

*By Concetta Ferragamo  
and Lanette Raymond, PhD.*

*Photos by: Mark Moore*

The thirty-ninth AFA Annual Convention proved to be a great success pulling AFA members from across the United States, as well as venturing in from other countries. While this famous educational conference ran August 7th – 10th, the festivities started much sooner. Convention attendees who arrived early pitched in behind the scenes, assembling the registration “freebies,” and got some extra social time with the Board of Directors and fellow AFA members. The excitement ignites as soon as the AFA Store arrives, and the setting up begins.

### **The Preparation Begins**

The Tuesday before the convention AFA holds the Board of Directors Meeting at the convention site. All AFA members are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings. This is a great way to get a “behind the scenes” view of the issues and characters that frame the convention and organization. For AFA Delegates, it makes an excellent prelude to the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting held on Wednesday. Tuesday the registration table starts to receive guests.

The Wednesday prior to the convention is chock full from morning to late evening. In the morning, the AFA held the House of Delegates meeting. This vitally important meeting takes place only once annually. As members, our interests are represented to the Board of Directors through the delegates present at this meeting; this is where the future is truly decided for AFA every year, so all voting members are encouraged to attend.

After the HOD meeting adjourns, the AFA conference attendees usually go to a scheduled pre-convention field trip arranged by the AFA convention coordinator, Jamie Whittaker. Please see the article about the Sylvan Heights Bird Park, in this issue of the Watchbird. What a remarkable and unique place it is.

### **The Convention Ice Breaker Evening of Events**

Thursday evening we were all invited to attend the President’s Reception. AFA, true to the education-focused mission, jumped into the President’s reception with fun and informative icebreaker events. This year everyone had a ball with 5 different edutainment (educational + entertaining) events, taking place throughout the evening. Patricia Sund held an Iron Chop Competition featuring the dos and don’ts of creating CHOP.



Enjoying the 39th annual Convention are 1. Tiffany Latino with AFA President Nancy Speed; 2. Swearing in of AFA Board of Directors; 3. Vendor Hall; 4. Patricia Sund with CHOP participants. Left Page: The extinct Carolina Parakeet at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

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(The Chop was donated to The Raleigh Durham Caged Bird Society to share with their members). Jamie Whittaker (1st VP) and Georgia Hayes (RD) designed the Bird and Feather Match Challenge, sending many participants to openly research on-line sources for the correct answers...yay for reliable internet accessibility via cell phones. Feather collages were later donated to the silent auction. Robin Shewokis, Jamie Whittaker and Concetta Ferragamo directed and cheered a Bling that Cage Challenge, showing attendees how toy/perch/bowl placement matters within a cage enclosure, while discussing how to avoid too much or too little and finding the happy medium. All 4 decked-out cages went home with lucky raffle winners at the end of the convention. The final event was the Is Your Bird a Star video clip contest. This first-run at a video contest suffered technical difficulties but was well received just the same (a plan to expand upon this idea is in "the works" so watch our facebook page and webpage for more details). As an added feature, Constance Woodman created a Hollywood Style, green screen photo shoot allowing attendees to pose with a mysterious flock of the elusive (read extinct) Carolina Parakeets.

Night owl vendors started setting up immediately following the gala, and a number of energetic AFA members stuck around to help and do a little pre-shopping in the wee hours, picking out treasures to buy first thing in the morning.

### And so it all Begins...

Bright and early on Thursday morning the vendors and attendees poured into the convention area abuzz with excitement. What better way to start off an educational conference than with a standing-room-only crowd for the AFA's President's welcome from Nancy Speed, followed by an amazing walk through avian history with Keynote speaker, Mark Hagen, Research Director at the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute (HARI). After a short coffee and bagel break, the speaker schedule took off at break-neck speed, with concurrent presentations in 2 ballrooms and a kid's program in a 3rd. The speaker tracks on day 1 were filled with interesting educational topics and excellent speakers. Shawna Augustine spoke about Lineolated Parakeets Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow. AFA Board member, Linda Rubin, talked about New Nomenclature Affecting the Genetic of Cockatiel Color Mutations. Rick Weigel covered A Brief History of Parrots: The First 150 Million Years. AFA Board Member, Alycia Antheunisse, talked about Pet Trade Made Profitable. After lunch, guest speaker Dr. David Waugh from The Loro Parque Foundation shared the Latest on Natural and Assisted Reproduction by the Loro Parque Foundation. Dustin Foote spoke about the Lesser Flamingos at Sylvan Heights Bird Park. Susan Van Der Broek held a meet-and-greet presentation called The Unusual Among Us featuring her two Blue Headed macaws, two Great Billed parrots, Red Fronted macaw, Thick Billed parrot, Major Mitchells Cockatoo, and Goliath Black Palm Cockatoo. Laurie Baker covered the Top Causes

of Death in Companion Parrots. Emily Trimmel presented Keeping up with the Caiques. Caroline Efstathion shared her extensive research which suggests conservation of endangered parrots can be improved through the use of Integrated Pest Management Scheme to Protect Nest Cavities from Invasive African Honey Bees.

AFA doesn't forget about our youth, AFA cares about the generations of parrot lovers to come. This year's Junior Avian Workshop event was hosted by AFA Board Member Concetta Ferragamo and assisted by Brigitte DeBonis from Florida. Thursday's featured junior guest speaker, Naomi Niemann, delivered an impressive and interactive talk about Cockatiels. The junior attendees included local children as well as a group of members of the Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Reiner Niemann, Hilla Niemann, and Tony Pittman made cameo appearances at the Junior Avian Workshop; and Miel Niemann was a great help handling birds and helping the other children. Susan van der Broek (assisted by Terry Timberlake and Bonnie Posta) brought in her flock of very rare parrots to interact with the children. Special thanks to The Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society volunteers who brought several different species of birds, both juveniles and adults, for an interactive show and tell session on Thursday and Friday.

Our Thursday sessions ended with raffles, shopping in the vendor room, and a little time to visit the pool, gym, or nearby restaurants. The evening continued with specialty meetings for the Lory League, Hookbill Bird Show, Quaker Society, American Cockatiel Society, Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors, Specialty Affiliates, Lineolated Parakeet Society, International Conure Association, and International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, Inc. Curious about how you can learn more about living with parrots? Sitting in with these great groups at the AFA Convention is a great way to learn and get involved.

### Friday Sessions

A second full day of educational sessions started on Friday, bright and early, with coffee, pastries and shopping. The guest speakers on Friday's schedule kept all 3 ballrooms hopping. Dr. David Waugh, of the Loro Parque Fundacion, discussed the Blue-Throated Macaw in Bolivia: Challenges and Risks. AFA Media Chair, Dr. Sue Ferrara shared a research project titled A Salty Parrot Comes to Washington. AFA Massachusetts's State Coordinator, Robin Shewokis (enrichment specialist from Leather Elves) presented the Extreme Makeover: Aviary Edition. Adrienne Mock's nutrition presentation was called You Want Me to Eat What? Kashmir Csaky spoke about Improving the Dynamic in the Pet Bird Home. AFA board member, Jason Crean presented the Avian Biology Classroom: Update. Josee Bermingham, from the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute (HARI), presented the Early Parrot Education Program (EPE Program). Kathleen Snipes spoke about Parrot Foraging Habits in the Wild. Dr. Rainer

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Niemann gave a talk about The Hormonal Life of Parrots. CB Buckley discussed the Evolution of the Perch-From the Sitting Log to Multi-level Foraging Play Gym and How to Deal with the Fear of New Toys. John Gerwin's talk reviewed what is known about the now extinct Carolina Parakeet. Roger Sweeney, Assistant Director of the Virginia Zoo, presented the Bird Populations in Zoos: The role of Scientific Advisory Groups and what are the opportunities for zoos to partner more effectively with private aviculture.

The Junior Avian Workshop guest speaker, Laney Lowery, presented a talk titled Growing UP Without Feathers and demonstrated how to do wing and nail trims. We even had cameo appearances from Robin Shewokis (Leather Elves), and Melanie Allen and Josee Bermingham (HARI). Workshop attendees included a crowd of local residents and guests from the local Boys and Girls Club.

### The Legislative Session Recap

When the speaker sessions let out, the day was nowhere near over. There were raffles, shopping in the vendor room, and time for a quick bite at a nearby restaurant. After dinner everyone gathered for what is arguably one of the Convention's most important and unique sessions, the Legislative Workshop, delivered by Legislative Vice President, Genny Wall and AFA Second Vice President, Brent W. Gattis. Yes, the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. includes members from all of aviculture, which includes captive bred birds of all kinds and the people who come to work and live with these birds from a variety of disparate positions and perspectives. However, it is the Legislative Workshop that brings into sharp focus the common interest among all AFA members: breeders, pet owners, veterinarians, zoos, rescues, shelters, sanctuaries, manufacturers, pet stores, distributors, behaviorists, consultants, educators... You see, very few of the AFA members are lawyers, most of us have little or no direct knowledge of or interaction with the legislative system. Yet all of us will be impacted by laws that speak to the ownership, possession, transportation, breeding, rehoming, selling, (you get the idea...) of these remarkable, our beloved, birds. So, in keeping with the AFA's educational mission, the Legislative session provides attendees with a "crash course" in animal politics, how they may affect us, and the many ways that we can protect our birds, ourselves, our interests as responsible individuals who value animals as part of our lives.

The first video clip captured the awful moment in which a highly skilled trainer was killed by an orca during the Orca's at SeaWorld show. Most of the attendees remembered seeing this clip in the news immediately following the horrifying accident. Some of the attendees actually knew the deceased trainer and other Orca experts who participated in additional interview footage that accompanied the 5 or so seconds shot during the ill-fated show itself. Nobody debates the tragedy at losing this young woman's



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (top) and a Black Palm Cockatoo (above) look on as visitors at the 39th annual Convention browse through booths.

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life.

So why show this clip at the Legislative Workshop? Perhaps to illustrate a point, because so few of us had seen the full clip--all had seen the clips of the accident itself, but very few had seen the expert's interviews. Hearing from those who knew and loved the trainer, and share her passion and knowledge about the Orcas provides a very different lens through which to understand this tragedy and a very different foundation from which to move forward.

Without the experts footage we might not understand that the trainer, in a horrible error, signaled the orca unmistakably to end her life. A large part of the tragedy is that this well-trained orca followed the cue with immediate precise deadly action. Without the experts footage we might not understand that orca trainers almost never experience injury; that this particular tragedy was literally an accident. These fellow orca trainers/scientists know the statistics: Approximately 2,190 orca shows are given each year (2 daily in the 3 SeaWorld parks alone). Orca shows have been popular since 1970 giving us an approximate 94,000 orca shows to date. The accident rate of marine trainers is practically non-existent. But it is graphically horrifying when it happens. So people question whether or not orcas should be kept in captivity at all.

Holding aside the question of judgment, which "should" (as in "should orcas be kept in captivity?") implies, it is always reasonable to re-assess value. We might wisely reflect on whether or not there is value in keeping orcas in captivity at all. What knowledge has or is being gained by observing orcas in spacious captivity? (The notion of spacious captivity is too often omitted from extreme presentations of orca conditions. While a training pool, like a classroom, is small and allows for focused attention, and this is what the public recognizes, SeaWorld and other reputable marine life facilities provide lake-size living pools for orca life outside the training session.) We know that marine biologists have learned a great deal from the orcas that are kept in captivity, to the point of



Pictured above at the 2013 annual Convention are 1. Georgia Hayes, 2. Alycia Antheunisse 3. Nancy Speed and Rockie Mooney; 4. Brent W. Gattis; 5. Black Moor, these were displayed on the tables as we discussed the propaganda film "Black Fish".



## Aviculture and Legislation

It would be so much easier if the good guys wore white, and the bad guys wore black, if good was all good, looked good and sounded good, and bad was all bad, looked bad, and sounded bad. But the legislative process specifically, and politics more generally, are a murky mix. We all have strong emotional feelings about our own animals and about animals in general. We each have different understandings of, experiences with, and tolerances for government involvement in our personal or business lives. This makes the discus-

sion of good/bad, right/wrong, desirable/undesirable complicated. A cogent argument that favors individual responsibility may fail to gain attention for lack of the drama that may make its supporters more visible to law makers. Alternatively, a less rational emotionally targeted argument favoring untenable restriction too often sways a very vocal few to make a dramatic visible presentation. Unfortunately an emotional, therefore memorable, argument may be viewed by legislators as the only significant perspective for lack of notable alterna-



Pictured above at the 2013 annual Convention are Janice Boyd, PhD., Nancy Speed and Dr. Sharman Hoppes, DVM, Diplomate, ABVP (Avian) PhD.

making significant strides in the conservation of orcas and other related species in the wild, and with preservation of their threatened habitats. “The research and knowledge gained from observation and interaction with animals in captivity provides exponential returns in the many ways we can help the animals in the wild,” said Gattis. In fact, SeaWorld and other similar marine exhibits have made marine life accessible to generations of people who would never otherwise have seen, much less interacted with such illusive creatures. Orcas instantly became ambassadors for their species. Fascination, inspiration, and adoration quickly evolved and the world invested in conservation and education programs.

A second video clip presented a very different lesson. This clip was taken during a real life raid in which an innocent dog was shot and killed in front of the family, at the discretion of law enforcement. The point of that video was to show the attendees that seizures do take place and animals become the victims. Many attendees would say that there was no apparent good reason for shooting the dog; and many good reasons for asking the owner to remove

the dog to another room (we all felt horrible for the children who witnessed the arrest of their father and the death of their dog in a frenzied police action). Attendees learned from that video that animals can be seized incidentally in any police action, and that the detrimental or fatal consequences of action taken toward any animal is considered legally acceptable within legal limits whether the seizure was just or mistaken. Wall explained that in a number of cases birds have been seized, and the owners have been unaware of any allegations leading up to the seizure. Wall warned that no matter if the seizure was a mistake or not, police actions for that moment are within the legal rights of law enforcement. This would be alarming enough on its own; however Wall went on to note that recovering even an erroneously confiscated pet can be very difficult, and that failure of communication between branches of law enforcement can lead to delays and sadly euthanasia. Other real life examples include the confiscation of breeding stock that had been housed separately by genetics and/or for disease control. In this scenario the categorized breeding stock had been identifiable by their cage locations and band numbers. During the seizure all birds were taken, bands removed and then all placed together in a community cage. Several days later when the breeder was able to prove that the seizure was a mistake and was ready to reclaim their birds the scrambling of the now de-identified flock was discovered. Ultimately, the decades of research of disease control and mutations were completely destroyed by the ignorant carelessness of law enforcement. Wall explained that different scenarios just as tormenting have taken place numerous times. You see, when the laws are written, there is little discussion of the specifics of enforcement, the compensation for error, the harm done to innocent animals (and people) in the name of enforcement. When it comes to seizure all aviculturists are at risk no matter if you are a pet owner, breeder, shelter, rescue, sanctuary, zoo... it just doesn't matter and each of these entities have been victims. The saying, “It won't

tive input.

There has been a lobbying effort not in favor of aviculture for some time, which makes very effective use of highly manipulative emotional messaging. Some would consider this effort to be representative of “extremist” views because it exploits examples of extreme situations, portraying them as the norm. In doing so, this lobbying effort rallies support for unnecessary, expensive, highly restrictive legislation, which puts all of aviculture at risk.

Video is wonderful technology. Never forget that the impression it creates frequently lies in the editing process. This year's Legislative Workshop was built around 2 video examples that have been edited and re-edited, and used by a variety of others with specific purpose. Both videos were more than a bit on the graphic side, edited for extreme emotional affect (many such examples are readily available on the internet, as were these). Boy, did it get our attention!

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happen to me” is purely a wishful and naive statement.

The Legislative Team asked members to share the legislative issues that they have been dealing in their areas. Adrienne Mock shared some of the crises taking place in California. Concetta Ferragamo and Ray Schwartz shared a legislative crisis in New Hampshire. Gattis asked how many of the attendees knew who their local, state, and federal legislators are, and how many attendees have reached out to their legislators. This is one relatively quick and easy way of letting your legislators know that there are responsible pet lovers among their constituents. Wall reminded the attendees that AFA is an educational organization not a lobbying organization. Therefore AFA seeks to inform members with the “how to’s” of legislative issues. Gattis and Wall went on to explain how laws develop (was anyone else humming schoolhouse rock?) and how members can take action toward desirable outcomes before misguided politics are written into law. The Legislative Workshop of 2013 was somewhat disturbing because it honed in on the realities that we as a nation are facing today. We had loads to talk about as we shifted to the restaurant and bar, and into the wee hours.

### It's Show time and the Last Day of the Convention

Saturday started extra early with a different kind of excitement fluttering through the atmosphere. In one ballroom AFA Board Members Julie Corwin and Dr. Greg Burkett were receiving and registering what would be at final count more than 318 magnificent birds for the annual Lory League Bird Show. The annual bird show consisted of 4 divisions plus a junior class: ALBS and NAPS and then NCS and SPBE. Please look for the article about the Lory League Bird Show for more details.

Saturday the majority of the avian veterinarians arrived. Unfortunately, AAV and AFA are held with back-to-back dates, which may prevent more vets from joining us. Still we love that many of our avian veterinarians arrange to attend both conventions. Saturday's speaker schedule started off with Dr. Greg Burkett covering Avian First Aid. HARI's Josee Bermingham and Melanie Allen told us about HARI's Parrot Caretaker Checklist: Essentials to provide a safe, healthy and enriched lifestyle. AAV's President, Dr. Sharman Hoppes, presented Avian Bornavirus Positive: Now what? AFA NC State Coordinator, April Blazich, delivered a talk called Weeds, Seeds and Branching Out. Dr. Laurie Degernes covered Heavy Metal Poisoning in Birds: It can happen to anyone. Zoologist Roger Sweeney spoke about Building the Bird Collection at Virginia Zoo. USDA APHIS, Dr. Darrel Styles, presented Mixed Old and New World Collections: Pros and cons. Madeleine Franco spoke on At Least 12 Things That as a Bird Owner, I'd Rather Not Live Without. Hilla Niemann, closed out the 2013 speaker schedule with a flourish in her talk: It's All About Communication.

The Saturday raffles, some of which had enticed ticket purchases for 3 days, drew a huge crowd, and promoted considerable

cheering for the winners. Attendees made their last frantic run at the vendor hall, which included a wide variety of just about anything a bird enthusiast could imagine: artwork, jewelry, clothing, nick-knacks, wall hangings, bird toys of all kinds, different foods, teas, pellets, cleaning products, cages, ropes, perches, photo shoots, educational tables, first aid kits... the list goes on and on.

### Banquet and Auction Time

Saturday evening AFA celebrated the conclusion of Convention 2013 with our annual banquet and awards dinner. Even a rather awesome thunderstorm and power outage resolved themselves in favor of a terrific evening. The 2013 AFA cocktail hour and banquet were quite entertaining this year and gave the guests a chance to mingle and talk about the convention events and silent auction items. The food and company around the banquet tables were excellent. The evening got very exciting as the live auction began. Mark Moore was the evening's fine art auctioneer, skillfully rousing the crowd into a fun yet competitive bidding mood.

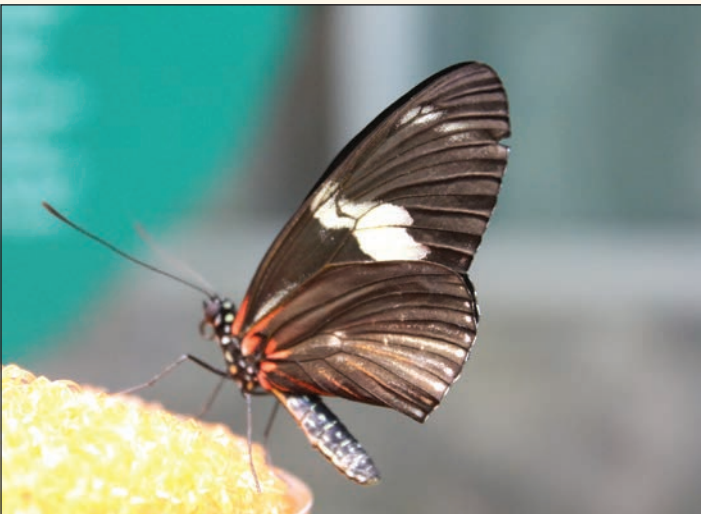
Mark Hagen donated a silver Cockatoo coin which was finally captured by Alycia Antheunisse from California. The Spix's Silver C.I.T.E.S. collector coin, donated by Rick Jordan, provided additional excitement. One of the highlights donated by Mark Hagen was an extremely limited edition of *Volgelbilder Aus Fernen Zonen – Abbildungen und Beschreibungen der Papageien* von Dr. A. Reichenow. This magnificent recreation of an 1800's text and color etchings ignited some very competitive bidding and enthusiastic auctioneering, and resulting in a tie between 2 high-bidders, Amy Baker from Texas and Ellen Sheldon Washington. Thank you Mark Hagen for graciously providing a second copy of the book for a double donation and win-win-win for AFA! The original fine art convention painting of the Carolina Parakeets, donated by renowned artist Gamini Ratnavira, led to an entertaining bidding war ultimately won by Diane Hyde of Long Island, NY. The reception artwork went to winning bidder Eddie Maher from Virginia. The Super 8 Raffles and the silent auctions were also finalized and announced after the silent auction.

As all things must come to an end, the 39th AFA Convention 2013 closed with their quarterly board meeting, which was well attended by AFA members who had extended their stay. Some attendees went on a final excursion to visit the Museum of Natural Sciences. Many people forged friendships that will last a lifetime and are looking forward to seeing each other again at the 40th Convention in Portland, Oregon. One thing for certain, AFA holds true to their mission as an educational organization for Aviculture. Don't miss out on the 2014 convention! Join us— you will be adding to an important piece of avicultural history.

**North Carolina Museum of Natural History:  
Conservation through “Preservation”**



Top left, a dinosaur exhibit at The North Carolina Museum of Natural History. Above, AFA President Nancy Speed and Julia Stacy stand by the jaws of Megalodon. At left, a butterfly rests to feed at the butterfly encounter exhibit.



*Story by Jason Crean*

*Photos by Mark Moore*

**A**s a fitting end to a successful convention, AFA attendees were invited to take a tour of the bird collection at the North Carolina Museum of Natural History hosted by ornithologist, John Gerwin, Research Scientist and Curator of Birds, who stopped into the museum just for our tour. Gerwin’s overwhelming complement of avian knowledge shows through his discussions on the museum’s collection; but this collection differed a bit from the earlier tour of the Waterfowl Park, as these birds are preserved. What can be learned from the preserved skins of deceased birds, you may ask? A great deal! Gerwin was most benevolent in his tour as he showed attendees a large number of their preserved specimens and what they learn from them over time.

Of course, one of the most popular and exciting specimens

was this year’s official convention bird, the Carolina parakeet. It was a quite humbling to see a preserved representative of a species that has been extinct for many, many years. A walk through the long corridors of specimen cabinet after specimen cabinet yielded a rare experience to view species that most of us will never get to see “in the feather.” Everything from select hummingbird species, the smallest birds in the world, to the large ratites, with the largest being the ostrich skeleton that greeted us as we entered the laboratory, were shown to us along with descriptions regarding how and when they were collected and catalogued. AFA continues to provide these unique educational experiences that expose attendees to things they may never have had access to otherwise. I am always delightfully surprised by the quality of tours and the knowledgeable hosts who support aviculture and its future. By looking at these birds, we learned much about the past which will help “preserve” our future with birds.

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Top left, a giant globe makes for an impressive entrance at The North Carolina Museum of Natural History. Top right, the now extinct Passenger Pigeon inhabited the United States in the 1800's in numbers of 5 billion. At left, a collection of many species of birds skins line the drawers of the Science Museum. These collections of birds help scientists learn more about each species. Above, a skeleton of a Blue Whale. Left, a skeleton in the Dinosaur Atrium.

## AFA Runs A-fowl! Sylvan Heights Wildfowl Park in Scotland Neck, North Carolina



Top, a Solomon Island Eclectus at Sylvan Heights Wildfowl Park. Top right, a Victoria Crowned Pigeon rests on a ledge. Right, two Swainson's Toucans bask in the sunlight and Macaws play together, far right.

*Story by Jason Crean*

*Photos by Mark Moore*

On Wednesday, August 7, 2013, conference attendees embarked on a journey to Sylvan Heights Wildfowl Park in Scotland Neck, North Carolina, one of the most productive avian breeding centers in the country. With an extremely diverse collection both on display and in their breeding center, the park's founding family, the Lubbocks, opened their doors and graciously welcomed AFA for a truly unique, up close and personal experience for all. The visit opened with a session where founder Mike Lubbock introduced AFA members to the history of the park and his experience with avian species from around the world. He also detailed how the park and his own vision has evolved into the non-profit entity that is his park and breeding center. After some invigorating refreshments, the tours began! These tours were meant for participants to engage with the staff, also from across the country and around the world, and brought to the park for their unique expertise. Mr. Lubbock's wife and son were among the very gracious hosts who provided an in-depth look at the park and their many, many successes.

Tours included walking through all of their public exhibits which included species of all kinds: parrots, toucans, cranes,

flamingos, and so many more. Of course, there were many representative waterfowl that were truly a sight to see. After viewing the public exhibits and aviaries, we moved on to the behind-the-scenes tours at their breeding center which is not usually available to the public. Here, their specialists showcased their breeding protocols, methods and successes by walking groups through each of the phases of their programs. The beautiful and spacious breeding yards and buildings were viewed with their lush vegetation and ponds. A tour of their incubation facility and a talk by their incubation specialist was also illuminating and showcased the unparalleled knowledge that this staff has when raising this great variety of birds. The fledging room was also exhibited and chicks of countless species were on display for participants to see, touch and feel; plenty of "ooohs" and "aaaahs" were heard!

This experience was a fantastic, comprehensive look at the inner workings of a very successful breeding facility that truly cares for their collection and the sustainability of each species they hold. Once again, AFA Convention attendees were treated like royalty and provided an opportunity that was rare, educational, and inspiring. Special thanks to the Lubbock family for their hospitality and their dedication to aviculture.

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**See new bird products**

**Tours: Portland Zoo &  
World Famous Rose Gardens**



**Lory League Bird Show**  
**Junior Aviculture Workshop**  
**and much more.....**

**Contests: Iron Chop—Bling That**  
**Cage—Feather Match**

**Raffles and Prizes....**

**For More information or to register—[www.AFABirds.org](http://www.AFABirds.org)**  
The American Federation of Aviculture is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit educational organization



# The University of Georgia

## Summer 2014 Avian Biology Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica

Enjoy 21 days (May 12 - June 1st), in an avian lover's paradise, and see over 250 species of birds including: parrots, toucans, trogons, motmots, honeycreepers, tanagers, and hummingbirds! During this educational adventure, you will reside at restricted wildlife areas at Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve, Heliconis Lodge, Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge, La Selva Biological Station, La Ensenda Lodge, Hacienda Baru Lodge, and Arenal Volcano.

You will earn 6 senior level college credit hours in a field-based course that explores multiple ecosystems, addresses conservation and sustainability issues affecting avian species in Costa Rica, and examines the physiological and anatomical adaptations of birds that allow them to survive in unique ecological niches.

Program fee is \$2,300, plus tuition and airfare. In-state tuition rates apply for students enrolled at any U.S. or international university/college. The application deadline is February 10, 2014. Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

Full details can be found at:

**<http://www.avianbiology.uga.edu>**  
or email questions to [avianbiology@uga.edu](mailto:avianbiology@uga.edu)

## Summer 2014 "Birds In Our Lives" Online Course

Gain exposure and a thorough understanding of the fascinating world of avian biology and aviculture in an 8-week (June 5th - July 29th) online course offered by experts at the University of Georgia! Earn 3 college credit hours upon completion of POUL 1010E - "Birds in Our Lives" while examining the complex relationships that exist between birds and humans.

Gain a comprehensive understanding of basic avian biology as it relates to: evolution, anatomy and physiology, sensory perception, nutrition, reproduction, and avian health. Discover the importance of wild bird conservation while learning about domesticated avian species such as parrots, pigeons, birds of prey, and game birds! Most importantly, gain an appreciation of the role birds play in human lives as pets, as animals of vital economic importance, as origins of scientific discovery, and as sources of entertainment through hobbies such as falconry and pigeon racing. This course will be taught entirely online.

For step-by-step instructions on how to apply to the University of Georgia as a transient student (by May 15, 2014) and to register for this course, please visit:



# **AFA 4 KIDZ ESSAY & ART CONTEST AGES 6—16**

**Grand Prize**

**Full Conference Registration for winner and adult\* to  
the 40th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon**

**July 30—August 2, 2014**

**Have your essay or your art published in the award winning**

**AFA Watchbird Journal**

**More details at [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org)**

**AFA is a 501 (c)3 non-profit education organization**

## Rules and Regulations:

- Submit essays by May 15, 2014
  - Winner will be contacted by June 5th, 2014
  - Send your essay or art to: AFA Essay & Art Contest  
PO Box 91717  
Austin, TX 78709
  - For ages 6-10 essays must be 300-500 words
  - For ages 11-16 essays must be 500-1500 words
  - Pictures are encouraged with essays, but not required
1. Pet Bird Essays: How has your bird enhanced your life or what is your favorite bird and why?
  2. Conservation Essays: How can pet owners help with conservation? Why is it important?
  3. Breeding: What birds would you like to breed, and why?
- Artwork should be of a species kept in captivity in the US but the art can show the bird in nature or in captivity.

For more information contact Julie Corwin at [blconnection@hotmail.com](mailto:blconnection@hotmail.com) or 206-772-1730 or 206-501-7428 (cell)

\* Accompanying adult with the winner—non transferable



Photo: Shane Hancock

