

## *A message from the President*



James C. Hawley, Jr.  
President,

‘**W**hen you get to the end of your rope—tie a knot and hang on!’

Life has its ups and downs and I am often reminded about the Peanuts cartoon I once saw in a Sunday newspaper many, many years ago. The first scene had Charlie Brown and Linus leaning on a brick wall with their chins on their baseball gloves. Linus was talking to Charlie Brown and the caption read, “Well Charlie Brown, you win some and you lose some.” The next four boxes just

show them still leaning against the brick wall with their chins on their gloves until the last box when Charlie Brown is again talking to Linus and the caption reads, “Yea, wouldn’t that be neat!”

These last several months have shown a major slowdown in our economy and even a recession moving into global proportions. There’s an old saying that I would like to give to you as my suggestion to everyone—“Don’t throw the baby (birds) out with the bath water. There will come a day when we will look back at these days and carry on the annoying conversation—“Do you remember when...?” and I can one-up you on how hard I had it, I had to trudge three miles, uphill, in the snow, to feed my birds each day, breaking ice in the water bowls with an ax!

As an accountant, I find myself advising clients almost every week on some basic economic survival plans:

- Avoid unnecessary and excessive debt.

- Make wise and frugal purchases.
- Try to get the most bang for your buck.

Speaking of the “Most Bang For Your Buck,” The American Federation of Aviculture’s 2009 convention is coming up and I believe this is where you will get the BANG and dollar stretcher! Start planning now to attend the annual convention. Here are some planning ideas:

- Set some of your tax refund aside for convention costs.
- Set up a monthly fund to pay for your registration and travel.
- Have garage sales, OR like my granddaughter told me, you can get RICH on eBay.

If you plan ahead and plan wisely you can accomplish almost anything you put your mind to! (Oh my gosh! That is what my mom always told me!)

Watch for the convention Information and the speaker list. Your planning and struggles to get to the convention will prove to be a very valuable investment! This convention is shaping up to be one of the very best the American Federation of Aviculture has ever had to date. DON’T MISS IT!

Again, with my accountant hat on, I have personally lived through several recessions (and one depression, but that was because I was turning 50) and they are cyclical. They have a beginning and with our resilience they have and end. Things might get tough but that is when the tough get going. Support the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. and I look forward to seeing you in Houston at the convention!

## *With a heavy heart*

A few months ago I wrote an article for the Watchbird magazine called “Leaving a Legacy for the Future.” I wrote that article because I have been concerned about the perpetuation of our love for keeping, caring for and breeding birds to the next few generations.

I recently attended the funeral of a dear friend who passed away after a lingering illness. You sometimes get a glimpse of life with a new perspective through a different angle. You might say I had an experience like that at my friend’s funeral.

He was a dentist, and as I sat there uplifted by his eulogy, I realized he not only was a good dentist, he had a passion for dentistry. I started taking inventory of the little I was aware of the many young people he had influenced to become interested in and embrace the discipline of dentistry. His oldest son is a dentist, one of his daughters is a dental hygienist and, because of them, my daughter is a dental hygienist.

This very same principle applies to our passion with birds—who are or have you influenced to become interested enough to participate in the wonderful world of birds?

Recently we have lost many influential members of the avicultural community. So, it is with a heavy heart that I bring myself back to the reality of life and remember there is an end, a life and a

death. I would like to ask each one of you reading this to take a few minutes of silence to remember the following names:

Joe Baker  
Luther Dean  
Diana Hollaway  
Margie Jonnet  
Bob Kennedy  
Aletta Long  
Cliff Patterson  
Bernard Teunissen  
Dale Thompson  
Paul Thorpe

In no way is this a complete list of those who have passed and if you are aware of other individuals, please include them in your moment of remembrance, silence and respect.

I liken these individuals to great redwood trees that have fallen in the Forest of Life, leaving a distinct marked opening for us to continually mourn or to see as an opportunity to honor them and continue on with the legacy they left us, our love for birds.

(Memorials for some of those above are on pages 11–13.)