**2020 American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Awards**

**Lifetime Achievement AAZK Professional Service Award**

**Norah Farnham**, Woodland Park Zoo

**Lifetime Achievement AAZK Meritorious Service Award**

**Ian Craig,**Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

**Dr. Susie Ellis,**Former Executive Director – International Rhino Foundation

**Lutz Ruhe Professional of the Year Award**

**Hilary Colton**, Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

**Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award**

**Carolyn Sellar**, Woodland Park Zoo

**Excellence in Animal Nutrition Award**

***1st place:* Erica Royer**, Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute

***Runner-up:* Annabritt Coakley**, Safari West

**Excellence in Exhibit Renovation Award**

**Dell Guglielmo and Katy Juliano**, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

**Janet McCoy Excellence in Public Education Award**

***1st place:* National Capital AAZK Chapter**, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park and Conservation Biology Institute

***Runner-up:* Jordan Veasley**, Cougar Mountain Zoo

**Lee Houts Advancement in Environmental Enrichment Award**

***1st place:* NZP Bird Team:** **Sara Hallager, Lori Smith, Kathy Brader, Jen Ferraro and Stacy Hill,** Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

***Runner-up:* Jen Bates**, Safari West

**Nico van Strien Leadership in Conservation Award**

**Mandy Fahy,** The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

**Certificate of Recognition**

**Robin Sutker,** The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, for serving as Chair of the AAZK Resource Committee

**Kym Janke,** San Diego Zoo, for serving as the BFR Program Manager

**Neil Miller,** Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo, for serving as Vice Chair on the AAZK Communications Committee

**Megan Wright-Walker**, for serving as Chair of the AAZK Animal Welfare Committee

**Carrie Ellis**, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, for serving as the Vice Chair of the AAZK Conservation Committee

**James Weinpress**, Seneca Park Zoo, for serving as the Chair of the AAZK Communications Committee

**Barbara Manspeaker Chapter of the Year Award**

**Cape May County Zoo AAZK Chapter**, Cape May County Park & Zoo

**2020 AKF Awards**

**Susan D. Chan**

**Author of the Year**

Saving Lissa: How training aided in the cancer treatment of a southern white rhinoceros

Kimberlee Wuenstel, David Backus, and Daniel Soler

Lion Country Safari

**Excellence in Journalism Awards**

Chiropractor Visits a Neonate Tiger

Dawn Strasser

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden

Zoo Visitor Perceptions Regarding the Conservation Status of Cotton-top Tamarins and their Appropriateness as Pets

Kara DeLanty

Milwaukee County Zoo

Gender Labeling and Behavior: “This animal doesn’t like men”

John Scott

Central Park Zoo

Changes in Flamingo Foot Condition Following Substrate Changes in Holding Areas

Joy Kotheimer, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Ian M. Hamilton, The Ohio State University

Increasing Exhibit Value Through Zookeeper Presence

Brett Bartek

Oklahoma City Zoo

**Cover Photography**

**Photographer of the Year**

Red Panda

Jill Dignan

Lincoln Park Zoo

**Excellence in Photography**

Snow Leopard

Allycia Darst

Lincoln Park Zoo

**Lifetime Achievement AAZK Meritorious Service Award**

***Use plaque wording for letters***

**Ian Craig**

**Lewa Wildlife Conservancy**

**Northern Rangelands Trust**

**Plaque**

Raised in Kenya, Ian Craig converted his family’s 62,000-acre cattle ranch into a rhino sanctuary at the peak of the elephant and rhino poaching epidemic. Ian’s vision propelled Lewa to great success, and the Conservancy has grown to become a world-renowned catalyst and model for conservation that protects endangered species and promotes the development of neighboring communities. Mr. Craig via LWC has been ardent supporter of AAZK and animal keepers and was a frequent contributor and collaborator with the AAZK Board of Directors and Bowling for Rhinos Program.

**Script**

In 1983 Craig, along with his parents and the late Anna Merz, started the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (then called Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary) on the northern slopes of Mount Kenya. The conservancy quickly turned into a model of community and wildlife conservation and a catalyst for similar conservancies in northern Kenya; of which the Sera Conservancy is but just one example. Craig stood at the helm of Lewa as the Executive Director until 2009 and, in 2004, spearheaded the formation of the Northern Rangelands Trust, an umbrella body that supports community conservancies across northern and eastern Kenya. Today the NRT has 33 member conservancies that work across 44,000 square kilometers of prime dryland wildlife territory and together help develop, support and fund thousands of people in hundreds of communities.

Ian Craig was awarded the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by HM Queen Elizabeth II in June 2016 for services to conservation and security to communities in Kenya.

In 2020, the AAZK Board of Directors, in recognition of his dedication to conservation, has named the Bowling for Rhinos 1st place Trip Winner to Africa in his honor, now entitled the Ian Craig Rhino Champion Award.

**Dr. Susie Ellis**

**International Rhino Foundation**

**Plaque**

Dr. Ellis served as the Executive Director of the International Rhino Foundation until her retirement in 2019, and remains highly respected in her field.  Dr. Ellis has been a longtime member and ardent supporter of AAZK and animal keepers and was a frequent contributor and collaborator with the AAZK Board of Directors and Bowling for Rhinos Program.

**Script**

Dr. Susie Ellis is now retired as the Executive Director of IRF.  Prior to joining IRF, Ellis was a vice president at Conservation International, focusing on terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation in Asia. Dr. Ellis worked on projects in more than 35 countries during the course of her career, with species ranging from penguins to rhinos.  Ellis has written more than 100 technical papers, proceedings and book chapters.

Dr. Ellis’s accomplishments in wildlife conservation are far too numerous to list. She was instrumental in doubling the size and scope of IRF, expanding field conservation programs in Africa and Asia. Dr. Ellis was previously awarded the Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation.

In 2020, the AAZK Board of Directors, in recognition of her dedication to conservation, has named the Bowling for Rhinos 1st place Trip Winner to Indonesia in her honor, now entitled the Susie Ellis Rhino Champion Award.

**Lifetime Achievement AAZK Professional Service Award**

**Norah Farnham**, Woodland Park Zoo. This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism in her distinguished career as a zoo keeper.  Specifically noted is ability to mentor new keepers in the areas of conservation, animal care, and AAZK opportunities at each facility she was employed at.  Specifically, she prioritized efficiency to benefit Hippo and other African Savannah species’ husbandry by initiating safe introductions and cleaning procedures. Through her own efforts in changing habitat and husbandry, she also greatly improved Southern Masked Weaver breeding success. Concerning AAZK, she was instrumental in the very first BFR event. She inspires conservation and stewardship by leading international trips for her peers. Her decades of inspiration and leadership have earned her this award.

**Lutz Ruhe Professional of the Year Award**

**Hilary Colton**, Smithsonian’s National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute. This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism during her distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specifically noted are her successes in managing the breeding program of the elegant-crested tinamou and whiptail catfish, her research and work to decrease stereotypic behaviors in blue-billed curassow, and her commitment to training in order to improve husbandry practices for the many species in her care. In addition to her work as a zoo keeper, she also serves as an invaluable member of the zoo’s Diversity Committee, Steering Committee, and Enrichment & Training Committee, as well as president of National Capital Chapter of AAZK and a member of the Professional Development Committee. Finally, she is devoted to engaging the community in various aspects of conservation through talks, presentations, and education. Her dedication to the animals and her institution, along with promoting professionalism is outstanding.

**Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award**

**Carolyn Sellar**, Woodland Park Zoo. This award is given based on her dedication to animal care, husbandry, and conservation throughout her more than 22 years in the profession.  She has demonstrated her deep knowledge of and passion for primate husbandry through working with various international institutions on furthering their knowledge of primate husbandry, breeding, and enrichment.  Her significant knowledge of primate husbandry led to collaborations with international institutions such as Cairo Zoo and Bali Zoo.  In addition, she worked with Avanti Mallapur in India to create a publication on Environmental Enrichment with Lion-Tailed Macaques in Indian Zoos, and had a publication in IZN on husbandry of Lion-Tailed Macaques with the Use of Deslorelin. She has served in various positions in her local AAZK Chapter and is heavily involved in various committees and programs within both her facility and her local community.  Her passion for conservation and primates has led her to volunteer with various international organizations, of which she has shared her conservation experiences with her facility and her local community.

**Excellence in Animal Nutrition Award**

**Erica Royer,** Smithsonian’s Conservation Biology Institute. This award is given for the creation of diet and husbandry protocols for Red Siskin (Spinus cucullatus) at her facility. She conducted extensive research by collaborating with private aviculturists, other zoos, field researchers and nutrition staff. She successfully overcame nutritional challenges, such as incorporating seasonal variability for increased breeding rate, and has shown outstanding dedication to this elusive species.

**Annabritt Coakley,** Safari West. This award is given for researching and revising diets for her facility’s herd of Southern White Rhino. In addition to altering diet ratio amounts, she modified the daily feeding routine to better assess individual consumption. Through these efforts, she has helped improve overall body condition and animal welfare.

**Excellence in Exhibit Renovation Award**

**Dell Guglielmo and Katy Juliano**, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. This award is in recognition of the renovation and transformation of their previous giant anteater exhibit to suit the facility’s new species, Patagonian maras. They are being recognized for their dedication and attention to detail to create a naturalistic, innovative habitat that promotes the overall welfare of this species, while also improving the overall appeal of the habitat for all to enjoy.

**Janet McCoy Excellence in Public Education Award**

**National Capital AAZK Chapter**, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park and Conservation Biology Institute. This award is given for their dedication to public education and their determination to meet the needs of the community through outreach. Through their work with Friends of the National Zoo, the Chapter is able to meet the needs of the community for educational outreach opportunities with interviews, career days, video chats and virtual tours. The Chapter receives many requests from across the country each year, and its members do their best to fulfill them, fulfilling forty-nine requests this year alone. They continue to adapt and serve the community during the pandemic by answering e-mails and videoconferences.

**Jordan Veasley**, Cougar Mountain Zoo. This award is given for creating the Zoo2U program in order to engage the public during a global pandemic through educational livestreams and social media posts. These videos encourage viewers to research wildlife and ways to protect the planet and to take action. The streams keep viewers active through zoo-related activities and engage visitors during a time when they cannot visit the zoo. The regularly scheduled posts bring awareness to wildlife and conservation issues and provide teachers with educational materials for students.

**Lee Houts Advancement in Environmental Enrichment Award**

**NZP Bird Team:** **Sara Hallager, Lori Smith, Kathy Brader, Jen Ferraro and Stacy Hill,** Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute. This award is given for their role in the new Bird House exhibit. Caring for almost 100 species of birds, the new exhibit focuses on the cyclical journeys of migratory songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. These exhibits and the accompanying enrichment programs focus on breeding grounds, wintering grounds, and stopover points. Special notice was given to Sara Hallager for her article “Native Songbird Enrichment” which was published in the North American Songbird Working Group.

**Jen Bates**, Safari West. This award is in recognition of her efforts and success in the reorganization and implementation of a new enrichment program at her facility. After attending several workshops, she brought her knowledge back to Safari West where she built a new enrichment program which allowed for improved record keeping and keeper accessibility to approved and pending items. In addition, she boosted intra- and interdepartmental communication, enhanced the organization of enrichment storage and streamlined the enrichment approval process which has advanced the welfare of the animals housed at Safari West.

**Nico van Strien Leadership in Conservation Award**

**Mandy Fahy,** The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. This award is being given for their creation of Corks for Conservation, a product-based conservation program that raises funds for in-situ rhino conservation. This program, though fairly new, has already sold more than 1500 units and continues to grow on a larger scale daily. Mandy also is recognized for her work as the Greater Baltimore AAZK Chapter as the Bowling for Rhinos Chair and reworking their annual fundraiser to “Winos for Rhinos” and tripling the funds raised in her two years as the chair.