

# A Message from the President



As the 41st annual conference approaches, one can't help but to look back from where we've come and how we started on those infamous courthouse steps in 1974. We also look into the future as to where we are headed.

I know personally I've been fortunate enough to meet numerous, great individuals throughout these past many years while serving AFA in multiple capacities. And over this time, we have lost far too many as well. The mentors of the past, several of whom are gone now, have blazed a path

that we as aviculturists try to keep alive, and as new and difficult challenges come our way, we meet head-on.

There are many new chapters on the horizon that we need to participate in their writing to ensure that we can continue to enjoy and appreciate the birds that brighten our daily lives. Looking over the new generation of aviculturists, the potential of new mentors for the next generation is bright.

I would like to acknowledge those who have supported AFA over years in our common goals and supported our mission. Those who have donated their money, volunteered their time and talents, supported our causes and have been hands-on during times of natural disasters are the foundation of AFA.

As president for the past five years, it has been my pleasure to serve AFA and as my tenure comes to a close; I wish the new Board of Directors success in the future. In the capable hands of your elected officers, AFA will continue the fight for everyone's right to keep birds and stand up against unfair and unreasonable legislation presented by our opponents.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago as we are "Celebrating the Diversity of Aviculture" at our fun-filled conference: where we come together to meet old friends and make many more new ones, share knowledge and experiences and express new ideas.

It has been an honor.

In friendship,

*Nancy Speed*



Photo by Shane Hancock

This ad cost \$20. But more importantly it helps the AFA and aviculture. Why...because a future without birds is no future for me...

Rick Jordan  
[www.hillcountryaviaries.com](http://www.hillcountryaviaries.com)



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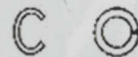
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