

2015 Convention Recap:

ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AVIAN EXPO

By Concetta Ferragamo

The American Federation of Aviculture

41st Annual Convention
July 29-Aug 1, 2015 | Chicago, Illinois



"Celebrating the Diversity of Aviculture"

The 2015, AFA Annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo was a delightful success, where everyone united with distant friends and made the acquaintance of many new ones. Like minded avian enthusiasts gathered from all over the United States and abroad. It was common to hear people share stories about how they developed some of their most genuine and closest friendships, which started from meeting one another at an AFA convention from long ago. The Chicago convention seemed to keep this dynamic tradition with the meeting of speakers and social media "friends" in person.

There was a diverse range in avicultural topics from the 33 presentations for attendees to choose. There were two off-site tours at historical zoos. One favorite session was the full-group evening session held on Wednesday night, where all attendees were able to participate in the same presentation together. The Wednesday night kick-off featured two interactive workshops presented by Jason Crean and Elise Franchi and then Robin Shewokis. In a nutshell, the action was nonstop (morning, noon and night) from Wednesday morning straight through late Sunday afternoon. While the convention technically starts on Thursday morning—it has long been practiced to get things started on Wednesday with the HOD meeting and then onto the first off-site tour, closing the evening with a social event of some sort.

The AFA has made some exciting conference updates that every aviculturist (bird owner) should be a part of. The AFA annual conference is an off-the-chart, professional three day event that caters to all facets of aviculture. The annual AFA conference hosts national and international presentations representing all avicultural topics. This is the go-to bird owners' educational organization for the United States, where people get to meet one another in person, learn and share.

Intriguing presentations blended with educational and scientific research covering a wide range of bird related topics about: nutrition updates, medical updates, new products, behavior, training, social media, rescue, shelter, breeder, clubs/orgs and more. When you attend an AFA convention, be prepared to become star struck, you never know you will end up hobnobbing with at the snack or coffee bars: authors, large manufactures, famous vets, published doctors, behavior consultants and/or specialists, business owners, organization presidents, etc.



L to R: 2016 Board of Directors sworn in. (Credit: Mark Moore) Carol Woodson and friend. (Credit: Ivan Fruge') Nancy Speed and Dr. Janice Boyd. (Credit: Mark Moore) Below: Jason Crean and Georgia Hayes (Credit: Ivan Fruge')

Bird clubs and bird specialty organizations held large, individual group meetings. The AFA convention is the ideal venue to meet other members face to face and share ideas, especially for the clubs and groups that have members spread throughout the United States and/or internationally. That being said, please note that any AFA affiliated club or organization is welcome to hold their own group meeting during a designated, evening time-slot. Just notify the convention coordinator in advance.

Here is the speaker list and presentation topics for the 2015 educational conference for those of you that missed it.

Wednesday:

Jason Crean, MA, MS & Elise Franchi, BA The Beak Speaks: Interactive workshop on natural selection

Robin Shewokis, BS All Birds Are Not Created Equal

Thursday:

Keynote Speaker, Scott McDonald, DVM Aviculture and Pet Birds in the Last 30 Years from an Avian Veterinarian's Perspective

Francine Andersen Showing Your Parrot: The Ins and Outs

Josee Bermingham, AHT Hormones: What's All the Fuss About?

April Blazich, MAgr Herb Salad: Turning Seasonal into Year Round

C. B. Buckley New Evidence of Interspecies Communication

Tatiana Tatum-Parker, PhD & Jason Crean, MA, MS Your Bird's Inner Dinosaur

Richard Revis and Jason Crean, MA, MS Keeping and Breeding Aracaris

Peter S. Sakas, DVM The Amazing Cloaca; The Fine Art of Poopology (The importance of droppings evaluation)

Chris Touchton Lory Aviary Management

Susan van den Broek, BS & Rob Milko, MA, MBA What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

Jamie Whittaker, CPBC Reinforcement or Punishment: What's the Difference and How Can You Tell

AFA4KIDZ/AFA JAYS: Miel Niemann The Life of a Senegal and **Naomi Niemann** Budgies

Friday:

Brian Coyle, PhD Red Siskin Project

Concetta Ferragamo, BA Behavior and Exercise within a Cage or Enclosure

Rob Horsburgh, BS Bee Keeping as a Conservation Tool for Endangered Parrots

Sandy Lender, BA Why and How to Promote Companion Parrot Ownership: Days of AR Activities

Josef Lindholm, III Red Billed Fire Finches

Adrienne Mock, BA Smoke and Mirrors: Through the Looking Glass of AR

Hilla Niemann, MSc, CPBC What Parrots Teach us About Being Human

Robert D. Ness, DVM Laser Therapy in Pet Birds

Bob Skrable The Status of Lories and Lorikeets in the U.S.

Amanda Villacreses, BS Bridging the Aviculture Divide; Why Agreeing to Disagree is Not Enough

Buddy Waskey Free Flight: An Improved Lifestyle

Genny Wall, JD, Janice Boyd, PhD Evening Legislative Workshop

AFA4KIDZ/AFA JAYS: Miel Niemann The Life of a Senegal and **Naomi Niemann** Budgies

Saturday:

Patricia Anderson, PhD, CPBC Further Investigation into the Human Avian Bond

Susan Clubb, DVM, ABVP Assessing your Bird for Breeding

Caroline Efstathion, MS Integrated Pest Management to Control Insects Around your Bird

David and Shay Loy Falconry

Jennifer Murtoff What the Flock? Common issues Facing Urban Chicken Keepers



Rainer Niemann, PhD 25 years of the Fund for Endangered Species

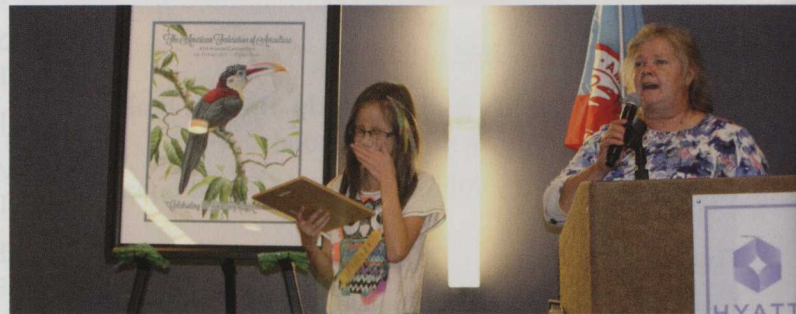
Quinton Pyle Stories from the Incubation Room: Problem Solving from Day 0

Tim Snyder The Challenges of Managing a Bird Collection for Long Term Sustainability

The AFA speaker committee is dedicated to lining up impressive, avicultural presentations that meet the interests of our attendees. If you or anyone that you know of that might want to present a talk at an AFA convention, please contact our Speaker Chair and inquire about the Call for Papers and how to present an abstract, speakerchair@afabirds.org.

If you have not treated yourself to an AFA convention in the past or maybe haven't been to one in a long time, then you are really missing out on an incredible experience. Start planning ahead and join us for the upcoming 2016 conference and avian expo in Cromwell, CT (right outside of Hartford). For those who like to budget, there is a convention pre-payment savings plan connected to the registration tab (found at www.afabirds.org) listed under the convention tab. Go to registration and simply follow the menus and make payments in any increment. The money deposited will go toward your 2016 trip. This is a very helpful option for people who like to budget. We look forward to seeing you next year in Connecticut.

Top to Bottom: Mary Ellen LePage presents. Mark Moore emcees the Live Auction. (Credits: Ivan Fruge) Essay Award given to Ella Villacreses. (Credit: Mark Moore)



SAVE THE DATE AUG 4-6, 2016

The American Federation of
Aviculture, Inc.

42nd Annual Convention

Crowne Plaza Hartford—Cromwell, CT

"Conservation Works"

AFA Office | Phone: 512-585-9800

P.O. Box 91717 | Austin, Texas 78709-1717 | www.afabirds.org

