

**Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!**

## 2012 Elephant Manager's Association Conference

For the last 33 years, the Elephant Managers Association (EMA) has held an annual conference. This is always a wonderful opportunity to share information, see old friends, and make new contacts in the elephant community. This year's conference was no exception. It was hosted by the Santa Barbara Zoo in beautiful Santa Barbara, California. The hotel was located across the street from the beach and in between conference activities you could always find at least a couple of attendees at the beach. The kickoff for the conference was a Hawaiian luau themed icebreaker, which included hula dancers, at the reception hall on the beach.

There were some wonderful presentations on various topics including husbandry, veterinary care, training, and of course, our favorite topic, conservation. We were very pleased to see an increase in the number of papers on conservation this year including an update on the recent survey of wild elephants in Sri Lanka, finding Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus in wild elephant populations in Africa and Asia (*watch for an article on this virus in next month's newsletter!*), and the palm oil crisis, to name a few. Director April Yoder gave a presentation on the activities of Asian Elephant Support and launched the "Hoof knives for Mahouts - India" project, which is a collaborative effort between the EMA and AES. An AES supporter and good friend, Molly Flora, is a licensed massage therapist and offered to give a chair massage one evening for a donation to the hoof knife program. She raised \$90 in a matter of hours to help provide tools for the mahouts in India. Director Sharon Glaeser also gave an excellent presentation on the social management of the male calf at the Oregon Zoo.

Three of the four directors were able to attend this conference so we had an informal meeting to discuss Asian Elephant Support activities. We held the meeting at a restaurant that is part of the Good Dining program so we were raising money for AES while talking about AES.

The zoo staff provided the attendees with other opportunities to see Santa Barbara. This included an evening on the town, a wine tasting, and a day at the Santa Barbara Zoo, which was only a block from the hotel. The Santa Barbara Zoo staff did a wonderful job and it is always great to spend three days talking about nothing but elephants!

We look forward to next year's conference hosted by the Dallas Zoo.



*Directors April, Linda, and Sharon*

## An Indian Teacher Making Great Strides for Elephant Conservation

In July 2012, Asian Elephant Support was introduced to Mamatha Sathyanarayana, a young biology teacher from Mysore, India. Along with her teaching responsibilities, she is also very involved in wildlife conservation. She facilitates many educational workshops about wildlife and the forest for the local village children.

In 2011, Mamatha received a small grant from the International Elephant Foundation to develop a Human-Elephant Coexistence workshop for children in her home state of Karnataka. She submitted an abstract on this workshop to the International Zoo Educators organization, hoping to present her work at the 2012 conference hosted by the Chester Zoo in the United Kingdom. Her abstract was accepted and we were delighted to assist with partial funding to help defray her travel expenses.

She was truly grateful to be able to attend this conference and sent us a few pictures and a summary of what this opportunity meant to her. She advised there was record attendance which gave her the opportunity to meet many eminent educators from all over the world. The conference schedule was packed with case studies, papers, workshops, and poster presentations, providing her with a lot of new ideas to take home. Even with the busy schedule, there was time to enjoy the Chester Zoo and an opportunity to see the old historic city of Chester.

Sharing knowledge is invaluable and we feel it is important to share the good conservation work that is being done in Asia with the Western world. Dedicated educators like Mamatha Sathyanarayana, whose passion for wildlife involves teaching both in and out of the classroom, represent a very important element in elephant conservation.

With Mamatha's help, her students will grow into adults with a better understanding of our wonderful planet and its amazing and precious creatures and wild places.

Thank you, Mamatha, and our very best wishes to you!



## Ways to Help AES

Buffalo Exchange is a consignment clothing company with locations spanning all across the United States. They have a wonderful Tokens for Bags program, where "shoppers are encouraged to accept a token instead of a bag for purchase, and Buffalo Exchange donates five cents to a charity of the customer's choice." Asian Elephant Support has been chosen to take part in this program in Seattle (the University district location) and Long Beach, California, from January to June of 2013! If you happen to live in one of these areas, be sure to check it out!

We realize that many of our supporters want to be able to help our organization but are unable to make financial donations due to a wide array of reasons. However, AES does have ways for our supporters to help

us by volunteering their time. Have a Buffalo Exchange in your area? If so, you could help AES take part in their Tokens for Bags program. If you are interested, simply email us at [elephants@asianelephantsupport.org](mailto:elephants@asianelephantsupport.org).

Don't have a Buffalo Exchange in your area? Not to worry, there is another way you could help us if you have a California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) within your vicinity. If you are interested in helping with our annual CPK fundraiser in April, please email us at [elephants@asianelephantsupport.org](mailto:elephants@asianelephantsupport.org).

These volunteer opportunities will not require too much of your time, as they mostly involve making a couple of phone calls or sending a few emails. While the time commitment is not large, the payoff to AES is vast as it increases our exposure across the country and provides us with a little extra money to help elephants. Please know that you can inquire about these volunteer opportunities without being committed to anything.

We appreciate our supporters' willingness to help our organization succeed. We truly would not be able to make a difference for Asian elephants without our loyal supporters.

## **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)

4764 Brookton Way, St. Louis, MO 63128 USA

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