

# My Bird

By Emma Lopez, AFA 2012 Essay Contest winner

My pet bird is a Lovebird named Sunshine. Sunshine loves to play and likes being thrown in the air and caught. Ever since she came to my house, I have had a lot more friendship. She has made my life a lot better, now I can have company when I am down.

She is called Sunshine because she is a lutino of her batch. She is a spirited bird she is kind she is the best bird you could ever get. She enjoys sitting on your shoulder and likes to talk to you. She is a wonderful singer and copier. She copies my mom's cell phone and sings to me. She also likes to bug me when I'm typing if she's with me. She does great with my family and doesn't attack other birds.

She stands nice and tall and proud. She has a beautiful orange white and yellow tail. It's just so nice to see when she jumps to me. She also does well with kids my family babysits. If I had another chance to pick out a bird, it would have still been Sunshine. Sunshine can be a bad but she is kind when she isn't tired or wants someone to hold her.



Her mom who took care of her was kind enough to let me choose which bird I wanted. I chose a different one then something happened to that bird so I chose Sunshine. I'm still heartbroken about the first, but I'm glad Sunshine is mine.

If you got the chance to meet her, you would love her like I do. She is just wonderful. I have only lived with her for a little while and I've learned everything about her and I love her. I'm glad I could tell you about her. I hope you enjoyed hearing about her. Bye.

By Lyrae Perry

The 38th Annual AFA Convention, "Under One Wing" was a very different kind of convention for AFA. Oh yes, we had all the traditional presentations and goodies for everyone to enjoy, but the attendees were also treated to two unusual and exciting exhibits within the hall along with a number of new events. The Omni Hotel was the best we've ever had in terms of service.

## Golden Macaw Exhibit

This year, attendees were given the opportunity to see the gorgeous Golden macaws up-close. During the convention, the macaws resided in a gigantic modular outdoor aviary designed and built by LGL Animal Care Products Inc. of Bryan, Texas. Even with the high ceiling in the exhibit hall, it was a tight fit, and thankfully, the ballroom chandeliers were just out of reach. The LGL Animal Care Products cage provided a very elegant presentation space for the five...yep, five of those amazing Golden macaws! The normally colored sibling was also present providing good comparison and contrast. The birds were a little shy on arrival, but soon were flying and playing in the enclosure to the delight of everyone.

Gary and Lynn Redden, owners/breeders of the Golden macaws, (along with the entire Redden clan) were on hand to answer questions about the birds, and generously allowed attendees to take photos. The members of AFA are grateful to the Reddens for being part of our family and sharing their birds at this convention.

## Wayne E. Smyth Art Exhibit

AFA also honored Lifetime member Wayne E. Smyth with a special exhibit of the artwork that has given AFA a "face" to the public for so many years. Believe it or not, AFA still has a few original artworks by Wayne that are for sale, and people who had not seen these originals were just blown away by the beautiful detail in his paintings. For a list Wayne's artworks that are available, please contact the Editor, Mark Moore or Lyrae Perry.

Warning: Wayne's original art is one-of-a-kind and fabulous. It's world-class art. Wayne's intention was that his art contributions would generate funds to help aviculture through the AFA. When you purchase one of his originals from AFA, your money goes toward a good cause—the advancement of aviculture, and that's something worth supporting.



Enjoying the 38th annual Convention are 1. Jamie Whittaker and Nancy Speed; 2. Wayne E. Smyth, Mark Moore and Paige Williams; 3. Mark Moore with Gary and Lynn Redden; and 4. DeeAnna and Brent Andrus

## AFA 4 Kidz 2013 Essay Contest

Submit your essay by **May 17, 2013**, for a chance to win one **FREE** youth registration\*, plus one banquet dinner and registration, and dinner for one adult to the **2013 AFA Annual Convention.**

(\*Non-transferable. Youth registration must be accompanied by a registered adult.)



### Submit essays to:

**AFA 4 Kidz 2013 Essay Contest, P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709**

All entries will be judged by the AFA Education Committee. Winner will be announced June 10, 2013. The winning essay may be published in *Watchbird*.

Details at <http://afabirds.org/afa4kidz.shtml>.

Call (206) 772-1730 or email [blconnection@hotmail.com](mailto:blconnection@hotmail.com).

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