

# ***Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Foundation***

*2016 Annual Report*



Letter from the President  
10 Jul 2017

This is our first annual report. We are very excited to share with everyone the goals and mission of the Foundation as well as some projects we have been working to complete.

Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Foundation (ZWNF) is a Texas nonprofit corporation formed by concerned individuals to promote zoo and wildlife nutrition.

Our mission is to (a) provide nutrition education and advice for captive feeding programs in accordance with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Nutrition Advisory Group (NAG); and (b) participate in, and contribute to, global and regional nutrition research programs.



There are several ways in which we accomplish this. We maintain funds to support nutrition education and training. We administer a portion of those monies via the Sue Crissey Animal Nutrition Residency Fund which is pivotal in training the next generation of zoo nutritionists. We provide technical, financial, and administrative support for the NAG and its website ([www.nagonline.net](http://www.nagonline.net)). At the same time, we facilitate the procurement and management of funds to support the NAG Conference on Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition, as well as to support research projects that further the understanding of exotic animal nutrition.

We are happy to report that there are several efforts that have been initiated in order to begin achieving our goals. These include: planning the ZWNF/NAG Conference on Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition (September 2017), initiating the research and education small grants program, and the call for institutions to host the SCARF program. All of these programs will be implemented during calendar year 2017.

As you read through this report, you will find details on these initiatives, as well as background about the Foundation, its Board of Directors, and our finances to date. We encourage your interest in the Foundation and its mission, as well as your support for the important work that the Foundation does to train the next generation of zoo nutritionists! Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Henry".

Barbara Henry, MS  
President, Board of Directors, Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Foundation  
Curator of Nutrition, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

## Board of Directors

Founding members of the Board of Directors were Barbara Henry, Mike Maslanka, Shannon Livingston, Ann Ward, Kerri Slifka, Barbara Toddes, Howard Fredrick, Jason Williams, and Shana Lavin. These individuals recognized the need for a group of nutrition professionals to join together in support of the educational goals of the NAG, as well as the opportunity to support exotic animal nutrition research in the future. During the time of formation, Jason and Shana decided to leave the board of directors during changes in their careers. Since formation, Howard has rotated off the Board as part of planned succession, and Liz Koutsos has joined the Board. The bylaws of the Foundation provide for the timely rotation of Board members in order to cultivate new ideas and involve other zoo nutrition professionals in idea generation and development.

### Current Members of the Board of Directors (April 2017)

Barbara Henry, President



Mike Maslanka, Vice President



Shannon Livingston, Secretary



Ann Ward, Treasurer



Barbara Toddes



Liz Koutsos



Kerri Slifka



### **Upcoming 2017 ZWNF/NAG Conference**

In coordination with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV), the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians (ARAV), the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (AEMV), and the American Association of Fish Veterinarians (AAFV), the ZWNF and NAG will be hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition in Frisco, Texas between 24-27 September 2017. Topics will range in scope from basic to applied; the conference will include a workshop on the first day. As usual, by partnering with other professional groups, we expect the conference to initiate a lot of discussion and collaboration among all the participants. Additional details regarding the conference, registration, etc can be found on the NAG website ([www.nagonline.net](http://www.nagonline.net)).

### **Small Grant Fund**

The ZWNF has established an annual research grant for \$1,000 and an annual education grant for \$500. We collaborate with the NAG to maximize the impact professional zoo nutritionists have on the care and management of current and future collections, as well as on training and leadership of the next generation of zoo nutritionists. Research to contribute to the field of zoo and wildlife nutrition, as well as funding to further education, are

consistent with ZWNF goals and have been identified as NAG scientific and operational priorities, both of which will be supported by these grants. These two grants will be announced and initiated prior to the fall conference.

### **Susan Crissey Animal Nutrition Residency Fund (“SCARF”)**



SCARF was established on November 14, 2002, by the Chicago Zoological Society and the NAG. SCARF was established to acknowledge and honor the significant impact that Sue Crissey had on the field of zoo nutrition during her fifteen (15) years at Brookfield Zoo. Sue died at 51 after an extended battle with ovarian cancer. During Sue’s time at the Brookfield Zoo, she expanded the nutrition program from one of diet purchase and preparation to a program of cutting-edge research and problem solving. She led the development of the institutional coalition called the Zoo Nutrition Network. She and her staff were active in publishing many papers, and worked to

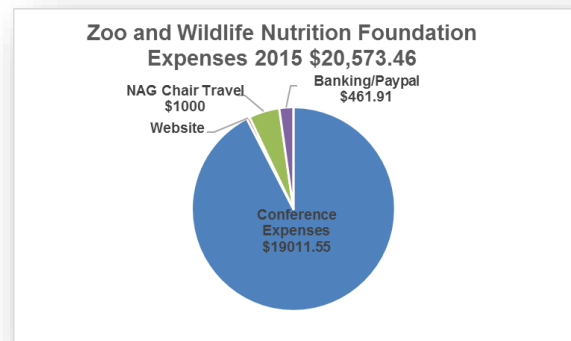
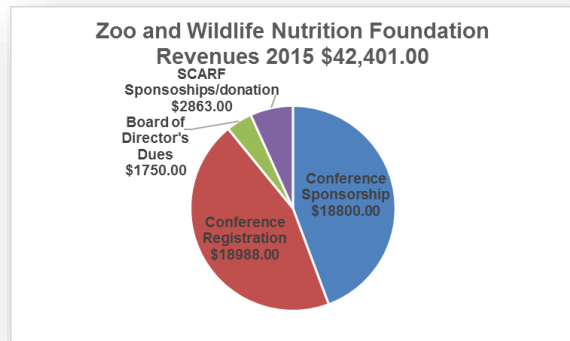
integrate zoo animal nutrition research with nutritional studies of wild-living animals. One of Sue’s greatest commitments was to train, professionally develop, and engage the next generation of zoo nutritionists. To that end, Sue participated in the training of three residents during her time at Brookfield and those individuals became successful zoo nutritionists at other AZA zoos. It is the hope that SCARF will continue to celebrate Sue’s tremendous achievements and contributions to expanding the field of zoo animal nutrition by providing support for residencies in zoo animal nutrition that will improve the welfare of animals in zoos and aquariums.

To date we have awarded funds for training 2 successful candidates. The call for qualified and interested institutions was made and the due date for applications was 5 May 2017. At that time, a small sub-committee comprised of ZWNF Board members, NAG steering committee members, and an at-large member was established to evaluate the applications and make the award, which is still in process. From that point, the chosen institution will begin the process to advertise for, interview, and select the next nutrition resident. Stay tuned for progress!

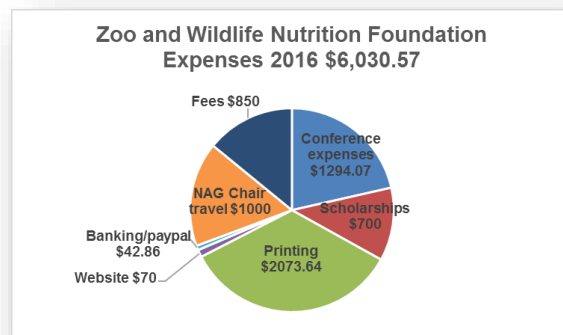
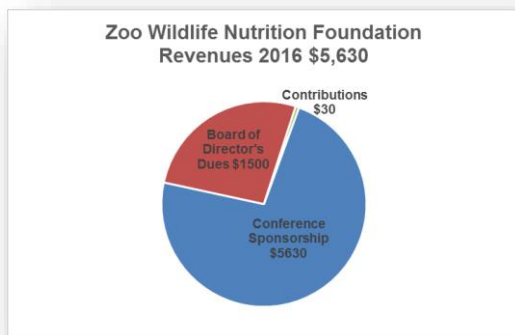
### **2015 and 2016 Financial Statements**

One of the main roles of the ZWNF and NAG is to host the Conference on Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition every other year. Because of this, the Foundation revenue and expense reports look very different between conference and non-conference years (due to registration fees, sponsorship donations, and the off-setting conference expenses). Because of the disparity, we have shared the previous two years of financial statements in order to highlight the importance and impact of the Conference.





2015 was a Conference year. The Conference was held in Portland, Oregon in conjunction with AAZV, and was well-attended by zoo nutrition professionals and veterinarians alike. Note that sponsorship donations and conference registration made up the largest portions of revenue, whereas conference expenses (meals, rooms, transportation, audio-visual, etc) accounted for the largest portion of expenses. Also note, revenues exceeded expenses by \$21,827.54 for 2015.



2016 was not a Conference year. There were some Conference-related expenses that were paid in 2016 (which also included proceedings costs), but there were also lingering sponsor donations that were added during the year. Note the considerably smaller revenue and expense totals for the non-Conference year. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$893.50 for 2016.

Moving forward, 2017 is a Conference year, and we expect revenue and expenses to mimic previous Conference years, within reason. We expect to award the SCARF residency during the 2017 calendar year, and that will represent the largest expense for the year.

## **Consider a Gift**

The Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Foundation was created to support the important work of not only the AZA Nutrition Advisory Group, but of the profession of zoo and wildlife nutrition as a whole. The more we learn about appropriate nutrition and diets for zoo-maintained wildlife, the greater our ability to manage and reproduce those animals and help maintain sustainable populations. The more we learn about their free-ranging counterparts, and the ability of habitats to meet the nutritional needs of those animals, the more we can help manage the animals and ecosystems for sustainability.

The Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Foundation supports efforts in both realms – for the future of sustainable wildlife populations. Please consider supporting us in this critical endeavor (visit the NAG website to do so: <http://nagonline.net/287/sue-crissey-animal-nutrition-residency-fund-scarf/>).