

My Bird

By Emma Lopez, AFA 2012 Essay Contest winner

My pet bird is a Lovebird named Sunshine. Sunshine loves to play and likes being thrown in the air and caught. Ever since she came to my house, I have had a lot more friendship. She has made my life a lot better, now I can have company when I am down.

She is called Sunshine because she is a lutino of her batch. She is a spirited bird she is kind she is the best bird you could ever get. She enjoys sitting on your shoulder and likes to talk to you. She is a wonderful singer and copier. She copies my mom's cell phone and sings to me. She also likes to bug me when I'm typing if she's with me. She does great with my family and doesn't attack other birds.

She stands nice and tall and proud. She has a beautiful orange white and yellow tail. It's just so nice to see when she jumps to me. She also does well with kids my family babysits. If I had another chance to pick out a bird, it would have still been Sunshine. Sunshine can be a bad but she is kind when she isn't tired or wants someone to hold her.



Her mom who took care of her was kind enough to let me choose which bird I wanted. I chose a different one then something happened to that bird so I chose Sunshine. I'm still heartbroken about the first, but I'm glad Sunshine is mine.

If you got the chance to meet her, you would love her like I do. She is just wonderful. I have only lived with her for a little while and I've learned everything about her and I love her. I'm glad I could tell you about her. I hope you enjoyed hearing about her. Bye.

AFA 4 Kidz 2013 Essay Contest

Submit your essay by **May 17, 2013**, for a chance to win one **FREE** youth registration*, plus one banquet dinner and registration, and dinner for one adult to the 2013 AFA Annual Convention.

(*Non-transferable. Youth registration must be accompanied by a registered adult.)



Submit essays to:

AFA 4 Kidz 2013 Essay Contest, P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709

All entries will be judged by the AFA Education Committee. Winner will be announced June 10, 2013. The winning essay may be published in *Watchbird*.

Details at <http://afabirds.org/afa4kidz.shtml>.

Call (206) 772-1730 or email blconnection@hotmail.com.

The American Federation of Aviculture is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, educational organization

By Lyrae Perry

The 38th Annual AFA Convention, "Under One Wing" was a very different kind of convention for AFA. Oh yes, we had all the traditional presentations and goodies for everyone to enjoy, but the attendees were also treated to two unusual and exciting exhibits within the hall along with a number of new events. The Omni Hotel was the best we've ever had in terms of service.

Golden Macaw Exhibit

This year, attendees were given the opportunity to see the gorgeous Golden macaws up-close. During the convention, the macaws resided in a gigantic modular outdoor aviary designed and built by LGL Animal Care Products Inc. of Bryan, Texas. Even with the high ceiling in the exhibit hall, it was a tight fit, and thankfully, the ballroom chandeliers were just out of reach. The LGL Animal Care Products cage provided a very elegant presentation space for the five...yep, five of those amazing Golden macaws! The normally colored sibling was also present providing good comparison and contrast. The birds were a little shy on arrival, but soon were flying and playing in the enclosure to the delight of everyone.

Gary and Lynn Redden, owners/breeders of the Golden macaws, (along with the entire Redden clan) were on hand to answer questions about the birds, and generously allowed attendees to take photos. The members of AFA are grateful to the Reddens for being part of our family and sharing their birds at this convention.

Wayne E. Smyth Art Exhibit

AFA also honored Lifetime member Wayne E. Smyth with a special exhibit of the artwork that has given AFA a "face" to the public for so many years. Believe it or not, AFA still has a few original artworks by Wayne that are for sale, and people who had not seen these originals were just blown away by the beautiful detail in his paintings. For a list Wayne's artworks that are available, please contact the Editor, Mark Moore or Lyrae Perry.

Warning: Wayne's original art is one-of-a-kind and fabulous. It's world-class art. Wayne's intention was that his art contributions would generate funds to help aviculture through the AFA. When you purchase one of his originals from AFA, your money goes toward a good cause—the advancement of aviculture, and that's something worth supporting.



Enjoying the 38th annual Convention are 1. Jamie Whittaker and Nancy Speed; 2. Wayne E. Smyth, Mark Moore and Paige Williams; 3. Mark Moore with Gary and Lynn Redden; and 4. DeeAnna and Brent Andrus



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. Golden Macaw; 2. Melanie Allen and Robin Shewokis; 3. Georgia Hayes; 4. Linda Nichelmann and Lynne Singerman; 5. Nancy Speed and Brent W. Gattis; 6. Katy Secor; 7. Andy Sandofr

Keynote Address, Wayne E. Smyth Award

Wayne was our honored keynote speaker this year. He opened the San Antonio, Texas, conference by sharing photos of his art and travels and all the interesting places he lived. Lucky man to have a dream career and see the world too.

At the end of Wayne's keynote address, Dr. Benny Galloway introduced the new Wayne E. Smyth Award, and it was presented first to Mark E. Moore for service to AFA above and beyond the call. Afterward, we were all so pleased to see Wayne at his exhibit table again this year and there were plenty of hugs and photos for all. For three days, Wayne graciously signed the Victoria Crowned Pigeon convention T-shirts, tins, plates and even people! Thank you, Wayne —we had a blast!

Speaker Presentations, Proceedings CD's

AFA always has a great line-up of convention speakers, and this year was no exception. The variety of topics was great, and the knowledge, experience and talent of the speakers was so good that even many of the old-timers were impressed. Everywhere I looked, people were engaged in enthusiastic conversation about things

Many are doing work on the cutting edge of avian biology and medicine, and others have extensive training and experience in flock management, behavioral management and conservation efforts here in the US and abroad. There are always a few unusual subject presentations that are fun and inspiring too. Some of the talks included audience participation or educational games, and our own Jason Crean donned his running gear to demonstrate proper torch carrying techniques for one speaker.

There's always an amazing amount of helpful and interesting information shared by our wonderful speakers, however, they're limited to 55 minutes at the podium. Which makes the Proceedings CD's quite valuable because they have more information on them than what can be fit into the live 55-minute presentation format. Often the Proceedings papers include tables and graphs from the slide presentations, or additional material and references not included in the live presentations. Either way, the CD's are a great refresher course if you attended the talks, and valuable notes for any reference library. Please review the list of speakers on the

they had learned.

AFA's speakers are chosen to do a presentation because they're experts in their field.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Speakers at the 2012 annual Convention are 1. Gary and Lynn Redden; 2. Dr. Cromwell Purchase and Jason Crean; 3. Hilla Niemann; 4. Robin Shewokis; 5. Daniel Almaguer and Stephen Skalak; 6. Alycia Antheunisse; 7. Caroline Efstathion; and 8. Barbara Heidenreich

Convention Proceedings CD. CD's can be purchased from the AFA Online Store. Order your CD's today at: www.afabirds.org/proceedings_cds.shtml

It's a Wrap!

The San Antonio, Texas Convention wrapped up on Saturday evening with the traditional banquet gathering, installation of officers, live auction of artwork and special items, AVY Awards and announcement of Silent auction and Super 8 winners.

A big thank you to every single one of our commercial members, convention sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support and presence. Thank you to all the donors for their contributions to help support AFA.

We owe a big thank you to our member/volunteer crew, Laura Barwick and Melody Appleby, who managed the auctions and raffle tables. Carol Woodson did a fantastic job again this year with managing the registration and check in table. We love the fun tags on our badges! Thank you to every one of our Banquet Table Sponsors who generously donated even more by "purchasing" a table at the banquet.

And, finally, thank you to our convention coordinator, Jamie Whittaker, for all the hard work and being available to troubleshoot problems during the convention. Thank you to all the AFA board members and chairs for their hard work in creating a memorable convention. We're really blessed to have so many dedicated people working for aviculture and AFA.

It's time to look ahead and look forward to Raleigh, NC, for 2013. See you there!

Visit to SeaWorld San Antonio



Top left, an Emperor Penguin chick at SeaWorld San Antonio. Above, AFA President Nancy Speed and friends are greeted by the chick. At left, a puffin greets visitors.

Story and photographs by Concetta Ferragamo

AFA is about birds. We love them all and recently enjoyed a wonderful behind the scenes tour at SeaWorld in San Antonio, Texas, on the last day of the 2012 AFA Convention. This tour was arranged by AFA Second Vice President, Brent Gattis. Seeing adorable penguins was a treat; hearing their calls, or should I say “bray” of the “jack ass” penguins, African Penguin; *Spheniscus demersus*, was even better. Penguin habitats are usually set up within glass enclosures so most people never actually get to hear their natural calls. Much to my surprise—the braying of a jack ass penguin was surreal and literally sounded like a donkey.

AFA President Nancy Speed engaged the penguin handler with good questions while the rest of us remained a captive audience. Many attendees did not realize that penguins can be aggressive or that their beaks are quite powerful and sharp—after all, they are flesh eaters (Nancy pointed out). The next special guest who

waddled into our area reminded me of Cousin It from the show the Addam’s Family. This adorable two foot tall bundle of cuteness toddled into the room and put us in awe. The Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) chick was covered in baby down similar to soft fleece. He was quite social and simply delightful even when he gifted Naomi Neiman, Nancy Speed and a few others with a little souvenir—a souvenir that filled the room with light-hearted laughter. Being aviculturists we didn’t allow a little birdie poop to faze any of us in the least.

The day at SeaWorld was enchanting and AFA members thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We saw whales, dolphins, free-flighted macaws and so much more. Life is always more enjoyable when you get to spend the day with friends, new and old, human and avian. AFA historically has initiated lifelong friendships amongst peers. Our conventions include arrangements for offsite family-friendly tours. Check pre-convention announcements for our 2013 AFA convention in North Carolina to see where we will end up next.



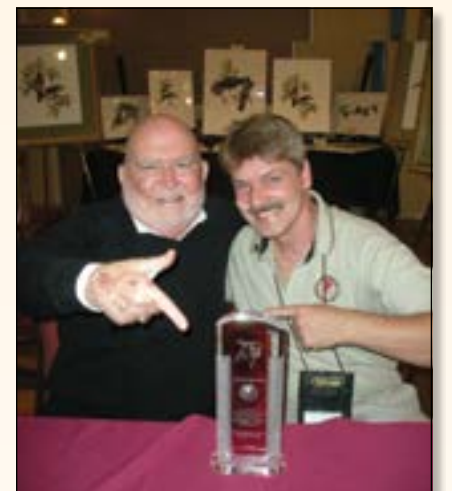
Initiation of the *Wayne E. Smyth Award*

By Dr. Benny J. Gallaway

Wayne has been AFA’s official artist/illustrator/fundraiser for nearly 20 years. Wayne was already well known for his avian and wildlife art when AFA tentatively approached him for a recommendation of some young, talented, up-and-coming artist that AFA might be able to afford to do commercial art. His response: “Well, what about me?” That began a long and wonderful relationship.

When you think of Wayne E. Smyth, what words come to mind? Artist of excellence, of course, but what else? Here are a few of the words that came to my mind.

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Ethical
- Unselfish
- Humanitarian
- Conservationist
- Friend
- Loyal
- Apolitical
- Considerate
- Compassionate
- Giving
- Hard-working
- Patient
- Unpretentious/approachable



Wayne has become a foundation or cornerstone of our organization. He elevates AFA to a higher level simply by his presence. We are blessed to have such a special friend and member.

Thinking about this and wanting to show how much we appreciate Wayne, AFA has instituted a special award...the Wayne E. Smyth Award.

This award will be given only on special occasions when someone goes above and beyond for this organization—exhibiting the special qualities that Wayne himself exhibits. Few will measure up, but from time to time, someone will emerge as worthy. In fact, there is someone in our organization who does measure up in all regards. That person is going to receive the inaugural Wayne E. Smyth Award, presented by Wayne himself. *Drum roll please...*

That person, and I think you will all agree is worthy of receiving this award is Mark E. Moore!