



Bottom Times

[The News and Views of the Association of Dive Program Administrators](#)

Presidents Corner – By: George Peterson

Greetings ADPA and welcome to the inaugural edition of the ADPA newsletter; Bottom Times. On behalf of the entire Board I'd like to extend a special thank you to Communications Committee members Dave DeBoer, Andrew Morgan and Arnold Postell for spearheading this project. Thanks also goes to all of you who participated in the naming contest and congratulations to Jen Meeks, DSO at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; for



submitting the winning entry. Jen wins an assortment of ADPA swag that will be sure to make her the envy of the symposium social in Las Vegas! We hope you find Bottom Times to be a useful, fun and quick read and as it evolves we'd love to hear your suggestions for content and how we can improve the format. Check it out, enjoy and safe diving everyone; I hope to see you all in Las Vegas at the Symposium.

Bylaws Revisions

An annual standing agenda item for the BoD is to engage in a bylaws review, which we recently conducted at our mid-year Board meeting in Omaha (see talking points below). The ADPA Board of Directors reviewed and approved a proposed change in our bylaws to clean up language relating to our Associate Membership level while not changing the intent. We also propose to strike the Business Membership designation as we now have a tiered Corporate Partner program instead.

This document, *ADPA proposed bylaw change 2016*, is now posted and open to the ADPA membership for review/comments for 30 days.

Symposium Committee Report

November 14 – 18, 2016 Las Vegas, NV

Get ready for another great ADPA Symposium, Social, and Training Day! Please review the following save-the-date carefully as the schedule is different than past years'. Our Corporate Partnership deal with DEMA includes a meeting room at the Las Vegas Convention Center for the week which will be used for Training Day and new components to this year's ADPA event...



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All times and locations are tentative.

Mon, Nov. 14	BOD meeting:	10:00 - 5:00 pm	<i>Members must RSVP to attend</i>
Tue, Nov. 15	Symposium:	10:00 - 6:00 pm	<i>*Location TBD</i>
	Social:	6:15 - 8:15 pm	
Wed, Nov. 16	Training Day:	10:00 - 6:00 pm	<i>DEMA Room - Las Vegas Conv. Center</i>
Possible topics include:	DSO Workshop		
	Process Mapping		
	PSI Update		
	FFM Workshop		
	Committee Social:	7:00 - 9:00 pm	<i>Acting Committee Member's Appreciation</i>
Thu, Nov. 17	BOD office hours for members, committee meetings, break area and		
Fri, Nov 18	possible Corporate Partners.		
			<i>DEMA Room - Las Vegas Conv. Center</i>

Please let us know if you would like to present at this year's Symposium. There is a \$25 registration discount if you are accepted as a presenter. If you are interested in speaking, please contact Holly at: hbourbon@aqua.org



ADPA Scholarship Program

The ADPA Symposium Scholarship will be available for the 2016 symposium, which is scheduled for November 15th in Las Vegas! Qualified applicants must be active ADPA members in good-standing who have never attended a symposium. The winner of ADPA Symposium Scholarship will receive a reimbursement check of up to \$1000.00 dollars for symposium travel, accommodations, and registration fees. The application and further information may be found on the ADPA website. Please reach out to the BOD with any questions.

Organization Spotlight – By: Andrew Morgan

Moody Gardens – Galveston, TX

Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas opened its doors to the public in 1986 with a focus on equine-assisted therapy (hippotherapy) for individuals with traumatic head injuries. Quickly, the Moody Foundation realized more potential as an 'island tourist destination' and



opened a water park attraction named *Palm Beach* in 1988. Growth continued throughout the 1990s and in 1999 the *Aquarium Pyramid* was opened. With this new 1.5 million gallon aquarium came the need for a dive program.



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Currently, the *Aquarium Pyramid* at Moody Gardens showcases many diverse environments which include the North Pacific, Caribbean, South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans.

Jake Emmert leads the Moody Gardens dive program as their Dive Safety Officer and oversees on average 2,000 dives per year, conducted by 25 staff & 70 volunteer divers. These staff and volunteers assist with routine maintenance and feedings of the living exhibitions. They will soon be embarking into the world of live in-water presentations.

The *Aquarium Pyramid* will undergo a renovation in May 2017 which will allow for continued support from the dive staff and volunteers at Moody Gardens. The additions include interpretations of Oil Rigs, NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and mangrove exhibitions. Jake and his team are most excited about the assembly of a shipwreck that will be placed in a new display. He hopes that this will be a good opportunity to continue the use of new Surface Supplied Diving equipment that the Moody Gardens Dive

Program has recently starting utilizing.

Along with these aquarium dive operations, Jake and his divers continue established relationships and collaborative projects which focus on artificial reef monitoring with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Rigs-to-Reef and Ships-to-Reef programs to newer efforts with NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute of Florida Atlantic University and Texas A&M University at Galveston. These newer efforts focus on creating and maintaining environmental baselines for shallow water reef environments (NOAA), scientific technical diver support on mesophotic reefs of the greater Gulf of Mexico region (FAU) and water sampling and general data collection in the *Ox Bel Ha* cave system in Mexico (Texas A&M).

To support these varied collaborations, Jake has begun training new scientific divers that will be qualified to the *American Academy of Underwater Sciences* training standard and has just finished their first formal scientific diving course in April 2016, boosting their qualified scientific divers from just two up to eight.

ABOUT THE DSO

Jake Emmert graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's of Science in Marine Biology and a Master's degree in Marine Resources Management.

Jake received his first dive certification in 2002 with encouragement from his mother who was in need of a diving buddy. Upon receiving certification, he and his family took a dive trip to Cabo San Lucas. Jake describes these first diving experiences as the "...hook, line and sinker" which solidified his passion for the water.



Jake finds joy in participating in routine dive training, maintenance, and field work in the greater Gulf of Mexico Basin alike. Most importantly, he realizes how Moody Garden's field efforts really bring things 'full circle' as

these collaborations inform so much of what is displayed in the Aquarium.

When not diving, Jake enjoys backpacking, kayak fishing and catching live music at night.



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External Affairs Committee Report

Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators

ADPA was invited by Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators (AALSO) to speak at their annual conference in Denver (Loveland), Colorado - April 2016. With more than 300 attendees, the AALSO symposium was an excellent event giving hands-on workshops in multiple meeting rooms working with different parts of a 4000 gallon operating system, a vendor showcase, and a large banquet room. The ADPA talk was one of two dive presentations; both summarized below, and were well received by attendees.

Descriptions from AALSO Symposium listing:

Occupational Diving in Zoo & Aquarium Industry

*GEORGE PETERSON & ARNOLD POSTELL
Association of Dive Program Administrators*

There is a wide array of dive tasks needed to support the habitats and exhibits at our facilities. Inspecting intake pipes, maintaining backup systems, cleaning exhibits, and much more. This presentation will include a general overview of current industry example dive practices and considerations on how Life Support and Dive Operations work together. A discussion with Q & A will ensue.

Evaluating The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium's Dive Program and the Process of Becoming a Commercial Dive Team

MARISA FOSTER

*National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium,
350 E 3rd St, Dubuque, IA 52001*

The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium's largest exhibits are the 30,000 gallon freshwater system called the Main Channel and a 45,000 gallon salt water system called the Gulf of Mexico. Due to the size of these exhibits our team of aquarists dives regularly to maintain habitats, observe animals, and clean systems. We, as well as many other aquariums, have struggled with the concept of commercial dive programs vs. scientific dive programs. It can be extremely difficult to determine which program your facility falls under due to the nature of caring for animals in a captive setting. During recent years, our aquarium has taken several steps to determine which dive program we fall under and have made sure that we are in accordance with OSHA regulations. The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium has determined that its dive program is considered to be more of a commercial dive program rather than a scientific dive program as we do not record any data after each dive unless we note something out of the ordinary. This presentation will focus on the differences between commercial dive programs and scientific dive programs and the steps our aquarium took to ensure that we hold the highest safety protocols for our dive team.



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***ADPA will be represented by Arnold Postell at the new AZA [Aquarium Design, Husbandry, and Leadership](#) class being held at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago the first week in May. Look for a recap in the next *Bottom Times* newsletter.**

Corporate Partner Report

Corporate Partner Survey

In order to leverage our collective purchasing power and drive home the potential for product placement and brand exposure to prospective Corporate Partners (try saying that five times fast...) we're asking (encouraging, demanding, pleading) for all of our members to participate in a membership background survey.

Your participation is critical to the success of the Corporate Partner program - the results of this survey will inform our marketing materials and

provide us with valuable information that's key to promoting the Program.

[What is the Be A Diver Pool?®](#)

For Zoos & Aquariums, the Be A Diver® Pool is a great opportunity to not only engage your guests and draw new visitors to your establishment, but also increase media coverage and local interest and exposure.

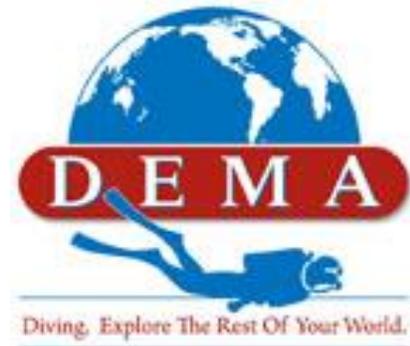
The Be A Diver® Pool Tour is a year-'round, nationwide program that enables targeted potential diving customers to try scuba diving in the warm, safe confines of a four-foot deep swimming pool under professional supervision.

The Be A Diver® Pool travels throughout the United States, making appearances during large-scale events which already attract potential customers who fit the same affluent demographic profile targeted by the diving industry. The Be A Diver® Pool uses a professional New York-based Public Relations firm to help attract media attention as well as potential customers, and is often used by the event to help draw media attention for the event itself.

To learn more, please visit -

http://www.dema.org/resource/resmgr/Be_A_Diver_Pool_Tour/2016BADZooAquaProsp_Web.pdf

<https://dema.site-ym.com/news/286071/Over-905000-Potential-Divers-Reached-by-Media-Coverage-of-DEMAs-Be-A-Diver-Pool-Tour.htm>



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Divers Alert Network

DAN is Divers Alert Network, the diving industry's largest association dedicated to scuba diving safety. Serving scuba divers for more than 30 years, DAN provides emergency assistance, medical information resources, educational opportunities and more. Whether you are just learning how to scuba dive or are a veteran of the sport, DAN has a great deal to offer you.

To learn more, please visit: <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>

Jobs

The Aquarium of the Pacific has an ADSO job posted!

http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/employment/info/assistant_diving_safety_officer

The North Carolina Aquarium group has a few ADSO jobs posted!

<http://www.ncaquariums.com/employment>

AZA Website Job Postings

<https://www.aza.org/joblisting/>

AAUS Website Job Postings

http://www.aaus.org/job_board

Newsletter Info

Bottom Times is the quarterly newsletter of the Association of Dive Program Administrators. Please submit jobs, ideas, and other info to the communication committee one month before the next release date.

Scheduled releases: July 2016, October 2016, January 2017, April 2017, July 2017, October 2017

Communication Committee

Chair	Dave DeBoer	(Adventure Aquarium)	ddeboer@adventureaquarium.com
Co-Chair	Andrew Morgan	(Monterey Bay Aquarium)	amorgan@mbayaq.org
BOD Rep	Arnold Postell	(South Carolina Aquarium)	apostell@scaquarium.org



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Board of Directors

President	George Peterson	(Monterey Bay Aquarium)	gpeterson@mbayaq.org
President Elect	Holly Martel Bourbon	(National Aquarium in Baltimore)	hbourbon@aqua.org
Secretary	Katie Shoultz	(Florida Aquarium)	kshoultz@flaquarium.org
Treasurer	Paul Dimeo	(Aquarium of the Pacific)	pdimeo@lbaop.org
Membership	Chip Arnold	(Alaska SeaLife Center)	chipa@alaskasealife.org
Director at Large	Arnold Postell	(South Carolina Aquarium)	apostell@scaquarium.org

ADPA Website www.adpaonline.org

ADPA Google Group *(Member Access Only)*

#WTTADPAMF



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