

Sunday Abstracts

Nicholas Staddon - "Behind the Curtain"

New plants have been a prime focus for those with a passion for horticulture. For many years Monrovia has been involved in the selection, trialing and evaluation of plants from all over the world. Working with breeders, hybridizers, and plant explorers, Monrovia observes these plants for their key attributes that are important to the gardening community.

Rob Halpern - "A Tale of Two Elephant Exhibits"

No animal exhibit is more important in today's zoo than the elephant's. How well the landscape meets the animal's needs and creates opportunities for conservation education will be judged by zoo friends and critics alike. Two successful exhibits - Dallas' new one and Nashville's 7-year-old exhibit - will be described and compared.

Jim Neri - "Habitat Like That"

Zoo exhibit design involves the complex layering of human systems and animals habitats. Successful designs work for zoo visitors, zoo personnel and most importantly, for the animals they house.

Cary Sharp and Linda Post -- "Botanical Asset Protection Plan"

Following devastating wildfires in 2007, horticulturists at the San Diego Zoo and the Zoo's Wild Animal Park realized that a plan was in case a fire or other catastrophic event threatened their botanical collections. After extensive research, they created a plan that includes propagation and distribution of materials, as well as a loan program.

Dave Ehrlinger - "Children's Gardens"

Located a half mile from the Pacific Ocean, the Garden contains 35 acres in a virtually frost-free site, allowing a wide diversity of plant species to be grown. A selection of significant gardens and plants are featured which relate to zoo exhibits and landscapes. These include desert gardens, tropical gardens, native plant gardens and low water gardens from around the world. The newest addition is an extensive new children's garden, which includes a tropical tree house and a bird and butterfly garden.

"Biomimicry -- a New Frontier for Zoological and Botanical Collections"

Innovation and design inspired by nature requires an understanding of how nature wastes no effort on life. Zoos and Botanical Gardens are reference libraries for exploration of nature's solutions to daily environmental challenges. This program will share some of the successful implementations of natural strategies and provide insights into new ways to see and understand nature.

Tuesday Abstracts

Conservation Sessions

Marian Marum "The Value of Sustainable Landscapes"

This presentation will highlight the benefits of 'Ecosystem Services', discuss new 'Sustainable Landscape Strategies', and introduce new tools to quantify the value of these sustainable measures. It will also highlight the importance of the 'Green Message' that can be delivered through 'Sustainable Zoo Environments'.

Christy Powell/Mike Letzring -- "Propagation of Erythrina Species for Preservation of Genetic Diversity and Protection from the Erythrina Gall Wasp"

Erythrina trees or coral trees occur in tropical and subtropical regions around the globe. The beautiful vibrant colored flowers, typically in red, are adored by birds and people alike. Michael Letzring and Christy Powell combined have been working toward the conservation of this species for over 10 years. They will give an update of the AZH Grant titled "Ex situ conservation of *Erythrina* sp. via tissue culture" and the status of the Erythrina Gall Wasp outbreak in Hawaii.

Gib Cooper - "Panama's Summit Park: A Center for Bamboo Conservation and Education"

As a result of an AZH 2008 conservation grant, Summit Park's Bamboo Walk was the focus of a project that included garden development, new bamboo architectural features, developing an interpretive center, starting ongoing research and training in maintenance and care.

Diane Weber -- "Bird Island Live Oak Reinforcement Project"

Bird Island has been experiencing severe erosion since failed federal levees flooded the city in 2005. Using concrete rubble and limestone boulders, Zoo Horticulture has worked to protect more than half of the island from washing away as well as preventing the collapse of two old Live Oaks that are essential nesting sites.

Marge From -- "One Orchid's Private Life"

Orchids are believed to be especially dependent on their symbiotic relationships for nutrient requirements, particularly in the early growth stages. The threatened western prairie fringed orchid, *Platanthera praeclara* native to the Great Plains of North America, was found to have 27 different microbes on its roots. Long term conservation plans should consider preserving not only the plant species' germplasm but also its specific symbiont(s).

Integrated Pest Management Session

David Kellum - "Exotic Pest Invasion"

The ease and speed of today's interstate and international movement accounts for a marked increase in invasive insects and diseases. Additionally, the wide variety of ecological niches where invasive pests can become quickly established places tremendous pressure on the various agencies trying to limit the damage of invasive pest introductions.

CJ Mendlik/Linda Post -- "IPM methods at the Wild Animal Park"

At the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, the team manages not only plant pests, but all other types of pests for animals, employees and guests. The IPM team is always trying to come up with ideas to manage pest levels effectively, using traditional methods, and those less traditional! To this end, CJ will be sharing some of the IPM controls used at the Wild Animal Park, in an interactive session discussing beneficial insects, pesticides, tools and equipment.

Ron Whitehurst - "Introducing a New Beneficial Insect to Customers"

Beneficial insects have become an important part of IPM programs in zoos and public gardens. We develop a comfort level with certain insects and how they perform. How do we trial and integrate a new beneficial insect into our routine? Ron will describe the process of introducing several insects to customers and feature newly available bicontrol agents.