

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

We have had a busy spring and summer. Here are a few things AES has been keeping busy with.

A GREAT TASTING AND LOTS OF FUN FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, April 27th, was Asian Elephant Support's first fundraising event. It was held at the California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) in Chesterfield, MO, and since that's our president's home turf, we'll let Linda share the day:

"When I first looked at the marketing bits about doing such a fundraiser with California Pizza Kitchen, the examples they gave were entire school events netting several thousand dollars. That I knew we weren't! But with fundraising being difficult for a newer nonprofit and especially in this economy, I decided to make the inquiry. To sum it up: a delightful day! The managers at CPK were most helpful....and I think a bit amazed and sympathetic as I arrived at 10:30 a.m. and left shortly before 10 p.m., after our last supporting diners were served their dinner (CPK even sent me home with a complimentary piece of a wonderful chocolate cake!). But I wanted to greet everyone who made the effort to come out and support us and, honestly, from 11 a.m. until almost 3 p.m., I was delighted to see several smiling familiar faces come through the door. Then I had a chance to grab a late lunch and the early diners, led by my mom, her friend and my sister, started arriving shortly after 4 p.m. -- from family to friends and friends of family and friends, including the *entire* Grant's Farm elephant barn staff and friends! At the end of the day, Asian Elephant Support had added some much needed funds to its bank account; moreover the support and friendship was a wonderful and greatly appreciated vote of confidence.

The picture taking was one of those great friend's idea. Thanks, Jean. And yes, next year there will be the Second Annual Asian Elephant Support CPK Fundraiser! I will remember my camera and am already spinning some ideas to make it an even more enjoyable event!

Thanks to each and every one of you who made this a very special day!"





ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Our board held its annual meeting on June 4th in Portland Oregon, which is where Director Sharon Glaeser does elephant research. We thank the Oregon Zoo for the use of a meeting room. Director April Yoder gave a presentation on the palm oil crisis, and we spent a lovely afternoon in the elephant barn thanks to the fabulous elephant staff and their magnificent group of elephants. In our photo, April enjoys a reunion with the elephants that she had cared for over many years.



Director April reunites with an old friend in Portland

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

Donate your old car or boat to help Asian Elephant Support without writing a check! When the love affair with your 'wheels' or recreational boat has ended, please consider donation as one possible way to move on.

The Car Program folks are easy to talk to and have the answers to any questions you may have and Asian Elephant Support would appreciate the gift, putting all such proceeds to work for the benefit of Asian elephants in their native lands. The program has 20 years of experience, has processed over 1,000,000 donations, and is a registered and bonded vehicle dealer carrying \$2,000,000 in liability insurance. For more information, please call the Car Program at 1-800-240-0160. They will make all arrangements for towing, provide receipt when vehicle is picked up, make proper arrangements for title transfer, process sale of vehicle and forward proceeds to Asian Elephant Support. Customer Service is available 7 days a week and donors talk to a REAL PERSON, not a recording!

A DEAR FRIEND, RICHARD LAIR, VISITS:

AES is very excited to help support the world famous, Richard Lair, Thai Elephant Conservation Center Advisor, as he travels to the United States. Richard Lair, a native Californian, has lived and worked with Asian elephants for 34 years. He moved to Thailand in 1980 and volunteered with the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, the country's first conservation organization.

In 1988 he wrote the first scientific paper on the numbers and status of Thai domesticated elephants, pointing out the new threats facing a greatly diminished population. In 1997 he wrote "Gone Astray: The Care and Management of the Asian Elephant in Domesticity" for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in 2005 he edited and coauthored an "Elephant Care Manual for Mahouts and Camp Managers." His next project will be a review of Thai law on both wild and domesticated elephants, including possible directions for the future. He has had an exciting and diverse career working with elephants in Thailand.

For twelve years he worked at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center, where he remains an advisor. In 1993 he found, trained and managed the Second Unit elephants for a Walt Disney film, "Operation Dumbo Drop." He also worked on Oliver Stone's "Alexander" as safety and animal welfare officer. He was the first person to have elephants paint in Thailand and is cofounder and co-director of the world famous Thai Elephant Orchestra. Richard will be presenting at the Elephant Managers Association annual conference in Rochester, New York in October of this year.



Richard Lair with his world famous painters at the TECC



We changed our Facebook Group page to an Organization page. With the new page, our posts will now show up on your wall. Please "like" the new page to keep current on all of AES's activities!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Asian-Elephant-Support/177835145590160>

FROM ELEPHANTS TO LOVEBIRDS:

And for news not directly related to elephants, one of our directors, Gretchen Rumsey-Richardson, got married in the beginning of May. The wedding was held at the groom's grandmother's home which has a stunning view of the Puget Sound in Washington State. While having a spring wedding in western Washington is incredibly risky due to incessant rainfall, the ceremony and reception were rain-free (although it poured rain all morning long, making all involved rather nervous!). All in all, it was a successful event that was filled with a lot of love, beauty, and (what every budget-conscious wedding needs) a taco truck!



Gretchen and her husband, Monte

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. More requests for support are arriving for our consideration. This is a challenging time for all NGOs, and even more so, for the men and women in the field doing the difficult and important work that is so important to securing the future for elephants and other endangered animals that share our planet.

Please consider making a [donation](#) so that we can remain in a position to help projects that need support in their work for the future of Asian elephants.

You can [contact us](#) for more information, go to our website (www.asianelephantsupport.org), and follow us on Facebook (Asian Elephant Support).

Thank you for your support!

ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

www.asianelephantsupport.org

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