



AMPHIBIAN ARK ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk stakeholders
From: Kevin Zippel, CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Program Officer Kevin@AmphibianArk.org
Subject: Monthly AArk activity report for January 2007
Date: 5 February 2007

Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact kc.

General updates from the amphibian community

- chytrid arrived in Japan and Cuba
- Amphibian Research Centre posts info on containers <http://frogs.org.au/arc/container.php>
- ASG launches new website <http://www.amphibians.org/>
- Sabin Award for Amphibian Conservation announced http://www.amphibians.org/latest_news.php

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- planning AArk pre-Steering Committee organizational meeting in Atlanta 15-16 February (agenda, draft plans for conservation, publicity, fundraising, and press release)
- reviewing 50 applications for new AArk officer positions, talking to referees, etc.; Communications & Development Officer hired (see below), Taxon Officer still under discussion, and Training Officer delayed ~1 month until remaining pledges are collected
- working with Treewalkers International to help organize US private sector, planning to bring in diverse representation from global private sector; trying to bring in TSA to advise
- talking to Bill Zeigler (TSA, IUCN TFWTSG & CSG) on organizational strategies
- working on articles geared toward other specific communities to increase capacity: with Max Nickerson targeting natural history museums through The Natural Science Collections Alliance's *Alliance Gazette*, with Ron Gagliardo targeting botanical gardens through the American Public Garden Association's *The Public Garden*, with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR's *Herp Review*

Taxon Survival Efforts

- preparing for spray toad PHVA; working with LKEMP on contract and issues paper; keepers at Toledo and Bronx working on husbandry manual and facility recommendations
- working with Don Church & Mike Hoffman (CI/IUCN) to filter GAA data and allow *ex situ* community to determine which of the 443 EW/CR taxa really require *ex situ* intervention; this list should be available within days
- discussing with Houston Zoo possibility for a national recovery strategy meeting in Panama
- Project Golden Frog reinventing itself now that our focal species is going extinct; future funds will likely be offered as grants to other investigators working with other *Atelopus* species

Training & Other Capacity Building

- compiling course descriptions from different organizations to create *ala carte* menu of topics for future training courses

- working with Cali Zoo staff on agenda and instructor arrangements for their Colombian amphibian management course; possible site visit to *ex situ* lab in Bogota; new C&D officer will attend this course
- organizing ABM 2007, new instructors, monographs, etc.; working with Brookfield to identify 3 Latin American students to support at the ABM course
- planning with Roberto Elias (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia) a future Peruvian amphibian management course
- ongoing consultations on EVACC; sending Quito keeper to El Valle to train on food culture, Edgardo will be coming to ABM in Toledo
- ongoing consultations on developing programs at Brookfield Zoo
- planning chytrid information sessions for spring JAZA meeting
- WAZA announces joint effort with VDZ/DGHT to hold amphibian management course in Germany this summer

Communications/Development

- hired AArk Communications & Development Officer Lisette Pavajeau
- working with Robert Browne (Perth Zoo affiliate) to contribute chapters on 'Facilities & Associated Services' and 'Reproduction and Larval Rearing' to *ILAR Journal* Volume 48 Issue Number 3: Use of Amphibians in the Research, Laboratory, or Classroom Setting
- automated PPT presentation on amphibians, extinction crisis, and global response available for download and free use at www.amphibianark.org/new.amphib.show.ppt (password problems resolved)
- putting finishing editorial touches, photos, etc. on 2 *Threatened Amphibians of the World* essays
- working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008
- working with Jenny Pramuk to co-edit an amphibian section in upcoming volume of *Zoo Biology* for early 2008
- presented on AArk at Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) conference in Houston 27 January
- answering dozens of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

UPCOMING

AArk pre-Steering Committee meeting (Atlanta 15-16 February 2007)

- review bylaws, staffing plan, conservation plan; establish financial plan; develop publicity and capital campaign plans

Colombian Amphibian Biology & Management workshop (Cali 26 February - 3 March 2007)

- help Cali Zoo staff lead workshop similar to AZA ABM course

Save the Prairie Society talk (Brookfield 25 March 2007)

- speak to group about amphibian extinction crisis and global response

Nordens Ark Conservation Workshop (Hunnebostrand 26 March - 4 April 2007)

- assist with 2-day amphibian portion of 5-6 day Research School in Conservation Biology for Ph.D. students on the role zoos can play in practical conservation

Amphibian Biology & Management (Toledo 14-19 April 2007)

- co-instruct course

Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA (10-17 May? 2007)

- help organize and execute PHVA

JAZA meeting (Osaka & Tokyo 20-26 May 2007)

- discuss national conservation response with respect to recent arrival of chytrid

WAZA/VDZ/DGHT amphibian management course (Chemnitz 27 June - 1 July 2007)

- instruct at amphibian management/conservation workshop

CBSG Facilitation course (Omaha 31 July - August 2007)

- learn facilitation skills CBSG-style

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Anonymous in honor of Winona & Rupert, Barcelona Zoo, Binder Park Zoological Society, Birmingham Zoo & AAZK Birmingham Zoo Chapter, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Buffalo Zoo, Cameron Park Zoo, Chester Zoo, Chicago Zoological Society, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Denver Zoo, Disney's Animal Kingdom and Animal Programs, Friends of the Kansas City Zoo, Henry Doorly, Kansas City Zoo, Gary Kirkland, Leipzig Zoo, New Mexico Bio Park Society, Inc., Norden's Ark, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, San Francisco Zoological Society, Sedgewick County Zoo, Saint Louis Zoo, Tokyo Zoo Conservation Fund, Toledo Zoo, Toronto Zoo, Twycross Zoo, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Zoo New England, Zoological Society London, Zoologischer Garten Zürich.

And through donations in memory of beloved conservationist Mary Sughrue Rabb:

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Mary Sughrue Rabb

May 1, 1929 - November 9, 2006

