

**Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!**

## **ANNUAL MEETING ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI JUNE 2012**

To maintain good communication and achieve Asian Elephant Support's goals, the board of directors has a monthly conference call to discuss on-going projects and a wide variety of other foundation business. However, once a year we have our annual meeting where we get together in person. This year we chose St. Louis, Missouri, the home of our president and the headquarters for Asian Elephant Support. On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Sharon arrived from Oregon, April from Virginia, and Gretchen from Washington. Once everyone had arrived we headed off to the only logical place for dinner, The Elephant Bar Restaurant.

We started our meeting early Saturday morning and worked for two and a half hours, then took a break and drove to Grant's Farm, a special St. Louis venue. Thanks to Jenny and her team, we had a wonderful visit with the park's elephants, Bud and Mickey. It was back to work for a few hours before going to dinner at the Pasta House Company. As we continued our discussions during dinner, we were also helping Asian elephants because a portion of our bill was donated to Asian Elephant Support through the "Good Dining" Program. For more information on the "Good Dining" program, visit

[www.asianelephantsupport.org/goodsearch-shopping.asp](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org/goodsearch-shopping.asp).



*April, Sharon, Linda, Whitney Jones (a volunteer)  
and Gretchen with Bud at Grant's Farm*

Sunday morning the computers were humming again. We spent the afternoon at the St. Louis Zoo and enjoyed watching their herd of Asian elephants and talking with the staff. The newest addition to the herd, Kenzi, was a joy to watch as she raced around her mother and grandmother while her older siblings enjoyed a swim in the pool.



*Baby Kenzi and her Grandma Ellie at the St. Louis Zoo*



*The very handsome Raja at the St. Louis Zoo*

Sunday evening, Linda hosted a get-together at her house for all the keepers from Grant's Farm and the Zoo. We saw some old friends and made a lot of new friends that evening. Everyone enjoyed the conservation and helped support Asian Elephant Support by having dinner that was delivered by Pasta House Company.

Monday morning we were back at the computers for our last working session. It was a great weekend of work and fun. Together we accomplished a lot of foundation business, enjoyed our elephant experiences, and enjoyed the social time with our St. Louis friends. That afternoon we headed to the airport with renewed enthusiasm and determination to do everything possible to save these magnificent animals.

## EARTH DAY 2012 "Party for the Planet"

The first Earth Day event was held on April 22, 1970, and is considered the birth of the modern environmental movement. After the oil spill disaster in Santa Barbara, California in 1969, Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, was inspired to combine the anti-war energy and the growing concern for the environment to create an environmental movement. That year 20 million Americans participated in a coast-to-coast rally for a more healthy and sustainable world. Among other things, this first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and the Endangered Species Act, which helps protect Asian elephants today.

To help celebrate this event, the Virginia Zoo, in Norfolk, Virginia hosted their annual Earth Day and animal enrichment event called “Party for the Planet” on April 21, 2012. Director, April Yoder was able to attend the event as a representative of Asian Elephant Support. April’s father, Sheldon, who serves on our communication committee, was in town visiting and was also able to help with the event.



*Director April setting up for the event*



Participants arrived bright and early on Saturday morning to set up for the event. There were several local environmental organizations and agencies at the event providing information on many environmental issues such as clean air and water, and the use of solar energy. Throughout the day April and her father had an opportunity to talk to the zoo visitors and even catch up with some friends that work with the zoo’s two elephants, Lisa and Cita.



*April educating zoo visitors*

April is the Chairperson for our Education committee so she took this opportunity to share information about the Palm Oil Crisis and how as consumers, we can make a difference for elephants in Asia.

For more information on the Palm Oil Crisis visit [www.asianelephantsupport.org/education](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org/education).



It was a beautiful day and a wonderful opportunity to share information with the zoo visitors about Asian Elephant Support and the importance of saving this endangered species. We look forward to participating again next year.

## THE POWER OF THE “EMPLOYER MATCHING DONATION” PROGRAM



While there are many different ways to help support Asian Elephant Support, the “employer matching donation” program can be a particularly powerful tool.

An “employer matching donation” is a donation made to Asian Elephant Support that matches the employee’s initial gift. The motivation for an employer to match a donation is twofold. First, this program encourages employees to become interested in and to support charitable efforts. It is also a way for employers to support their employees’ interest in nonprofit organizations.

The typical “match” is a one-to-one ratio, meaning every dollar the employee donates the employer will match. Some programs have upper limits on donation amounts that will be matched. The match may be 50 cents for each dollar donated, so a company will donate \$50 to the employee’s \$100 gift. There is also the three-to-one ratio, where a \$100 donation by the employee will result in a \$300 donation by the employer.

Does your employer offer matching contributions? Not sure? It is easy to find out by contacting the human resources department of your company. They will have all the information and the “how tos” if they offer this program. Some companies even offer the matching donation program to spouses and retirees.

Please don’t let any leverage to your gift to Asian Elephant Support go unclaimed because you haven’t checked on this possibility! Thank you!

### **THANK YOU**

*We at AES wish to extend a very sincere thank you to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.*

*Please visit our website ([www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)) and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions, please [contact us](#). We appreciate your support. Please consider a [donation](#) to help Asian elephants and those who care for them.*

### **ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT**

[www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)

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*Asian Elephant Support is a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax-deductible.*