**LEE HOUTS ADVANCEMENT IN ENRICHMENT QUALIFICATIONS**

* The nominee may be an individual, group, project or program in any North American zoo, aquarium, or related facility that has improved the well-being of an animal or group of animals through outstanding keeper-initiated enrichment techniques.
* The enrichment is to be **above and beyond** typified programs and achievements of current professional and industry standards.
* Nominees must have excelled in one or more of the following categories:

**Impact on Animal Welfare:**

* Developed innovative techniques that were implemented and evaluated to improve animal welfare.
* Created goal oriented enrichment to increase in positive behaviors or decrease negative behaviors. Enrichment helped animal(s) to exhibit natural behaviors, create positive social interactions (for social species), and/or increased utilization of exhibit.

**Versatility:**

* Enrichment items are able to be used with a variety of species.
* Are made with sustainable materials.
* Utilized creative fundraising efforts which increased the availability of enrichment items for staff to utilize.

**Involvement:**

* The enrichment project involved multiple departments including but not limited to maintenance, horticulture, interns, volunteers, and guests.

**Sharing Knowledge/Education/Research:**

* Information gained from the enrichment project was disseminated to the zoo community to advance the art and science of environmental enrichment. Information was spread through conference papers/posters; Animal Keeper Forum articles; contributions to research; and/or workshops/classes at conferences or home zoo.
* Enrichment project motivated and developed staff, volunteers, and peers to invest and participate in in-house enrichment programs.

**Nomination Procedure**

* The nominee must be nominated by an animal care professional.
* List name of keeper(s) who initiated the enrichment, institution’s name, address, phone and Director.
* List and **document** outstanding achievements in one or more of the categories listed under qualifications. **Verification** of these facts must be signed by the zoo director, curator, or immediate supervisor of the **nominee.**
* The deadline for nominations is **May 1st** of each year.

**Selection Procedure**

The Awards and Behavioral Husbandry Committees will independently review each nominee.