



Compiled and organized by Tripp Gorman, Fort Worth Zoo

Designed and edited by Chase LaDue, George Mason University

Front cover photograph

Msholo, a 31-year-old male African elephant at Zoo Atlanta. Credit: Adam Thompson, Content Creator, Zoo Atlanta.

Inside cover photograph

Vus'Musi, a 16-year-old male African elephant at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Credit: Shane Spears / Fresno Chaffee Zoo.



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OUR MISSION:

The Elephant Managers Association is dedicated to the welfare and survival of the world's elephants through improving communication, husbandry, research, education, and conservation.



Officially formed in 1988, the EMA is a registered 501(c)(6) nonprofit group. Now representing hundreds of members, it is the largest international organization of elephant professionals and enthusiasts.



PHOTO: AMANDA BOBYACK

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Message from the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday I was writing this for the 2018 Annual Report. I guess time really does fly when you're having fun. How lucky are we to have elephants as a part of our lives? Being able to watch and interact with elephants every day is a privilege that very few people have. Regardless of everything going on in the world, being around elephants can make everything else seem irrelevant, or I guess, irrelephant.

I have been working around elephants in some capacity since 1989. A lot has changed over the years, some for the better and some, not so much. Change happens and you can either accept it, adapt, and move on, or you can get left behind. I feel that the EMA as an organization continues to adapt and

evolve, mainly due to the diversity of the membership. EMA is and always has been an inclusive organization made up of people with many different backgrounds and beliefs. Our members come from all parts of the globe, with representatives from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, and Germany, just to name a few. Not all our members work directly with elephants. We have members in schools and universities across the globe, and members that are retired professionals. All of these people care enough about elephants to join and support the EMA. Our largest member designation, Professional Members, has just as much diversity, with members working with zoos, private owners, circuses, sanctuaries, and game parks. This diversity of experience, knowledge, and geography is what makes the EMA such an amazing resource like no other in the world.

Our inclusiveness to accept all elephant care professionals or enthusiasts regardless of their philosophy, experience, or geographic location makes us the world's largest, most knowledgeable group of elephant professionals and enthusiasts. The EMA has never been about free contact or protected contact, or zoo or circus. The EMA is and always has been about elephants and bringing the diversity of our members together at a conference or through our publications to share different views and perspectives to help us grow as professionals to better the lives of elephants. Through its membership, the EMA has the resources and expertise to help everyone learn and be successful to better the lives of the elephants in their care.

We have EMA members representing over 80% of all AZA elephant-holding facilities and the majority of private owners and circuses. Why do we not have 100% representation? Some people think we are too free contact focused, while others think we are too protected contact focused. If these people read an issue of JEMA or attended a conference, they would realize that the EMA is about elephants. It's not about always agreeing with what everyone says and does. It's about keeping an open mind and sharing your successes as well as your challenges with everyone. It's about understanding that there is more than one way to be successful. Elephant programs are not and should not be cookie cutter. The diversity in our elephants, facilities, staffing, and resources makes each and every program unique. Successful programs have the ability to take many different bits and pieces to apply them to their program in a manner that works best for their staff, facility, and elephants.

To all of our members, thank you for making the EMA what it is today, and thank you for the continued support. I am proud of this organization and the membership for how we have grown over the years, and I look forward to what lies ahead in the years to come.

Daryl Hoffman

Executive Director, Elephant Managers Association



Message from the

PRESIDENT

Our goal each year is to send out our previous year's annual report in the spring. While we were finishing up this year's report, COVID-19 entered our lives. As a result, this report is getting to you a bit later than anticipated. In 2019, the Board focused our energy on the tasks that were outlined in our 2018 Annual Report. The biggest goal was to transfer our membership system and website to another software platform, allowing us to integrate all of our programs under one roof. We have successfully transferred our membership database, and now it is automated and easier for members to access information. We also published a new website, and we are already working to expand the content that is available to our members.

The Board used the feedback from the 2018 conference survey to help formulate the 2019 EMA conference in Denver. After the conference, we launched another survey, and I am proud to report that our conference in Denver received huge accolades from the attendees. The Denver team deserves a big "thank you" for all their dedication and hard work. We will take the information from this survey and use it for the planning of our next conference.

We have adopted a new initiative under which EMA will send out membership pins highlighting years of support for the organization. Members will now receive a membership pin for every five years of membership and support.

We will likely have to continue to deal with the challenges introduced by COVID-19. This has impacted us in many ways, and the EMA Board has changed some of our normal operations that reflect these challenges. Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel the 2020 EMA conference in Milwaukee. We felt that it was prudent to set up the Milwaukee team to succeed. We expect that postponing the conference while the world adapts to the new normal will result in a higher attendance in 2021. I am happy to report that the Milwaukee team has agreed to host the conference then. A huge "thank you" goes out to them for being so flexible and understanding.

Based on a survey that the Board sent out, the membership supported the Board's recommendation to postpone our 2020 Board election. We felt that because the terms for Board members are limited, it wouldn't be in the best interest of new members to join during a time in which our operations have slowed and the focus of all Board members are oriented more on their own home fronts. We will start the election process again in the spring of 2021. The Board has also recognized the financial impact that many members have endured during this time. As a small token, the Board has extended all the current EMA memberships by six months at no charge. We have also offered free limited-time memberships to the broader elephant community so that they can learn about our great organization and join the EMA family.

In 2020, here are some of the goals that we would like to accomplish:

- expand the content on our new website,
- update our EMA bylaws,
- update our EMA elephant standards,
- establish an EMA merchandise store on our new online platform, and
- use conference survey results to improve our annual conference.

As we usually say: EMA is your organization, please don't hesitate to contact a Board member and give your input on how we can improve this organization. Member feedback and participation is extremely important in order for EMA to thrive.

Stay safe—

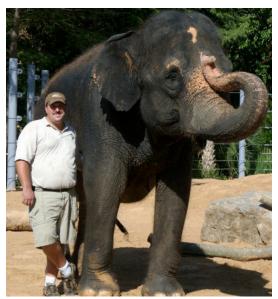
Vernon Presley

President, Elephant Managers Association

Meet the 2019 – 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected by EMA members every year and serving two-year renewable terms, each member of the Board of Directors oversees a committee to fulfill the organization's mission. The Executive Director, appointed by the Board, does not have a term limit to ensure continuity in leadership and other activities. Other Board officers are voted on by the Board of Directors before the conference each year. To communicate your ideas, questions, or concerns, feel free to reach out to any of these Board members directly, or email EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com.



DARYL HOFFMAN, Executive Director

Curator of Large Mammals, Houston Zoo

Daryl joined the Elephant Managers Association in 1992 and served as a board member from 2000–2005 until he became Executive Director in 2005.

Daryl began his career at the Buffalo Zoo as a relief keeper and worked in every area except for elephants because at the time he wasn't that interested. Then one day his curator wanted him to learn to work with the elephants and it did not take long for him to realize how magnificent elephants are and to become completely enthralled with everything elephant.

With over 26 years of experience working with elephants, he says that the births of babies are his favorite and make for the fondest memories because every single one is different and just as amazing.



VERNON PRESLEY. President

Curator of Elephants and Ungulates, Fresno Chaffee Zoo

When Vernon was a child, his family would regularly visit zoos. He fell in love with the excitement of seeing a variety of animals from all over the world. When Vernon started to learn about the passion that the staff had for their animals and about the incredible work that they do, he decided that he needed to devote his career to this field and share that passion.

Vernon began his elephant career at the Toronto Zoo in 1996 with seven female African elephants. He started his full-time zoo keeping job in a different area of the zoo, but was transferred to the elephant team four months later. There was no looking back: "I consider it an honor to be able to work with these amazing animals and I am just as eager to learn about them as I did over 20 years ago."

Vernon joined the EMA in 1998 and is the former chair of the Training Committee. "My favorite part of this industry is the training that we do with our elephants. I find it amazing when a trainer and an elephant work together and create an incredible atmosphere of communication and trust. It's a privilege to work with and care for these animals."



SHAWN FINNELL, Vice President

Board Liaison for Behavioral Husbandry Committee

Shawn Finnell has been working with wildlife for 15 years, 12 of which have been with elephants. He was worked with African and Asian elephants throughout various management styles. At the Wildlife Safari, located in Winston, Oregon, he started his career working with three African elephants. Shawn has had the fortune to work with multiple breeding herds, bulls, and calves. Between the Oklahoma City Zoo and the Oregon Zoo, he has experience with two large exhibit and program expansions.

Shawn is passionate about many aspects of elephant management, including conservation, welfare, and training. He believes the best thing about working with elephants is that all elephant keepers, handlers, and trainers are students; no matter how much we think we know, elephants always show us that we have more to learn.

Shawn became an EMA member in 2006. He is currently involved in the Conservation, Training, & Membership Committees. He has had the privilege to organize multiple workshops at the annual EMA conferences. "EMA is a great organization to see many approaches to elephant care. The EMA has been a tremendous resource; it's the largest

group of elephant professionals united to improving the lives of these amazing animals."



TRIPP GORMAN, Secretary

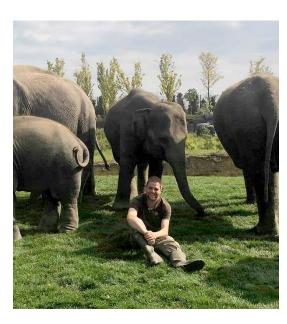
Board Liaison for Communication Committee Elephant Keeper, Fort Worth Zoo

Tripp joined the EMA in 2001, the same year as his first EMA conference and the same year that he started volunteering around elephants at the Greenville Zoo. From there, Tripp went on to an internship at the Knoxville Zoo, and then onto another internship at the Riverbanks Zoo.

Tripp started his paid animal care career at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (the Red Unit) in December 2006. He was hired on as a horse and zebra groom, but quickly moved on to what he joined for. After a year of being an elephant groom, Tripp became an elephant handler and stayed with the company for six years. After traveling across the country multiple times, he decided it was time to leave the road and start to settle down. Tripp's second job started at the Nashville Zoo in September 2012, where he started working with African elephants. After two years of being a keeper in Nashville, he was promoted to Elephant Manager, and even though it was a short stint, Tripp enjoyed it and learned a lot. Once the elephants left the Nashville Zoo, Tripp was once again on

the search for a job and that is how he landed at the Fort Worth Zoo!

During his elephant career, Tripp has had the enjoyable opportunity to not only meet many wonderful elephants, but also a lot of great people. He has been given the chance to help in many different aspects of elephant care. When asked about his favorite part of the job, Tripp responds, "Working with calves, and also interacting with the public, who I love to engage and inspire."



ROB CONACHIE

Board Liaison for Financial Committee Elephant Manager, Pairi Daiza

Rob's passion for elephants was obvious from a young age. He was fortunate enough to spend his childhood around the elephants at Cricket St Thomas Wild Animal Park in the UK. Rob's desire to develop a career with elephants has given him fantastic opportunities to work within multiple collections across Europe and the USA.

The management, care, and welfare of elephants has been Rob's primary emphasis throughout his career. He takes pride in focusing on the training of both staff and animals, as this allows us to care for elephants safely and to the highest possible standard. As one of his mentors always said: "our standard of work is their standard of care."

Working with both African and Asian elephants in all management systems over the past twenty years has taught Rob that the daily challenges we face can be overcome by using many different techniques to achieve the same goal.

Rob firmly believes in the role of modern zoological collections and the need for conservation, education, and research. The sharing of knowledge and working together will be essential in overcoming threats such as EEHV, and also in protecting the future of our industry to which so many of us have dedicated our lives.

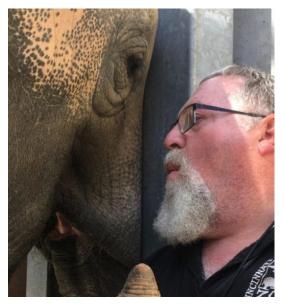


Adam Felts

Board Liaison for Research, Education, & Conservation CommitteeCurator of Heart of Africa and Asia Quest, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Adam has been working at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium since 1997. He began his full-time career as an elephant keeper working with both African and Asian elephants in a wide variety of successful management systems and is now the Curator of Heart of Africa and Asia Quest regions.

For Adam, the EMA represents a true coalition of elephant care professionals listening to and learning from one another. The resource that EMA represents is one that puts care of elephants first, with the desire to evolve with the knowledge that is gained and shared through its members. Adam's goal is to collaborate with other elephant care managers to continue the exceptional care of elephants (his professional passion). As a Board member of the EMA and with his 20 years' experience, Adam hopes to collaborate with other likeminded people in the elephant profession to have a positive impact on all elephants in zoological organizations.



Cecil Jackson, Jr.

Board Liaison for Membership Committee

Elephant Manager, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Cecil has dedicated his 41-year career at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (CZBG) to maintaining the highest standards of care in captive elephant management, focusing on the welfare and safety of both the animals and his staff. He began his zoo career as a seasonal keeper, working in various areas of CZBG, including the Children's Zoo, hoofstock, primate, and elephant departments. It wasn't until 1983 that Cecil started down his path with elephants as a full-time keeper. After establishing himself as a dedicated elephant keeper, Cecil was promoted to the position of Head Elephant Keeper in April 2000, which entailed managing the five Asian elephants in the zoo's collection. Shortly thereafter, Cecil was appointed to Elephant Manager, which earned him the responsibility of overseeing the daily husbandry, enrichment, training, and other aspects of elephant care. Cecil is proud to follow in the footsteps of many dedicated CZBG professionals, including his father, an animal trainer at the Cincinnati Zoo for 50 years.

To further his knowledge of caring for elephants, Cecil became a member of the EMA in 1988 and he is currently a member of the Ethics Committee. Cecil has attended number-

ous EMA conferences since 1988, participated in the Principles of Elephant Management I & II courses, participated in the EMA Training Workshop, and presented papers at EMA.

The last few years have seen a lot of chance in elephant care and management, and Cecil as Elephant Manager has led his team and elephants through this change with great success. Significant achievements include: successful transition from free contact to protected contact, implementation of a formal operant conditioning program with three cows and one bull elephant, expansion of the elephants' enrichment program, development of formal exercise programs for all elephants, and the initiation of the Elephant Welfare Initiative to track and monitor changes in elephant well-being. Overall, Cecil has successfully led CZBG's elephant program to meet and surpass evolving elephant management standards; his practical experience and historical perspective are highly valuable to the future of elephant management in zoos.

Cecil is proud of the program his team and the elephant care community have made in recent years and looks forward to continuing to guide the field forward as part of EMA's Board of Directors. Aside from his professional passions, Cecil is an avid bluegrass performer and enjoys spending time with his family on their 100 acres of land.



MIKE McCLURE

Board Liaison for Ethics & Legislative Committee General Curator and Elephant Manager, The Maryland Zoo

Mike has been working with elephants for 20 years and in the zoo field for 30 years. Having started his career working around the zoo in all other animal areas, Mike always found the elephants more interesting than any other species because of their intelligence and because of the opportunity to learn more about behavioral modification and conditioning. After spending a lot of time watching the elephant team in action, Mike was given the chance to join the team.

Mike joined the EMA in 2004 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2008, where he immediately got involved in the Legislative, Nominations, and Communications Committees, with which he is still involved today. In 2013, he was elected EMA President and served until his term ended in 2015. Mike has also served on the Ethics Committee since 2014 and has been on the Training Committee since its inception.

For Mike, his favorite part of the job is getting to see people and elephants work together to learn and grow. "Seeing an elephant or someone that I have trained being successful in

their environment is the most rewarding thing I have ever experienced."

Meet the 2019 – 2021

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Created in 2017, the Executive Committee is comprised of past members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Executive Committee are appointed as needed by the Board to contribute their institutional knowledge and sustain important activities and special projects of the organization, such as conference planning and organization.



BRYAN AMARAL

Senior Curator, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

Bryan is currently Senior Curator at Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. He has been in the animal/elephant industry since 1996, working at three different elephant-holding organizations. Bryan has been a member of the EMA since 2000, was involved in the Membership Committee from 2004–2017, and served multiple terms on the EMA Board of Directors. The value of the EMA is immeasurable. For Bryan, it has been a pleasure to be involved with the organization and its value to his career is great. The knowledge gained and contacts made over the years has greatly improved the lives of the elephants he has cared for, the elephant professionals he supports, and has helped the elephant industry as a whole grow as well. Bryan was appointed to the Executive Committee in 2017, and he is proud to continue to serve the EMA and support the Board of Directors. The EMA is an important organization and Bryan is delighted to help continue the great work of our organization and improve the lives of elephants everywhere.



JILL SAMPSON

Elephant Manager, Indianapolis Zoo

Jill is the Elephant Manager at the Indianapolis Zoo, where she has been working since 1996. Highlights of her career include the births of six calves to date—including the first and second African elephant calves in the world born through artificial insemination—and the development of a multigenerational breeding herd. Over the years, Jill has served the EMA in various roles including Membership Chair, Publications Editor, Board Member, and President. She is grateful for the people she has met and worked alongside, and the opportunity the EMA provides to network and exchange ideas, all with the common goal of providing the very best care for the elephants we love. Jill is honored to have been appointed to the Executive Committee in 2018, and she looks forward to working with the Board of Directors and continuing to learn from and share knowledge with the membership.



JESSICA SCALLAN

Elephant Manager, Tulsa Zoo

Jessica is Elephant Manager at the Tulsa Zoo. She has dedicated over 20 years to our industry, specializing in geriatric care and bull management. Anyone who is an EMA member or has attended an EMA conference knows Jessica. Her positive, upbeat attitude is contagious. Jessica has served EMA in several capacities over the years. She was elected by her peers to the EMA Board of Directors five times starting in 2005, where she served ten years including two as President and six as Secretary. During these years she has focused her time on the Education, Enrichment, Communications, and Awards Committees; she was the previous JEMA Art Director; led strategic planning for our organization; organizes our annual conference; and writes press releases when needed. In October 2017, Jessica was appointed to the Executive Committee by the Board of Directors. "I am so grateful for EMA. I have learned so much and have made lifelong friends from around the globe. EMA has allowed me to develop many skills in various leadership roles. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee. I believe in our mission and I am honored to assist in the organization's growth."

The 2020 EMA SMALL GRANT PROGRAM



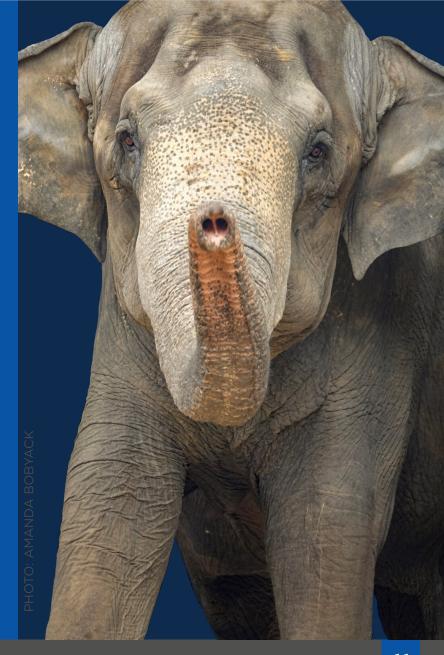
EMA is excited to announce its Small Grant Program is returning, designed to fund up to \$2,000 to a project that supports EMA's mission:

The Elephant Managers Association is dedicated to the welfare and survival of the world's elephants through improving communication, husbandry, research, education, and conservation.

This opportunity is open to anyone, including keepers, researchers, and conservationists. We are seeking a diversity of proposals that encompass all parts of our mission. Proposals are due by 11:59pm PST on July 31, 2020.

For more information and to download an application, please visit EMA's website at: **elephantmanagers.org**

With questions, please contact April Yoder at grants@elephantmanagers.com



2019 EMA Conference Summary

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES IN DENVER

On October 7–11, 2019, delegates from around the world gathered in Denver to share information, make new connections, and reconnect with old friends and colleagues. This year's activities were kicked off with a pre-conference trip to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. It was a beau-

mountain setting. The elephant team welcomed us into their barn to tour the facilities which include a walking trail and an off-exhibit "vacation" yard where the elephants can explore and graze at their leisure. We were treated to a training demonstration in the barn and watched the public demonstrations out in the zoo. We were also invited to participate in the elephant feeding along with the zoo guests!

tiful day for EMA delegates to explore the zoo in its spectacular

After a fun day at Cheyenne Mountain, we gathered back at the hotel for the Ice Breaker to meet and mingle with the rest of the delegates who had arrived. It was a great time to catch up and have informal discussions about our favorite subject. And of course the conversations, snacks, and libations continued at the hospitality suite, for those who were not ready to call it a night.

The following two days were filled with informative presentations covering topics of training, husbandry, veterinary care, herd management, research, conservation, field work, facility enhancements, and enrichment. An interactive app was available throughout the conference for delegates to ask questions and participate in panel discussions and polls. Congratulations go out to Joseph Golden of Buttonwood Park Zoo whose talk entitled "Enrichment on a Budget" received the most votes via the app for favorite presentation!

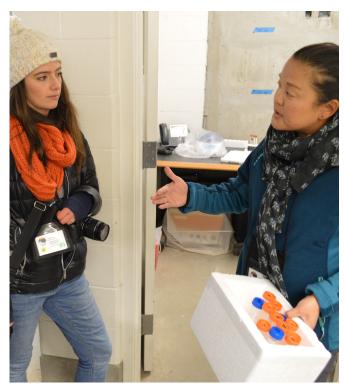
Panel discussions were held between paper sessions with topics generated from the EMA delegates. As these discussions were entitled "Hot Topics," there was a twist on one of the panel sessions. The panel members answered questions between taking bites of chicken wings with increasingly hot sauces. All the members of the panel hung on until the end, and managed to respond thoughtfully despite the heat!

With cases of EEHV continuing to affect Asian elephants, and a recent outbreak of cases affecting African elephants, one of the paper sessions was devoted to this very serious topic. Presentations were given from facilities that have battled recent cases, and foremost experts on EEHV research and treatments, Dr. Lauren Howard, Dr. Paul Ling, and Dr. Ellen Wiedner, were on hand to update us on the latest information and answer questions during an EEHV panel discussion.

The Denver weather gave us crisp cool autumn nights and warmer sunny days. That is until Zoo Day, when the temperatures plummeted and the snow began to fall! Proceeding with their excellent organizational skills, the Denver Zoo team reacted to the quickly changing forecast by rearranging the morning paper sessions to occur at the hotel and moving the zoo lunch buffet into the elephant barn. Although the weather prevented the elephant team from showing us their outside demonstration, bull elephants Chuck and Jake showed off for us by going for a swim and then exiting the pool with excited trumpets as they hustled back inside the barn. We toured the barn and got to see the "amazebullz" that make up Denver Zoo's bachelor herd of five Asian elephants. We also had our choice of attending the smaller workshops the Denver team prepared for us. These included training demonstrations for blood draws, foot care, semen collection, and a tutorial on semen evaluation. Denver's senior bull Groucho graciously provided us with an excellent sample collected earlier that morning! After the interactions at the elephant barn and some time to explore the zoo, it was time to wrap up the day with the silent auction, banquet, and awards ceremony.

Here it was announced that a collection of over \$500 was raised for what became dubbed as the "Mullet Fund," inspired by EMA Board Member Tripp Gorman's throwback hairstyle. Earlier in the conference someone asked how much money it would take to get Tripp to cut off the mullet and he jokingly replied \$500. Tripp was a great sport and agreed to let the mullet be chopped (after an earlier phone call to his





Left: Groucho, the oldest elephant at the Denver Zoo, has his blood drawn in the ERD while Denver Zoo Elephant Manager Maura Davis explains the procedure to conference delegates. **Right:** Wendy Kiso explains the ins and outs of elephant semen evaluation to Maria Moch during Zoo Day. Photos by Peter Briggs.

wife and another to his hair stylist)! As the EMA crowd cheered him on, the general consensus was summed up as follows: "This is epic." The decision was made to let Tripp choose which elephant conservation project would receive the Mullet Fund money.

This year we presented awards to the following:

- Denver Zoo, for hosting the 2019 conference,
- Ellen Wiedner, VMD, awarded the President's Award for outstanding contributions to elephant care,
- Katie Alayan, for service on the Board of Directors,
- Sharon Glaeser, for continued service as Research Committee Chair,
- **Joseph Golden**, for best presentation at the 2019 conference,
- Paul Ling, PhD, for contributions to EEHV research,
- Erin McGee, for continued service as Membership Committee Chair,
- Nick Newby, for service on the Board of Directors, and
- Vernon Presley, for service as Training Committee Chair.

After a very memorable EMA conference came to a close, some of us stayed on to attend the post-conference trip the following day. We were taken to the National Wildlife Repository, a government facility that catalogs and stores confiscated, illegally trafficked wildlife trophies and items made from body parts of endangered species. Among the items were elephant tusks, ivory trinkets, and foot stools. Taking in the rows and rows of these items that represent the slaughter of so many animals was very sobering. And this was only a portion of what wildlife officials get in every year. The officer guiding our tour was very informative and we all left with a better understanding of the illegal wildlife trade and the challenges facing those fighting against it.

Thank you to the Denver Zoo team and all the volunteers for a well-organized and productive conference. Thank you to the EMA Board of Directors who work hard throughout the year to provide us with opportunities to share information and expand our knowledge on elephant care and welfare. And lastly, thank you to those who shared your stories, your discoveries, your struggles, and your triumphs in the hope that we can all continue to learn from each other. We hope everyone returned safely to their facilities energized and inspired.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The EMA had another good year financially. We made the commitment a few years ago to go paperless with our publications, which was the bulk of our expenses, thus freeing up money for conservation and research support. We have continued to keep membership dues the same price they have been since EMA's inception.

EMA membership dues are our main source of income, and membership revenue is up about 20% from 2018. With increased income comes increased spending. Our expenses are up 80% from 2018. We have tripled our advertising budget by purchasing a software subscription to streamline membership and renewals, and we hired a website consultant to try and rejuvenate the website to make it more current and user-friendly. This combination of services will pay for itself over the next year. We have increased our awards budget to recognize long-term members. We continue our commitment to research and conservation by supporting projects in range countries and continuing our support for EEHV research.

2019 REVENUE

Membership\$14,955.52

O Merchandise......\$4,431.72



2019 EXPENSES

O Conservation Projects\$5,791.72

Merchandise Expenses\$4,267.99

Travel\$4,266.16

O Advertising......\$2,502.07

O Scholarships.....\$2,000.00

Awards, Office, and Publications\$3,075.12



CONSERVATION UPDATE

In October 2018, EMA Board Member Shawn Finnell united the Research, Education, & Conservation Committee (RECC), comprised of the chairs and members of each of the respective sub-committees. One of the biggest goals for the RECC was to create overlapping projects, including establishing a Small Grant Program.

The chairs of each of the committees were collectively tasked with developing the grant application and the review process. After several teleconferences and a few revisions, the RECC submitted the final drafts to the Board of Directors for approval. The program was announced in the February 2019 issue of *Gray Matters*, and it was shared with the International Elephant Foundation, Asian Elephant Support, and other similarly minded individuals. By the April 15th deadline, we had received 16 proposals from 12 different countries.

During the June 2019 Board meeting, the Board members chose the two winners based on the recommendations from RECC:

- Michael Kegwin with the Uganda Conservation Foundation received \$2,000 to support "Recovery of Murchison Falls National Park"
- Amelia Meier with Duke University received \$1,000 to support "Using African Elephant Behavioral Ecology to Inform Anti-poaching Strategies"



RECOVERY OF MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

The objective of this proposal is to provide clear mapping of the elephant ranges north of Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda, to support the protection of elephants and regional development in the region. The mapping of the area will provide incredibly important shape files and maps as the Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) teams plan and implement law enforcement operations and community conservation programs. The effort will also serve as the baseline maps to overlay the tracking of elephants by satellite collars. Knowledge of the area is almost non-existent, and it is imperative for the protection of nearly 800 elephants.

Another benefit of this proposal was that Global Conservation, a US-based organization, offered to match EMA funds, which resulted in a total of \$4,000 for elephant conservation in Uganda. Photo provided by UCF / Nick Wilcox-Brown.

USING AFRICAN ELEPHANT BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY TO INFORM ANTI-POACHING STRATEGIES

Minkébé National Park (Gabon) previously held the highest density of forest elephants, but it has lost 81% of its elephant population in the last decade, with poaching being the principal cause of mortality. Unfortunately, current anti-poaching efforts are largely reactive, where eco-guards patrol areas based on the presence of elephant carcasses or signs of hunting.

This project expands previously collected data and samples to predict areas where forest elephants are likely to form large aggregations, empowering managers to actively patrol where forest elephants are located. It combines satellite and genetic technologies to determine the ecological drivers of forest elephant aggregations. This is the pioneer project using the new forest elephant forensics lab based at the Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropical (Institute for Research in Tropical Ecology; IRET). This lab is the first of its kind in Gabon and will be used for both forest elephant conservation research and to facilitate anti-poaching. The results of this study, and future research at the IRET lab, can have potentially significant implications for law enforcement. Therefore, the functionality of the lab and all results must be rigorously proven to be accurate and precise. EMA funding will help validate these methods (previously tested elsewhere), showing they can be successfully employed in Gabon.



MUSTH VARIATION AMONG ASIAN ELEPHANTS: APPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (Ongoing project supported by EMA in 2018)

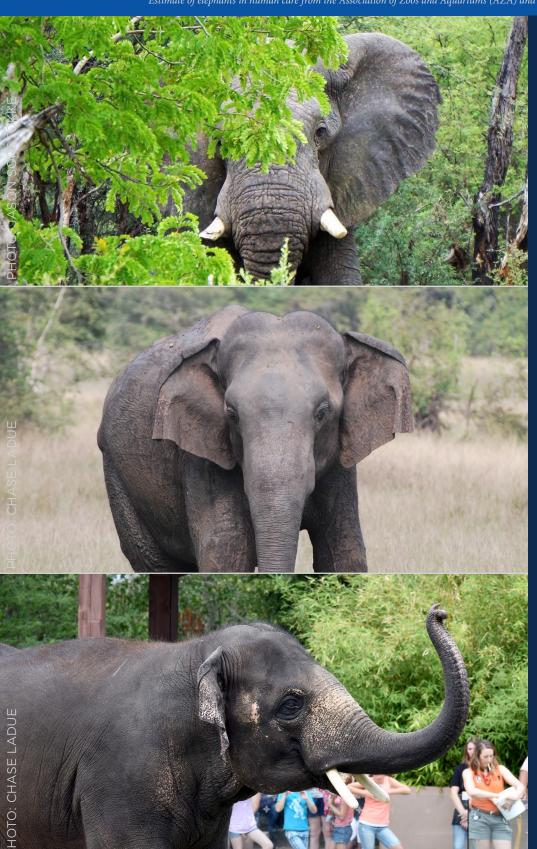
The endangered Asian elephant is threatened by increased rates of human—elephant conflict (HEC). Adult male elephants are involved in HEC incidents at high rates, particularly when they exhibit "musth," a reproductive period characterized by increased testosterone and aggressive behavior. These males tend to exhibit risk-prone behavior and can be dangerous to people in the area. An enhanced, more holistic understanding of musth in Asian elephants will help in the development of targeted HEC mitigation strategies. An elephant's physical environment and access to other elephants almost certainly have impacts on musth duration, frequency, and intensity, all of which may also impact how and if certain male elephants engage in HEC. Assuming this is true, musth is a much more plastic phenomenon than previously though, which will affect how elephants should be managed around areas prone to HEC. This variability should be apparent both in terms of behavior and in terms of physiology (i.e., through fluctuating hormone concentrations). This project investigates the contextual flexibility of musth in Asian elephants, focusing on the influence of intrinsic (e.g., age, body condition) and extrinsic (e.g., climate, physical environment, social access) factors in wild (Sri Lanka) and captive (US) populations. A study such as this that integrates multiple data types will advance our understanding of musth in Asian elephants and inform conservation and management strategies for this endangered species.

This project is an active collaboration between numerous institutions, including George Mason University, the Center for Elephant Conservation, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, and elephant-holding facilities in the United States: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Denver Zoo, Fort Worth Zoo, Houston Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Saint Louis Zoo, and Smithsonian's National Zoo.

Elephants by the

NUMBERS

Range country estimates from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Estimate of elephants in human care from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the European Elephant Group (Elefanten-Schutz Europa e.V.)





African elephants living in range countries



Asian elephants living in range countries

est. **899**

elephants in human care in North America and Europe



COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS

The following updates were discussed at the 2019 EMA conference in Denver. For more information or to inquire about joining any of EMA's committees, please contact **EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com** or the email addresses listed.

Behavioral Enrichment

Chair: Amy Mathews EMAenrichment@gmail.com

The Behavioral Enrichment Committee experienced a tremendous level of growth in 2019, gaining eight new members and dividing into three subcommittees: Social Media, Enrichment List, and Online Enrichment Database. The primary goal for the Social Media subcommittee was to provide members with monthly "Enrichment Spotlights," which aimed to promote positive animal welfare, inspire innovation, and celebrate successes in the field of animal management. In 2020, all Committee members will take on social media responsibilities. EMA members can expect to see more "Enrichment Spotlights" and institutional highlights, in addition to a stronger presence in *JEMA* by having an enrichment-specific column in each publication. The Enrichment List subcommittee developed a living resource that will inevitably aid in the creation and/or enhancement of any elephant enrichment program. The Online Enrichment Database subcommittee provides members with a user-friendly online enrichment resource that contains building instructions for innovative inventions, stimulating solutions, and novel devices. The Committee's 2020 goals include recruiting new, passionate committee members, refreshing the subcommittees, and continuing to provide EMA members with resources that will ultimately enhance any elephant enrichment program.

Conservation

Chair: Kim Klein conservationEMA@gmail.com

In 2019, the Conservation Committee spearheaded the first ever year of the EMA Small Grants Program. 16 proposals were reviewed, with funding provided to two projects (see page 15 for more information). The Conservation Committee continues to publish the latest news from the field in each issue of *JEMA* and *Gray Matters*, and we will continue to participate in the Small Grants Program in 2020. We are always seeking passionate and hardworking members to join our group.

Husbandry

Chair: Katrinna Lee leekatrinna@yahoo.com

The EMA Husbandry Committee seeks to provide the EMA membership with up-to-date husbandry information. We focus on the husbandry needs of newborn calves to geriatric adults, and everything in between. We hope to encourage an open forum where members can share information regarding elephant husbandry and the most common practices when it comes to caring for elephants. The Committee continues to add data to the Husbandry Database, which is located in the member portal on EMA's website. We also maintain a column in *JEMA* called All Aspects of Elephant Husbandry. We are always looking for new members, especially those with a fresh perspective and ideas to share.

Training

Chair: Shawn Finnell EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com

Progress included two articles in *JEMA* in 2019, with one article about the necessity for consistency in elephant training programs. At the conference in Denver, multiple workshops focused on training-related topics.

Education

Chair: Mike Kumbhani EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com

The Education Committee worked on several activities in 2019, including editing a new version of EMA's Education Manual, creating the first "Elephant 101" educational video, and helping to develop new Small Grant criteria. In 2020, we will continue developing Elephant 101 videos, work to promote the #askme-aboutelephants concept on social media, complete the update of the EMA Education Manual, and develop an interview series to share with members. As always, we continue to collaborate with EMA's other committees and we are actively recruiting new committee members.

Research

Chair: Sharon Glaeser EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com

The Research Committee was formed in October 2017 and is comprised of 14 research scientists. Our main goal is to share elephant research information with EMA members, which includes highlighting new publications in *Gray Matters*, publishing research-related articles in *JEMA*, and working with the Education Committee to develop messaging of breaking research findings. To date, 142 research articles have been published in *JEMA*, and we'd always like to highlight the contribution of EMA members and their expertise to research. In the future, we will develop a research tools repository and provide welfare monitoring tools to our membership.

Scholarship

Chair: Martina Stevens EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com

The Scholarship Committee awards conference scholarships to deserving members annually. In 2019, there were six applicants (a record high number), and two scholarships were awarded: Rachel Garner (Why Animals Do The Thing) and Maria Moch (Parque Ecológico Zacango); see page 20 for more details on these winners. Scholarship information for the conference in Milwaukee will be released on EMA's website in early 2021.

Website

Chairs: Tripp Gorman and Chase LaDue communications@elephantmanagers.com

The EMA website has recently been revamped, including the addition of features that will make it easier for EMA members to access exclusive resources and benefits, and to manage and renew their membership. In the coming months, more content will be added to the website, with extensive collaboration with EMA's other committees. If you have photos that you would like featured on the website, please get in touch with us via email.

Social Media

Chair: Vanessa Gagne communications@elephantmanagers.com

The Social Media Committee manages EMA's presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media outlets. We share stories from our members and their institutions, along with the latest EMA news and opportunities. We also frequently collaborate with other EMA committees to engage our members. Please email us with any elephant-related news or accomplishments you would like us to share.

Membership

Chair: Erin McGee membership@elephantmanagers.com

The Membership Committee processes new memberships, maintains a database of current members, and communicates with existing members about renewals. Recently, the new EMA website has allowed for members to manage their own memberships online, with automated renewal reminders. Currently, there are 305 EMA members: 56 affiliate, 42 contributing professionals, 20 institutional members, 6 life members, 175 professionals, and 6 students.

Nominations

Chair: Susan Hoss EMAboard@elephantmanagers.com

Five members were nominated for four open slots on the EMA Board in 2019. 78 members voted, with Katie Alayan, Shawn Finnell, and Tripp Gorman re-elected to the Board, and Rob Conachie elected for his first term. Katie Alayan had to step down from her position, and so Adam Felts will fill the rest of her term. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 election has been postponed until 2021.

Publications

Chair: Chase LaDue communications@elephantmanagers.com

The Publications Committee is responsible for producing all of EMA's publications (*JEMA*, *Gray Matters*, annual conference proceedings, and annual reports) and managing the online library database. Each year, three issues of *JEMA* and six issues of *Gray Matters* are published. In 2019, we published another conservation-focused issue of *JEMA* in collaboration with the Conservation Committee. We are always looking for stories and other media to share through our publications. Please get in touch!

Historian

Chair: Ryan Easley communications@elephantmanagers.com

As the Historian, I document the field of elephant management and share it with EMA members. Often, my research is shared on EMA's member Facebook page and through *Gray Matters*. I am available as a resource for your questions and to take on new projects as needed.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

These two EMA members received scholarship funding to attend EMA's annual conference hosted by the Denver Zoo. We have included abstracts of the presentations they shared in Denver. For information about applying for a scholarship to attend the 2021 conference in Milwaukee, please refer to the EMA website.

RACHEL GARNER

Why Animals Do the Thing

"The NonHuman Rights Project: Why the Possibility of Elephant 'Personhood' is Crucial to Consider"

The Nonhuman Rights Project's quest to petition for writs of habeas corpus on behalf of elephants is one of the least understood actions by the animal rights sector regarding animals in human care. Understanding the Project is quickly becoming necessary for anyone involved in elephant management. It's highly probable that more elephant programs in the United States will be forced to interact with the Project—either in a court of law or public opinion—and having a familiarity with the current legal standing of elephants, how habeas corpus suits work, and the rhetoric behind the arguments will be crucial in helping facilities successfully navigate those interactions. This presentation will familiarize the audience with the state of the Project's past and current legal actions on behalf of non-human animals, as well as the philosophical underpinnings of their work, and provide information that can be taken home to assist with successful advocacy and outreach by attendee facilities.

MARIA MOCH

Parque Ecológico Zacango

"Heart Failure in a Geriatric Elephant"

According to the last AZA Elephant TAG report in 2018, 6 out of 20 Asian elephants that died from 2012 to 2017 were related to severe degenerative joint disease (DJD) and foot problems. 14 out of those 20 animals were euthanized; all six related to DJD and foot problems were euthanized. There weren't any cases related to heart failure registered in Asian elephants.

This is a case study that presents all the creative measures taken to manage a chronic disease with several complications. 60-year-old female elephant "Safari" was being monitored and managed for DJD because she presented several abscesses resulting from a change in the conformation of her front legs. However, she had a more advanced chronic problem that wasn't as apparent, and it just started to show at the end of 2018. There is a need for more information regarding preventive measures on heart failure in geriatric elephants. This problem can hide under the suspicion of other signs and possible pathologies.

The first sign Safari showed was a case of edema in her abdomen, which at first we thought was related to stress because of the ongoing herd dynamics. A few months later, she started showing edema in other areas like the vulva, submandibular region, and hind legs. Different training exercises were established under protected contact for testing and treating the problems as they presented themselves. We found many difficulties to achieve what was needed: problems resulting from space, accessibility, and compliance from the individual, and even a few notes on the medical devices that are avaiable. However, several milestones were achieved: one EKG that played a big part in our diagnosis, several measurements of blood pressure, two Vitamin E readings, and several blood draws.

After a discussion with the Bioethics Committee, it was very clear that our institution needed to be prepared for a difficult but ethical solution. With a downed elephant protocol already established, AZA's necropsy protocols in hand, and our own institution's euthansia protocols, the difficult decision was made and the necropsy findings corroborated the original diagnosis. After this experience, a new view and program goals for our geriatric animals were established.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Current as of June 1, 2020

LIFE MEMBERS

African Elephant Specialist Group

Chuck Doyle

Elephant Managers and Owners

Association Robert Johnson Jill Sampson Raman Sukumar

INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

Ivory Level

Houston Zoo

International Elephant Foundation

Gold Level

Oregon Zoo The Preserve

Institutional/Corporate Level

AnimalCare Software, LLC

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Hannover Adventure Zoo

Knies Kinderzoo Indianapolis Zoo Maryland Zoo Memphis Zoo

Milwaukee County Zoo Mid Atlantic Hay Co.

Perth Zoo Prague Zoo

Princeton University

Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center

Zoo de Granby

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Professional

Elizabeth Abad Bryan Amaral Caiti Amox Brandy Anderson Alicia Andring **Brock Andrus** Micaela Atkinson **Kay Backues** Jason Bankston Debra Bastin Kim Baumgartner Jessica Baxtrom

Elizabeth Beem

Rob Bernardy

Bridget Beury

Katrina Bilski

Joseph Borsellino

Isaias Bovio

Alli Bradshaw

Peter Briggs

Lindsay Brinda

Tina Bronson

Adam Brooks

Jessica Burchard

Kristi Burtis

Karen Carrigy

Rachel Chappell

Robbie Clark

Christina Clum

Ilana Cobban

Corryn Coers

Rob Conachie

Kevin Copley

Gerry Creighton

Sheryl Cummins

Maura Davis

Mariam Dehaini

Christine Del Turco

Stephanie DeYoung

Donna Doherty

Erin Dowgwillo

Brandy Downs

Eric Duning

Alinda Dygert

Nate Elgart

Lisa Ellison

Rachel Emory

Amy Etheridge

Adam Felts

Shawn Finnell

Kris Flickinger

Debbie Flinkman

Pat Flora

Ashley Fortner

Karl Fournier

Katie Fox

Kyler Francone

Celeste Fulmer

Hiroshi Furuta

Marie Galloway

Ross Garcia

Katelyn George

Joseph Golden

Cesar Gomez Montoya

Tripp Gorman

Christina Gorsuch

Jessica Gose

Charlie Grav

Michelle Gruneisen

Victoria Guarnett

Jason Gue

Cassandra Guerra

David Hagan

Aaron Halling

Chris Hamblen

Calli Hamlin

Taylor Harrigan

Kaitlin Henderson

Susan Henken

Brian Hill

Annelies Hillewaere

Daryl Hoffman

Sharayah Hoffman

Jason Holloway

Megan Holmstedt

Braxton Hornick

Susan Hoss

Christine Ison

Cecil Jackson, Jr.

Neil Jamieson

Heather Jennings

Adam Johns

Erin Johns

Kari Johnson

Sharon Joseph

Jenny Joyce

Barbara Junkermeier

Laura Keefe

Patrick Kellev

Chris Killilea

Kimberly Klein

Kat Kleinschmidt

Kevin Knibbs

Aree Kongmuang

Lauren LeCoque

Brittany Lee

Katrinna Lee

Dave Lemkau

Patrick Maluy

Josh Mancebo

Iennifer Marshall

Caitlin Martin

Amy Mathews Marta Mathis

Mike McClure Loganne McCollum

Erin McGee Maggie McGrath

Lucy Melo Courtney Miller

Jenny Mitchell

Mark Muller Val Nastold, Jr.

Don Nevitt

Nick Newby Peter O'Neill

Amanda Olson Deborah Olson

Sara Parsons Darryl Paxton

Sabrina Paxton Andy Plumb

Vernon Presley Taryn Prosser Megan Pushie

Timothy Ramsay Annalise Reagan

Kristen Reynolds Mandy Rinker Megan Robertson

Kathy Rodine Korina Ruelas

Matthew Ruiz
Christopher Sauder

Toniann Scala Jessica Scallan-Fidler

Amanda Schweighart

Mindi Scott Adrienne Sebade Ryan Shields Amber Simpson Evan Smith

Evan Smith
Joanne Smith
Shannon M. Smith
Jason Sorstokke
Mary Svare
Heather Taylor

Joan Teske Wayne Theison

Gwen Tunstall Caleb Ulick

Tera Vinuela Kathryn Vivian

Rhonda Votino

Nicole Weber Ellie Wheeler Emily White

Ben Whitebread Emma Wigdahl

Dalton Wiggins Mitchell Wilkinson Kristin Windle Ashley Winslett Rebecca Woolley Bryenna Workman

Contributing Professional

Lisa Abegglen Amber Alink Janine Brown Cynthia Christison Daniella Chusyd Sarah Conley Kim Cook

Jennifer D'Agostino Melissa Dickson Tina Dow

Tina Dow Ashley Edes Vanessa Gagne Sharon Glaeser Barbara Heidenreich Steven Johnson

Dan Koehl Mike Kumbhani Chase LaDue Steve Martin Maria Moch Fawn Moser Caitlin O'Connell

Natalia Prado Carlos Pumarino Linda Reifschneider Gareth Richardson Rodrigo Salas

Christian Schiffmann Dennis Schmitt

Bruce Schulte

Harald M. Schwammer

Nancy Scott Alan Sironen Timothy Stout Betsy Stringer Gail Tabone James Watuwa Steve Westnedge Ellen Wiedner Brendan Wiley April Yoder

Affiliate

Peter Betak Molly Birchmore Elizabeth Callaghan

Lynn Clark Carol Conant

Melissa Crandall-Everett Angela Devous-Comerford

S. Iill Donaldson

Barbara Drake **Ianet Drav** Ryan Easley Robb Enright Julie Evans Andrew Flick Brian Foster Ted Friend Takuya Fujimoto Rachel Garner Catherine Gilbert Ken Gilbert Diana Goodsell Lawrence Guarnett Leanne J. Henry Yoshihito Hirano **Iennifer Hoefs** Tatsuya Ito

Cindy Johnson Yukio Kawaguchi Michael Kolanko Tunehisa Kurihara Satoshi Kusuda Sarah Lang David MacDougall Donna Mancini

Larry Martin Barbara McLean Carli McNitt Nancy Mulholand Mimi Muraoka Waka Otozu Virginia Pearson Cindy Potter Sue Roenker Michele Rudovsky Lynne Russert Kate Schmidt Valerie Severe Andrew Shek Osamu Shiina Kristen Shope Mitsuhiro Terada

Katherine Jean Vecchi

Iillian Voss

Peter Ullman

Ellen Susan Wieczorek

Geert Wijnands Jenny Zelch-Dove

Student

Kaitlyn Gibson Amanda Kile Kevin McKenna Amaar Nazarani Kathryn Perrin Caitlin Schiavoni

EMA Membership Information

New membership levels effective September 2017. Existing members should renew their membership online.

Individual Members-

- Access to digital publications: Journal of the Elephant Managers Association and Gray Matters
- Access to Members-Only content on EMA website
- Eligible for discounted rate to annual conference

Professional

\$45 USD

Individuals who provide care for or manage elephants on a daily basis. Additional benefits:

- Eligible to hold an office on the Board of Directors and/ or as a committee chairperson
- Voting privileges for Board of Directors elections and other EMA business

Contributing Professional

\$45 USD

Individuals who dedicate their careers to elephant management, research, conservation, and/or veterinary medicine. Additional benefits:

- Eligible to hold an office on the Board of Directors and/ or as a committee chairperson
- Voting privileges for Board of Directors elections and other EMA business

Affiliate

\$40 USD

Other animal care staff, docents, volunteers, and enthusiasts of elephant management. Additional benefit:

Eligible to be a committee member and/or hold office as a committee chairperson

Student

\$30 USD

Students currently enrolled in a degree-seeking institution (university or technical college) who desire to pursue a career in elephant management. A copy of your student ID may be requested. Additional benefit:

Eligible to be a committee member.

Institutional/Corporate Members -

- Access to digital publications: Journal of the Elephant Managers Association and Gray Matters
- Access to Members-Only content on EMA website
- Eligible for discounted rate to annual conference
- Institutional plaque given annually to display your support to the EMA

Institutional/Corporate

\$75 USD

Member

Institutions that manage elephants or corporations that provide products or services for elephant management.

Gold Institutional/Corporate **\$250** USD Member

Gold Members are organizations that wish to provide additional support to the EMA. Additional benefit:

• Half-page advertisement in an issue of JEMA

Ivory Institutional/Corporate **\$500** USD Member

Ivory Members are organizations that wish to provide additional support to the EMA. Additional benefits:

- Full-page advertisement in an issue of JEMA
- Complimentary individual EMA membership for a staff member. The designated person must apply for and be approved in the appropriate membership level to receive individual benefits.

All membership applications and renewals are processed online at:

www.elephantmanagers.org

For more information, please contact membership@elephantmanagers.com



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