AAZK AWARDS 2016 recognizing excellence in the field of animal care

Lifetime Achievement Award
Michael Illig, Oregon Zoo.
This award is in recognition of his outstanding commitment to professionalism in his distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specifically noted is his high level of mentoring zoo keepers, successful breeding programs, initiating training programs, construction of numerous exhibits, and advancing species conservation with the California Condor, Western Pond Turtle, Columbian Basin Pygmy Rabbits and the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly. Also noted is his service to AAZK on a National and Chapter level, Rodent, Insectivore and Lagomorph TAG Steering Committee, the Husbandry and Management Coordinator for the Zoo with the USFWS California Condor Recovery Program, and the Studbook Keeper and Population Management Plan for the Columbian Basin Pygmy Rabbit. Throughout his career, he has served as a role model, leader and friend. Such action earns the praise and respect of all members of the zoological profession.
Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement - Professional of the Year Award
Sarah Kirkman, Akron Zoological Park.
This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism during her distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specially noted are her successes in managing critical breeding programs for Jaguars, Snow Leopards and Andean Condors as well as extensive participation on multiple zoo teams including the Continuing Education, Behavioral Husbandry and Climate Alliance Committees. She is also noted as a devoted mentor to new staff and volunteers with her positive outlook, strong desire to provide teachable moments and willingness to share her experiences with others at frequent “Lunch and Learns.” Sarah embodies the spirit of AAZK with her active participation in both National and Chapter events including attending conferences, organizing BFR and developing logos and marketing campaigns.

Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award
Hilda Tresz, Phoenix Zoo. This award is based on her outstanding efforts in establishing a comprehensive behavioral enrichment and training management program for the entire zoo collection. The protocols set in place within this program provide for a flexible, creative and self-sustaining environment in which all levels of staff and volunteers are encouraged to participate. Specially noted is Hilda has worked to collaborate extensively on international zoo animal welfare issues, developed and coordinated five behavioral research studies and has published numerous articles worldwide.

Nico van Strien Leadership in Conservation Award
Lauren Augustine, Smithsonian's National Zoo, for founding the Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders (FCSal.). Started as "Chopsticks for Salamanders" in 2013, with the goal of reducing single-use chopsticks, Lauren is currently the President of this new non-profit organization. In the past three years, more than $20,000 in grants have been awarded to salamander conservation projects both in the U.S. and abroad. This year Lauren launched a petition to end single-use chopsticks, hosted two fundraisers for the organization and developed "Salamander Saturday" which she hopes will become a national awareness/fundraising event, similar to AAZK’s Bowling for Rhinos.

Mesker Park Zoo AAZK Chapter, Mesker Park Zoo: 1st runner up, for their participation in and commitment to Community-supported Agriculture (CSA.). They have had a share in Seton Harvest, a CSA in Evansville, Indiana since 2012. The members donate time working on this Certified Naturally-grown farm to support natural land care in the community. Their effort not only helps feed the hungry in Evansville, but also provides enrichment produce for their own zoo animals.

Keith Neitman, Alyssa Borek, Woodland Park Zoo: 2nd runner up, for their work with the Oregon Spotted Frog head-start program. Woodland Park Zoo works with the state of Washington and several other zoos to hatch out these critically endangered frog eggs (collected in the wild) and then raises the tadpoles through metamorphosis for release back into the wild. Keith and Alyssa's work has helped the Woodland Park Zoo contribute over 4000 frogs for release, as well as innovated some of the enclosure logistics, life support and basic husbandry aspects of the project.
AAZK Awards cont.

Mazuri® Animal Nutrition Award
Rebecca Sturges, Denver Zoo, for collaborating and managing diet revisions for the facility's ring-tailed lemurs, white-collared brown lemurs, black and white colobus, red-capped mangabeys and aye-ayes, many of which have medical issues with nutritional components. She is being recognized for her outstanding commitment to four case studies which improve the welfare, natural behaviors and dietary nutritional content of these animals.

Lee Houts Advancement in Enrichment Award
Christine Juarez, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. This award is based on Christine’s new enrichment procedures for the education collection mainly focused on offering different forms of feeding techniques (i.e. puzzle feeders, slow feeders, foraging boxes, etc.). She has also fostered a more positive relationship with the education staff to work closely with the training and enrichment of the collection. Also noted is the forming of an enrichment committee, facilitating ‘parties’ for all zoo staff to create and brainstorm new enrichment items, and developing a binder for keeper notes and ideas/changes to the enrichment items.

Enrichment Committee (Aaron Dye, Jill Brown, Katie Hubbard, Autumn Lindley), Museum of Life + Science, for the transformation of an object-based enrichment program to a behavior-based program for their 90+ animals. The committee created an activity budget for each animal, noted behaviors they expected to observe, created a new calendar system, an evaluation scale, and approval forms with the idea that a behavior-based enrichment program will allow guests to see species-appropriate behavior that they would otherwise only see in the wild. This new program has been in place for less than a year and is always being re-evaluated and updated.

Certificate of Excellence in Exhibit Renovation
Africa Team (Tracy Campbell, Matt Corrie, Andrea Kendrick, Sheila Samek and Ken Harmon), Dickerson Park Zoo, for their renovation to create a natural-looking, multiple-species exhibit encouraging natural behaviors of lemurs and storks, including foraging and nesting behaviors. They are recognized for their inventive plans and construction of this versatile exhibit that has the ability to incorporate a diversity of species as well as increase public awareness through educational graphics and tours.
Distinguished Service Award
Memphis AAZK Chapter, 2016 AAZK National Conference Host Chapter

Barbara Manspeaker Chapter of the Year
Greater Houston AAZK Chapter, Houston Zoo

Certificate of Appreciation
Memphis Zoo, 2016 AAZK National Conference Host Institution

Certificate of Recognition
Wendy Lenhart, Philadelphia Zoo, for serving on the Board of Directors and as Vice President.
Jamie McTyre, Memphis Zoo, 2016 National AAZK Conference Chair.

recognizing
excellence
in the field
of animal care

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/267943
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/315175

Holding Institution
Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by
Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse
Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder
Rights Holder: American Association of Zoo Keepers
License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/
Rights: http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/

This document was created from content at the Biodiversity Heritage Library, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org.