

# A message from the President



Jim C. Hawley, Jr.

I'm sitting on a plane in St. Louis writing this on the back of my hotel bill while waiting to go back to Arizona and all I can think about is WOW! What a convention!

There were many old friends and many acquaintances were renewed. Those of you who were unable to attend—you were missed! Hopefully you will be able

to join us next year.

- “First Timers” were out in flocks; it was so encouraging. I tried to mingle and meet everyone but I know I missed some of you. Please be sure to find me next year, the Board Members and I want to greet you personally.
- The St. Louis Zoo was phenomenal. It's where Marlin Perkins headquartered and directed for many years. The zoo's bird collection was outstanding and very diversified.
- The convention speakers were the crown jewel of the convention with myriad bird topics covered, with details from a professional and diverse slate of speakers.

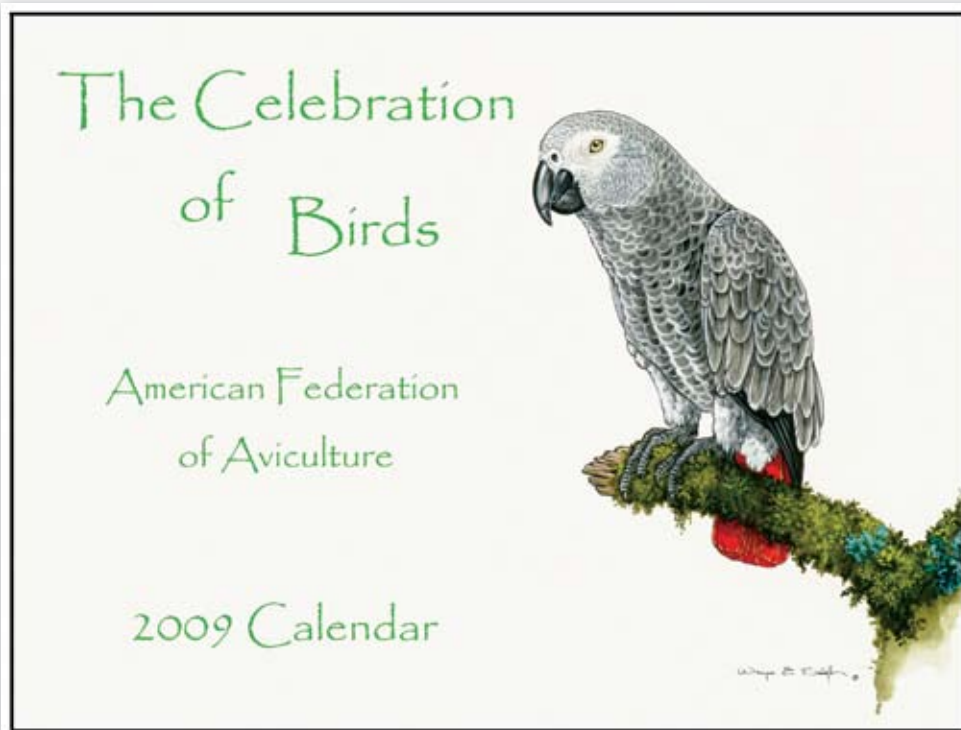
- The raffles were filled with fun and exceptional prizes and lots of excitement and anticipation.
- The vender hall was filled with unique, interesting and innovative people and products. (I wound up with three giraffes, who would have thought!)
- The banquet was a great place to be Saturday night to end the convention. Swearing in commitments were made by the officers and board members. Many individual were recognized, honored and thanked.

Everyone who had the opportunity to be there, please join with me in giving a big THANK YOU to ALL those who made it look so easy and yet worked so hard to make sure we had a great time at the 2008 Convention in St. Louis.

Mark your calendars now for next year in Houston. Don't catch yourself only reading about what happened at the Convention, BE THERE making it happen.

See y'all in Houston for: Aviculture—Branching Out!

*Jim C. Hawley, Jr.*  
*President, American Federation of Aviculture*



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AFA's primary goals are the education and dissemination of information related to aviculture among pet owners, hobbyists, avicultural societies, zoos, veterinarians, research institutions, the pet industry and government officials. In addition, AFA is concerned about the welfare and humane care of all birds and promotes the establishment of high standards of avian care both in the United States and abroad.

The AFA supports your rights to acquire, keep, breed and sell birds in a responsible manner. The organization monitors proposed laws and regulations at the state, federal and international level that affect your future as an aviculturist and the well being of birds.

The AFA is primarily a volunteer organization. Our efforts to ensure the future growth and development of aviculture are totally dependent upon people like YOU joining and supporting AFA. The AFA believes that aviculture is a valuable conservation tool and that the care and breeding of birds in captivity is an exciting and fulfilling endeavor. AFA offers many different services to its members because AFA has so many different types of members.

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Cuban Macaw by Wayne E. Smyth

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Revised January 2008

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