

PHOTO: ANDREW SHEK



**ELEPHANT MANAGERS
ASSOCIATION**

est. 1988

Member Benefits & Resources



“Why should I become an EMA member?”

▶ **The Elephant Managers Association is the largest member-based organization of elephant professionals in the world.**

EMA'S PURPOSE AND MISSION:

▶ Officially formed in 1988, the Elephant Managers Association is an international, 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization of professional elephant keepers, administrators, veterinarians, researchers, and enthusiasts. **The EMA is dedicated to the welfare and survival of the world's elephants through improving communication, husbandry, research, education, and conservation.**

WWW.ELEPHANTMANAGERS.ORG



CONTENTS:

- 3 Membership Levels and Benefits
- 4 Leadership and Committees
- 5 Conferences and Scholarships
- 6 Publications
- 7 Professional Development Opportunities
- 8 Conservation
- 8 Becoming a Member



Membership Levels and Benefits

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS DEFINED:

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

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

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

Student: Students currently enrolled in a degree-seeking institution (university or technical college) who desire to pursue a career in elephant management.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

	Professionals & Contributing Professionals	Affiliates	Students
Access to digital publications: <i>Journal of the Elephant Managers Association</i> , <i>Gray Matters</i> , and conference proceedings	✓	✓	✓
Access to members-only content on EMA website, including member directory, publications library, and enrichment and husbandry databases	✓	✓	✓
Discounted rate for annual conference, and eligibility to apply for conference scholarships	✓	✓	✓
Eligibility to hold office on Board of Directors	✓		
Eligibility to be a committee chairperson	✓	✓	
Eligibility to serve on an EMA committee	✓	✓	✓
Voting privileges for Board of Directors elections and other EMA business	✓		

INSTITUTIONAL & CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Your institution or company can show additional support to EMA through an institutional or corporate membership. In addition to the same access and discounts provided to individual members, institutional members receive an institutional plaque given annually to signify your support for the EMA.

Institutional Member: Receive benefits of affiliate individual member, plus benefits described above.

Gold Institutional Member: All benefits of an institutional member, plus one half-page advertisement in an issue of the *Journal of the Elephant Managers Association*.

Ivory Institutional Member: All benefits of an institutional member, plus one full-page advertisement in an issue of the *Journal of the Elephant Managers Association*, and a complimentary individual EMA membership for a staff member.



▶ Leadership and Committees

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW:

Elected by EMA members every year and serving two-year renewable terms, each member of the **Board of Directors** oversees at least one committee to fulfill the organization's mission. Any professional or contributing professional member in good standing is eligible to run for office on the Board of Directors. Before the conference each year, members of the board select a President, Vice President, and Secretary to lead the board as officers. The **Executive Director**, appointed by the board, does not have a term limit to ensure continuity in leadership and other activities. 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. For more information, please refer to the [EMA Bylaws](#) that lays out the governance of our organization.

COMMITTEES:

Our committees help us achieve EMA's mission: to enhance the welfare and survival of the world's elephants through improving communication, husbandry, research, education, and conservation. Any EMA member can join a committee. Here is a current listing of our committees:

- ▶ Behavioral Enrichment
- ▶ Conference
- ▶ Conservation
- ▶ Elephant Medicine
- ▶ Ethics & Legislation
- ▶ Grants
- ▶ Honors & Awards
- ▶ Husbandry
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Merchandise
- ▶ Nominations
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Training



PHOTO: PAT MALUY



▶ Conferences and Scholarships

ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

EMA partners with elephant programs that stand out as leaders in the elephant community to host the annual conference. The annual gathering promotes the cooperative exchange of information, open channels of communication, and meaningful networking opportunities for elephant care professionals. Host facilities are chosen based on their commitment to elephants, their support of conservation and research efforts, their hospitality, and their demonstrated willingness to foster growth and development in all who work closely with elephants.

Each conference attracts approximately 200 delegates for several days filled with formal presentations from around the world. EMA's annual conference is the most accessible and affordable opportunity for elephant care professionals to expand their knowledge and professional network. Delegates will receive cutting edge information focusing on professional elephant management trends and will have the unique opportunity to see firsthand the methods employed by other established elephant programs.

Visit EMA's [conference webpage](#) for more information on this year's conference, and please refer to EMA's list of [previous conference hosts](#).



PHOTOS: PETER BRIGGS

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Each year, EMA offers scholarship opportunities to EMA members of any membership level to be used toward the annual EMA conference each year. Generally, two applicants are awarded. As a condition of the award, scholarship winners must present a paper at the conference, be interviewed for a feature in *Gray Matters* before the conference, and write an article for the *Journal of the Elephant Managers Association* on an elephant-related topic after the conference. Typically, each scholarship totals \$1,000 USD. For more information, please visit EMA's [scholarship webpage](#).



Publications

JOURNAL OF THE ELEPHANT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (JEMA):

The *Journal of the Elephant Managers Association (JEMA)* is EMA's flagship publication and is produced in three issues per year. *JEMA* publishes original reports and news items of interest to elephant professionals and enthusiasts. We accept submissions for consideration from EMA members and non-members alike. *JEMA* encourages submissions that report original elephant research, advances in elephant husbandry, accounts from the field, updates to policy or legislation that affects elephants, and other elephant-related miscellany. Submissions are accepted year-round, with deadlines on February 1, June 1, and October 1 each year. We aim to publish *JEMA* in March, July, and November to correspond with each of the respective submission deadlines.

Occasionally, EMA committees sponsor dedicated issues of *JEMA*, covering topics such as conservation, reproduction, veterinary care, enrichment, EEHV, and geriatrics.



GRAY MATTERS:

Gray Matters is EMA's member newsletter and is published six times per year in even-numbered months. Gray Matters publishes breaking news and timely information related to the elephant profession, member accomplishments, conservation updates, and EMA activities and events. We consider submissions from EMA members and non-members for publication in Gray Matters. Submissions are accepted year-round, with deadlines for upcoming issues on February 1, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1, and December 1.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

Conference proceedings are compiled and released to all members shortly after each year's EMA conference, including abstracts, slides, and video recordings. As an additional membership benefit, a near-complete library of all EMA's publications (including *JEMA*, *Gray Matters*, and conference proceedings) are available in a searchable database online.

Professional Development Opportunities

KEEPER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

The EMA has developed a program that will provide elephant keepers the opportunity to expand their knowledge and husbandry experience. This program has been designed to enable elephant keepers to work at other institutions to familiarize themselves with different management styles. Due to the professional nature of this program, it is only available to Professional and Contributing Professional EMA members. The EMA has selected facilities with different management styles to maximize the potential for enhancing participants' expertise. EMA hopes that participating institutions will take this opportunity to share their trials, tribulations, triumphs, and successes with their professional colleagues. The concept of this program is quite simple, but EMA feels it is an invaluable tool for expanding the skills of elephant keepers by providing them the opportunity to work alongside colleagues and learn the nuances of that institution's husbandry practices.

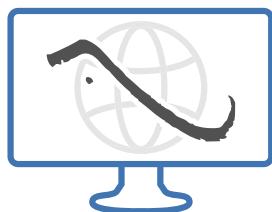
Responsibilities of the keeper's home institution: It will be the responsibility of the keeper's institution, or the keeper themselves, to cover any expenses including travel, housing (if necessary), and food. The keeper's supervisor must complete the section of the application regarding workers' compensation and the employee's medical coverage. As instructed in the application, please include any additional documentation that the home institution may require to participate in this program.

Responsibilities of the host institution: The EMA simply asks the host institution to be willing to let interested and approved applicants work alongside their professional staff. EMA would like each institution to allot a time frame that they can offer this program to interested individuals at let EMA know any specific details or circumstances. Each facility's time allotment will dictate the amount of time available and subsequently the number of keepers that can participate in this program. EMA would also like to solicit input from institutions regarding options that may be available in terms of housing, in order to reduce the expense to participant keepers. The final decision regarding an applicant's participation in the program is based on input from the host institution. The host institution will not be responsible for the participating employee's wages during keeper professional development at their facility.



VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES:

EMA is currently piloting a new professional development opportunity through our virtual workshop series. These workshops are more accessible than the annual conference and are free for all members. During each workshop, representatives from numerous elephant facilities share their takes on a topic of interest, including blood draw training, radiographs, exercise routines, enrichment, and footcare.



ELEPHANT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
SERIES**



▶ Conservation

CONSERVATION OVERVIEW:

EMA is committed to supporting the survival and welfare of African and Asian elephants around the world. Through funds generated from membership dues, we have supported projects in Botswana, Cameroon, Gabon, India, Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Uganda, and Zambia with our Small Grants Program.

Projects have significant impact towards resolving current or urgent elephant-related issues. Higher priority is given to proposals that provide education and community outreach, provide capacity-building in local communities, and/or improve captive elephant management and welfare. EMA funding can support new or unique projects, or act as seed money for a new part of an existing project. Project outcomes can often be transferred to other situations (wild and/or captive) impacting a large number of elephants and people.



▶ Becoming a Member

We are excited for you to join our EMA herd. EMA members are at the forefront of our field and serve as leaders in various capacities, including as keepers, managers, researchers, and veterinarians. The benefits and resources listed in this document serve to equip these professionals with comprehensive support they use to advance the well-being of elephants everywhere. For more information, please visit EMA's website at www.elephantmanagers.org, and to become a member, click the button below.

Become a Member

