

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

BY JIM C. HAWLEY, JR.

Some people think I was never young! Just ask my children when they were younger or my grand-children or my great grand-daughter. They have all formed a committee (I call them the committee of "They") to be available to help Grandpa with his cell phone, wristwatch, computer, surround sound and T.V.

Children are really something these days. They are bright, quick and incredibly intelligent. It takes a myriad of activities to keep and hold their attention. The information has to come at them quickly and in volumes.

I have found, though, when it comes to animals and birds, most young people always want to take a look, pet or feel something new and unusual. We have people stop or drive by all the time just to see our animals and birds.

I had an experience just recently that brought to my mind a different perspective on Leaving a Legacy for the Future. I had one of my Boy Scouts (from when I was a scoutmaster 28 years ago) Ray, call me and ask if he could bring his son over because his son was working on his birding merit badge. When they were at our farm my wife, Marilyn, said, "Let's get a picture." So the Old Scout Master, me, the Scout, Ray, (who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America) and his son, Parker, the 3rd generation and soon to be Eagle Scout posed together. What an opportunity to share... that young man was in seventh heaven with all the birds. He ran out of camera film and wanted to make a second trip back to our farm for more pictures the following week. What I thought was so unique was that it was the second generation, Ray, who remembered about the old scout master who knew a lot about birds but it was the third generation with the love and

interest in birds. The young man was thrilled with the opportunity to see and handle some of the birds. You never know whom you might influence with your love of birds.

Thinking more about Leaving a Legacy for the Future, we started searching our pictures of just some of our moments in sharing. WOW what a blast we had looking back at the moments captured on film.

Now one might ask, "How do you share?"

It is very easy. Invite and take guests to your local bird club meetings. Help a young person start a unique feather collection. Teach young people how to empty out eggshells from infertile eggs and use them as decoration or in crafts. Have a neighborhood backyard BBQ with an egg toss contest. Encourage your local library to stock more bird related books and donate books to help your local library's collection. You could organize and start neighborhood zoo trips or field trips to bird sanctuaries.

If our common interest, BIRDS—keeping, breeding, showing etc.—is to survive us, we need to have a grass roots program in constant motion. With that said, I want to encourage everyone who has an interest in birds to take time and share your enthusiasm with someone younger than yourself. Your children, your grandchildren, your neighbors' children, your local schools and youth groups (YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, soccer clubs and such). Many members of the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. have and do now share their interest and enthusiasm with young people, but it's just a handful of us—Reach out and just do it! Leave a real Legacy for the Future. 🐦

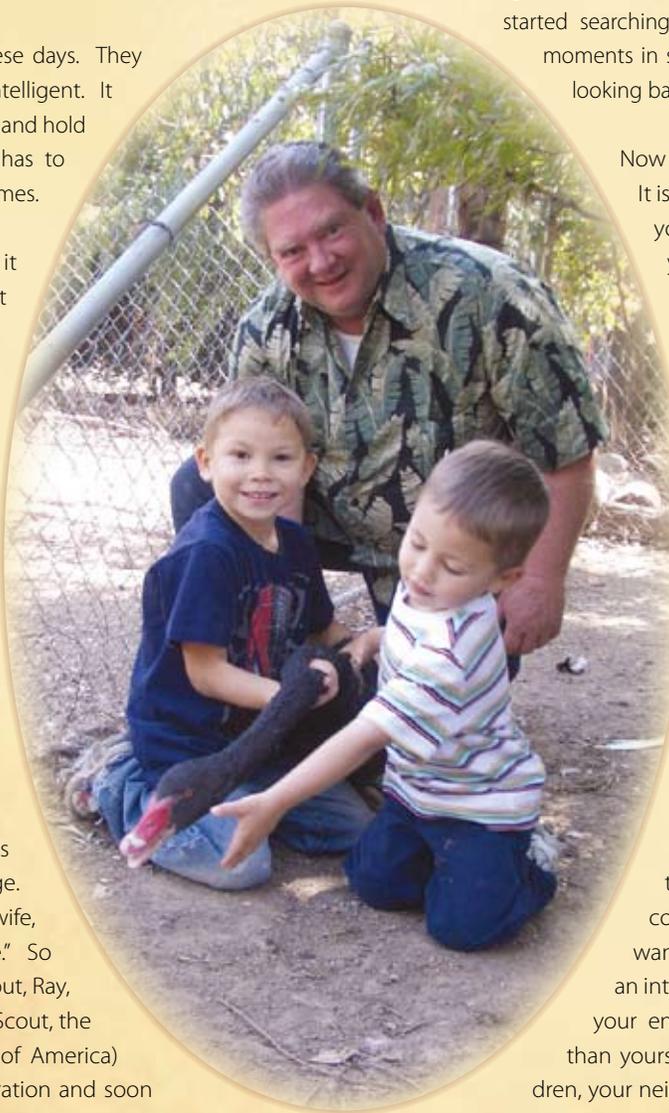


Photo: Jim C. Hawley, Jr. with his grandsons, Seth & Zavier Fernandez, holding a black swan. Photo by Marilyn Hawley.



Denen & Seth Fernandez with Hyacinth Macaw. Photo by Marilyn Hawley



Shelly, Cadence, Trenton & Jim C. Hawley, Jr. Photo by Marilyn Hawley



Ray & Parker Sappington with Jim C. Hawley, Jr. Photo by Marilyn Hawley



Meghan & Jim C. Hawley, Jr. with Hyacinth pair. Photo by Marilyn Hawley



Evan Hawley. Photo by Marilyn Hawley



Cadence, Trenton & Marilyn Hawley. Photo by Jim C. Hawley, Jr.



Seth & Zavier Fernandez & Jim C. Hawley, Jr. with emu & chicks. Photo by Marilyn Hawley