

# AFA Convention

August 7-11 at the J.W. Marriot in Houston Texas

## See You There

### Full Registration

Includes: lectures, exhibits, Thursday Reception (light hors d'oeuvre; cash bar), a banquet ticket, and all specialty meetings. Fee does not include tours, proceedings or hotel accommodations.

### Hotel Accommodations

Special AFA Convention rate special of \$99 single or double occupancy if made before July 23, 2001. For reservations call 1-800-228-9290.

### Discounted Airfare

Southwest Airlines is offering a 10% discount on most of its already low fares to and from the AFA Convention in Houston, Texas. Call the Southwest Group Meetings Reservations 1-800-433-5368 at least two weeks in advance. Use the reference code S3314.

### Early Bird Registrations

Must be postmarked by  
June 27, 2001.  
\$195/members  
\$225/nonmembers

### Registration June 28 thru on site:

\$235/members;  
\$265/nonmembers

### Single Day Registration

Thursday Aug. 9th, Friday Aug. 10th  
(fee includes lectures, workshops, exhibits, specialty meetings.)

\$75/member  
\$90/nonmember

Saturday Aug. 11th same as Thurs. Fri. but a Saturday banquet ticket is NOT included. If you wish to attend one can be purchased separately.

### Houston Zoo Tour and Dinner

Texas style barbecue/buffet  
Wednesday Aug. 8th. \$30 Includes

transportation. No reservations will be taken after July 27th.

For additional information and registration forms go to:

<http://www.afa.birds.org/convention/index.html>



## Super Raffle Items AFA Convention 2001

- Blue & Gold Macaw (young HF domestic)

*Benny and Nancy Gallaway,  
Bryan, TX*

- Brooder  
*Paula Strasser, Pippin's Roost  
Fallbrook, CA*
- African Grey (young HF domestic)  
*Troy Hensley,  
Dark Continent Aviaries,  
Bethlehem GA*

- Brooder  
*Joe and Carla Freed  
Petiatrics Supply, Wichita KS*

- Cockatoo (young HF domestic)  
*Hill Country Aviaries,  
Dripping Springs TX*

- Amazon Cage  
*Animal Environments  
San Diego, CA*

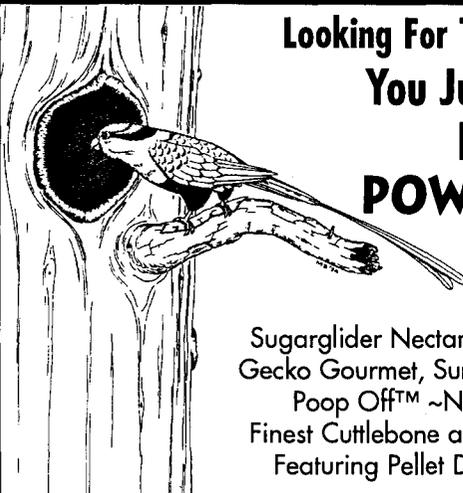
- 2 Mutation Ringnecks (Cinnamon-blue and Cinnamon-turquoise)  
*Michael & Jackie Gollotte  
Evergreen, AL*

- Puri Fan  
*Joe and Carla Freed  
Petiatrics Supply, Wichita KS*

- Macaw Cage  
*Animal Environments  
San Diego, CA*

- Unspecified young domestic bird  
*Perry Little, San Antonio, TX*





**Looking For The Best Lory Diet?  
You Just Found It!  
LORY LIFE™  
POWDER & NECTAR**

**AVICO**

Sugarglider Nectar, Universal Insectivore Diet,  
Gecko Gourmet, Sunbird Nectar, Mynah Pellets,  
Poop Off™ ~No Work~ Cage Cleaner  
Finest Cuttlebone and the Best Prices Available  
Featuring Pellet Diets and Bulk Seed Mixes

From **all** of the **top** Manufacturers  
KAYTEE · ZUPREEM · GOLD CUP · LEACH · MAZURI  
Soak & Cook, California Spray Millet, Vitamin Supplements,  
Hand Feeding, Nest Boxes, Breeder Mixes, Speciality Diets  
*Breeder discounts are available*

**CUTTLEBONEPLUS  
AVICO™ SPECIALTY DIETS**

768 N. Twin Oaks Valley Rd., Suite A • San Marcos, CA 92069  
**Order Desk (800) 747-9878**  
Dick Schroeder (760) 591-4951 • Fax (760) 591-4556  
[www.cuttleboneplus.com](http://www.cuttleboneplus.com) • Email: [cuttleboneplus@aol.com](mailto:cuttleboneplus@aol.com) Owner: Dick Schroeder, Breeder/Authority on Softbills, Lories & Pet Parrots



# Schedule of Events

**Tuesday, 07 August**

8:00 A.M. Meeting of the Board of Directors Galveston Room

**Wednesday, 08 August**

8:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M. Meeting of the House of Delegates Navarro/Hidalgo/Harris  
3:15 P.M. The bus arrives at hotel entrance for the Zoo Tour – don't be late. (reservations required)

**Thursday, 09 August**

7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Convention Registration and Information Open

## Morning

- 8:30 - 9:00 **Benny J. Gallaway, Ph.D.** — Opening Remarks
- 9:00 - 9:45 **Beth and Dwight Greenberg** — Great-billed Parrots  
*sponsored by the Tanygnathus Society*
- 9:00 - 9:45 **Laurie Baker** — The Evolution of Aviculture
- 9:45 - 10:15 *First Break*
- 10:15 - 11:00 **Phil Ryan, Ph.D.** — Rare Lovebirds in Aviculture  
*sponsored by the African Lovebird Society*
- 10:15 - 11:00 **Julie Weiss Murad** — Rescue, Rehab., and Adoption in Aviculture  
*Gabriel Foundation*
- 11:10 - 11:55 **Russ Shade** — Pionus Parrots in the Wild  
*sponsored by the Pionus Parrot Research Foundation*
- 11:10 - 11:55 **David Phalen, D.V.M., Ph.D** — Update on Avian diseases  
*Texas A & M University*
- 12:00 - 1:30 *Lunch on your own*

## Afternoon

- 1:30 - 2:15 **Martin Vince** — Perfecting Avian Environments to Maximize Breeding and Promote Good Health  
*Riverbanks Zoo and Garden — sponsored by the Softbill Society*
- 1:30 - 2:15 **Paula Strasser** — The Fine Art of Shipping Birds Safely
- 2:25 - 3:10 **Annette Howard** — Showing and Judging Birds in the 21st Century  
*sponsored by North American Parrot Society*
- 2:25 - 3:10 **Bernadette Plair** — Reintroduction of the Blue & Gold Macaw to Trinidad  
*Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden*
- 3:10 - 3:40 *Break*
- 3:40 - 4:25 **Roddy Gable** — Wild Bird Conservation Act and Endangered Species Act  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- 4:35 - 5:20 **Q&A Roundtable**

## Evening

6:00-8:00 P.M. Specialty Club Meetings and Room Assignments

Asiatic Breeders Association, Navarro/Hidalgo/Harris • Aviculture Microbiology Foundation, Inc., Galveston  
National Finch & Softbill Society, Dallas • Pionus Parrots Research, Nueces/Travis/Bexar • Tanygnathus Society, Sam Houston

# Schedule of Events

## Friday, 10 August

### Morning

- 8:15 - 9:00 **Benny Gallaway, Ph.D.** — Poaching in Neo-tropical Parrots: Junk Science?  
A Rebuttal to Wright's Paper on Poaching
- 9:00 - 9:45 **Jean Pattison/Professor Mike Perrin** — African Parrots  
*sponsored by the African Parrot Society*
- 9:00 - 9:45 **Charlona Ingram** — Hand Rearing A Mariana Fruit Dove Chick  
*Houston Zoo*
- 9:45 - 10:15 *First Break*
- 10:15 - 11:00 **Dale Laird** — Breeding Finches and Softbills in Aviculture  
*sponsored by the National Finch & Softbill Society*
- 10:15 - 11:00 **Ian Tizard, BVMS, Ph.D.** — The Mission and Research at the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center  
*Texas A&M University*
- 11:10 - 11:55 **Carla Freed** — Reproductive Behavior of Parrots Inside the Nestbox  
*sponsored by the Amazona Society*
- 11:10 - 11:55 **Kristin Moro** — Crested Wood (Roul Roul) Partridges  
*Houston Zoo*
- 12:00 - 1:30 *Lunch on your own*

### Afternoon

- 1:30 - 2:15 **Mattie Sue Athan** — Life & Times of a Quaker Parrot  
*sponsored by the Quaker Parakeet Society*
- 1:30 - 2:15 **Jenni Jackson** — Avian Neonatology
- 2:25 - 3:10 **Professor Mike Perrin** — African Parrots (Lovebirds)  
*sponsored by the African Parrot Society*
- 2:25 - 3:10 **Tani Smida** — Parrot Socialization from Hatch to Home (Part I)
- 3:10 - 3:40 *Break*
- 3:40 - 4:25 **Miki Sparzak** — Exhibiting Birds  
*sponsored by the Society of Parrot Breeders & Exhibitors*
- 3:40 - 4:25 **Nancy Chambers** — Parrot Socialization from Hatch to Home (Part II)
- 4:35 - 5:20 **Q&A Roundtable**

### Evening

### Specialty Club Meetings

First Session 6:00-8:00		Second Session 8:00-10:00	
Organization	Room	Organization	Room
African Love Bird Society	Galveston	African Parrot Society	Galveston
Amazona Society	Navarro/Hidalgo/Harris	Cockatoo Society	Navarro/Hidalgo/Harris
International Conure Association	Nueces/Travis/Bexar	North American Parrot Society	Dallas
International Parrotlet Society	Sam Houston	Pyrrhura Breeders Association	Sam Houston/Quaker
Pionus Breeders Association	Dallas	Parakeet Society	Nueces/Travis/Bexar

# Schedule of Events

## Saturday, 11 August

### Morning

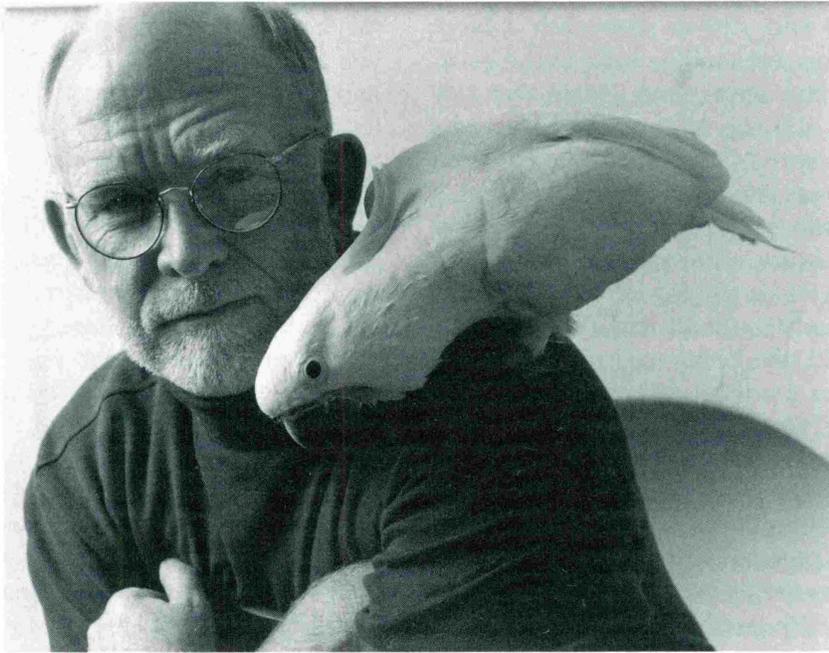
- 8:10 - 8:55**      **Yara M. Barros** (*ARA Brasil*)/**Natasha Schischakin** (*Houston Zoo*)  
Update on wild and captive management aspects of the Blue Macaws of Brazil
- 9:00 - 9:45**      **Sandee L. Molenda** — Parrotlets  
*sponsored by the International Parrotlet Society*
- 9:00 - 9:45**      **Richard Porter, M.D.**, — Amazons, Macaws and Cockatoos: Present in Aviculture and  
Threatened in the Wild. Extinction in Our Aviaries?
- 9:45 - 10:15**      *First Break*
- 10:15 - 11:00**      **Robert Cave, M.D.** — Artificial Insemination in Psittacines (Budgerigars)  
*sponsored by the Asiatic Breeders Association*
- 10:15 - 11:00**      **Trey Todd** — Touracos  
*Houston Zoo*
- 11:10 - 11:55**      **Paul Salaman, Ph.D.** — The Yellow-eared Conure  
*Oxford University — sponsored by the International Conure Association*
- 11:10 - 11:55**      **Tom Roudybush, Ph.D.** — Avian Nutrition
- 12:00 - 1:30**      *Lunch on your own*

### Afternoon

- 1:30 - 2:15**      **Janice Boyd, Ph.D.** — Captive Breeding and Reintroduction of Scarlet Macaws in Costa Rica
- 1:30 - 2:15**      **Carol-Lynn Meisner, DVM** — Lories and Lorikeets in Aviculture
- 2:25 - 3:10**      **Neville Connors**, *Australia* — Cockatoos in Australian Aviculture and the Wild  
*sponsored by the Cockatoo Society*
- 2:25 - 3:10**      **Daniel Brooks, Ph.D.** — Cracids (Curassows)  
*Houston Museum of Natural Science*
- 3:10 - 3:40**      *Break*
- 3:40 - 4:25**      **Richard Porter, M.D.** — St. Vincent Amazons and Population Management Tools
- 4:35 - 5:20**      **Q&A Roundtable**

#### Notice:

**This schedule is to inform you of the speakers and their subjects.  
The room numbers, drawing information, hospitality events, annual banquet, etc.,  
will be fully listed in the Program available at the convention site.  
This schedule is subject to change.**



Wayne E. Smyth

*Artist/designer Wayne E. Smyth chooses rare St. Vincent Amazon as subject of 2001 Tee Shirt*

The St. Vincent Amazon is the appropriate image for this year's convention for two reasons. The birds in the painting are based on sketches Wayne did of those in the Houston Zoo's collection and Robert J. Berry had the first successful captive breeding of *Amazona guildingii* at the Houston Zoo in 1972.

Conservation efforts on St. Vincent, a tropical dot in the Windward Group of the Lesser

Antilles, are a major success story for the parrot. In the early 1970s estimates placed the endangered number of birds at about 350. Today a strong and viable legion of about 1000 birds inhabits the island's lush valleys and mountains.

Smyth is bound for the Upper Amazon Basin of Peru after the convention. He looks forward to jungle exploits, research, sketching, and perhaps an AFA image for next year. ➤



*The circle image is on the tee shirt front. The large colorful rectangle image is on the back. Be sure you get your shirt when you're at the Convention—or appoint someone who is going to bring one back for you!*



**We feature:**

- Naturally grown in-shell nuts
- Seed mixes
- Scenic pelleted diet
- Our own line of "Toys to Destroy"

**Scenic Jungle Mix**



\$48.00/25 lbs+s/h \$8.00/2 lbs+s/h



**Mixed Nuts \$2.25/lb**  
\$79.00/50 lbs+s/h

For a free catalog  
visit our website  
[www.rosespet.com](http://www.rosespet.com)

**ROSES PET EMPORIUM**  
32 Santa Ana Ave  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
**(888) 418-2269**

# How to Survive Your First AFA Convention

by Jenni Jackson, Loxahatchee, Florida

**T**his is not a casting call for "Survivor." You are not going to win a million dollars, and you don't have to eat worms and soggy rice. For anyone who will be attending their first AFA Convention this year, and for anyone who has been to an AFA Convention, the word "survivor" takes on a whole new meaning.

AFA 2000 in Los Angeles was my first AFA Convention, so I was a "first timer" as well as a speaker. Many of you realize that when you raise birds, your social life is very limited, so you can understand that a first convention is a really big deal. Here I am in Loxahatchee, Florida, being dressed up if I have a bra and mascara on, and having my social life limited to going to the grocery store and my avian vet's office. And off I went to the big L.A.!!

So - there I was in L.A. I had my own room in a big hotel, complete with iron & ironing board, blow dryer, and a coffee pot - such hotel amenities I had never seen in my sheltered life! I had my speaker presentation down pat, as I just live and breathe cockatoos. The biggest of my worries was "Oh my God, I'm on the 11th floor, what do I do if there's an earthquake?" Then, there I was at the Delegates' meeting the first day.

"Wow!!" I thought, "Just look at this big room with all these tables and all these people! And what in the world are they doing putting a pen and notepad at every seat? I guess that means everyone is supposed to take notes," so I did, from a seat in the back of the room. I had gone to L.A. knowing three people with AFA, and wasn't sure how to

mix and join in with such a large group. I felt a little safer in the back, for the time being. Later that day was the trip to the L.A. Zoo, and I was sure I felt an earthquake when I got on the bus. Then I realized it was just Dwight Greenberg's booming voice. My seatmate on the bus was a really sweet Texan, who talked continuously. I felt pretty good that I had someone to talk to, even though I didn't get a word in edgewise. Back at the hotel, there were groups of people sitting together. I thought I could join some of them, but didn't have the courage to approach so many strangers, and retreated to my room.

Thursday afternoon was my presentation. I was so nervous getting ready that I could barely dress myself. My hands and feet were sweating so badly, I couldn't get my shoes on. I did manage to get through the whole thing, though, and was relieved that the audience seemed to actually be interested in what I had to say. Now, I thought, I can really enjoy the convention! Off I went to the party, where I again felt isolated because I didn't know anyone. I stayed there about 10 minutes, and then made a beeline for my room. I felt so miserable that I called my husband, Marshall, and told him I wanted to come home. He lovingly told me not to be so timid, to go back to the party, and to introduce myself to people as a "first timer." I got dressed again, went back to the party, and found the courage to do just that. *Success!* My feeling of isolation had been my own fault - it was my doing and no one else's.

For the next few days, I started paying more attention to people who had "First Timer" ribbons on. They were sitting alone, just as I had been. I approached some of them and found that they had been eating alone in their rooms, and not approaching others, just as I had been. I certainly knew the feeling, and I encouraged them to join the activities as my Marshall had insisted I do. Unfortunately, some of those wonderful people who were there

for the first time did go home early, just as I had wanted to. Right then and there, I decided that I would not let any "First Timer" feel like I had. So here are a few suggestions:

1. Wear your "First Timer" ribbon with pride - you will never again be a "first timer." If you get a chance to point out your ribbon, do it! Use it to get you where you want to go and to get what you need. (Even if it means playing dumb, it's better than being left out).

2. Do everything! Go on the Zoo trip! Attend the Delegates Meeting - if you are not a delegate, just keep your mouth shut. Attend every speaker presentation that you possibly can. Visit all the vendors, and get to know them. Buy raffle tickets. Get everyone's business card and email address - you may never use them, but at least you are socializing!

3. Spend the money for the banquet ticket! It may sound like a lot of money, but you spent a lot of money to get there - don't scrimp on something that is the highlight of the convention.

4. Buy the *Proceedings!* You won't have to take notes, and you can keep the pen and notepad. It's amazing how much you do not hear when a very experienced person is giving their talk. The *Proceedings* are a great reference for later.

5. Don't isolate yourself!! Introduce yourself to small groups. Approach people who are sitting alone, and talk with them. Most of all - *Do Not* stay in your room!

6. Remind yourself why you are there - you went to the AFA Convention to learn from others and to share your experiences. Everyone there has something to offer and something to learn.

7. Remember that whether you are a "first timer" or an "old timer," or any point in between, you are important to AFA and to the future of aviculture. If this convention is not your first, please try to help assure that someone else's first convention is not their last.



**See you in Houston!**

# The Houston Zoo Invitation.

## Y'all Come, Hear?

by Sheldon Dingle, Alhambra, California

“L et's visit the zoo.” As a kid, I loved to hear those words. As an old geezer, I still love to hear those words. And, no doubt, so do you. Among the chief reasons to attend an AFA convention is to have a good time. Fun is the word. Well, we are in luck. The Houston Zoological Gardens has issued an invitation to all of us.

One of the highlights of the AFA Convention in Houston will be the good time we'll have at the zoo. And good food, too. I am told there will be a real Texas style Barbecue and, folks, you ain't seen a barbecue until you've seen one in Texas. Do you know that the esteemed Dr. Benny Gallaway, Texan by birth, AFA President by demand, has a monster barbecue that has to be hitched to a truck to be moved? One has to climb three stairs to reach the grill level. It looked like it could handle three sides of beef at once and it requires a crew to operate it. If this is the ordinary backyard Texas barbecue grill, imagine what a huge organization like the zoo must have.



Male Attwater's Prairie Chicken.

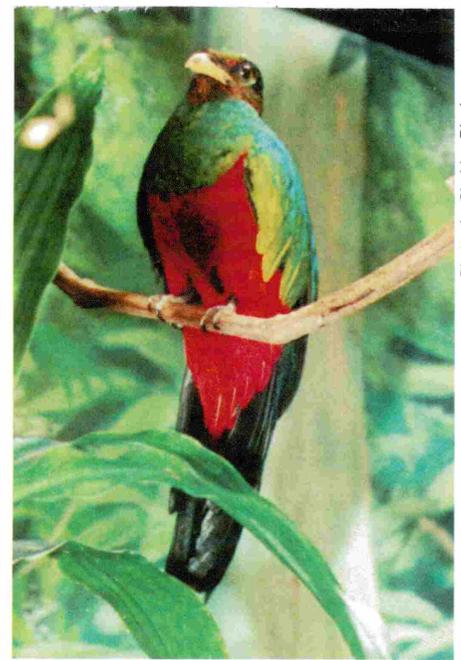
For sure the barbecue at the zoo will be something no one will forget.

Then there is the zoo facility itself. I haven't seen a map but my last visit (April of this year) makes me think the zoo is a great, green 55-acre oasis in the middle of downtown Houston. One minute you are surrounded by buildings and businesses, the next you are entering the cool, quiet sanctuary of the zoo. It is a wonderful transition.

The zoo was founded in 1920 and today is home to nearly 6000 animals representing about 720 species. It has an annual attendance of 1.5 million and has a world wide reputation for its dedicated conservation work. You may recall that the AFA has been involved with the Houston Zoo in its efforts to work with the Spix's Macaw. There are many other conservation works afoot, also.

My favorite conservation program is the one involving the Attwater's Prairie Chicken. At my last visit I made friends with a very salty male Attwater's Prairie Chicken. He really strutted his stuff, booming all the while – a real showoff. As this breeding facility is off-exhibit, it was a sight few people have ever seen. The zoo has three trios and four pairs of these colorful but endangered American birds and has been very successful in breeding them. Last year 180 chicks were raised. The general plan is to put the first clutch in an artificial incubator then let foster chickens or the Attwater's hen raise the second clutch. When the time comes, the chicks are released at Eagle Lake, Texas, which, I assume is pure prairie.

Although not everyone has the opportunity to visit the Prairie Chickens, there are plenty of other venues for bird lovers. My favorite is the climate controlled Tropical Bird House. The huge two storey (or more) enclosure is kept at a temperature and level of humidity that is suitable for tropical birds. Along some walkways are individual enclosures to be viewed from the path. As I am a person attracted to bright col-



Golden-headed Quetzal

ors, the Golden-headed Quetzal Bird's bright crimson breast and vent were like a brilliant stop light that demanded I stop and look. You couldn't paint a more vividly colored bird. And the enclosure allows one to get pretty close to the birds and really enjoy the magnificent creation of nature.

There is a large bridge that traverses the tropical bird House. Birds are above you, at eye level, and below. You seem to be on a suspension bridge in a tropical forest (but not to worry, the bridge is solid concrete). The occasional bird will park on the rail and look you straight in the eye – up close and personal is the word for the Tropical bird house. When the heat and humidity finally persuade you to move on, there are additional enclosures for birds outside.

There are also the tigers, lions, gorillas, seals, camels, bats, indeed, about every kind of animal you can think of. The zoo is a veritable Noah's Ark. Animal lovers cannot be disappointed.

As an AFA member, there will be an added joy. You'll share the experience with dear old comrades and brand new friends. And you'll meet some of the zoo personnel, too. We AFA folks are a community. What better than to have a community party at the world class Houston Zoo. Don't miss it. See you there. 

Photos by Sheldon Dingle