

Z Points

IN THIS ISSUE:

An Interview with
**THE NEW MAN
BEHIND THE
SHARKS**

Neil Allen

Page 2

**THE SCOOP
ON POOP**

New Exhibit
Mixes Fecal Facts
With Fun

Page 3





An interview with Neil Allen – The Man Behind the Sharks and other aquatic animals

Neil Allen joined Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA) as the new Aquatic Animal Curator in fall 2010. We sat down with him to learn more about why he came to PDZA and what he hopes to achieve in his new position.

Neil, you have a rich and varied professional background at aquariums across the country and around the world. Did you always know that you wanted to work in aquariums?

I fell into the aquarium business by accident. I was finishing some graduate studies at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, California at the same time that David Packard (of Hewlett-Packard) was building the Monterey Bay Aquarium next door on old Cannery Row.

In 1982 I started assisting the project manager there and soon was hired as an aquarist to help collect fish and invertebrates for the new exhibits. I spent the next 15 years working as a collector, aquarist and research biologist.

In 1998 I helped open another aquarium, Colorado's Ocean Journey, in Denver. Six years later, I moved to Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta to help acquire fish, including the first whale

sharks ever displayed in the United States. Later, I was hired by the Oregon Coast Aquarium as their Curator of Fish.

Most recently, I spent a year working on an aquarium in the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East and then jumped at the opportunity to come to PDZA as the new Aquatic Animal Curator – where I hope to stay.

Do you have a favorite experience during your time in the United Arab Emirates?

I loved working with the Sri Lankan staff when we collected black tip sharks in the Arabian Sea for the Sharjah Aquarium. When sharks got caught in our net, the staff would swim out to the barrier net, grab the three-foot fish in a bear hug and swim them back to the boat. The sharks wouldn't struggle for some reason and my staff acted as if this was just an everyday occurrence. The sharks always survived their capture in good shape.

What attracted you to PDZA?

PDZA feels like a community within a community. It is deeply established in the hearts of people in the area and so has a strong support base. The staff share a strong sense of commitment to both the facility and the animals. It's a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and professional group of people.

Also, on a clear day, PDZA has one of the best scenic views of mountains and sound of any aquarium or zoo in the country.

What are your goals over the next few years? And what do you see as some of the biggest challenges?

We are primarily concerned with keeping the Rocky Shores and Aquarium exhibits as interesting and compelling as possible for our visitors. The animals are the driving force in keeping our visitors engaged and interested in coming back. Our team needs to keep the longstanding tradition of excellence going into the future.

One of our biggest challenges is working within older facilities. The North Pacific Aquarium is almost 50 years old and is showing its age. Areas of concrete are crumbling and much of the plumbing is very outdated. Upkeep and not compromising exhibit quality are constant challenges.

What has been your biggest surprise since you arrived?

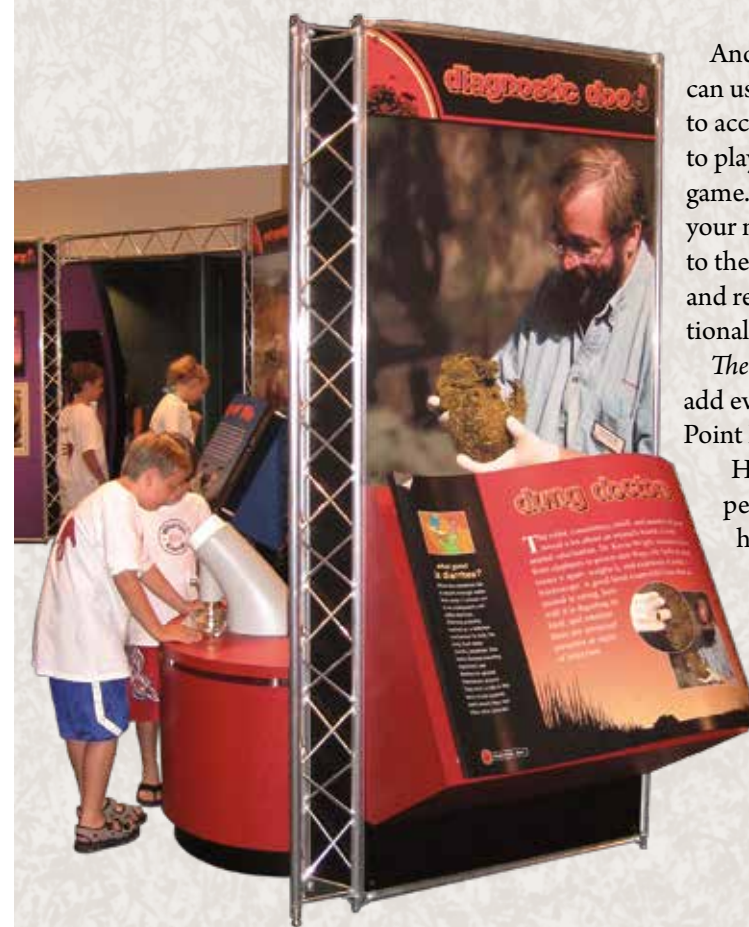
It's not every workplace that you can hear gibbons calling in the morning when you're working at your desk. I feel like I'm working in an Asian jungle. 🐼

New Scoop on Poop

Exhibit Mixes Fecal Facts With Fun

The Scoop on Poop: The Science of What Animals Leave Behind is making an exclusive swing through the Pacific Northwest for this summer only! This special exhibit will be shown in the upper floor of the North Pacific Aquarium and will run from May 21 to September 11 and is included as a bonus with your membership and general admission.

The Scoop on Poop, based on the book by the popular science writer Dr. Wayne Lynch, leads you on a fun-filled investigation of what poop is and how animals use it – to build houses, hide from enemies, attract mates, send messages and cool off. And yes, some even eat it! You can listen to the sounds of an animal's digestive track, examine fecal samples in a veterinarian's lab, track wild animals by clues left in scat and become a dinosaur dung detective.



And while at the Zoo you can use your iPhone or Droid to access the free app 'Scvngr' to play a special scavenger hunt game. This fun-to-play app links your new knowledge about poop to the rest of your visit at the Zoo and rewards players with exceptional prizes.

The Scoop on Poop promises to add even more fun to your visit to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Here's what some of the people with the inside scoop have told us...

Zoo Director Gary Geddes says: "This is something that the whole family can get behind – don't miss it or you'll be in deep doo-doo."

Zoo Society Executive Director Caryl Zenker encourages members to "take a closer look at Scoop on Poop – there's more there than meets the eye (and nose)."

Elephant keeper Craig Wilcox is proud that 'his' girls, Suki and Hanako, are the real champions when it comes to this subject.

"You won't believe how these girls deliver!" The Scoop on Poop, May 21 through September 11 at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Don't miss it! 🐘

The Scoop on Poop exhibit is presented by:



**Zoo Society Board of Directors
2010-2011**

President, DIANNE CONWAY
 Vice President, EDWARD GROGAN
 Treasurer, PETER HENDRICK
 Secretary, DAVID PANCO
 Immediate Past President, CHARLES BROWN
 LOIS BERSTEIN
 SALLY JO BOSE
 HOLLIE BOSTROM
 KIM BURKES
 RACHEL CARROLL
 SUSAN CAULKINS
 RICHARD COCKRELL
 JULIE COLLINS
 NIGEL ENGLISH
 JOHN GAZECKI
 MARGO HASS KLEIN
 JUDD JOHNSON
 TOM KERSTETTER
 ERIC KVINSLAND
 JACK MEEHAN
 JOHN PARROTT
 FRANK PUPO, JR.
 SCOTT SABO
 KAREN VIETENHAUS

Zoo Society Staff

Executive Director, CARYL ZENKER
 Membership & Marketing Services Manager,
 MIRANDA CAMPBELL
 Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager,
 CORY CHAPO
 Capital Campaign Coordinator, MICHELLE SCHEELE
 Major Gifts Manager, MATTHEW JONES
 Finance Manager, PAULA KRAUPA
 Event Associate, ASHLEE TAULBEE

Zoo Staff

Director of Zoological & Environmental
 Education (ZEED), GARY GEDDES
 Deputy Director, JOHN HOUCK
 Operations Manager, STAN CHAPIN
 Marketing & Public Relations Manager (ZEED),
 WHITNEY DALBALCON
 Education Coordinator (ZEED), JOHN GARNER
 General Curator, KAREN GOODDROWE BECK, Ph.D.
 Aquatic Animal Curator, NEIL ALLEN
 Business & Administrative Services Manager (ZEED),
 DONNA POWELL
 Red Wolf Coordinator, WILL WADDELL
 Head Veterinarian, KAREN WOLF, DVM

Membership Information:

One-Plus-One (\$57), Household (\$90), Grandparent (\$90),
 Deluxe Household (\$107), Sponsor (\$215), and Patron (\$300).
 Membership benefits include one year of unlimited free admission
 to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and free and discounted
 admission to reciprocal zoos across the nation, half-price admission
 to **Zooights**, a subscription to **ZooPoints** magazine, and reduced
 admission to Northwest Trek. Zoo/Trek Combo membership
 plans are also available. Please call (253) 404-3658 for a member-
 ship application.

ZooPoints is produced by staff and volunteers. It is free to
 Zoo Society members. Non-member subscription rate is \$12.
 Responses, inquiries or suggestions for articles may be sent to
 Editor, **ZooPoints**, 5400 North Pearl Street, Tacoma, WA 98407 or
 call (253) 404-3656.

Publication Credits

Managing Editor: Miranda Campbell
 Editorial Committee: Candy Stewart and Caryl Zenker
 Publication Design: Scott Hamilton
 Photography: John Froschauer



**Point Defiance Zoological
Society Mission Statement**

The Zoo Society fosters the relationship between
 Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and our
 community. We sustain and grow membership,
 raise funds, and generate community support.

POINT DEFIANCE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President's Perspective

By Dianne Conway

President, The Zoo Society Board of Directors

We are almost there! Thanks to the generous support of many wonderful donors, we now have less than \$750,000 left to raise for the Society's \$7.15 million Vision for the Future Capital Campaign. Accordingly, the next few months mark the final phase of the community portion of the Campaign. *You may be receiving email, letters or phone calls asking for your help in reaching our goal and building our Clouded leopards a magnificent habitat and breeding facility.* Please consider doing so! And thank you so much to all of the community members who have given so much already to our campaign: Great Community. Great Zoo. You can be a part of it, too!

Speaking of the Campaign, construction is underway on our new Cats of the Canopy Clouded leopard exhibit. The exhibit will feature a stunning habitat in the Zoo's Asian Forest Sanctuary, including lush vegetation with tree limbs for the leopards all-important climbing, and naturalistic designs that will provide visitors with intimate views of the animals. It will also have space

to expand our Clouded leopard breeding program.

Mark your calendars! During the weekend of June 18th and 19th, we will have a special celebration in support of the Capital Campaign completion of our new Clouded leopard exhibit! All proceeds from admissions and donations from members that weekend will directly support the completion of the new exhibit for our community's beloved Clouded leopards.

Finally, please bring your family to exclusive open houses on Members Night, June 16. There will be many unique and special things to see, and we can't wait to share them with you.



Dianne Conway

You're invited to the Annual Zoo Society Board of Directors Meeting
 Wednesday, June 22, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Event to be held at the Zoo Education Center. All Members of the Zoo Society are invited. Please RSVP to Michelle at (253) 404-3651, or email mscheele@thezoosociety.org.



**Be sure to visit
Mali and Bima
this Spring!**

Are you receiving our Zoo News email blasts?
 If not, please send your name and email address to member@thezoosociety.org and we'll add you to the list!

The Scoop on Poop

KIDS' CORNER

Who Did That?

We all know that everybody poops - from the huge elephants in the Asian Forest Sanctuary to the tiny sea anemones in the Marine Discovery Center. One of the big jobs of the zoo keepers is to clean up after their animals. Test your zoo keeper knowledge, and see if you can correctly match the poop picture with the picture of the animal that made it!



Asian Elephant



Clouded Leopard



Ringtail Lemur



Parma Wallaby

Did You Know?

- The Scoop on Poop is a new exhibit at the Zoo that will talk all about animals and their poop! The exhibit will open on May 21 in our North Pacific Aquarium.
- The sloth (an animal from South America) usually poops only once a week!
- Scientists can study the poop of animals in the wild to learn more about what they have been eating and how healthy they are.
- An adult African elephant can produce up to 300 pounds of poop each day!

Answers: A, 4; B, 1; C, 2; D, 3

ZOO CALENDAR

Educational Opportunities

Marine Biologist for a Day Level I - Animal Caretaking

Spend the day in the South Pacific Aquarium, learning how to identify and feed sharks, prepare food, and all about our coral farm. See what it takes to be a real-life aquarist! Due to the hands-on nature of the course, we limit each session to 5 participants, minimum 3 - please call for availability of specific dates listed.

Ages: 13-17 years old
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Prices: \$75 members / \$85 non-members
Morning snack and lunch (each day) are provided as part of the program.

Marine Biologist for a Day Level II - The North Pacific

Spend the day in the North Pacific Aquarium, learning how the water and animals found right in our own Puget Sound make up our cold-water aquarium. Prepare food, interview a real Marine Mammal Trainer, and meet our Giant Octopus and Jellies! Due to the hands-on nature of the course, we limit each session to 5 participants, minimum 3 - please call for availability of specific dates listed.

Ages: 13-17 years old
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Prices: \$75 members / \$85 non-members
Morning snack and lunch (each day) are provided as part of the program.

Keeper for a Day Level I - Animal Caretaking

Find out what zookeepers do behind the scenes. You will scoop poop, observe training sessions, and learn how to perform enrichment activities for the animals. Keeper for a Day includes activities in the Rocky Shores, Tundra, and Southeast Asia areas. Due to the hands-on nature of the course, we limit each session to 6 participants, minimum 3 - please call for availability of specific dates listed.

Ages: 13-17 years old
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Prices: \$75 members / \$85 non-members
Morning snack and lunch are provided as part of the program.

Keeper for a Day Level II - Animal Nutrition and Enrichment

This exciting new teen Career Discovery offering takes place behind the scenes in Wild Wonders! Meet all of the animals that Zoo visitors rarely get to see as you take the experience to the next level - learn about animal nutrition and enrichment as you personally prepare animal diets and create unique sensory experiences for our animal friends! Due to the hands-on nature of the course, we limit each session to 3 students, minimum 2 - please call for availability of specific dates listed. **Note:** To attend this program teens must first successfully complete Keeper For A Day Level I.

Ages: 13-17 years old
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Prices: \$100 members / \$110 non-members
Morning snack and lunch are provided as part of the program.

Keeper for a Day - Adults Only

An adults only version of our popular Keeper For A Day teen program - learn what it's really like to be a zookeeper, make some new animal friends, and get a chance to go behind the scenes!

Ages: 18+
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Prices: \$85 members / \$95 non-members
Morning snack and lunch are provided as part of the program.

Note: All programs require pre-registration. Please call (253) 591-5333. For more information on events listed below, visit pdza.org.

Programs & Events at PDZA!

Hours: **March 1 - May 1:** 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily; **May 2 - May 22:** 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily; **May 23 - June 30:** 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily

April 7-8 - Critter Club - Springtime Safari
April 8-9 - Spring Sanctuary Public Snooze
April 9 - Zoo 4 U - Earth Day Elephants
April 9 - Keeper For a Day
April 16 - Marine Biologist For a Day Level I
April 16-17 - Earth Day Weekend
April 17 - Marine Biologist For a Day Level II
April 21-22 - Critter Club - Earth Day Surprise
May 5-6 - Critter Club - Outstanding Oceans
May 7 - Opening of Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater Show and Budgie Buddies
May 7 - Half Price General Admission for Moms

May 7 - Keeper for a Day
May 8 - Field Biologist for a Day
May 14 - Marine Biologist For a Day Level I
May 14 - Discover Nature Program - Jr. Zookeeper
May 15 - Marine Biologist For a Day Level II
May 19-20 - Critter Club - Radical Raptors
May 21 - Zoo 4 U - Marvelous Mommies
May 28 - Keeper For a Day Level II
June 5 - Keeper for a Day Adults Only
June 13 - Summer Camp Starts

Critter Club

Critter Club is a series of programs just for tots ages 3 and 4. These programs take place on scheduled **Thursdays and Fridays** and feature a fun story, hands-on animal biofacts, great crafts and a special animal surprise. The adventures begin soon, so check pdza.org for the full 2011 schedule.

Ages: 3-4 years old
Prices: \$6 per child with Point Defiance Zoo Society membership, \$8 per child without membership, with pre-registration. Fees will now be collected at the time of pre-registration. \$10 per child without pre-registration.

Zoo 4 U - New Programs for Children Ages 4-7

These interactive programs will introduce your child to the fun animals at the zoo through activities, crafts and animal surprises. Perfect for Critter Club Graduates!

Prices: \$15 members / \$20 non-members

2011 Zoo Camps and Other Education Programs

Sign up today for a fun, safe and educational adventure for your child.

Register online at pdza.org or call 253.591.5333

The Zoo Society presents

Zoobilee

JULY 15, 2011

A Royal Experience

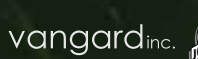
At Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Save the Date to saunter into the most scintillating summer fundraiser in Tacoma!

Over 50 restaurants, specialty drinks and 4 stages of entertainment.

Order Tickets Today
Zoobilee.org or 253.404.3657
EARLY BIRD PRICING ends May 31st
www.facebook.com/ZoobileePDZS

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:



Gift opportunities at your Zoo!

Zoo Society Membership Gift Certificates!

Need a great gift idea for friends or family! Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Membership Gift Certificates are always a welcome surprise. Gift Certificates start as low as \$60.

OR

Purchase your loved one a plush "Adopt an Animal" package!

Choose their favorite zoo animal and have a package to give away which includes:

- Plush of your chosen animal
- Animal photo
- Animal fact sheet
- Certificate of adoption
- Zoo Society decal



For membership and adoption information, call (253) 404-3658 or visit thezoosociety.org

POINT DEFIANCE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TheZooSociety

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
5400 North Pearl Street
Tacoma, WA 98407

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tacoma, WA
Permit No. 422

ZooPoints | Volume 25 | Issue 1 | Spring 2011

Donate a Zoobilee Auction Item

When you donate an auction item to Zoobilee you not only support Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, but also take advantage of a prime marketing opportunity. Auction donors will be exposed to over 2,000 Zoobilee guests, over 50 restaurant vendors, and Zoobilee's corporate sponsors.

For questions or to make a donation, please contact:

Alice Sharp
*Zoo Society Community
Relations Coordinator*
(253) 404-3633
asharp@thezoosociety.org

**Zoobilee Sponsorship Opportunities:
\$50,000 to \$2,500!**

The success of Zoobilee relies heavily on the participation of event sponsors like you!

To learn more about Zoobilee sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Cory Chapo
*Corporate & Foundation
Relations Manager*
(253) 404-3664
corporaterelations@thezoosociety.org

Tickets on sale now!
zoobilee.org, or (253) 404-3657


JULY 15, 2011
A Royal Experience

TheZooSociety

ZooPoints is printed on recycled paper 