

# What a Convention!

## 2005 AFA Convention Highlights

This year's convention was held in Miami, Florida. This was the first time the AFA had been to Miami in 14 years. For the majority of the attendees, the convention officially started on the August 4, 2005; however, there are a number of activities that occur prior to and after the actual convention. Additionally, Miami offered several off site attractions to our attendees.



*Squirrel Monkeys in the Manu Encounter exhibit at Parrot Jungle Island.  
- photo by Matt Schmit*

### Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting started bright and early on Tuesday morning, August 2, 2005. The first order of business was to review all of the submitted quarterly reports by the appointed and elected Board members. Some highlights from the Board reports

included:

- Jim Hawley, Chief Financial Officer, noted that our balance as of 7/29/05 was a grand total of \$99,607.
- Mark Moore, AFA Store Manager, shared the new AFA Store items with the Board including ties, artwork, boxes, and many other different items which were available for purchase at the AFA Store booth and will be available soon at the online store on our website.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to create a proposal for fiduciary responsibility and nonprofit training for the Board in time for the next Board meeting in October.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to research the feasibility of hiring a professional fundraiser.
- Genny Wall gave a presentation on PAWS to the Board.



*Wayne E. Smyth and Diane Bock at the Banquet. Diane was the winning bidder for the convention theme piece. - photo by Laney Rickman*



*Yellow-lored Amazon at Parrot Jungle Island.  
- photo by Matt Schmit*

There is always an open invitation to all AFA members to attend the Board meetings and this year we had a very good turnout, including Sandee Molenda, Marshall Liger, Carol Woodson, Sue Hutson, Nora Schmit, Pat Chinnici, Marilyn Hawley, Bob Queen, Cathy Kelly, Jerry Johnson, Olivia Kong, and Andy Sanford. Thank you to all of you for joining us!

## House of Delegates Meeting

On Wednesday morning, the annual House of Delegates meeting convened. Much of the morning was spent reviewing the 17 proposed bylaw changes that came from the floor. According to those who have attended many HOD meetings, this year's meeting had the biggest turnout in many years. There was a great deal of discussion about the various proposed changes with a very good discussion of the pros and cons of each. After the voting was tabulated, none of the proposed bylaw changes passed. In addition to the voting, CFO Jim Hawley gave a brief update on the financial status of AFA and Genny Wall gave another presentation on PAWS to the House of Delegates.

## Last Chance Farms Tour

Following the House of Delegates meeting, over 180 attendees met in the hotel lobby and anxiously waited to board one of three busses destined for Last Chance Farms. After quickly loading the busses, many passed the time making new friends and speaking with old friends that had not been seen since the 2004 convention. There was a slight detour as the busses made a few wrong turns on the way to Last Chance Farms, but the camaraderie among the members made this detour even more enjoyable. Loud cheers were heard when the busses finally pulled into the driveway of the breeding farm.



*Female Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. There were quite a number of black cockatoos at Last Chance Farms  
- photo by Matt Schmit*

Trent Swigert and members of his staff greeted the group as they departed the busses. Cold beverages and trays laden with food were graciously provided by



*The baby nursery at Last Chance Farms. Most of these white tubs held an individual chick. Notice the labels on each tub, this allows for good record keeping  
- photo by Matt Schmit*



*A view of the spacious free-standing flights at Last Chance Farm - photo by Matt Baird*



*Trent Swigert showing a small group the operations at Last Chance Farm - photo by Matt Baird*



*One of the busses being unloaded in front of Last Chance Farm - photo by Matt Baird*

Trent and his wife, Ivonne. After snacks and a brief orientation, guests toured the neonate nursery and the junior nursery. A tour such as this was a valuable educational experience, for both the breeder and the pet bird owner. For breeders, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn the methods by which another breeder keeps and cares for chicks. Additionally, many pet owners had never had the opportunity to



*An inside view of the well constructed breeding aviaries. Nest boxes and food dishes were inside the building protecting them for the elements. - photo by Matt Baird*

visit a nursery. Visiting the nursery gave them an opportunity to see firsthand the dedication required to properly care for young in the nursery.

Many of the attendees were introduced to species they had never before seen and did not recognize, such as a Vasa chick. It was also interesting to see what type of brooders were used and what type of substrate the chicks were placed upon. The hand feeder answered everyone's questions as she fed the chicks.

While a member of the staff continued an unhurried tour of the nursery, Trent led others to the breeding facility. He opened virtually all of the well constructed aviaries for everyone to tour at their pleasure. Understandably, some birds were not open to the tour due to eggs or chicks being cared for by various pairs. The flights were large, clean and all of the birds appeared alert and healthy. Many were impressed by the double doors to each of the aviaries opening on tracks to the left and right. Some larger and rarer species were held in a more private area in spacious freestanding flights. All of the pairs had access to the outdoor elements if they so desired. The nest boxes were in excellent condition and the feeding bowls

were clean and held food appropriate for the species. The tour was leisurely, but as thunderstorms loomed in the horizon and raindrops spattered the ground, everyone reluctantly returned to the tour busses. Representatives of Zupreem distributed gift bags to everyone as they boarded the busses. The tour of Last Chance Farms was an occasion that won't soon be forgotten.

## Raffles and Auctions

The raffles this year were very exciting. The Daily Raffle tables had a wide assortment of items, from books to alpaca apparel to tool sets to jewelry to almost anything you could think of. The daily raffle tables were attended by Sue Hutson, Andy Sanford, Nancy Speed, Carol Woodson, and also by first timer Barbara Ward! There were numerous three-day special raffles of extra special items as well, including a \$1500 diamond necklace donated by Long's Jewelers



*Military Macaws on the open perches at Parrot Jungle Island - photo by Matt Schmit*

and parrot figurines and cages donated by Hagen. Once again, Debbie Treanor outdid herself with the numerous eclectic items that she brought for the Silent Auction. Kudos to Debbie!!! At almost the last minute this year, there was a "state cage" contest. What started out as a "gee, what if we did cages from the different states and raffled them?" idea rapidly turned into a friendly competition. The following states/clubs donated some terrific items as part of their "cage":

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*Wayne E. Smyth and Pat Chinnici at the Banquet. Pat Chinnici was the winning bidder in the live auction for the signed artist's proof of the Bearded Barbets piece. - photo by Mark Moore*

1. South Carolina...Marshall Liger & June DiCiocco
2. Nevada....Pat Chinnici
3. Virginia...Sue Hutson and Carol Woodson
4. Massachusetts...Brenda Piper
5. North Carolina....Laura Barwick
6. Tennessee...Wanda Elder
7. Mississippi...Nancy Speed
8. Georgia....Margrethe Warden
9. Alabama...Maureen Gibbons
10. Florida...Fred Smith
11. Colorado...Lisa McManus
12. Texas...Kathy Heaton and Jamie Whittaker - "2luvbirds Bird Flock"
13. Texas...Alamo Exhibition Bird Club
14. Bird Endowment – Laney Rickman
15. New Jersey – Yvonne Catena
16. South Dakota – Barbara Paur



*New and returning board members take the oath of office. - photo by Mark Moore*



*Blue and Gold Macaws and an Orange-winged Amazon in the Manu Encounter  
- photo by Matt Schmit*

Special thanks to Cavbirds Golden Nest/Sam & Debbie Cavanaugh and Birds & More/Don Price for donating the cages for this competition.

There was a "jackalope" from South Dakota, \$200 worth of lobsters from Massachusetts, a five foot stuffed catfish from Mississippi, a gorgeous quilt from Colorado and tons of other items too numerous to mention. Based on the response in 2005, it looks like this might be something we will do again in 2006. And there was a side bet between Texas and Massachusetts that got settled at the banquet....

This year, the number of people donating items for the convention was extraordinary. We would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for their generosity:

#### Super Drawing

Dave & Terri Jones – [www.flockstockandbarrel.com](http://www.flockstockandbarrel.com)  
 Jim Avey at Avey, Inc. – [www.aveyinc.com](http://www.aveyinc.com)  
 Loro Parque Foundation – [www.loroparque.org](http://www.loroparque.org)  
 Zupreem – [www.zupreem.com](http://www.zupreem.com)  
 Ideal Purification Systems –  
     [www.freshairliving.com/welder](http://www.freshairliving.com/welder)  
 Folse's Feather Farm - [www.folsefeather.com](http://www.folsefeather.com)  
 Clover Electronics, USA - [www.cloverusa.com](http://www.cloverusa.com)  
 Carol Woodson  
 Tim & Vickie Weaver, Madison, MS -  
     [www.weaverdevelopments.com](http://www.weaverdevelopments.com)  
 Joe & Nancy Speed – [www.ppatchparrots.com](http://www.ppatchparrots.com)

#### Silent Auction

John & Debbie Treanor  
 Joe & Nancy Speed – [www.ppatch.com](http://www.ppatch.com)  
 Robert Queen  
 Mark Hagen of Rolf C. Hagen, Inc. – [www.hagen.com](http://www.hagen.com)  
 Wingdow – [www.wingdow.com](http://www.wingdow.com)

#### Special Raffles

Long's Jewelers – [www.longsjewelers.com](http://www.longsjewelers.com)  
 Joe & Nancy Speed – [www.ppatch.com](http://www.ppatch.com)  
 Mark Hagen of Rolf C. Hagen, Inc. – [www.hagen.com](http://www.hagen.com)  
 Wingdow, LLC

#### Daily Raffles

Mark Hagen of Rolf C. Hagen, Inc. – [www.hagen.com](http://www.hagen.com)  
 NAPA Auto Parts  
 Zupreem  
 Fred Smith  
 Verleen Hopper  
 Julia Stacy  
 Alice Dorman  
 Loro Parque Fundacion - [www.loroparque.org](http://www.loroparque.org)  
 Tangy Design – [www.tangydesign.com](http://www.tangydesign.com)  
 Nancy Jane Bailey  
 Debbie Muldoon  
 Terry Malloy  
 George Cook and Scott MacRobbie of PolyPerch  
     – [www.polyperch.com](http://www.polyperch.com)  
 Marshall Liger  
 Commonwealth Avicultural Society  
 Brenda Piper – [www.quakerparakeet.com](http://www.quakerparakeet.com)  
 Carol Woodson  
 Sue Hutson  
 Margrethe Warden  
 Nancy Speed – [www.ppatch.com](http://www.ppatch.com)  
 Wanda Elder  
 Andean Company – [www.andeancompany.com](http://www.andeancompany.com)  
 June DiCiocco -  
     <http://www.hideawayfarms.com/aviary>  
 Alan McManus, Fine Arts Photography,  
     [conurecare@comcast.net](mailto:conurecare@comcast.net)  
 Myles Lamont on behalf of Hancock Wildlife  
     Research Center  
 Rena Fox - Bird Supply of New Hampshire  
     [www.birdsupplynh.com](http://www.birdsupplynh.com)  
 Swarovski – [www.swarovski.com](http://www.swarovski.com)  
 Avian Biotech  
 Medical Diagnostic Services  
 Smelt Feed  
 Lisa McManus  
 Roberta Tabiano  
 Blockbuster Video  
 Jeff Wasserman of Bird Toys, Etc.

### Banquet Live Auction

Wayne E. Smyth

Mark Hagen of Rolf C. Hagen, Inc. – [www.hagen.com](http://www.hagen.com)

### Vendor Passport Prize

“Bird Talk” magazine - [www.birdtalkmagazine.com/bt/](http://www.birdtalkmagazine.com/bt/)

Loro Parque Fundacion - [www.loroparque.org](http://www.loroparque.org)

Quaker Parakeet Society - <http://www.qp-society.com/>

Innovative Inclosures –

[www.innovativeinclosures.com](http://www.innovativeinclosures.com)

AFA Store – Mark Moore

“Parrot Life” magazine

Rolf C. Hagen, Inc. – [www.hagen.com](http://www.hagen.com)

King’s Cages

Polyperch – [www.polyperch.com](http://www.polyperch.com)

Bird Endowment – [www.birdendowment.org](http://www.birdendowment.org)

National Finch & Softbill Society – [www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org)

Higgins Bird Food

Zupreem – [www.zupreem.com](http://www.zupreem.com)

Gamini & Lisa Ratnavira of Hidden Forest Gallery

-<http://www.gaminiratnavira.com/>

Aviculture Society of America – [www.asabirds.org](http://www.asabirds.org)

Tangy Design – [www.tangydesign.com](http://www.tangydesign.com)

Kaytee Products – [www.kaytee.com](http://www.kaytee.com)

Wingdow – [www.wingdow.com](http://www.wingdow.com)

Zeigler Bros., Inc. – [www.zeiglerfeed.com](http://www.zeiglerfeed.com)

Mazuri – [www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com) AFA Bronze Sponsor

Jewelry & Gifts

Angel Art

Jungle Talk – [www.jungletalk.com](http://www.jungletalk.com)

Arcadia Bird Sanctuary -

[www.arcadiabirdsanctuary.org/](http://www.arcadiabirdsanctuary.org/)

Rare Blue Parrot

Amigos de las Aves USA Parrot Conservation &

Research Fund – [www.parrotfund.org](http://www.parrotfund.org)

International Conure Society – [www.conure.org](http://www.conure.org)

Pretty Bird International Inc. – [www.prettybird.com](http://www.prettybird.com)

Please support the above individuals, companies and organizations that have been so helpful this year.

## **Convention Highlights**

Thursday morning was the start of the actual convention. The convention began with the annual welcome and opening comments from Dr. Benny Gallaway, AFA President, and a very stirring and inspirational key note address from the AFA Legal Counsel, Gary Lilienthal, Esq. (Mr. Lilienthal’s keynote address can be read in its entirety on page 20).

The speaker lineup this year was unparalleled. The topics truly represented the theme of the convention, The Diversity of Aviculture. There was definitely something for everyone, from the single pet parrot

owner to the seasoned aviculturist. Topics included The History of Parrot Jungle, Infectious and Metabolic Diseases of Softbills, Co-parenting Quetzals, Companion African Greys, Spix’ Macaws and many, many more. If you were unable to attend the convention, the Official Proceedings are still available through the AFA online store.



*Four Fabulously dressed convention goers attending the Bird Endowment Specialty meeting. L-R: Kelly Williams, Sandee Molenda, Mark Moore and Dr. Susan Clubb. - photo Matt Baird*

An addition to the speaker lineup, there were also several specialty club meetings, which serve as the annual meeting for many AFA affiliated clubs. A lot of important club business is conducted during these meetings, but they are also a good way to meet people who share interest in the same species and issues.

One unexpected treat of the convention this year was the Hospitality Suite on Thursday night, which was generously sponsored by long time AFA supporter Kathleen Szabo. Everyone had such a good time and it was so well received that Kathleen hosted another Hospitality Suite the following night. Thank you Kathleen for your generosity at this year’s convention and your continuing support of the AFA!!

The banquet on Saturday night was a lot of fun for everyone. The food was very good and the dessert, key lime pie, was the perfect end to the meal. I, for one, could have made an entire meal out of just the pie. AFA President Gallaway made several presentations, including a very special one to Florida Regional Director, Fred Smith, for his work on behalf of AFA Disaster Relief. Once again, several of our affiliated

clubs stepped forward and made generous donations to AFA:

- Birds of a Feather
- Central Mississippi Bird Club, Ltd.
- Quaker Parakeet Society
- West Florida Avian Society

The winners of the Super Drawings were announced at the banquet as well:

Key West trip – Jim Malfitano of Massachusetts

2006 AFA Convention Registration – Rose Mueller of Nevada

Breeder Package – Cathy Henderson of Mississippi

Loro Parque Registration – Tami Baker of Georgia

Belize Trip – Dean Reyes of Florida

Generator – Marilyn Hawley of Arizona

Air Purifier – Laurie Baker of California

Avey Brooder – Jennifer Trescasiro of Florida

The winner of the survey raffle was Penny Wortman of Arizona, who won an iPod Shuffle.

The winner of the Passport prize was Terry Timberlake of Florida.



The winner of the state cage contest; TEXAS!  
- photo by Matt Schmit

The winners of the state cage contest were:

1. TEXAS!
2. Massachusetts
3. South Dakota
4. Florida

There was a side bet between the great states of Texas and Massachusetts such that each would have to sing a state song if the other state won. Because Texas won, the Massachusetts contingent was obligated to sing "Deep in the Heart of Texas" a capella. Luckily, the Texas crew came to their rescue and belted out the song with great gusto. In addition, \$2,000 was raised for the organization from the singing alone (I think someone paid \$2,000 to get them to stop singing! <grin>).

Once again, a wonderful time was had by all. And we're all looking forward to Dallas in 2006 to celebrate "The Beauty of Birds". ■



President Gallaway presenting  
Regional Director Fred Smith with  
an award for his work with the AFA  
Disaster Relief  
- photo by Mark Moore



*"Aussie Matt" Baird feeding a Hyacinth Macaw - photo by Matt Schmit*



*The AFA Red Siskin Project, RSP, booth in the vendor hall at the convention. Ron Castener (left) did an outstanding job with this booth which raised some much needed money for the RSP. Thank you to all who generously donated to this project.  
- photo by Ron Castaner*



*As you can see, everyone was enjoying themselves at the Banquet.  
- photo by Mark Moore*



# Additional Off Site Attractions

For animal and bird lovers, Miami offers several days worth of attractions, including the Miami Metro Zoo and Parrot Jungle Island.

The Miami Metro Zoo was a short drive from our convention hotel and a worthwhile trip. The most notable exhibit in the zoo is the Wings of Asia exhibit. This exhibit was originally completed in 1992 but was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew and had to be rebuilt. It is well planted and features a winding pathway through the exhibit as well as several water features which allow the visitors a chance to view the birds in a more natural setting. With more than 300 Asian birds, it is the largest open-air Asian aviary in the western hemisphere.

Parrot Jungle Island was just across the McArthur causeway from our convention hotel, making it very easy for the convention attendees to visit. Plus, as convention attendees we all received discounted admittance to Parrot Jungle Island, what a treat! Many people who had been to the original Parrot Jungle had expressed that they were apprehensive about going to Parrot Jungle Island because they felt that they would miss the nostalgic "old Florida roadside attraction" appeal. However, the new and improved Parrot Jungle Island did not disappoint. The majority of the parrot collection was housed in spacious flight cages with privacy areas for the birds to retreat to and get away from the public. At the front entrance and along the pathways there were macaws and cockatoos on open perches allowing visitors and chance for an up close interaction with the birds. In addition to the parrots, Parrot Jungle Island also maintains a collection of reptiles, primates and big cats and has three amazing shows that are enjoyable as well as educational. ■



*Great Indian Hornbill at Miami Metro Zoo  
- photo by Matt Baird*



*A view of the Wings of Asia exhibit  
- photo by Matt Schmit*



*Bamboo Partridge hen and chicks in the Wings of Asia exhibit at Miami Metro Zoo  
- photo by Matt Schmit*



*L to R: "Aussie Matt" Baird, Lyrae Perry, Marshall Liger and Katy Secor having a great time at the Miami Metro Zoo following the Convention  
- photo courtesy Katy Secor.*