

# 2006 Convention Highlights

It is always great fun to meet old and new friends at the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) Convention. This year, the convention was held in Dallas, TX. The event was spectacular, from the Dallas Zoo tour, to the 3 days of excellent presentations, to the sumptuous and fun Saturday night banquet. We definitely want to thank Zupreem for their continued generosity and support of the AFA. Zupreem created and distributed a series of 3 great postcards publicizing the convention. The convention would not have been as much of a success if wasn't for their support. Thank you Zupreem!

## Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors started their quarterly meeting at 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 1 and spent the entire day working on AFA business. Another board meeting was held the following Sunday morning. We need to thank the Board members for all their hard work, both at the convention and throughout the year. They are who keep the AFA running, achieving good things and they do a lot of the work which makes the convention successful.

## House of Delegates Meeting

45 members of the House of Delegates met the morning of Wednesday, August 2 where they heard from AFA President Dr. Benny Gallaway on the Fundamentals of Aviculture Course and the membership satisfaction survey results. The delegates also unanimously voted to change the fee structure for the affiliated specialty organizations so they would be more in line with the local affiliated clubs' fee structure. We want to thank the delegates for all their hard work and support of AFA but also for being part of the decision making process.

## Dallas Zoo Tour

The Dallas Zoo tour was Wednesday afternoon after the House of Delegates meeting. About 50 people

boarded the buses to go a short distance to the zoo and ate the provided lunch overlooking the Flamingo Pond. Although Dallas was expected to be very hot, many of the buildings at the zoo were air conditioned, creating an oasis in which to linger. After lunch, people self-toured the zoo. There were frequent motorized vehicles to take those that pre-registered to the "behind the scenes" tours. The Dallas Zoo bird collection contained mostly non-psittacine species such as Marabou Stork, White-bellied Stork, Kori Bustard, Goliath Heron, Brown Pelican, Saddle-billed Stork, Spectacled Owl, Jackson's Hornbill, Wattled Crane, Caribbean Flamingo, Roseate Spoonbill, Scarlet Ibis, Victoria Crowned Pigeon, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, Red-crested Wood Partridge, Hawaiian Goose, Hottentot Teal, White Breasted Cormorant, Beautiful Fruit Dove, Superb Starling, Fairy Bluebird and Bali Mynah. The newly constructed interactive bird exhibit just opened that day and the AFA was the only group allowed to enter.

## Raffles and Auctions

The raffles table was quiet impressive this year. Several people were overheard making the remarks that this year's raffle table was the best in years. There was a huge variety of items on the daily raffles table, from bird food and supplies to artwork and books. There was truly something for everyone. This was a very popular area of the vendor hall and it seemed that all the convention attendees were surrounding this table during the drawings. In addition to the fantastic daily raffle items, there were several superb 3 day raffle items, including a stainless steel ring-stand donated by Bird Cages By Carmen/Animal Environments. Kodi Pinnell from Texas was the lucky winner of this fabulous prize.

The silent auction was once again a huge hit! Debbie and John Treanor did a fabulous job putting together the wonderful assortment of items. THANK YOU Debbie and John!

The "Super 8" drawing was definitely "SUPER"! It was difficult to choose which item to try and win, which might explain why so many people put multiple tickets in for each item. The donors and winners of the Super 8 drawing are as follows:

**Emerald Toucanets Painting**  
Donated by Gamini Ratnavira  
Winner: Alice Luchenta

**Petiatic Brooders with Stand**  
Donated by Joe Freed  
Winner: Georgia Hayes (Georgia graciously presented this prize to Jamie Whittaker)

**Fresh Air Purifier**  
Donated by Ideal Purification Systems  
Winner: Donna Dwyer

**Key West, Florida Vacation**  
Donated by Dave and Terri Jones  
Winner: Doyle Phillips

**Sapphire and Diamond Ring**  
Donated by Nora Schmidt and Pat Chinnici  
Winner: Susan Friedman

**Gold Feather Brooch**  
Donated by Laura Winter of Towne's Jewelers  
Winner: Julia Stacy (Julia graciously presented this prize to Wanda Elder for her work on the convention)

**Avian Adventures Hacienda Parrot Cage**  
Donated by Avian Adventures, Inc.  
Winner: Karen Wolak

**Palm Desert, California Vacation**  
Donated by Wayne Andrews and Michael Bonacich  
Winner: Nora Schmidt

Work has already begun on the 2007 Super 8 prizes and daily drawings. If you have items that you would like to donate, or would like to help with the raffles, please contact Nancy Speed at [MSPPATCH@aol.com](mailto:MSPPATCH@aol.com) or 662-673-8100

If you recall, last year we started a new raffle category, the "State Cage" competition. We initially thought it would be fun for different states to fill a bird cage with items from that state and then hold a raffle for the cages. The state with the most raffle tickets then won the competition and the \$100 prize. Last year, it became obvious that we needed something bigger than a bird cage, so changed it to state "baskets". The state "baskets" were truly works of art; however, to refer

to them as "baskets" is akin to calling a cruise ship a john boat. The items were displayed with pride and professionalism and it was obvious the individuals and clubs who donated to this endeavor worked very hard all year. Once again, the great state of TEXAS sold the most tickets in the state basket contest. The \$100 prize was donated back to AFA! Items for the Texas basket were donated by 2luvbirds, NPRPF, Triangle Bird Club, River City Bird Club, Alamo Exhibition Bird Club, Poly Perch and Barbara Heidenreich. The winners of the state basket drawing were:

Arizona--Myrlene Carraway  
Colorado--Laurie McGivern  
Florida--Rocky Mooney  
Nevada--Kathy Bachleda  
New Mexico--Nancy Speed  
Texas--Lisa McManus  
Virginia--Jan Cheney

Thank you all for your support of AFA!

### Lectures and Workshops

Thursday morning began with the annual opening address from AFA President Dr. Benny Gallaway and a very entertaining keynote address from David



*The stainless steel ring-stand donated by Bird Cages by Carmen/Animal Environments.*

Waugh, Director of Conservation for the Loro Parque Fundación (Mr. Waugh's key note address can be found on page 27).

The speaker lineup this year was well balanced, representing conservation, companion bird and breeder interests alike. From world renowned avicultural icon Dick Schroeder's presentation on lories to Bird Talk editor Melissa Kauffman's discussion of The Lifestyle Movement: People, Pets and Products; the diversity of speakers spanned many generations and experiences and the topics were enjoyed by all. On one hand, there was Lynn Hall who has been practicing aviculture for 75 years and was as enthusiastic and provocative as ever speaking on fruit doves and the differences between being an aviculturist and a bird breeder. On the other were "The Kids from Canada": Bryan Emery and Myles Lamont, both up and coming aviculturists who represent the future of Canadian aviculture. The span of years would have been even greater if Arthur Douglas, who celebrated his 90th birthday on June 1, had not been feeling ill at the time of the convention and therefore unable to be present during the showing of pictures from his intricate notebook, which was the conclusion of the speaker topics. Although Arthur Douglas was unable to be present during Natalie Lindholm's presentation of his notebook, Virginia Baker and other members of the Dallas Bird Society (which Arthur Douglas founded) provided ample fond tribute.

In addition to the speakers, we offered a 4 hour workshop Saturday morning on parrot behavior and training by animal trainer extraordinaire, Barbara Heidenreich. Barbara generously donated her time for this workshop, and we were able to offer this educational opportunity to our attendees at no additional charge.

### Banquet

The Saturday night banquet is the climax of the convention. This was a fun night filled with music, pre-

dinner festivities, silent auctions, presentation of Presidential Awards, announcements of the Big 8 drawing prizes, and the live auction.

The pre-dinner festivities gave everyone a chance to socialize. Individuals bidding on the silent auction items stood guard to make sure no one overbid them. Inside the banquet hall, the dinner tables were beautifully decorated by the Houston-based "2luvbirds" flock.

President Benny Gallaway presented his Presidential Awards to several of the attendees. Awards were given to the individuals who were involved in the AFA Disaster Relief during Hurricane Katrina, helping to distribute food and other assistance to hurricane victims throughout the Gulf Coast. Recipients were Jean Jordan, Rick Jordan, Matt Schmit, Genny Wall, and Margrethe Warden. A special award was presented to Carol Brasaemle for her many years of service to the AFA, and most recently for her work on the AFA In Brief. An Ostrich egg, with a Palm cockatoo head painted on it by renowned bird artist Gamini Ratnavira, was presented to outgoing Secretary Mary Ellen LePage.

AFA Store Manager Mark Moore then conducted the live auction. The winning bidders of the three paintings by Wayne E. Smyth depicting the theme birds for the convention were Lynn Hall, Dick Schroeder and Genny Wall (who donated the painting back to AFA to be re-sold). Thank you all very much for your support.

The banquet ended with a blast. Live music by the Charlie Crane band (perfect name, eh?) filled the banquet hall and got everyone moving. We want to thank the 2luvbirds flock for sponsoring the live music and for providing a perfect end to a wonderful convention. ■

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Convention attendees tour the bird department at the Dallas Zoo. Photo by Matt Baird



During the convention banquet, Dr. Gallaway presented Presidential Awards recognizing individuals who went above and beyond to offer disaster relief during Hurricane Katrina (left to right) Matt Schmit (also accepting for Jean Jordan), Margrethe Warden, Dr. Gallaway, Mark Moore (accepting for Rick Jordan) and Genny Wall. Photo by Myles Lamont



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New Hampshire State Coordinator Rena Fox makes friends with a Guira Cuckoo at the Dallas Zoo. Photo by Myles Lamont



AFA President Dr. Benny Gallaway (left) presenting a presidential award to AFA In Brief editor, Carol Brasaemle (right), for her eight years of service. Photo by Linda Rubin.



The Ocellated Turkey is uncommon in the U.S. The Dallas Zoo has been very successful breeding this species the last few years and has been able to supply other zoos with these birds. Photo by Myles Lamont



Blue-bellied Roller – Photo by Myles Lamont

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(left to right) Laney Rickman, Mark Moore, Sandee Molenda and Kelly Williams pose for a quick photo during the Bird Endowment Party on Friday night. Notice the Blue-throated Macaw necklaces, which were graciously provided by Laney and the rest of the Bird Endowment to everyone who attended the party. Photo by Matt Baird



A view of some of the State Baskets spread out next to AFA Raffle Table. The Texas State Basket (middle) was again the winning basket in the State Basket competition. Photo by Linda Rubin



Outgoing AFA Secretary Mary Ellen LePage (left) accepts a Presidential Award for her service to the AFA. Photo by Myles Lamont



Speaker Dr. Susan Friedman and Dr. Gallaway's Granddaughter Jessica show off their "Bling" during the banquet. Jessica drew Dr. Friedman's winning ticket for the Sapphire and Diamond ring donated by Nora Schmidt and Pat Chinnici. Photo by Myles Lamont



Saddle-billed Stork at the Dallas Zoo. Photo by Myles Lamont



Dallas Zoo senior bird keeper Jocelyn Womack explains to the convention attendees how the Dallas Zoo Bird Department is so successful with the birds in their collection. Jocelyn, along with fellow senior bird keeper Sherry Mossbarger, gave a wonderful presentation on Saddle-billed Storks, a species the Dallas Zoo is well known for. Photo by Matt Baird



*Gail Shepard and Denise Winslow of Zupreem enjoy lunch at the Dallas Zoo before touring the bird department. Photo by Matt Baird*



*Sam and Debbie Cavanaugh (left) discuss wildlife art with Lisa and Gamini Ratnavira (right). Gamini and Lisa donated a beautiful painting of two Emerald Toucanets to this year's Super 8 drawing. Photo by Matt Schmit*



*Dick Schroeder speaks on lories and lorikeets to a very interested audience. The Stella's Lorikeet, one of Dick's favorite species, was the convention theme bird. Photo by Matt Schmit*



*Speaker and Bird Behaviorist Barbara Heidenreich conducted a special Parrot Behavior Seminar on Saturday and was available at her booth to answer questions in the exhibit hall. Photo by Linda Rubin*



*Long time aviculturist Lynn Hall (left) was the winning bidder for one of the three spectacular paintings of the Stella's Lorikeet by Wayne E. Smyth (right). Photo by Myles Lamont*