

# TAMPA '88

14th ANNUAL CONVENTION

by Phyllis Martin,  
National Convention Chairman  
Tampa, Florida

The Parrots and Pirates have come and gone from Tampa but not without a lot of good memories, lasting friendships formed and bonded, and a proud smile on the faces of the 14th annual committee personnel of a job well done.

AFA started the convention activities with a smashing get-together of board of director members, foreign visitors, speakers, and committee personnel. The attendance was so great we had to order additional Swedish meatballs (at a private party?). The party got underway and was in full swing while President Tom Marshall conducted an executive board meeting next door.

After the meeting, the executive board members moved into the party room and started mingling with the group. While I was busy meeting Joe Cuddy and Tony Pittman of the United Kingdom and introducing them to others in the room including Eric Peake, and Dwight and Beth Greenberg, two committee personnel who just returned from England, Davis, Vicki, Chuck, Dallas and the others were meeting with other visitors. Moving from group to group, I learned that Juan Santiago was visiting from Puerto Rico and Fraser MacDonald from Nova Scotia and welcomed them to the convention. I soon realized that we had a great group of people already at the hotel preparing for the convention activities and would probably have the best attended board meeting AFA has ever had. Toward the end of the party, Dr.

Jorgen B. Thomsen of World Wildlife Fund wandered into the party. He had just arrived in Tampa after about a 17-hour flight and was scheduled to speak the next day during the afternoon session of the board meeting. I left the party around midnight because I knew we would have to be up bright and early the next day to get people registered for the convention.

I was up at 6:00 a.m. Wednesday in order to set up the registration desk and open the hall so the services company could prepare for exhibitors and guess what? No one there except me, so I wandered down to the restaurant for a cup of coffee. Much to my surprise there sat Cal and Dale Kimura eating breakfast and anxious to start to work. After breakfast, we started moving boxes of AFA materials from my hotel room down to the registration area. We had to set up a temporary registration desk using hotel tables because our drayage company still had not arrived. What a start for the first busy day of the convention but my staff was marvelous. Paul and Jean Thorpe and Beth and Dwight Greenberg showed up shortly and started helping out with registration. By the end of the day we had registered another 200 people over and above the pre-registrations. Things were definitely looking up for AFA.

By 9:00 a.m. the board of directors meeting had started. (Tom Marshall requested a later-than-usual start for this meeting. Too much partying going on, you think?) But everyone was in good form and ready to hit the meetings with open minds and open hearts.

Kayla Snyder, Nominations and Elections Committee, was asked to address the board at the start of the meeting to give us the results of the

election. The 1988-89 officers are: Linda Sun, Southern California Regional Vice President; Dick Dickinson, Northern California Regional Vice President; Jeri Wright, Northwestern Regional Vice President; Opal Crosser, Western Regional Vice President; Jack Clinton-Eitniew, South Central Regional Vice President; James McCabe, North Central Regional Vice President; Bill Wilson, Mid-eastern Regional Vice President; Chuck Saffell, Southeast Regional Vice President; Dallas Johnson, Northeastern Regional Vice President; Vicki Fletcher, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Secretary; Davis Koffron, 2nd Vice President; Phyllis Martin, 1st Vice President; and Thomas Marshall, President.

**Our thanks to Jeanette and Ed Huston for their winning bid on the s/n "Spix Macaw" print of Eric Peake's painting. This was a special auction at the Tampa convention with proceeds going to the AFA Conservation Fund.**

During the board meeting it was announced that the 15th annual convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, at The Pointe at South Mountain Resort Hotel August 8-13, 1989.

The 16th annual convention will be held in the Baltimore, Maryland or Washington, D.C. area as voted by the board.

The morning session of the board meeting included information about the Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and AFA's position, conservation projects supported by AFA grants, legislative matters pertaining to aviculture especially in Pennsylvania and Michigan. The board commended Judy Barnes, Loretta Owen, and Mike Underwood for the outstanding job they did in curbing the Michigan legislative action.

This year President Marshall invited three speakers, Marshall Meyers of Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Dr. Jorgen Thomsen, World Wildlife Fund TRAFFIC (USA), and Dr. Greg Harrison, Bird Hospital, Lake Worth, Florida to address the board meeting in the afternoon because he felt each of these persons had something important to say to us, the aviculturists. He stated each of the speakers would address the board and then the

Photo by Chris Christman



Pearl and Mort Skoll (L and C) and Karen Feltz (with mascot "Chi Chi" on her glasses) share informal discussion. Pearl is president of Sun Coast Avian Society. Karen is AFA delegate for S.C.A.S. Chi Chi saw a great deal of the convention from this vantage point.

floor would be open for questions and answers.

I fully recommend all of you purchase the cassette tapes of the board of directors meeting. There is an order form located in *Watchbird* for your convenience. If you were unable to attend the convention, you can also purchase tapes of the seminars given and, believe me, we had an outstanding group of speakers.

Around noon exhibitors started arriving and getting anxious about setting up their booths. The fever had started to spread. This is it! The convention is underway and what a great time we all are going to have.

After the board meeting the convention attendees started visiting with each other in the hospitality room which was fully sponsored by Suncoast Avian Society of St. Petersburg, Florida. By this time our beautiful welcome sign was placed in the lobby of the hotel. This sign was purchased by Bill Rodgers of Pirates Treasure Cove, Gibsonton, Florida. Bill was of immense help to me in preparing this convention, especially the decorations and entertainment.

While everyone was having fun, the committee staff was still busy rearranging the registration and selling area of AFA along with the exhibitors putting last minute touches on their booth spaces. I had enticed the exhibitors to decorate their booths with the "Parrots & Pirates" theme and was thoroughly surprised with the amount of work some of our exhibitors had put into making their exhibit space an attractive piece of art. For example, Jeannie Pattison, T.J. Auto-graphics, had a beautiful airbrushed backdrop scene of pirates landing on a tropical beach with macaws flying

Photo by Chris Christman



Ruth Fisher did a fine job as hospitality room bartender.

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Dale R. Thompson, Avy Awards chairman in background at microphone, announced the Avy Awards at the AFA Tampa '88 convention. Tom Marshall, AFA president (C), presented awards to the winning team of Ramon Noegel (R) and Gregg Moss (L) for first time U.S. breedings of red-crowned Amazons, yellow-lored Amazons, Parvipes Amazons, and diademed Amazons.



Rod Barth (L) was awarded two U.S. first breeding awards for the channel-billed toucan and chestnut-eared aracari.

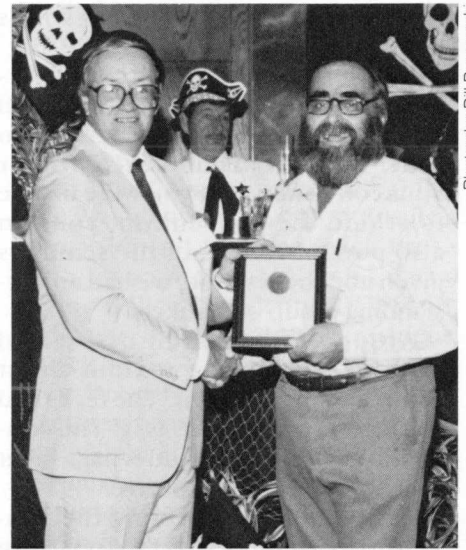


Carolyn Goodman received a silver avy award for winning "best cockatiel in show" under three or more judges during a year.

overhead for the booth space she shared with Carlson's Specialty Seed. She also had a life-size wooden pirate standing guard over the booth. Not to be outdone, Bill Brown of Great Lakes Pet Supplies, Tampa, came dressed as a handsome and debonair pirate displaying a treasure chest of bird accessories. Several of AFA's affiliated clubs were really enthusiastic about decorating their booths as well. The American Cockatiel Society, Suncoast Avian Society and the Sunshine State Cage Bird Society received honorable mention in the judging contest of the exhibit spaces. My hat is off to all of the clubs that help make our exhibit hall a most attractive and educational area for visitors.

The winner of the best exhibit space of the 14th annual convention was Rita and Rod Hanson of Rodrita's Toys, 2904 Emerald, Memphis, Tennessee. They did an outstanding job of coming up with original ideas. Rita dressed as a bird with a pirate on her shoulder. Her husband, Rod, dressed as a pirate captain of the ship *Rodrita's* and throughout the convention he sat behind the ship's wheel and had a pirate flag flying from the mast. The Hansons had a beautiful tropical beach backdrop to their booth also and their own pet scarlet macaw was part of the scene helping to demonstrate the unique wooden and mechanical toys designed by Rodrita's. Rita and Rod have been awarded two round-trip coach airline tickets to San Diego, California. They plan to go to the National Cage Bird Show and visit San Diego's zoo and wild animal park.

Since aviculturists are known as early birds, we were all prepared to meet in the lecture hall at 8:00 a.m. Thursday morning to hear the keynote address of Rosemary Low regarding the American breeder's role in conservation which put our thinking caps on. And while we were still in a thoughtful mood, Richard Schubot told us about what makes for the good life of a cockatoo. Richard is really dedicated to his avian friends and he projected his feelings about his achievements and disappointments so well there was laughter and tears shared by many in the audience. Due to the tremendous demand for the continuation of his talk, Richard agreed to talk again on Friday. The remainder of the day heralded noted aviculturists sharing their experience and knowledge with those attending



Richard Schubot (R) earned a U.S. first breeding award for the red breasted musk parrot.



Ron Johnson (L) received three U.S. first breeding awards for red wattled lapwing, orange bellied leaf bird and red rumped green woodpecker.



Ron Morris (R), of the North Carolina Zoo, won a U.S. first breeding award for the pied barbet.

the convention.

Later in the afternoon we saw a new trend for AFA. The meetings of the specialty societies, which in the past had basically been annual meetings of these organizations, received a tremendous attendance response. The societies' meetings included a short business meeting but, in part, included sharing of experiences and knowledge about a particular species or group of birds. Several of the meetings had up to 100 persons in attendance, especially the touraco and softbill meeting, the Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors, and the International Softbill Society.

I spent most of my time at the registration desk and got to renew friendships with many arriving during the day. It was a delight to see Darel Cavender again as he and I shared a lot of hours working on past AFA conventions. It was also a pleasure to talk with Jeannette and Ed Huston and Ray Kotz. A special delight was to welcome Jeff Puryear to our convention again. While picking up his registration packet, Jeff presented us with a \$50 donation to the CITES fund. While I was busy typing name tags, Anthony Giunta from Philadelphia and Patrick Dunn and Cherie Bright of Hawaii tried to sneak in but were spotted by their AFA and Tampa friends right away.

There were a couple of mix-ups on registrations due to last minute remittance to the California office, however, Christine Collins and David Longstaff took it in stride and were very patient with us. I thank them both and do hope they had a great time while in Tampa.

Even after spending long hours in the lecture hall and meeting rooms, people were still geared up for more bird talk and mingling that evening. The hospitality room was packed with people with the overflow visiting Blueberry Hill and the shops at Harbor Island. Not so the exhausted committee help, they hid away in the Saltwaters Restaurant for a late dinner and relaxation.

Back at it again on Friday morning. Ramon Noegel and Gregg Moss were the eye openers for the 8:00 a.m. lecture, "Long-range Success in Amazon and Other Avian Husbandry: the Secrets, Tears and Triumphs of an Older Aviculturist." We also learned from Kathy Lyon and Barry Wold that we, as aviculturists, can fight and win against damaging proposed bird legislation.

During AFA's Friday luncheon, President Marshall presented in-house appreciation awards to: the Western World Pet Supply Association for their outstanding contributions and support of AFA; Mrs. Mike Simmons for 14 years of outstanding service to AFA as state coordinator and board member; Dick Ivy for contributions given to the bird clubs of Virginia; the Arizona Avicultural Society and the Greater Miami Avicultural Society for outstanding support and contributions to AFA.

Also during the luncheon, Presi-

dent Marshall presented me with the AFA Membership Award for obtaining the highest number of members to AFA during the year — over 125. Davis Koffron, AFA's 2nd vice president, was presented with the President's Award for work over and beyond the normal duties required of his position.


The big day arrived for many. Saturday is the end of the convention program for many persons traveling from out of state. Terry Dunham speaking about Australian finches and Dale Thompson lecturing about

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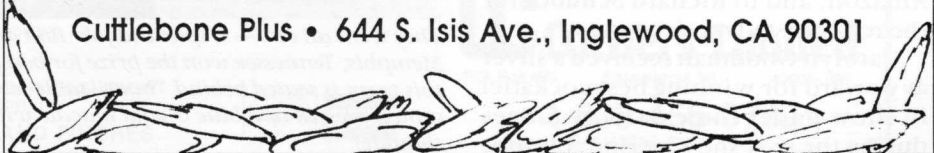
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husbandry of macaws started our day. And at 10:00 a.m. Chris Davis, America's famous bird lady, gave a "hands-on" taming seminar using a live model to demonstrate her techniques. Chris' lectures, given twice on Saturday and Sunday, were free to the public and attendees alike. My thanks to Kaytee Products for sponsoring Chris' trip to Tampa. This program was a huge success, both for AFA and for those attending.

Prior to the banquet, Morgan Knox, Diana Marshall, Betty Tanner, Bob McMorris and Elaine Kraengel were busy wrapping foil around live potted plants decorating each with a paper parrot and pirate flag. These plants were the centerpieces for each of the tables at the banquet. And to cap it off, the committee group got in and hustled to decorate the ballroom with pirate hats, eye patches, beads and a skull ring for each plate setting. While this activity was going on, Bill Rodgers and Betty Tanner were decorating the head table and the dance stages with flags, treasure chests, palms and other tropical plants. All of this was accomplished within an hour and when the doors opened to admit our convention attendees I was very proud. The committee group did a great job.

This year our banquet held a few surprises. Upon completion of dinner, gypsies invaded our gathering. They enticed President Marshall and Rod Barth to join them on the stage to learn the art of belly dancing. Both guys were great sports and we all were able to relax and release tensions built up over the last four days.

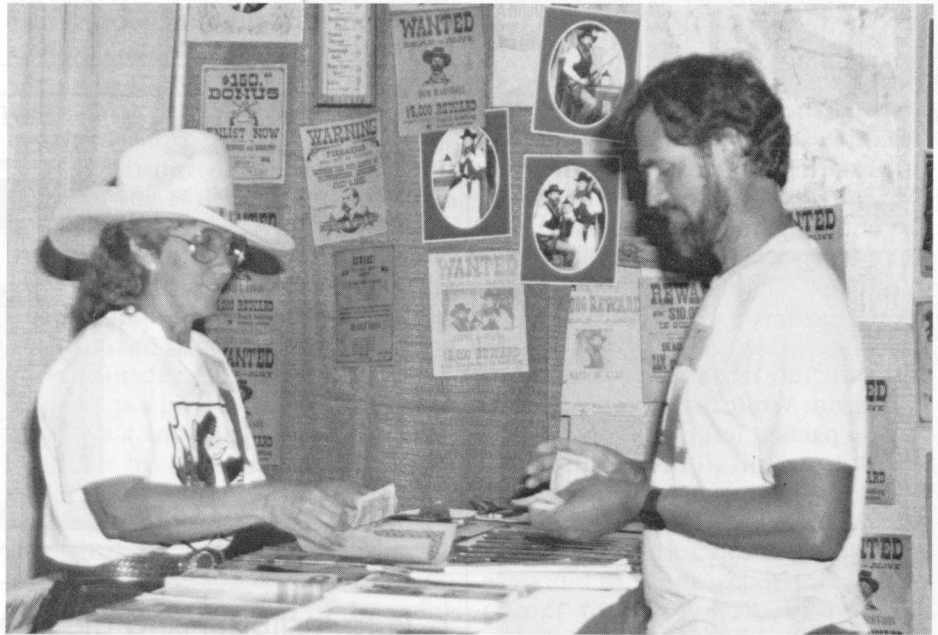
After his dancing lesson, President Marshall thanked everyone for attending the convention and turned the floor over to Dale Thompson, chairman of the Avy Awards committee, who presented the following awards:

First U.S. Breeding Awards to: Ron Morris for pied barbet; Dick Muench for black-necked aracari; Rod Barth for channel-billed toucan and chestnut-eared aracari; Ron Jackson for red-wattled lapwing, orange-bellied leafbird and red-rumped green woodpecker; Ramon Noegel and Greg Moss of Life Fellowship for red-crowned Amazon, yellow-lored Amazon, parvipes Amazon, and diademed Amazon, and to Richard Schubot for the red-breasted musk parrot.

Carolyn Goodman received a silver avy award for winning best cockatiel in show under three or more judges during the past show season. Eleanor

Cooley was presented a gold award for outstanding service and contribution to the field of aviculture; an avy service award was presented to Kathy Lyon, Beryl Moss, Dick Schroeder, Nancy Vigran and Barry Wold for special service given to the field of aviculture through the Los Angeles Avian Council. This year a special international gold avy award was presented to Rosemary Low for her outstanding contribution in the field of aviculture.

During the evening the Tampa pirates collected the treasure chests from each table which had accumulated donations and pledges from those in attendance for research, conservation, CITES, legislative matters and for the general operating fund. You will find a listing of those who donated in *Watchbird* and our committee thanks each and every one of you for your generous donations. After the business of the convention was brought to an end, the Arizona



Chairperson for the 1989 AFA Convention, Opal Crosser (L) took care of the sheriff's office duties. After being hauled in for various misdemeanors, Barry Wold made a generous donation to the AFA Arizona cause. Don't take these AZ folks for mean or heartless — \$3 could get you out of trouble — as they were burtin' for jail space and the vittles was runnin' low.



They went all out — a splendid job! Rod and Rita Hanson (Rodrita's Toys for Birds) of Memphis, Tennessee won the prize for best theme-decorated exhibit. The "Rod" part of this team is seated behind "boat" table while the Rita part (R) wandered through the crowd dressed as a blue & gold macaw with her mini-human mascot perched on her shoulder.

Photo by Chris Christman

Photo by Bill Posnanski

cowboys and sheriffs took over the meeting capturing the Tampa pirates. Opal Crosser presented us with a short program about the 1989 convention scheduled for Phoenix and asked that each of you attend. Many of you who were "arrested" during the Tampa convention must report in during the next convention or suffer fines for "no show" on the bail posted.

The evening ended with the *Maximum Headroom* band doing an outstanding show and entertainment along with some great dancing music. Sean Stoddard, Davis and Barbara Koffron, Elaine and Bob McMorris still had the energy to dance the night away. Mary Watkins even taught us a new dance called the "Cockatoo." Most of the people did not stay for the entertainment and all I can say for folks is that you missed having a great time.

Sunday was an outstanding attendance day for AFA. Our veterinarian seminar program, chaired by Dr. Susan Clubb, was one of the best to date. We had 220 persons packing the room to learn more about the prevention and cure of many diseases plaguing aviculturists today. While these

lectures were going on, business was still booming at the registration desk. Wolfgang Kiessling and Ms. Feier of Tenerife, Spain, arrived and were immediately surrounded by American aviculturists. The public was still coming in to visit AFA's activities, particularly the exhibit hall. Chris Davis drew record numbers at her lectures on taming techniques.

The final drawing of raffle tickets was held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday and we had a hundred or more people surrounding the registration desk listening for their names to be called. Lots of newcomers and visitors were winners of the drawings and excitement was high. For those who were not present during the drawings a list of winners is listed in *Watchbird* for your convenience.

By 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening the majority of the people had returned to their respective homes or were packing up to leave; the exhibit hall was clearing out fast; and just a few of the committee staff were left to clear up and pack away all of the convention materials. We had everything in boxes by 9:00 p.m. and now came the hard job of transporting the boxes back to my home. Thanks to the help

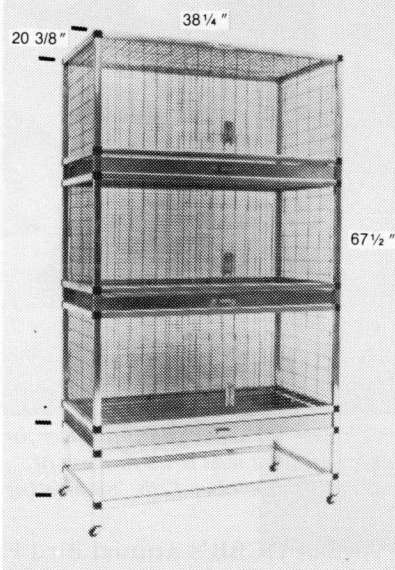
of Dale and Cal Kimura this job was made easier for my husband and me. They had a large cargo van and were able to get more of the materials into their van. It still took two trips that night to get things moved out of the registration area. Talk about exhausted, we four were totally wiped out. We settled down for dinner at about 11:00 p.m. that night and decided to stay another night at the hotel.

I would like to thank each and every one of you who attended the convention and for making our job easier. Your attendance made the 14th annual AFA convention a success. For those of you who appreciated the hard work and dedication of the convention committee — thanks.

Many of you have thanked us verbally or written to thank us for a great convention. Some of you have asked us, "Was it worth it?" Truthfully, yes! I believe AFA is one of the greatest organizations in the world and if we can provide a place for aviculturists to meet and share their knowledge and experience then we have accomplished one of our purposes, "the education of the public in the care and breeding of exotic birds." ●

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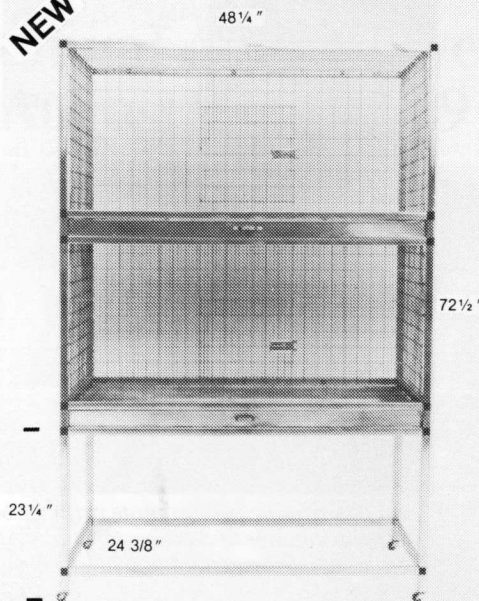
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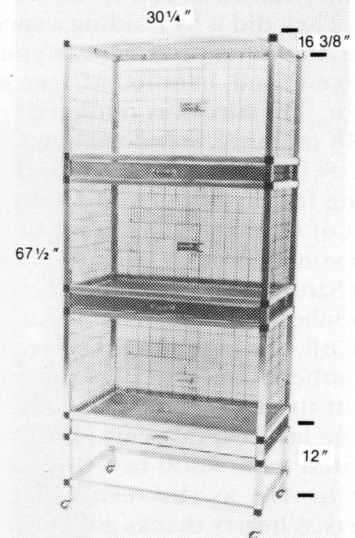
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