

## **2014 American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Awards**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Nancy Reinert**, Disney's Animal Kingdom. This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism in her distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specifically noted is her involvement with many projects supported by Disney's Wildlife Conservation Fund, organizing the food preparation process, mentoring interns, organizing Bowling for Rhinos, service to her community in both animal and human care fields and as a member of the Turtle Survival Alliance conference team. She is the consummate professional zoo keeper.

**Jean Ragland**, Woodland Park Zoo. This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism in her distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specifically noted is her introducing operant conditioning training as a husbandry management and educational tool, increasing the visibility and scope of the enrichment program, presenting educational programs, development and implementing diet changes, mentoring volunteers, various fund raising efforts and volunteer participation with *in situ* wildlife projects in Australia. She is the consummate professional zoo keeper.

### **Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Jack Hanna**, Columbus Zoo, This award is in recognition of his contribution to AAZK and Bowling For Rhinos. Jack has devoted his life to educating people about the need to preserve and protect animals of all kinds. His support for BFR through his Public Service Announcement will provide a continuous endorsement for our signature conservation event. For his distinguished commitment as a champion for conservation through his public support for BFR, it is with both pleasure and honor that we bestow this award to "Jungle" Jack Hanna.

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

**Lauren Augustine**, Smithsonian's National Zoo. This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism during her distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specially noted is her work leading the local conservation initiatives for the AAZK Chapter and the zoo, founding Chopsticks for Salamanders and conceiving the idea of a small conference to give first time presenters a chance to present in a small comfortable environment. She is also a prolific researcher, publisher and professional presenter, the SSP Coordinator for *Cuora galbinifrons* and serves on the AAZK Conservation Committee and the National Zoo's Professional Development Committee. Lauren embodies the AAZK mission to advance animal care, promote public awareness, enhance professional development and contribute to local and global conservation.

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

**Mexican Gray Wolf Team, Rachel McKee, Mary Ann Cisneros, Sarah Duncan and Bobbi Crouch**, Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden. This award is based on the Mexican Gray Wolf Team of four keepers for putting in over seven hundred hours during the hand-rearing of 2.0 Mexican gray wolf pups and their fostering to the adult pair of wolves. The pups they helped

salvage from certain death and place in a family pack were the highest mean kinship pups in the program. The efforts of these four talented keepers will have a lasting effect upon the genetics of the Mexican gray wolf.

### **Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education Award**

**CuriOdyssey** for providing opportunities for staff to further their education and skill with a conference budget for four Wildlife Staff to attend conferences, workshops and conservation training. Keepers can also work with the Western Pond Turtle field researchers through Sonoma State University. Monthly Brown Bag lectures and activities enrich and engage the staff. CuriOdyssey also supports the AAZK Chapter by offering its grounds and buildings for meetings and mini-conferences.

**NCAAZK Mini Regional Conference Committee, Lauren Augustine, Colleen Bernard, Elise Bernardoni, Hilary Colton, Chelsea Grubb and Kenton Kerns**, Smithsonian's National Zoo for hosting the 2014 one day regional conference "The Science Behind Animal Keeping" comprising 17 formal presentations and 25 poster presentations. It increased sharing and cooperation between local institutions, provided zoo professionals a comfortable venue to practice presentations and to give zoo professionals an opportunity to socialize with their peers.

**Puget Sound Chapter of AAZK**, Woodland Park Zoo for dedicating its time and resources to further knowledge, skills and abilities of its members through three grant based programs, networking with neighbor institutions and a webinar lecture series. The Conservation Grant is used for field based projects with emphasis on individual participation. The Professional Development Grant is used for conferences, classes, seminars or research projects. The Heidi Fund can be used in a variety of ways.

### **Certificate of Merit in Conservation Award**

**Kathy Brader**, Smithsonian's National Zoo for creating the only "Meet a Kiwi" program in the United States where visitors can observe the brown kiwi up close and learn about their conservation. Kiwi in zoos are rare and under her care and instruction, the zoo has hatched and raised six kiwi between 2005 and 2012. She works closely with the New Zealand Embassy and the New Zealand Department of Conservation and is the SSP coordinator and studbook keeper for all brown kiwi outside of New Zealand.

**Norah Farnham**, Woodland Park Zoo for founding and running Zoos for Environmental Conservation at the Lincoln Park Zoo. At the Woodland Park Zoo she began Bowling for Rhinos with the AAZK Chapter and spearheads efforts to support Lewa's local schools with basic supplies. At Lewa, she guides groups to view where conservation dollars are turned into concrete conservation efforts.

**Matt Neff**, Smithsonian's National Zoo for starting a Frog Watch Chapter which monitors several DC metro area sites. Under his leadership of the salamander ambassador project, the

group raised just under \$50,000 for a new salamander exhibit. He is dedicated to helping the Turtle Survival Alliance, the Orianna Society, Chopsticks for Salamanders, teaches conservation classes for the Friends of the National Zoo and applied for grants to fund emerging disease research at a local nature center.

### **Certificate of Recognition**

**Jack Hanna**, Columbus Zoo, for your promotion of AAZK's Bowling For Rhinos through the Public Service Announcement video. Your endorsement of our flagship conservation program will be key in the continued success of supporting conservation efforts in both Africa and Asia.

**Amanda Kamradt**, Zoo New England, for serving as Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee

**Shelly Roach**, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, for serving as Chair of the Grants Committee

**Kerri D'Ancicco**, Disney's Animal Kingdom, 2014 National AAZK Conference Co-Chair

**Penny Jolly**, Disney's Animal Kingdom, 2014 National AAZK Conference Co-Chair

### **Certificate of Appreciation**

**Disney's Animal Kingdom**, 2014 AAZK National Conference Host Institution

### **Distinguished Service Award**

**Greater Orlando AAZK Chapter**, 2014 AAZK National Conference Host Chapter

### **Chapter of the Year**

**Puget Sound AAZK Chapter**, Woodland Park Zoo