



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

AWARDS CEREMONY  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009



dedicated to professional animal care

# SaveNature.Org

## 2009 Conservation Prize



SAVENATURE.ORG

- Taking a leadership role in saving biodiversity.
- Creating conservation partnerships with a call to action.
- Saving threatened and endangered tropical rainforest, wild ocean and desert habitat in-situ.
- Conservation commitment that inspires the public to save nature.

# SaveNature.Org 2009 Conservation Prize

Jenkinson's Aquarium

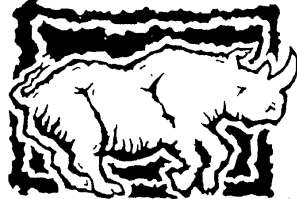


SAVENATURE.ORG





**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS**

A stylized, high-contrast black and white illustration of a rhinoceros, similar to the one in the logo, positioned centrally below the organization's name.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

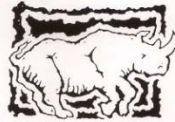
**The Certificate of Appreciation is given by the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) to an individual or organization outside of AAZK in recognition of outstanding contributions to the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.**



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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Be it known that on this date  
*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

*Robert Buchanan*  
*Polar Bears International*

in recognition of and in sincere appreciation for your outstanding efforts on behalf of the Association by creating the Zookeeper Leadership Camp in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada to commence in October 2009. Your creative vision and innovative efforts helped create an outstanding educational program for zoo keepers that will create ambassadors for conservation and leaders for our Association and the zoological industry. This unique program provides a platform for professional development, networking and teamwork between individuals and Associations, and the expansion of the participants' knowledge base while bringing zoo keepers into the arctic ecosystem. Developing leaders through this program will help perpetuate and strengthen this Association while advancing the Conservation Partnership of the American Association of Zoo Keepers and Polar Bears International, with the goal of conserving polar bears and arctic habitat. The AAZK Board of Directors appreciates your hard work and commitment to making Zookeeper Leadership Camp a success.



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## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

The Certificate of Recognition is given by the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) to a member of AAZK in recognition of outstanding contributions to the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keeper, Inc.  
awards this certificate to

*Jan Reed-Smith - Columbus Zoo*

In sincere appreciation for providing funding for the  
Geraldine Meyers/AAZK Travel Grant.



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keeper, Inc.  
awards this certificate to

*Penny Jolly - Disney's Animal Kingdom*

In sincere appreciation for serving as the Co-Chair  
of the Conservation Committee.







AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keeper, Inc.  
awards this certificate to

*Denise Wagner - Phoenix Zoo  
2001 - 2009*

in special recognition of the service she has given to the Association by serving on its Board of Directors. Her dedication and commitment to guiding the course of the Association and her unselfish efforts to that end are sincerely appreciated by all members of AAZK. Furthermore, her continued support and service has contributed towards AAZK's growth as an international professional association dedicated to promoting excellence in captive exotic animal management among all those involved in this field.



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keeper, Inc.  
awards this certificate to

*Jacque Blessington - Kansas City Zoo  
1997 - 2009*

in special recognition of the service she has given to the Association by serving on its Board of Directors. Her dedication and commitment to guiding the course of the Association and her unselfish efforts to that end are sincerely appreciated by all members of AAZK. Furthermore, her continued support and service has contributed towards AAZK's growth as an international professional association dedicated to promoting excellence in captive exotic animal management among all those involved in this field.



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# CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



**FOR EXTRAORDINARY INITIATIVE AND SUPPORT  
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS  
AND ITS' WORLDWIDE MEMBERSHIP, FOR THE CHAPTER'S  
COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION AND HELPING TO  
FULFILL THE VISION  
OF ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONALS.**



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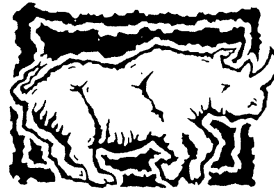


**THE ASSOCIATION HEREBY RECOGNIZES THE  
UTAH CHAPTER  
AS THE  
AAZK CHAPTER OF THE YEAR  
PRESENTED ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2009  
AAZK NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT**





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## MAZURI ANIMAL NUTRITION AWARD

**The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Mazuri® Animal Nutrition Award (MANA) presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals in the zoological community who have been actively involved in projects/studies/research concerning zoo/aquarium nutrition. The award will carry a cash award of \$500.00 funded by the Mazuri® Foods Division.**

**The MANA was established in 2005. Mazuri® proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. Bruce Elkins, Curator of Waters at the Indianapolis Zoo, and Heidi Bissel, nutritionist at the Memphis Zoo, assisted in the development of the judging criteria for this award. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.**



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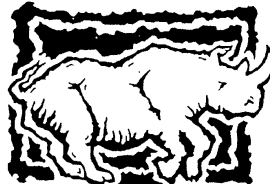
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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR ZOO KEEPER EDUCATION

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the *Certificate of Merit for Zookeeper Education (CMZE)* presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, institutions and organizations in the zoological community most actively promoting educational programs for zookeepers. Examples of such support are: reimbursements for formal education, keeper training courses and staff seminars.

The CMZE was founded by Jeff Roberts, 1976-1978 CHAIR, in 1978, to compliment the work of the AAZK Education Committee that had been formed at that time. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR ZOO KEEPER EDUCATION

Be it known that on this date

*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

*Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater Staff  
Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium*

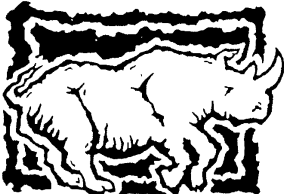
in recognition off Maureen O'Keefe, Sara Mattison, Jessica Sutherland and Karen Povey, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium for developing a comprehensively-tiered training and evaluation program that provides a solid foundation for interns and new animal handling staff members as well as opportunities for returning seasonal staff members to have increasing responsibilities and learning experiences as motivation to return and to further their career development.







# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN EXHIBIT DESIGN RENOVATION

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Certificate of Excellence in Exhibit Renovation (CEER) presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize institutions or organizations in the zoological community for the design and renovation of existing animal facilities which involved active keeper participation in the process.

The CEER was established by Janet McCoy, 1990 CHAIR. Bill Whittaker proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.

The evaluation of each nomination is broken down into four categories based on the general guidelines outlined for the award. The four categories are: Keeper Involvement, Exhibit Functionality, Exhibit Management and Visitor Point of View/ Other Information.



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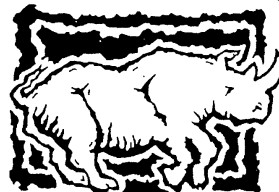
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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## LEE HOUTS EXCELLENCE IN ENRICHMENT AWARD

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment (LHEE) Award presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding keeper-initiated contributions to the art and science of environmental enrichment. It is hoped that recognition of outstanding efforts by keepers to improve animal care and welfare through environmental enrichment will provide incentive to keepers to continue to be leaders in this important endeavor.

The Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment was established in 2001 by the AAZK Enrichment Committee. Lee Houts proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. The award was renamed in Lee's memory, and to honor her many contributions to the field of enrichment, following her death in 2005. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## LEE HOUTS EXCELLENCE IN ENRICHMENT AWARD

Be it known that on this date  
*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

### *Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium Enrichment Committee*

for implementation of a comprehensive zoo-wide enrichment database that includes enrichment approval forms, an enrichment catalog where items can be sorted by species or enrichment type, a review process for previously given enrichment items where cautionary notes may be added, and the ability to track reports on every parameter of the program. Specially noted is Sara Mattison's development of the database to generate a daily enrichment plan following specified parameters for frequency and random selection of enrichment types from which staff members are free to select the desired enrichment within the assigned category.





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## JEAN M. HROMADKA EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL CARE AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize achievement and determination of an individual in the animal care field and in fostering professionalism. Animal care is a science combining zoology, biology, animal management, behavioral observation and daily record keeping on the species in their care. This is essential knowledge for maintaining a species effectively in captivity. The excellent animal care professional must excel in one or more of these areas.

The Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award is named in memory of her outstanding contributions to the furtherance of AAZK through her work as President of the Association. This award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.

The winner of the Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award receives a cash award in the amount of \$500.00, endowed by a generous donation through the Lutz Ruhe Family Educational Trust for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. The award is endowed by the Ruhe Trust primarily to aid winners in making travel and registration arrangements to attend the AAZK National Conference in the year of their award, to receive the award and be recognized in person at a gathering of their peers.



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



**Jean M. Hromadka AAZK  
Excellence in Animal Care Award**

Be it known that on this date  
*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

*Vernon Presley  
Toronto Zoo*

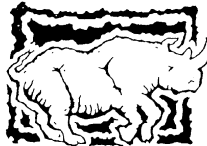
in recognition of your outstanding efforts in establishing and maintaining a dynamic and efficient elephant program instrumental in advancing the welfare of the elephants under your care; your work on the AAZK Animal Training and Behavioral Husbandry Committees; assisting with the development of an advanced training and enrichment workshop; serving as 2001 National Conference Co-Chair; and your commitment to elephant conservation and education both to the public and colleagues. Also noted is your service as Chair of the Elephant Managers Association Training Committee.



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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## **Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement AAZK Professional of the Year Award**

The purpose of this award is to recognize professional members of AAZK, in good standing in the association, for their day-to day professionalism within their facility. This includes participation in AAZK/AZA conservation projects, dedicating time to other facility-related projects or programs (BFR, conservation, wildlife education and individual breeding projects). Commitment and dedication to AAZK at a Committee or Chapter level enhances the nomination. The award was established in 1982 as a means of recognizing work done above and beyond the criteria of the Excellence in Animal Care Award. You have to be a professional member of AAZK in order to qualify.

The winner of the Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement Award - AAZK Professional of the Year Award, receives a cash award in the amount of \$750.00, endowed by a generous donation through the Lutz Ruhe Family Educational Trust for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. The cash award is endowed by the Luhe Trust primarily to aid winners in making travel and registration arrangements to attend the AAZK National Conference in the year of their award, to receive the award and be recognized in person at a gathering of their peers.



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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement AAZK Professional of the Year Award

Be it known that on this date

**September 29, 2009**

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

**Nicole Presley**  
**Toronto Zoo**

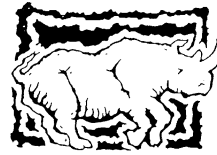
in recognition of your outstanding commitment to professionalism in your career as a zoo keeper. Specifically noted has been your work mentoring zoo keepers; creating and implementing protocols and testing as the Training and Enrichment Supervisor; initiating and being the primary organizer of the "Keeper For A Day" fundraising event allowing keepers to promote wildlife education and your AAZK Chapter to support conservation organizations and keeper professional development; and presenting a paper on hand-rearing a young dhole pup. Also noted is your service on the AAZK Southern Ontario Chapter Executive Board, as Chair of the 2001 National Conference Fundraising Committee, and as a member of the AAZK Marketing Committee.







AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. This award is to be given at the end (retirement) of a keeper's career. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding commitment to professionalism as a zoo keeper over a long period of time and significant contributions to the community.

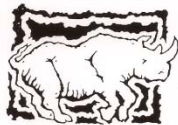
The Lifetime Achievement Award was established by the 1993 Awards Committee, Janet McCoy, Chair. Rachel Rogers proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Be it known that on this date

*September 29, 2009*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

*Lucy Segerson*  
*North Carolina Zoological Park*

in recognition of your outstanding commitment to professionalism during your distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specifically noted has been your work developing standard operating procedures for the African Pavilion and its grand opening; gorilla behavioral enrichment and training; participation in the Jane Goodall "Chimpanzoo" research project; Patas monkey research; establishing an enrichment garden for the zoo's animals; initiating the North Carolina Zoo Chapter's acquisition of a Center for Ecosystem Survival conservation parking meter, and their participation in the Adopt-an-Acre program. Also noted is your service to AAZK on a Chapter and National level. Your dedication to the animals and the zoo keeping profession is outstanding.

Such action earns the praise and respect of all members of the zoological profession.



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