The Smokey Mountain Cage Bird Society (SMCBS) is a rather small club of about 70 members who live scattered throughout five states in and around the South — but the little club does big things.

Although the club seldom has more than 20 members present at the monthly meetings (and many of these folks have to drive an hour or two each way), it is well organized and in better than average contact with its members by phone and mail. This constant communication allows a small club to take on some pretty awesome enterprises and pull them off with much success.

One such project is their Annual Avian Seminar. There have been two such seminars thus far with plans for many more in the future. The purposes for the seminars are twofold: first, to educate bird owners and, second, to raise money for avian research.

The seminar held 2 May 1987 in Asheville, North Carolina was a great success and a positive tribute to what a few dedicated people can do. The end result was $4,300 raised for research and donated to the Research Institute for Avian Medicine, Nutrition and Reproduction, Inc. located in Lake Worth, Florida. (I shly suggested that in the future some of the annual research money might be donated to the AFA research fund. It is so much easier to acknowledge our three initials, AFA).

There were quite a few SMCBS members who lent a hand on this project but the main workers were Isabel Taylor, Maxilla Evans, John and Joyce Cape, Michael and Patsy Jarrett, Jim Cody, Joyce Trantham, Ken Barnwell, Patty Mulvaney Hensley, Elise Out, Pegg Moore, Roy Price, Aimee Sparrow, Mike Thomas and Doug Alston. There were even a few non-members who pitched in to give a hand.

The seminar featured a series of excellent talks presented by an outstanding panel of veterinarians and avian experts including Dr. Ted Lefeber, Dr. Greg Harrison, Bob Scibels, Tim Kelly, Bob Black, Mike Lubbock, Ken Warthen, Dino Jesper and Jim Cody. Folks, these are heavyweight avian specialists, several of whom have graced various AFA conventions. Kudos to the SMCBS for pulling together such an outstanding program and for raising so much money for avian research.

I know for a fact that the members of SMCBS are proud of their accomplishment and sort of hold it up so the world can see what a little, scattered outfit can do. One member told me that now, perhaps, "some... large clubs with money in their treasuries might discover a good thing to do with it [donate to research, that is]. And I hope she's right.
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