

Birds Shows at AFA are Fun and Educational

By Julie Corwin

The Lory League hosted the two back-to-back bird exhibition shows this past August in San Antonio, Texas. Triangle Bird Club and Feathering Crest Aviary were cosponsors, and supported by the Alamo Exhibition Bird Club.

The shows included novice and advanced exhibitor classes as well as a junior class. Both shows were easily accessible to the AFA Convention attendees as the events were in the same area of the Omni Colonnade Hotel. A highlight this year included a surprise visit by "Elmo" at the beginning of the first show.

Show programs included a biography for each Judge, and the listing of sponsors for the awards and the show program. The program lists the divisions, sections and class—how the birds are categorized for judging. Information was also included about AFA and its affiliated organizations.

Again this year, there were many different species represented in the shows - a rainbow of color and lots of surprises. The exhibition shows are more than just competitions for spectacular birds, they are also educational events. The bird shows offer convention attendees the opportunity to see rare bird species and learn more about these birds and the proper conformation for each.

The judges make a point to educate the audience with commentary on how and why they choose certain birds over others. It's a wonderful process that helps both novices and seasoned exhibitors fine-tune their bird training and presentation skills.

Those participating in the competition also have the opportunity to learn about and participate in the American Federation of Aviculture's annual conference and network with other enthusiastic aviculturists.

The shows follow the mission and purpose of AFA by promoting the advancement of aviculture through educational programs. Kids 16 and younger are allowed to exhibit in the Junior Class for free and

are encouraged to participate in the main show as well. This is in keeping with AFA's dedication to the theme of "A Future With Birds."

Judges were both SPBE panel judges. Jim Heffernan of Michigan judged the first show and Linda Rubin of Massachusetts judged the second show, which was designated as a double point show.

Exhibition judges are trained to look for details when judging the birds:

- **Conformation**—mostly genetics and hereditary factors
- **Condition**—feather quality and overall health.
- **Deportment (behavior)**—training for showing, and a calm demeanor.
- **Color**—especially in mutations, but can relate to diet or environment
- **Presentation**—condition and cleanliness of cage or show box

Many of the exhibitors entering the shows in San Antonio were novice exhibitors and pet owners, so the judging gave them a chance to have their bird evaluated as an example of the species and as compared to other birds showing at that time. Linda Rubin also spent some time discussing the details of how to cage-train for future shows.

Exhibitors have the opportunity to earn colorful ribbons and trophies as a testimonial to all the hard work it takes to get, and keep a bird in top condition. There's a lot more to showing than what most people know or understand. It takes a lot of work and patience to get the birds in perfect health, feather and train them to strut their stuff in strange surroundings for the judges. The exhibitors spend a lot of money and time preparing for shows, because they love what they do, and most importantly, they love their birds.

Junior Exhibitors earned ribbons, sponsored by AFA4Kidz Medallion Awards sponsored by Ginny Heptig

- 1st Place—Emma Lopez, 11, Lutino Peach Face Lovebird
- 2nd Place—Savanna Lewis, 10, American Yellow Pacific Parrotlet

Engraved trophies sponsored by Lory League were presented to the following winners of the first show:

- Youngest Exhibitor—Savanna Lewis, 10
 - Audience Favorite—American Yellow Pacific Parrotlet, Savanna Lewis
 - Most Rare—Iris Lorikeet, Rick Jordan
 - Oldest—13-year-old Umbrella Cockatoo*, Mary Duma
- *The bird was entered into the show by Jan and Dean Cheney, but Roxie the Umbrella Cockatoo belongs to Mary Duma.

Novice Division Judge Jim Heffernan, first show Rosettes sponsored by Lory League

1. Green Quaker exhibited by Ben Garza
2. Iris Lorikeet exhibited by Rick Jordan
3. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Vicki Edgerton
4. Abyssinian Lovebird exhibited by Scott Stringer
5. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Mary Duma
6. American Yellow Pacific Parrotlet exhibited by Savanna Lewis
7. Green Cheek Conure exhibited by Ben Garza
8. Green Quaker exhibited by Jan & Dean Cheney
9. Lutino Peach Face Lovebird exhibited by Emma Lopez
10. Red Rumped Parakeet exhibited by Ben Garza

Top Bench Judge Jim Heffernan, first show 1st-10th SPBE rosettes sponsored by Mary Wilson 1st-3rd Medallion Awards sponsored by Julie Corwin

1. Canary Wing Parakeet exhibited by Julia Howard
 2. Green Quaker exhibited by Ben Garza
 3. Iris Lorikeet exhibited by Rick Jordan
 4. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Vicki Edgerton
 5. Abyssinian Lovebird exhibited by Scott Stringer
 6. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Mary Duma
 7. American Yellow Pacific Parrotlet exhibited by Savanna Lewis
 8. Green Cheek Conure exhibited by Ben Garza
 9. Green Quaker exhibited by Jan & Dean Cheney
 10. Lutino Peach Face Lovebird exhibited by Emma Lopez
- Best Novice—Ben Garza, Green Quaker
SPBE Best Novice Rosette sponsored by Janet Brubaker

Second show, a double points show Judged by Linda Rubin Junior Class winners

- 1st Place—Emma Lopez, 11; Lutino Peach Face Lovebird.
- 2nd Place—Savanna Lewis, 10; American Yellow Pacific Parrotlet

Engraved trophies sponsored by Lory League were presented to the winners in the second show as follows:

- Youngest Exhibitor—Savanna Lewis, 10
- Audience Favorite—Umbrella Cockatoo, Vickie Edgerton
- Most Rare—Abyssinian Lovebird, Scott Stringer
- Oldest—13-year-old Umbrella Cockatoo, Mary Duma

Novice Division

Judge Linda Rubin, second show Rosettes sponsored by Lory League

1. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Vicki Edgerton
2. Abyssinian Lovebird exhibited by Scott Stringer
3. Iris Lorikeet exhibited by Rick Jordan
4. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Mary Duma
5. Green Quaker exhibited by Ben Garza
6. Lutino Peach Face Lovebird exhibited by Emma Lopez
7. Blue Pacific Parrotlet exhibited by Jan & Dean Cheney
8. Red Rumped Parakeet exhibited by Ben Garza
9. Green Cheek Conure exhibited by Ben Garza
10. Green Quaker exhibited by Jan & Dean Cheney

SPBE medallions in Gold, Silver and Bronze were awarded to 1st-3rd place in the Junior Class and for 1st-3rd place on the Top Bench.

Top Bench Judge Linda Rubin, second show 1st-10th SPBE Rosettes sponsored by Janet Brubaker 1st-3rd Medallion Awards sponsored by Dr. Al Decoteau

1. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Vickie Edgerton
2. Abyssinian Lovebird exhibited by Scott Stringer
3. Iris Lorikeet exhibited by Rick Jordan
4. Umbrella Cockatoo exhibited by Mary Duma
5. Green Quaker exhibited by Ben Garza
6. Lutino Peach Face Lovebird exhibited by Emma Lopez
7. Blue Pacific Parrotlet exhibited by Jan and

8. Dean Cheney
 9. Red Rumped Parakeet exhibited by Ben Garza
 10. Green Cheek Conure exhibited by Ben Garza
 11. Canary Wing Parakeet exhibited by Julia Howard
- Best Novice—Umbrella Cockatoo, Vickie Edgerton

SPBE Best Novice Rosette sponsored by Janet Brubaker
Best Lory in Show Rosette Sponsored by Lory League was presented to Rick Jordan for his Iris Lorikeet for both shows.

AFA presented show award plaques at the banquet dinner on Saturday evening for Best Bird in Show—bred, banded and exhibited by an AFA member—and for Best Bird in Show Exhibited by an AFA member. AFA Awards for the Second Show were designated as Double Point Show awards.

Both AFA awards in the first show were presented to Rick Jordan for his winning entry of an Iris Lorikeet.

AFA Award for Best Bird in Show—bred, banded and exhibited by an AFA member was presented to Scott Stringer for his Abyssinian Lovebird in the second show.

AFA Award for Best Bird in Show Exhibited by an AFA member was awarded

to Vickie Edgerton for her Umbrella Cockatoo in the second show.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors, and thank you to the cosponsors and supporters of the show and program!

Thank you to the AFA members and affiliated organization members who volunteered to help as part of the Lory League Show team—without a team effort, shows like this would not be possible. We really appreciate your support!

The 2013 AFA convention will be in Raleigh, North Carolina. Lory League and Triangle Bird Club will be hosting two exhibition shows again next year at this venue, so plan to join us. Bring your birds for exhibiting and join the fun.

For more information about upcoming AFA Conventions, visit AFA at www.afabirds.org or the AFA office by phone at 512-585-9800

For show information at AFA conventions, contact Julie of Lory League at blconnection@hotmail.com or by phone at 206-501-7428

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