what to do with all that he had learned on the job. He wanted to pass it on to the next generation of conservationists. Only recently he came to the realization that he's been doing that all these years. From Iran to Bombay to Rochester, he has helped make a world of difference in wildlife conservation.

## Obituary

It is with great regret that we inform of the passing of Vijayrajsinh Ajitsinh Jadeja, Zoo Curator, Sayajibaug Zoo, Vadodara on 13 January 2005. Vijayraj was born on 31st August 1953 making him 52 years old when he passed away.

Vijayraj began his career as Manager at Sundervan Snake Park (Centre for Environment Education), Ahmedabad and he worked for 20 years in Sayajibaug Zoo, Baroda, Gujarat from 1984 to 13/01/2005. In 1991 he was selected from amongst the Directors of Zoos (India) for a Training Program organized by Wildlife Preservation Trust, Jersey, UK Channel Island. In 1992 he was appointed by Ministry of Forest and Environment as a Member for Committee of International Exchange for the Zoos of India. In 1993, he, alongwith Baroda Municiple Corporation, Gujarat Forest Department and Zoo Outreach Organisation/CBSG, India had successfully organized an International Symposium and Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop on Asiatic Lion at Vadodara. Nearly 125 National and International delegates including Scientists from IUCN had participated. Dr. U.S. Seal, Chair of IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group facilitated the PHVA. Following the PHVA the Ministry of Environment, Government of India used recommendations from the workshop to formulate a plan for alternative habitat for Asiatic lion which is still active today.

Vijayraj had profound knowledge of birds of prey and was an expert in falconary. He had an extraordinary knowledge to keep, rear, train and rehabilitate various birds especially birds of prey including Indian and exotic species. He successfully bred many reptiles which were also a specialty for him.

He had always strived to take utmost care of the zoo animals. He had always been active for the zoo breeding programs and had successfully bred Indian Pied Hornbill, whose breeding was practically not possible in captivity. Due to his continuous efforts, he eventually succeeded in 1996 the breeding continues in the zoo till date as per the scientific approach developed by him. In addition to this, he has successfully bred other Indian as well as exotic birds viz. Blue Crowned Pigeon, Cockatoo, various species of Lory, Conure, Red Rumped Parrot, etc. He has also successfully bred mammals like Chinkara, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, Wolf, Lion, Tiger, etc.

Vijayraj was a very cooperative person, sensitive by nature, had the team spirit, maintained cordial relations with one and all, his love and affection towards animals would always be cherished and remembered.

*This Memorial was written on behalf of nature lovers and conservationists of Gujarat, compiled and edited by*

*Sh. Digvijaysinh Gohil, Sh. Rohit Vyas, and Dr. Nita Shah.*

## ***A y y a r i a - Indian Entomology : a new journal***

This **new journal** will publish papers and notes from 2005 (Volume 1) on basic and applied entomology research carried out in India and neighbouring countries. Except for manuscripts with a purely economic entomology content highlighting toxicological experiments in the field or laboratory, all other subjects dealing especially with taxonomy, biogeography, evolution, biology, ecology, morphology, physiology, biochemistry, genetics and behaviour of Indian sub-continent insects (some 50,000+ species now known), and other terrestrial arthropods (nearly 4,000 species described), will be considered for publication. Invited reviews, and regular lists of selected recent literature, on the above topics from the Indian sub-continent will also be included. There will be ONE to FOUR issues a year in each volume, depending on number of papers and notes accepted. Manuscripts and subscriptions are now solicited.

Foreign Individuals pay US\$ 35 and Institutions pay \$ 115 per volume.

Indian Individuals pay Rs 350 and Institutions pay Rs 1000 per volume.

SAARC Individuals pay US\$ 9 and Institutions pay \$ 25 per volume.

[ Life subscription in US\$ 500 (Foreign), Rs 5,000 (Indian), US\$ 100 (SAARC) ]

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Interested users and contributors may contact the Editor, **Dr Kumar Ghorpadé**, at the following addresses :Postal : C/o Azman Farm, Doddagubbi P.O., Bangalore 562 149, India. E-mail : journals\_kg@yahoo.co.in

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## **THERE IS STILL TIME BUT ONLY JUST ! Vacancy at a Major Zoo**

A vacancy is open for the position of Director for a major zoo in the United Arab Emirates. The successful applicant will have overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the zoo Vision, Strategy and Business Plan under the direction of the zoo Board of Directors. The zoo should be developed to become a prime local and regional attraction, whilst conducting education, research and conservation activities of international standard. The Director will be the Executive Officer, in charge of the overall management of the institution and will be implementing all the policies and decisions of the Board of Directors.

The successful applicant should have a proven track of experience and management in sizeable and recognized zoological institutions, with at least 15 years experience in managing zoological collection. Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment is a must, as well as the ability to develop and implement vision and strategies.

A very competitive package, commensurate with experience, is proposed.

Candidates should send their detailed CVs, plus a covering letter and the names and address of three referees by email at [flaunay@erwda.gov.ae](mailto:flaunay@erwda.gov.ae) or by fax at 00 971 2 681 7347.

Deadline for application: 30 June 2005

## News from Zoos

### **Karachi Zoo and Safari Park, Pakistan**

The Municipal Corporation has established a new Aquarium at Landhi Korangi Zoo after the SAZARC conference; its building structure works have been completed. In addition, the rehabilitation works on Clifton Aquarium have been resumed after about seven years and it is expected to be operative within six months time.

Recently we held an inaugural ceremony for an open enclosure for lions at the Safari Park.

The Karachi Zoo had acquired 1 pair of tigers from Lahore with and after taking the advice of Bob Lacey, Chair, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group at the SAZARC conference, I had paired the Lahore male tiger with the Karachi Zoo female tigress. The tigress is now expecting cubs and we hope some good news in a couple of months.

Last year we had especially concentrated on the conservation breeding programmes of endemic species and got a good result from the efforts made. Successful births have taken place for Jackal as well as Hyaena, Fishing cat, Palm civet, Hog deer, Urial, Python and Crocodiles, latter having been obtained from Sindh Wildlife Department and private animal farmers and Lahore Zoo under the exchange programs.

Among exotic species births have taken among Olive baboons, Llamas, Red deer, Fallow deer, Sika deer, Spotted deer, Mouflon antelope, Crowned cranes & Bactrian camel.

We have also held poster competition programmes, quiz and other educational activities in both Karachi Zoo & Karachi Safari Park wherein several hundreds of children participated in these programmes. **Submitted by Mohammed Mansoor Qazi, Director, Karachi Zoo & Safari Park, Landhi Korangi Zoo and Clifton Aquarium. E-mail: muddassir74@yahoo.com, muddassir74@hotmail.com. Cell Phone # (92-21)0333-2289455.**

### **Central Zoo News, Nepal**

**Late King's Birthday celebrated.** The 60th Birth Anniversary of His Late Majesty King Birendra was celebrated recently by holding a valley wide poetry competition on the theme His Late Majesty King Birendra's Contribution to Nature Conservation. A beautiful shamiana tent was erected in the zoo and various poets and scholars gathered to receive prizes for poetry and essays. Dignitaries from the government distributed certificates and cash prizes to the winners.

**Animal Management Workshop and Training.** In February and week long training workshop in zoo animal management was conducted at Central Zoo / KMTNC in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London ZSL. The workshop began with a talk on the Role of Zoos in Conservation attended by representatives from various NGO's in Nepal. Afterwards through the week, international experts such as Nick Lindsay, Head of International Zoo Programme and Mr. Wayne Boardman, Head of Veterinary

Services presented training modules on different aspects of captive wildlife management, nutrition, population management etc. They conducted a detailed field visit of all four sections of the zoo and improvements to the animal enclosures recommended.

**Animals translocated.** Thirty-two ungulates were transferred from Central Zoo to a Deer Park of Mrigastali in Pashpati area from November 19 to 26, 2004. These consisted of 20 black buck, 20 spotted deer and two barking deer. Prior to the translocation a two-week long training was organised at Central Zoo for four staff from the other facility responsible for animal care. The training covered the general information on deer and antelope, their habitat and food, animal health care and disease management and record maintenance. Food preparation, cage cleaning and other practical skills were demonstrated to the staff.

**Tiger cubs start life on their own.** Tiger cubs born February 2004 at the Central Zoo were separated from their mother and housed in separate enclosures at sections 2 and 3. They weigh 83 kg, 88 kg and 100 kg respectively.

**Death of an old tigress.** A female tigress brought from Royal Chitwan National Park more than two decades ago died at an age of 22 years. She had been captured and brought to the zoo because of a man-eating problem. She died of old age.

**Essay and Drawing Competition and Quiz contests.** Essay and quiz contests were conducted at Central Zoo. Essay competition on topic Gangetic Dolphin and its conservation in Nepal and drawing competition on Rhino and its habitat were conducted by Friends of the Zoo holding schools from grades 3-8 for two months.

**Night Guided Tour.** Students were on plenty cold winter night to see and learn about the nocturnal activities of wild animals in the Central Zoo. The Night Guided tour was opened for Friends of the Zoo members from 1 December till 15 January this year. A total of 18 night guided tours were conducted with 855 students from 26 schools participating.

**Winter Day Camp.** KMTNC Central Zoo organised a two day winter day camp for Friends of the Zoo members at Nagarkot from Jan 27-28, 05. The programme meant to create awareness on environmental problems and their solutions and provide information about the national parks and wildlife of Nepal.

**FOZ Club. The Bright Future FOZ Club** had organised a waste collection and management programme at the cultural heritage area of Bishnudevi temple of Tinthan VDC, Naikap on 18 October. The club members made the local people aware regarding management and conservation of the degradation of cultural heritages.

**Sincere Gratitude.** The Night Guided Tour was telecast in the Nepal Television's Janda Jandal programme. The Central Zoo thanks Mr. Hemant Gautam, producer and Dipendra Bhandari, telecaster. Central zoo Newsletter Ed: Rachana shah

## Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan - Update

*I hope you enjoy these updates as much as I do. We all have some grouse or other about our jobs and life. Hearing these reports from Kabul Zoo really helps keep things in perspective and reminds us how lucky we are. Brendan Whittington-Jones is on temporary duty there to provide some new eyes and organisation. Brendan has a background in wildlife management and some months intense experience in Baghdad Zoo following its war period. The following is from Brendan. SRW EdEm*

Quite a bit has happened in the last few weeks (that is really relative out here)...besides a mini-earthquake, the internet café explosion and the demonstrations. British CIMIC team have spruced up the zoo computer and it is working well. There is now also a phone, and we are working on the internet link. It worked briefly last week, but not since.

Staff News -- A new deputy director has been appointed, Mr Azizgul, so this has meant that Sha Nuri will be directing his talents towards the animal management team. I do hope though that there will now be some stability and job security to let things progress now that the positions have been filled with ambitious and interested folks. The new deputy speaks a small amount of English and is an excellent example of a government servant . . . very particular about detail. He loves the idea of keeping the zoo clean which is wonderful. In fact he commented to me the other day was "if we keep the zoo clean, God will provide the money". Not quite the business plan I was looking for but it means interest in a cleaner zoo which is indeed worth money.

Further good news has been Mr Akbhary appointing 3 new keeper staff. None of them have any experience in the field but have been keen to work and are proving a good addition to the current staff. It really means that there are a few extra hands to get the basics done which is a good step.

Kitchen area -- Painting has been put on hold for now. It was initially painted with the wrong type of paint and due to the regular rains I have decided to let the damp which has set into the walls dry first before trying to finish painting. The electricity and water supply works, and the dry foods are all now sealed in plastic containers rather than torn sacking. This will definitely help with keeping the area cleaner and limit the amount of small mammals and insects seeking shelter there. All the non-kitchen implements like water pump, animal cages, wheel barrows etc have been moved out of the kitchen, finally.

The ISAF military donated several hundred kg's of meat last week (including marinated ribs, and curry sausages). Storage has thus become a factor so the overhead fans are working overtime to keep the less suitable marinated foods cool and the good cuts of meat are in the deep freeze/and cool vicinity. I am trying to price a larger deep freeze to cope with larger meat donations. The meat was excess and near-expiry from the ISAF base and still seems good for consumption. The marinated and curried foods are obviously an issue to feed out to most of the animals so we are relying on the pigs to gradually help us out with that... and cooking some of it in with our rice and veggies.

Nick had got the cooking gas up and running previously and then it slipped .... so I have pushed for that again. Gas for a year will only work out to about \$350-400 so I am going to cover that for the next month or 2 until I can convince the

municipality to take that over. They have been very good though with spending money on some enclosure repair, some equipment and uniforms so not pushing the gas issue immediately. It has meant that the kitchen is more functional and cooking is less of a hassle. The area which was being used as the outside kitchen due to lack of cooking gas is being renovated for the foxes which currently live in awful cages.

Animal Health -- The tests on the badger which died proved NOT to be rabies which is both encouraging and a little baffling because of the rapid onset of neurological issues and death and it's close proximity to where the pigs are housed and that previous situation. Apart from possible ingestion of something toxic I cannot think what may have caused this.

The black bear's skin condition is improving slowly after his monsoon-like anti-parasite drenching a few weeks ago. A veterinary team brought out by Dr Sherman (including a military and some civilian veterinarians from Massachusetts) identified what is apparently a pour-on version of ivermectin so we have started dosing animals from today. The Italian CIMIC vet is also due today and we'll continue with this program. Hopefully we can start work on some faecal analysis too.

Dr Sherman organised enough rabies vaccines for the zoo collection from the US Military vet team, and has donated a pole syringe. We have been on a bit of a vaccination and deworming campaign lately. So we have 2 bears, 2 lions and one escaped-and-then-returned monkey left to vaccinate. Quite a gladiatorial affair to vaccinate wolves and rhesus macaques out here. Russell Crowe would have had his work cut out for him!

Made contact with an NGO called Committee for Rehabilitation Aid to Afghanistan which deals with all sorts of development work, including veterinary issues. They have a veterinarian, Dr Sana-Ul-Haq Ahmadzai who has been training folks in Afghanistan on animal husbandry and welfare issues for over a decade apparently and seems highly rated by. CRAA are keen to get involved in some capacity and I am aiming at the husbandry and veterinary training. I have also outlined the need for sustainable veterinary assistance and training at the zoo beyond our presence.

Have been working on some of the perching and shade areas for the different bird enclosures which seems to have made some difference. Need to get more information and work further on the idea of releasing some of the 14 vultures which will obviously take pressure of space and food constraints apart from the potential conservation and education benefits. Both Fazil and Mr Aziz agree with the idea which is a positive step.

Water supply -- After having had excess water connections for public use changed for use in the holding areas I thought I had resolved the problem of cleaning but, alas, the water tank have sprung some leaks so we are trying to get this sorted out as soon as possible. Thats about it for now for the serious bits...

Cheers,  
**Brendan Whittington-Jones**

### **Training Programmes in Nandankanan Zoo Zookeepers Training 2004—2005**

The Zoo keepers' training for the year 2004-2005, was organized by Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar (Orissa) in the zoo premises from 8th to 17th March, 2005. The training programme was sponsored by Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi. Nandankanan Zoological Park is one of the few centres selected by CZA for conducting this training programme, primarily meant for Capacity building / upgradation of skills of zoo keepers and keeping their motivational level high. Eighteen zoo keepers from seven zoos namely, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (Darjeeling), Alipore Zoological Gardens (Kolkata), Kananpendari Zoo (Bilaspur), Zoo of Tata Steel Zoological Society (Jamshedpur), S.V. Zoological Park (Tirupati), Jawaharlal Nehru Zoological Park (Bokaro) and Nandankanan Zoological Park (Bhubaneswar), participated in the training programme. The trainees also visited two other zoos (Nehru Zoological park, Hyderabad and Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam) on their field visit for wide ranging exposure and greater experience enrichment. **Submitted by S.K. Sinha, Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar.**

### **Training on Immobilisation and Chemical Tranquilisation of Wild Animals**

This training was conducted by Nandankanan Zoological Park from 8th December, 2004. The programme was sponsored by Wildlife Organisation (Forest Department, Orissa). Nine Forest Rangers and one Forester of 10 different Wildlife Divisions attended the training programme. The theoretical and practical demonstration of tranquilisation equipments and drugs, target practice, sedation and recovery of animals (including elephant), implanting of microchips in the ear pinna of elephant etc are some of the highlights of the training programme. **Submitted by S.K. Sinha, Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar.**

### **Lucknow Zoo**

The baby giraffe at the Lucknow Zoo was awarded the best baby in the 'Know the baby contest' organised by the zoo authorities on Monday. Around 76 students of 19 schools participated in the contest. The baby giraffe secured 50 votes out of the total 76 votes. The other competitors in line were baby leopard securing 8 votes, baby zebra getting 6, baby wolf and baby hippopotamus getting one vote each. We had organised such an event for the first time and the response was very good.

The main aim of the event was to create awareness among children. Educating them about different animals and their habitat, making them choose their favourite and giving away prizes is an example of entertainment and learning, the basic characteristics of zoo," said the zoo director, Eva Sharma. Children had to fill a questionnaire containing 45 questions having four options each in one hour. Questions were related to animals like, when was the baby giraffe born? What is the weight of a hippopotamus? What is 'tendua' called in English? Which animal comes under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1972 Schedule 1?

The children were equally excited about this general knowledge exercise. "I got to know about the contest from

the papers and was very excited as it was a unique kind of contest," said Shalini a standard XII student of Vanasthali, Rajasthan. On the other hand, Akash studying in class XI, La Martiniere voted for his favourite baby panther as it was very agile and strong. However Akshat studying in standard XI, Delhi Public School, found the baby hippo the best. He said, "It was very cute and was swimming so well with his mother." Result for the best questionnaire would be declared shortly, announced Sharma. Source: Times of India, May 17, 2005.

### **Tiger cubs complete 75 days in Kolkata zoo:-**

Kolkata, May 17 : Two tiger cubs at the Alipore zoo here made their first public appearance Tuesday after completing 75 days since birth. The cubs, parented by the zoo's big cats Anirban and Krishna, were brought out of their lair into the open for the first time. "Both Anirban (the eight-year-old male) and Krishna (the five-year-old mother) to whom the cubs were born were bred at Alipore zoo. Anirban is a white tiger. To our joy we find that of the two newborn cubs, one is white. Today we brought them out for public viewing," zoo director Subir Chowdhury told IANS.

"The gender of the cubs is yet to be detected. We will then name our new guests," Chowdhury said. With the new arrivals, the tiger population of Alipore zoo has gone up to 13. The birth, though in captivity, is heartening as it follows reports of a declining tiger population in the country's wildlife sanctuaries. The Alipore zoo made news recently for its effort to give a new name and enclosure to a giant Aldabra-Seychelles tortoise that is believed to be over 250 Kolkata | May 18, 2005. Source: www.webindia.com

## **Zoo Organisation News**

### **Central Zoo Authority Biologist hospitalised**

Brij Kishore Gupta, CZA Scientist, in Orlando, Florida for an international workshop to set standards for the new data management programme by ISIS/ZIMS suffered symptoms of heart problems on two occasions on 17 May and was almost immediately hospitalised in Florida Hospital.

### **ZOOS' PRINT publications get attention**

ZOOS' PRINT Journal is approaching a milestone of five years of regular publication in August 2005. ZOOS' PRINT magazine celebrates 20 years of publication itself this year.

The Journal, however, has done very well in its short five years having become regularly indexed and abstracted in almost 30 different publications, e.g. BIOSIS/ Biological Abstracts, Zoological Records, Elsevier BIOBASE/ Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Veterinary Records, Indian Science Abstracts, Index Veterinarius, Nutrition and Food Science, Index Fungorum, Bibliography of Systematic Mycology, and the following CAB Abstracts: Animal Breeding Abstracts, Ornamental Horticulture, Forestry Abstracts, Tropical Diseases Bulletin, Helminthological Abstracts, Horticultural Science Abstracts, Review of Agricultural Entomology, Agroforestry Abstracts, Review of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Veterinary Bulletin, Protozoological Abstracts, Review of Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Review of Medical and Veterinary Mycology, Review of Plant Pathology, World Agricultural and Rural Sociology Abstracts, Abstracts on Hygiene and Communicable Diseases, Plant

Breeding Abstracts, Animal Science Database, and, Grasslands and Forage Abstracts.

ZOOS' PRINT Journal and Magazine are both put up on the zoospring.org website on 21st of the month, which is its posting day. In order to avoid costly yet low quality photo printing, the journal and magazine do not publish any photographs in the hard copy but do so on the website in colour and in greater numbers. The web-based journal and magazine are available to all for a limited time. One day in the not so distant future readers will have to subscribe and get a special password in order to read the web journal. Journal Founder and Editor is Sanjay Molur who is also Deputy Director of Zoo Outreach Organisation and Founder / Secretary of Wildlife Information Liaison Development.

### **SAZARC Annual Conference dates fixed**

The annual meeting of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia and the Reintroduction Specialist Group, South & East Asia which is held just before the SAZARC conference each year will meet 28-30 November 2005 with a theme of "Troubled translocations : Release as a questionable solution to human/animal conflict. "This meeting will be followed by the sixth annual conference of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC. The theme of the training this year will be Data Management for Population Management and Taxonomy with special reference to primates. The meeting will take place at the Karl Kubel Training Institute, Anaikatti near Coimbatore, from 1-5 December 2005.

### **V.O.C. Mini Zoo –New Director**

Dr. S. Thirukumar, B.V.Sc, aged 39, Coimbatorean, has taken a new charge of V.O.C. Park Mini Zoo Director from 28.03.2005. He graduated from Madras Vety. College in the year 1988. Soon after in February 1989, he joined Tamilnadu Government's Animal Husbandry Department as a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and first posted at Ooty, and worked as a mobile veterinary officer there.

After that, in Coimbatore district he worked at many places- Annur, Alandurai, Pollachi in the veterinary dispensaries until 2000. Prior to this post, he worked at Veterinary main hospital, Town Hall Coimbatore, from 2000-2005.

### **Mysore Zoo News**

The Mysore Zoo publishes a quarterly newsletter which contains news of their zoo. If anyone is interested to receive this I suggest you write to them and ask for a copy on payment basis as it is well worth to read. A few items abstracted from Mysore Zoo Newsletter are below.

. During February Mysore Zoo acquired, transported and housed Cassowary from Assam and Sarus Crane and Marmosets from Alipore with help from the respective Directors.

. The zoo initiated production of vermicompost of the zoo waste very aggressively and it is selling well. Many people have placed an indent well in advance. We aim to produce at least one ton per day which will increase the revenue of the zoo in an environmentally friendly way.

. A new feature is being introduced for tourists from out of town. Entry by "wild card" is being introduced so that tourists can buy this and enter the zoo directly without

having to stand in line. It will also provide other benefits like tram car, guide, brochure, discount on souvenirs, library etc. . A two day Teacher Training Programme was conducted 19-20 Jan 05

. A research assistant was engaged for generating data for Lion Tailed Macaque coordinated breeding programme.

. Arjun Kaustuban, a Youth Club Member, is contributing Rs. 437 for one day's feeding cost of elephant on his birthday every year on February 16.

. The Syndicate Bank, Lashkar Mohalla has opened an extension counter in the zoo premises since Jan 05.

. Recent adoptions of zoo animals has been good with adoptions of 17 animals by citizens, clubs, industries, individuals, schools and even youth club members raising a total of close to Rs. 75,000.

### **Chennai Snake Park Trust appoints an Education Officer.**

Dr. P. Kannan has joined as full time Education Officer at Chennai Snake Park Trust very recently. He studied M.Sc in Wildlife Biology at AVC College, Mayiladuthurai on 1994. After his post graduation, he had worked with SACON as a Research Fellow under Dr. Bhupathy on Agamid lizards of Western Ghats. For the past ten years he had worked various aspects of reptiles such as agamid lizards, fresh water turtles and marine turtles. He had done doctoral degree on the subject "Studies on the biology and incidental catch of sea turtles in selected centers along the Indian Coast" at Madras University through Central Marine Fishery Research Institute. He participated in six cruise programmes in the east and west coast of India to study about turtles and sea snakes. He has published more than ten research articles in national and international journals.

### **Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu constituted**

The Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu, an autonomous body to govern the medium and large zoological parks in the state began functioning on 1 April. The constitution of this body will help zoological parks function independently and receive funds directly from the Centre and other funding agencies. All plans and proposals for development and improvements in the zoo will be approved by the authority's governing board. Funds from the Central Zoo Authority of India, CZA, the entry fee collected and other income derived by the zoo will be invested back towards developmental activities in the zoo. Earlier, funds were sent from CZA to the State Government resulting in serious delays in the release of funds.

The new body can receive grants-in-aid and other grants, as also gifts, donations and contributions from within the country and abroad; or receive equipment such as trapping cages or other items from within the country or abroad. The body has a governing board with the State Environment and Forest Secretary as the Chairman and the Zoo Director as Member Secretary. Its seven other members are the Finance Secretary, or his representative, the Animal Husbandry Secretary, the Commissioner of Tourism, the Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, the Director of the Department of Environment, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Chief Wildlife Warden. A proposal to form the Zoo Authority in the state was sent to the Government three years ago. Karnataka State was the first to start this body about three decades ago under the guidance of Sri C. D. Krishna Gowda, Retired Director, Chamrajendra

Zoological Gardens. The Mysore Zoo had been having multiple problems due to the difficulties of obtaining grants for development and even for upkeep of the zoo. Mr. Krishna Gowda suggested the idea to officials and within some months it materialised and the zoo has flourished since that time. Partly as a result of the success of the Karnataka experiment the central government decided to opt for this method instead of a commission or department as had been suggested in various recommendations. The Authority cuts through a great deal of red tape and permits the zoo to function more efficiently and effectively. Chennai, April 3, 2005. P. Oppili edited and enhanced by S. Walker.

### **Coordinated Breeding Committee**

The Central Zoo Authority has appointed an Expert Committee to draw up a plan for coordinated breeding programmes of selected zoos. The Committee includes Dr. B.R. Sharma, Member Secretary, CZA, Dr. J. H. Desai, Mr. Kamal Naidu, Dr. L.N. Acharjyo, and Dr. Gautam Narayan. The first meeting will take place in the morning of the 24th of May.

### **CZA to distribute World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy to zoos and officers**

Zoo Outreach Organisation has donated 1000 copies of the new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy to the Central Zoo Authority for distribution. CZA will distribute the Strategy along with their Annual Report to zoo directors, Chief Wildlife Wardens, Forest and Environment Secretaries and other policy makers and persons related to zoos. It is felt that Central Zoo Authority's endorsement of the strategy by distribution will give the zoo directors additional authority to develop plans and strategies taking the document as a model. ZOO thanks CZA for this service. ZOO is now working on the Summary document which will be a shorter document with a few pages about the South Asian zoo community in addition to official WAZA summaries of each chapter.

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## **Calendar of ZOO, WILD, CBSG, WAZA, CBSG, South Asia, RSG S& E Asia, SAZARC**

**30 May 10 June 2005** -- Sally Walker, Founder/Hon. Director, ZOO leaves for Munster, and Kronberg Germany for a International Zoo and Aquarium Marketing Conference and later a special WAZA twinning zoos committee meeting, a visit to BIAZA and Thirgby Hall Wildlife Park and others in London and a Skills Development Workshop in Chicago. She will then spend the next few months in Goldsboro, North Carolina with her ailing parents. She will return to Delhi by 10 September 05 and go on to Jodhpur for the Primate workshop. She can be contacted via email throughout and at phone number 919 735 2218 after 17 June.

**15 - 30 June 2005** -- Sanjay Molur will spend two weeks in Mumbai in the Library and Collections of Bombay Natural History Society. He can be contacted by leaving a message there or on email.

**12-14 September 2005** -- Primate Research Centre, Jodhpur. International Primate workshop, organised by S.M. Mohnot.

**26 - 30 September 2005** -- Annual meeting of Conservation Breeding Specialist Group at Rosamund Gifford Zoo, Syracuse, New York. 26 Sept : CBSG Regional Networks Meeting. 27 Sept : CBSG Steering Committee meeting; 28-30 Annual meeting. For details consult the CBSG website [www.cbsg.org](http://www.cbsg.org).

**2-6 October 2005** -- Annual conference of World Association of Zoos and Aquaria, New York City. New York. For details of the conference see the WAZA website : [www.waza.org](http://www.waza.org).

**26-27 November 2005.** (Tentative) Zoo Education regional conference Organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation. Venue: Karl Kubel Training Institute, Coimbatore. Persons interested should email Sally Walker at <[zooreach@vsnl.com](mailto:zooreach@vsnl.com)>, [sallywalker@aol.com](mailto:sallywalker@aol.com)> or

<[zoocrew@vsnl.net](mailto:zoocrew@vsnl.net)> or send a fax to 91 422 2563269 or a letter to ZOO, Box 1683, Peelamedu, Coimbatore 641004 Tamil Nadu. The number of letters, faxes and emails we get will determine whether we conduct this conference or not. The conference will be a first meeting of a new regional association of zoo educators and welcomes zoo educators (in fact, not necessarily by designation), botanic gardens educators, ngo's, friends of the zoo, etc. The programme will consist of short presentations of programmes conducted and working groups to determine how zoo educators in South Asia can better work together.

**28-30 November 2005** -- Annual meeting of Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia and Reintroduction Specialist Group, South and East Asia. It is a three day meeting this year because the theme demands time and attention. The theme is "Troubled Translocations : Solutions or more Problems for Man-Animal Conflict. Organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Wildlife Information Liaison Development, CBSG, S. Asia and RSG, S&E Asia. Chair and Programme Officer of IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group. We welcome forest officers, field biologists, rescue centres, zoo personnel, etc. No transport will be paid for Indians. Accommodation and food is likely to be available on complimentary basis. This will be decided later. Venue: Karl Kubel Training Institute, Coimbatore.

**1-5 December 2005** -- Sixth Annual Meeting of SAZARC, the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation. Organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Administrative Office of SAZARC. Venue: Karl Kubel Training Institute, Coimbatore.

Training theme is Data Management for Conservation and Welfare of Wild Animals in Captivity. Persons from ZIMS/ISIS office and other experts will be on hand to conduct training. Applications will be sent out in a couple of months.