

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

2013 International Elephant & Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium August 26-30, 2013

The 2013 International Elephant & Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium was presented by the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) and was hosted by the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

Typically these foundations have separate symposiums, but elephants and rhinos share similar habitats and face similar conservation issues, so a joint meeting is only logical. This was the third time these organizations have come together to share information and research project results on conservation issues such as human conflict mitigation, management, health, nutrition, and reproduction. Participants were from around the world including the US, Canada, Germany, France, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Uganda, and South Africa.



Linda presenting

There were over 65 presentations ranging from the latest research on the elephant endotheliotropic herpesviruses (EEHV), to the translocation of black rhinos, to how captive elephants can benefit wild populations. AES president, Linda Reifschneider, gave a presentation on AES' activities for the last year and the importance of collaboration.

While the presentations were very enlightening, many valuable conversations also occurred during the social events. We were treated to a day at the Pittsburg Zoo followed by a reception and banquet in the PPG Aquarium. We also took a tour and had dinner at the International Conservation Center (ICC), which is a 724 acre off-site facility owned and managed by the Pittsburg Zoo. These types of events give participants an opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new contacts in the conservation world, and discuss ideas and future endeavors. As they say ... some of the best ideas are written on a cocktail napkin!



Directors April, Linda, and Sharon

While elephants and rhino populations are disappearing at an alarming rate, the information that is shared at these symposiums will provide a framework for preserving both of these magnificent species. Thank you to the International Elephant Foundation, the International Rhino Foundation, and the Pittsburg Zoo & PPG Aquarium for providing this great educational and networking opportunity.

Delivering the Scale to the Elephant Conservation Center in Sayaboury, Laos

Back in the July 2013 newsletter, we shared how your donations made it possible for AES to purchase a portable scale for the Elephant Conservation Center (ECC) in Sayaboury, Laos. On August 12th, AES president, Linda Reifschneider, left St. Louis, MO, and headed to Laos with the scale. Asian Elephant Support has helped fund several projects for ElefantAsia in the past and we wanted to get first-hand observations of the work being done and to meet the individuals that work so diligently to maintain Laos' only elephant hospital.

Sadly, in a country that was once referred to as the "Land of a Million Elephants", Laos now only has approximately 700 elephants left in the wild and approximately 500 elephants in captivity. Every elephant is important to the future of wildlife in Laos. ElefantAsia and the ECC are desperately working to preserve this rapidly declining population. While being able to obtain an accurate weight to calculate drug dosages is invaluable in a hospital situation, the ECC's breeding program makes a scale even more useful. Many of the elephants in captive situations are still being used in the logging industry.

The ECC offers owners of reproductively viable female elephants the opportunity to still produce a minimal income while their elephant is on “maternity leave”. The owners are given a small tiller to grow crops for income or to sell and keep the proceeds during the pregnancy. Being able to monitor the weight of these babies will be very beneficial to this program. Currently, the ECC has one mother and calf pair and a young orphaned calf.



Mother and calf

While at the center, Linda had the opportunity to observe the daily medical treatments given to two adult bull elephants. One suffered a damaged tail from an attack by a wild elephant and the other suffered multiple injuries as a result of a young and inexperienced mahout. This second incident reinforces the need for better education for mahouts in many areas of Asia, an effort AES is actively pursuing.



Treatment of bull



Calf Noi on the scale

Overall, Linda was impressed with the work being done by ElephantAsia and the ECC and we know the scale will be put to good use. With your help, we look forward to continuing our support for these organizations in the future.

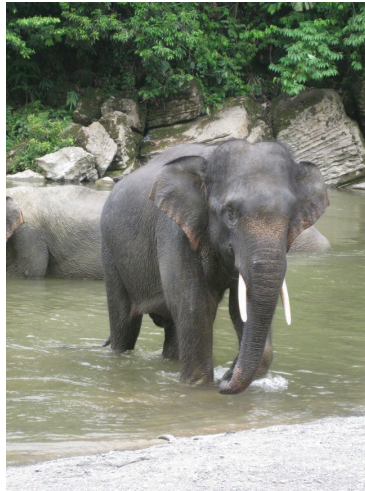


Bull with damaged tail, with mahout and owner

September 22nd is Elephant Appreciation Day!

September 22nd is our favorite holiday, as the day celebrates our favorite species!

Although we might be a little biased, we see many reasons to appreciate elephants. To start, elephants are among the most intelligent creatures in the animal kingdom. They are known to mourn the loss of other elephants and perform acts of altruism. Also, many other species depend on elephants, as they shape the landscape and help find water in times of drought. Studies have revealed that some plant species rely on elephants for seed dispersal, and without them the plants would not proliferate. Humans and elephants have had a close relationship for centuries. Those who have spent time with elephants know there is something very special about them.



We could go on and on explaining why we appreciate elephants, but we would rather hear from **YOU!** Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/asianelephantsupport and post the reasons why you appreciate elephants.

Want to express your appreciation for elephants? Make a [donation](#) to AES and help improve the quality of life of Asian elephants. Thank you for your support!

Please SUPPORT THE Conservation STAMP!



Have you heard of the Save Vanishing Species postage stamp? It costs just 10 cents more than a regular First Class Mail stamp, and the proceeds raise funds for critical conservation programs that save threatened species such as tigers, elephants, gorillas, marine turtles, and others.

That extra dime directly benefits the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Without Borders – Multinational Species Conservation Funds. This program has funded more than 1800 grants for Asian elephants, including some of the work Asian Elephant Support has supported.

Since its debut in September 2011, over 23 million stamps have been sold, raising more than \$2.33 million for endangered wildlife.

But the stamp is set to expire at the end of September – putting vital conservation resources at risk!

The Wildlife Conservation Society has sent a letter to the Postmaster General asking him to show support for endangered wildlife and to renew the stamp. *Will you also send a letter?*

You can send a letter of support on the [Renew the Save Vanishing Species Stamp](#) web page.

You can still [purchase these stamps](#) before this batch runs out. We hope all your letters will arrive at their destination bearing one of these special Amur tiger cub stamps, sending the message that you care about wildlife. ..for years to come.

TRUMPETS TO!

Alycia Patterson

Alycia contacted her local Buffalo Exchange in Long Beach, California, and got Asian Elephant Support the opportunity to participate in their “Tokens for Bags’ program for one of the available three-month periods. This program gives a token for each bag a customer brings in for their own purchases and those tokens are then deposited toward one of several nonprofits being funded during that period. The token represents a nickel AND we wonder how many customers Alycia encouraged to shop at Buffalo Exchange and support us, because the check was \$98.35! Equally important, lots of people became aware of AES and also participated in that very important exercise of reduce/reuse/recycle. A win/win any way you look at it!! Thanks, Alycia! You are one of our special elephant champions!

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) 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

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