

AN ORGANIZATION WITH A MISSION



Have you ever thought, maybe even out loud, "How can I find out more about this or that?" In the last few years everyone I talk to says, "Go online – the Internet! That's where all the answers are." Well, maybe I am still just a little old school, but have you noticed how many experts there are on the internet with very impressive websites?

Everybody seems to have become super smart overnight. Oh the power of the spin (website) and the absolute power of the printed word! At this point I would like to suggest that you consider your choices and your sources of knowledge. We used to esteem and measure knowledge by experience, longevity and success. There are many great and credible websites out there, but can you tell the difference between the credible ones and the websites that just look great and have partial or misleading information?

Don't despair – hope is here. The American Federation of Aviculture has and will continue to follow our mission statement, "The mission and purpose of AFA is promote the advancement of aviculture through educational programs that enable better husbandry, management, and living conditions for exotic birds; promote avian research and conservation of exotic birds; keep our members aware of legislative issues that affect aviculture and aviculturists and keep legislators aware of the need for fair and equitable regulations. The goal of AFA is to insure long-term, self-sustaining populations of exotic birds both in captivity and in the wild."

Our 34th Annual Convention "Celebration of Birds" will be held in St Louis, Missouri. We will have credible and proven speakers, specialists from the many areas of aviculture and much, much more. Not only do we offer our annual convention, and have for 34 years, we now have certification available under our Fundamentals of Aviculture course Level I and soon to offer Level II (in the works as I write this). For furthering your education in aviculture, I highly recommend taking the AFA Fundamentals of Aviculture course. You are really missing out if you haven't yet and if you have, recommend it to a friend! Plus for our Girl Scouts of America friends, we have the Aviculture Badge Program (don't forget the grassroots).

This summer when you attend this year's convention in St. Louis, look around and measure the years of success and experience in the speakers and the Board of Directors of AFA. I'll bet you'll run out of fingers and toes to count on!

Jim C. Hawley, Jr.
President, American Federation of Aviculture

ANIMAL GROUPS JOIN TOGETHER

by **Jamie Whittaker**

Chehalis, Washington may only have a population of 7,057 people, but on Saturday, February 23, 2008, more than 1500 were at the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association annual event. Everyone had an opportunity to meet and interact with animals, reptiles and birds that they have never seen before.

They handled snakes, they petted furry animals, they saw the tortoises and even howled with a Grey Wolf. The Grand Finale for the event was the stage show by Predators of the Heart, presenting cougars, a wolf, an American Alligator, an Augur Buzzard, an Eagle Owl and various snakes for entertainment and education.

AFA Washington State Coordinator, Julie Corwin, brought the parrot display to life. There were macaws and cockatoos, caiques, a Hawk-headed Parrot and even a little parrotlet. It was a wonderful opportunity for the public to meet and interact with parrots. The Olympic Bird Fanciers and the Northwest Exotic Bird Society presented educational information, trick training and a flight demonstration.

There were educational talks presented by experts in many fields. The attendees learned about taking care of their new reptile, making toys for birds and training with positive reinforcement. There was a presentation on emerging zoonoses and epizootics (epidemics in animals) of a global scale. They had an opportunity to talk to Animal Communicator, Shirley Scott and hear her presentation about children and animals. There was also a presentation from the Washington State Representatives Richard Debolt and Gary Alexander regarding legislative issues and exotic animals.

This event was free to the public and was presented by the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Organization. The organization was founded in 1999 as a community service organization composed of active members working to protect and maintain the rights of private ownership through responsible behavior.

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