I am proud to announce that Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens has been selected to host the Association of Zoological Horticulture (AZH) Annual Conference to be held on September 17-20!

The Association of Zoological Horticulture is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the advancement of zoo horticulture in zoological gardens, parks, and arboreta. AZH works to highlight the importance of plants within zoos and aquariums, and seeks to support the horticulturists who work in a zoological setting. Zoo horticulture encompasses a wide range of activities which combine diverse knowledge and skills in gardening, plant identification, selection, landscape development/management, plant-animal interactions, plant toxicity, animal browse production, and more.

Never before hosted in Southwest Florida, this exciting conference will bring together over 125 horticulturists and plant professionals from zoos, botanical gardens, parks, and public gardens throughout the U.S. and beyond to explore horticulture-related social, events, informational, fun tours of local attractions, and much more. The AZH conference hotel, Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club, will host two days of educational presentations, and the end of conference banquet. Two days of tours during the conference will include Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, Naples Botanical Garden, the Naples Zoo at Lowry Terrace, and JN Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Pre and post conference tours will feature Everglades National Park, Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Miami Zoo, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and Montgomery Botanic Center. We are grateful for the support of the Naples Zoo Club in assisting with transportation costs for conference attendees.

The conference is open to anyone with an interest in horticulture and will feature national and companies that offer horticultural products and services.

For more information about the AZH Annual Conference, visit napleszoo.org/azhconference2017.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with this event, please contact Danielle L. Green, Director of Gardens & Grounds at Danielle@napleszoo.org.

A Commitment to Non-Profit Fiscal Strength, Both Short and Long Term

A commitment to non-profit fiscal strength, both short and long term, is an important element of the Naples Zoo mission because we know we can’t do it without providing:

• Excellent on-site and off-site conservation education programs
• A demonstrable commitment to supporting local, national, and international conservation efforts
• Attentive care to our beautiful, unique and immersive botanical collection
• Great visitor services that enhance our guest’s experience
• A clean, safe, well-maintained and friendly property and environment
• A commitment to non-profit fiscal strength, both short and long term

And at the top of the list (though I did not place it there for the purposes of this letter):

• The very best care for the animals who call Naples Zoo home

I’m sure when you have visited and attended any of our many “Keeper Talks”, “Squad Family Programs” you have seen the incredibly passionate and committed nature of our fabulous animal care team. They are so very committed to what they do and they do it so very well (a quality that I see and appreciate quite frequently here at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens). And at the top of the list (though I did not place it there for the purposes of this letter):

• A commitment to non-profit fiscal strength, both short and long term

A WORD | From President and CEO

Dear Friends,

The mission of Naples Zoo is “to inspire people of all ages to respect, value, and help conserve wildlife and our natural world.” All Zoo departments, staff and volunteers share and are in support of another in meeting this mission because we know we can’t do it without providing:

Naples Zoo Wholesome AZH Conference 2017 | By Danielle L. Green, Director of Gardens & Grounds

Jack Mulvahil President and CEO Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens

Jack Mulvahil President and CEO Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens

You can support your zoo by adopting an animal and its Naples Zoo habitat.

Animal Exhibit Adoptions are a wonderful way to support your zoo and the animals you love. Adoptions can be made by individuals, families or businesses. The animals pictured below are just a few that are currently “up for adoption”. For more information about Naples Zoo’s adoption program, contact Holly Mills at (239) 262-5409, ext. 110 or send an email to holly@napleszoo.org.

World Giraffe Day
Naples Zoo
9 am - 5 pm
Come celebrate and support giraffes!

Longnecks for Longnecks
South Street City Oven and Grill
3 pm - 5 pm
Join this fundraiser for giraffe conservation! South Street will donate $1 for each longneck beer sold!

Father’s Day - Dads Receive Free Admission Naples Zoo
Naples Zoo
9 am - 5 pm
Dads get it free in trading by a bottle of cola!

Captain America returns...with Iron Man
Naples Zoo
10 am - 1 pm
Join these superheroes to celebrate the 4th of July! Free for members!

Emergency Workers Receive Free Admission Naples Zoo
Naples Zoo
9 am - 5 pm
Emergency workers get in to Naples Zoo free with ID!

Naples Zoo is excited to offer Summer Camp WILD! Camp WILD is a very exciting daily camp where campers will enjoy animal, nature, and science-based experiences, behind-the-scenes tours, animal encounters, arts and crafts, and much more! Member discounts apply!

Camp Themes Travel Around the World (weeks of June 12, 17, 20, July 3, 10)
Animal Careers (weeks of June 19, 24, July 21)
Animal Engineers (weeks of July 6, 13, 20)
WANTED: Animal Outlaws (weeks of July 10, 17, August 7)

Sign up online at www.napleszoo.org/summercampwild
New Weather Station Collects Lifesaving Information

“If you have visited Naples Zoo lately, you may have noticed a curious new structure in the parking lot. The structure is a brand new weather station, one of over 400 installed by Weather Flow in North America. The utility-grade concrete pole is 10m tall and the sensors and electronics are completely self-contained (so no utilities are needed).

During a tropical storm or hurricane, Weather Flow supplies data directly to the National Hurricane Center and local NWS forecast offices. Having better data through the entirety of a storm will help researchers develop improved watch and warning capabilities, and because the station is built to withstand winds up to 200 mph, data can be collected throughout a storm. Scientists will have a better understanding of storm structure and other data - and benefits could include the optimization of evacuation strategies for future events and lowered insurance rates.

Best of all: Data isn’t just collected during storms. Information is collected year round - and will be shared directly with Naples Zoo’s education department at no cost for use in our STEM related programs!”

For years, Naples Zoo has proudly funded conservation efforts for both giant anteaters and giant armadillos through the award-winning work of Dr. Arnaud Desbiez and his team. Recently, we increased our efforts in response to the shocking number of anteaters killed by vehicles. This year, Arnaud launched a new project called Anteaters & Highways. Their new four-year study aims to address the threat by collecting data on why, when, and how anteaters interact with roadways. Research results will provide insight into movement patterns to inform road management strategies and help save this iconic species.

The core costs of Anteaters & Highways are covered by a multi-year grant from Fondation Segré. Additional support comes from zoos across North America and Europe like ours. “Few people realize how engaged zoos are in species conservation throughout the world,” explains Desbiez.

A Baby Armadillo Named Tim

Perhaps nothing speaks of survival and hope like a new baby. Last year, the team documented one of their tracked giant armadillos through her pregnancy and named her little giant Tim - in honor of Tim Tetzlaff, Director of Conservation here at Naples Zoo. Currently the only baby giant armadillo being monitored, the discovery of Tim was great news for the project and the Naples Zoo has been a long term partner of the Giant Armadillo Conservation Project for many years, from providing funding for harnesses to monitor giant anteaters to setting up and managing a website to promote the project, Desbiez said. "The new funding from the Zoo to support the head veterinarian of the project, Danilo Kluyber, is a real game changer for us. Knowing funding for this position is secure, we can better concentrate our efforts and time to our conservation work.”

If you are interested in more information on the project or would like to contribute, please contact Dr. Arnaud Desbiez at adesbiez@napleszoo.org.

Zoofessionals

Current and potential Zoofessionals met with Jack Malvena, Naples Zoo President & CEO, in March for a behind-the-scenes tour to learn more about the future of Naples Zoo. Zoofessionals is an animal loving, young professionals group open to those ages 21-40 in Southwest Florida. For more info, visit napleszoo.org/zoofessionals.