

AMY SCHILZ

Permanent Address:

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Education:

Graduation date: May 2004
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), Stevens Point, WI
Bachelor of Science in: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT & BIOLOGY
Minor: CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

Employment:

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo March 2013-July 2015; May 2018 -Present
LEAD ANIMAL KEEPER. Provided husbandry, enrichment, training, and veterinary care to giraffe, African lions, and Okapi. Lead a team of animal keepers, interns, volunteers, and junior zookeepers to provide the best possible care for the animals in our areas. Worked on a hoof care program for our giraffe herd, trained giraffe to enter trailers, chutes, and participate in blood draws. Worked on integrating a cohesive African lion pride, successfully bred lions and provided husbandry for 3 cubs, trained African lion husbandry and natural behaviors.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo July 2015-May 2018
ANIMAL CARE MANAGER. Provide support for animal keeper staff. Helped to oversee the daily duties of keeper staff. Maintained communication between keeper staff and senior staff, maintenance, horticulture, and marketing. Acted as a liaison to many different departments in the zoo. Evaluated keeper staff annually, held feedback meetings routinely. Created an open and honest working environment, gained experience in conversation skills.

Henry Vilas Zoo November 2008-February 2013
ZOOKEEPER. Provided husbandry, enrichment, training, and veterinary care to a large variety of animals. Worked as the primary keeper and trainer in the big cat area; wrote introduction plans for both Amur Tigers and South African Lions, managed diets and training, maintained exhibits, Served as the training coordinator for the entire zoo. Held “lunch and learns” for co-workers to learn positive reinforcement training techniques. Submitted a grant which we won for AAZK’s Excellence in Enrichment Award (2010). Communicated with co-workers and management through daily logs, email, and team meetings. Acted as a relief keeper for every area in the zoo, was the secondary keeper for giraffes/hoofstock.

Milwaukee County Zoo May 2006-November 2008
SEASONAL ZOOKEEPER/HERITAGE FARM ATTENDANT. Cleaned animal exhibits daily; as well as provided animal husbandry, applied animal training techniques, distributed appropriate diets and medications, and implemented new enrichment ideas in an AZA accredited facility. Worked with domestic, exotic, native, and non-native species. Assisted in creating and implementing an entirely new bird show for the zoo. Cooperatively trained and cared for all of the birds (raptors, parrots, eagles, ravens, chickens, soft bills, vultures, owls, and more). Worked closely with NEI staff to learn proper operant conditioning training techniques, one on one, for four months. Gave speeches while training animals onstage, with audiences of more than 300 people. Worked well in both individual and team settings.

Bluemound Animal Hospital March 2006-February 2013
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN & RECEPTIONIST. Assisted in routine veterinary check-ups, as well as intense diagnostic and surgical procedures. Drew blood, administered appropriate shots and vaccinations, and prepared /dispensed medication. Conducted daily positive interactions with both clientele and staff. Handled cats and dogs, as well as many exotic birds and reptiles.

Employment (Cont.):

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

September 2004-March 2005

WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN ADVANCED. Worked primarily on aspects of wildlife diseases, mainly Chronic Wasting Disease. Educated local landowners on CWD, and empowered them to participate in disease control. Collected samples and maintained excellent data records. Trained and supervised cooperating deer registration stations. Used Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and GIS systems to accurately record data on charts and graphs. Also, assisted in the pheasant-stocking program.

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database

May 2004-Sept. 2004

WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN. Conducted burrow density counts for the black-tailed prairie dog. Surveyed historic nest locations for the presence/absence of goshawks in Yellowstone. Trapped and ear-tagged small mammals in riparian areas for the presence/absence of the federally endangered Preble's mouse. Worked closely with public landowners and university staff, communicated project updates between both parties.

United States Forest Service

May-August 2003

WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN. Primarily conducted spotted owl and goshawk surveys, but also conducted butterfly, vegetation, and salamander surveys. Worked both independently and in team settings.

Henry Vilas Zoo

May-August 2002

ZOO INTERN. Interacted with the public in order to provide education on endangered species. Gained experience in a variety of zoo related topics, such as animal enrichment, training, dietary needs, cleaning, breeding, and health care. Worked with both exotic and domestic animals, including large felines, hoof stock, apes, monkeys, and avian species.

Volunteer Exp.:

The Belize Zoo

January 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

ZOOKEEPER WORKSHOP/TRAINING COACH Worked with keepers from The Milwaukee Zoo to host workshops for the keepers at The Belize Zoo. Arranged speakers, put together lectures and content, organized schedules, and coached training sessions in real time.

The Milwaukee County Zoo

November 2019

ZOOKEEPER WORKSHOP/TRAINING COACH Co-hosted a workshop with Megan Sanders for the keeper staff. Put together lectures on team building, "tells", working through approximations and shaping plans, and training animals to use enrichment. Coached staff during training sessions in real time and discussed next steps.

International Crane Foundation

March 2010- 2013

BEHAVIORAL HUSBANDRY CONSULTANT. Worked with aviculturists on staff to enhance their behavioral husbandry program. Updated data recording sheets, training plan submittal forms, and gave power point lectures on training techniques. Set up workshops for interns and staff to practice positive reinforcement techniques.

Sandhill Research Center

January 2003-May 2004

RESEARCH CO-LEADER. Worked cooperatively with two other students to develop and implement a mark and recapture study that involved handling, radio collaring, and ear tagging of both gray and fox squirrels. Compared the age, weight, sex, and population densities of squirrels on a non-hunted portion of Sandhill Wildlife Refuge to that of the hunted portion. Wrote and acquired two grants, and entered the project in a student research symposium.

Conferences (Attended Only): ABMA (attended annually 2010-2016); IAATE (2012)

Conference Presentations:

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE- with corresponding papers

2018- Tells and Tall Tails- a presentation on how to train with a dialogue while working with Giraffe
2016- Big Cats Inspiring Conservation By Demonstrating Natural Behaviors On Cue (co-author Rachael Hahn)
2014- Training Giraffe for Voluntary Hoof Presents
2013- It Takes a Village: Team training Big Cats at the Henry Vilas Zoo

FELID TAG:

2015- Days of Our Lions- Introducing a pride of African Lions at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
2015- Big Cats Inspiring Conservation By Demonstrating Natural Behaviors On Cue- poster presentation
2019- Stationing a Pride of Lions to Improve Shifting

GIRAFFID

2018- Penny, The Little Giraffe That Could
2018- The Curl Behavior- poster presentation

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOKEEPERS:

2018-Creating a Movement Workshop

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS:

2018- The Behavioral Husbandry Committee Update
2017- The How's and Why's of Training Voluntary Blood Draws and Ultrasounds on Pregnant Giraffe (represented by Tracy Thessing)
2016- Giraffe Care Workshop (represented by Tracy Thessing)
2015- Safety Policies and Procedures Involving Giraffe Training (represented by Tracy Thessing)
2014- Training for Voluntary Hoof Presents

Important Roles:

Ungulate TAG March 2017- Present

BEHAVIORAL HUSBANDRY COMMITTEE CO CHAIR- Started a committee to help push the industry forward in regards to the behavioral health of ungulates. Selected individuals to join the start-up, provided content for website design, delegated tasks to work as a team and get content for zoos.

GIRAFFE CARE WORKSHOP HOST- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

October 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021. Organized content, speakers, hotel rooms, transportation, and food accommodations for attendees. Organized communication strategies for post conference. Designed and ran lectures on approximations for training hoof presents. Worked with an amazing team to pull this off and push the giraffe care industry forward. Taught, and learned from, zookeepers from all over the world.

Certifications:

2013 Living and Learning With Animals, Certificate of Excellence

Published Papers:

Dazone, L., Schilz, A., Friedman, S.G., Bredahl, J., Foxworth, S., & Chastain, R. (2016, March). Training giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) for front foot radiographs and hoof care. *Zoo Biology*, DOI: 10.1002/zoo.21279,1-9.

Awards:

- AAZK Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment Award 2010
- ABMA Animal Welfare Advancement Award 2014
- AAZK Jean M. Hmrodka Excellence in Animal Care Award 2015