

2015 American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

Gisela Wiggins, North Carolina Zoological Park.

This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism in her thirty-year distinguished career. Specifically noted is her participation in the training and completion of successful voluntary cardiac ultrasounds on gorillas and chimps and pregnancy ultrasounds on gorillas, assisting with veterinary camps, teaching interns, helping with the veterinary residence program and volunteering with various rehab facilities in North Carolina. She is a founding member of the NC AAZK Chapter and held officer positions. On the national level, she served on the Board of Directors, Bylaws Chair and was Co-Chair of the 2013 National Conference.

Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement - Professional of the Year Award

Erin Tully, Saint Louis Zoo.

This award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment to professionalism during her distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specially noted is her professionalism, innovation, active participation and extensive achievements in animal care and conservation and commitment to the St. Louis AAZK Chapter. Also noted is her work with the Endangered Wolf Center, Polar Bears International, keeper chats, the zoo's Enrichment Committee and launching the St. Louis AAZK Travel Grant Program for keepers. Erin embodies the AAZK mission to advance animal care, promote public awareness, enhance professional development and contribute to local and global conservation.

Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award

The Giraffe Team, Jason Bredahl, Amy Schilz, Andrea Bryant, Diana Cartier, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

This award is based on the Giraffe Team of four keepers for developing an operant conditioning program to safely provide hoof care and maintenance with non-sedated giraffe. Training techniques were tailored to each of the reticulated giraffes' personalities and learning styles. They created a "Giraffe Training and Enrichment" Facebook page, gave presentations on the giraffe herd, and hosted the first Giraffe Care Workshop. Also noted was their work in conservation, volunteer work and field research.

Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment Award

Yvette Kemp, San Diego Zoo

For organizing and facilitating the Zoo's Keeper Enrichment Group and developing a Rating and Categories form, Daily Log, and adding an area Enrichment Section to the Zoo's Husbandry/Guidelines form and Enrichment binders. As Veterinary Services Enrichment Coordinator she works to obtain items for the hospital and enrichment shed, leads monthly enrichment workshops for special guest groups and spearheads Keepers Teaching Keepers to share best husbandry practices, training and enrichment with Mexican zoological institutions.

Primate House Team, Joe Knobbe, Mylisa Whipple, Peggy Hoppe, Ethan Riepl, Shannon Farrell, James Kelton, Alicia Marty, Brooke Thoele, Saint Louis Zoo

For conducting enrichment research and evaluation projects to generate data to use, share, and have as a tool to refine enrichment efforts, keeping a comprehensive enrichment handbook and developing an

enrichment emergency protocol and incident form to help people prepare, respond and document enrichment incidents. Their enrichment building workshop has facilitated the design and build of creative items while saving costs.

Ethan Riepl, Saint Louis Zoo

For using innovative techniques and implementation of enrichment to encourage particular behaviors in animals. Ethan has worked with keepers to create a digital documentation and evaluation system to visualize if the enrichment is encouraging the goal behavior. As the Primate House Workshop Coordinator, he has participated and led enrichment workshops for keepers, docents, volunteers and corporate partners.

Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education Award

Enrichment & Training Committee, Stacey Tabellario, Chelsea Grubb, Hilary Colton, Kirstin Schoeninger, Judy Tasse, Smithsonian's National Zoo

For initiating and creating Enrichment 101 and Training 101. Both courses are required for new Animal Care employees, but are open to all staff. In addition to familiarizing attendees with current standards in zoos, these courses also include National Zoo's institutional policies on the two topics. Eighty-five employees attended the classes in 2014.

Brian Williams and William Freeman, Disney's Animal Kingdom

For creating and implementing the Animal Care Continuing Education Series for Success (ACCESS). This monthly professional growth lecture series focuses on skills and knowledge used in the day-to-day routines of a professional in the zoological field. Each lecture is offered twice monthly to allow all employees the opportunity to attend.

Mazuri® Animal Nutrition Award

Lauren Augustine, Smithsonian's National Zoo

For conducting two scientific studies to improve the nutrition of captive animals. Nutritional analysis of wild prey options was conducted and compared to captive diets to determine the most efficient and naturalistic diet for hellbenders in captivity. The effects of macro and micro nutrients on Spindly Leg Syndrome (SLS) in Golden Mantella frogs are being investigated.

Certificate of Merit in Conservation Award

Beth Foster, Oregon Zoo

For spearheading and organizing the Portland Chapter of AAZK fundraiser, "Comedy Night at the Zoo." In the past two years, this event has raised over \$40,000 for African Painted Dog conservation. Beth also raises money for Painted Dogs through the Chapter by selling Painted Dog merchandise at various events.

Mike Henley, Smithsonian's National Zoo

For his integral role in research for both in-situ and ex-situ conservation of endangered corals. In particular, Mike is seeking to establish captive populations of threatened Elkhorn and Staghorn coral of the Caribbean by capturing the corals' gametes during their annual mass spawn and rearing the juvenile corals in captivity. In addition, he is helping research cryopreserving coral gametes and stem cells to establish a genetic cryopreserved bank of endangered coral.

Daniel Koch, Saint Louis Zoo

For his work in developing and teaching American Burying Beetle husbandry protocol as a vital part of the WildCare Institute's Center for American Burying Beetle conservation project. An insect keeper for almost twelve years at the Zoo's Monsanto Insectarium, Dan has been involved with the project since its infancy when the first wild-caught beetles were brought to the Zoo. Through his help with propagation efforts, there have been over 9,000 beetles produced to date.

Christy Mazrimas-Ott, Brookfield Zoo

For her commitment to connecting sustainability with forest stewardship in an effort to reduce carbon dioxide through the program "Trees for You and Me." Planting trees reduces carbon dioxide which has a direct effect on preserving Arctic sea ice, slowing down rapid climate change. The program has raised over \$80,000 since 2009.

Raptor Ecology Team, Gretchen Albrecht, Ros Bass-Fournier, Susan Burchardt, Joanna Bojarski, Jeannie Ragland, Regina Smith, Woodland Park Zoo

For joining forces with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to aid in the protection of Washington's native raptor species and their habitats. From nesting surveys, to helping to capture wild birds for blood draws, to years of documenting raptor interaction with wind turbines, the team has logged over 265 volunteer hours with the WDFW. In addition, the Zoo has assisted the WDFW with Bald Eagle rehabilitation.

Certificate of Recognition

Bob Cisneros, Big Bear Alpine Zoo

For serving on the AAZK Board of Directors and as President for four years.

Kelly Wilson, Detroit Zoological Society

For serving on the AAZK Board of Directors.

Deana Waltz

For serving on the AAZK Board of Directors.

Julie Felton, Graphic Designer

For her contribution to the Association for designing the Grants and Awards logos.

Leslie Wiener, Western North Carolina Nature Center

For her contribution to the Association for designing the Communication Committee logo.

Christy Conk, Disney's Animal Kingdom

For her contribution to the Association for designing the Conservation Committee logo.

Richard Kotarsky, Tulsa Zoo

For serving eight years as the AKF Editor of the Enrichment Options Column and for serving as the Bylaws Program Manager.

Julie Hartell-DeNardo, Saint Louis Zoo

For serving as the Behavioral Husbandry Chair and Co-Editor of the Enrichment Options Column.

Norah Farnham, Woodland Park Zoo

For serving as the AAZK Representative on ICZ's Steering Committee. Her ten years of service includes participation in the planning and organization of four successful international conferences: ICZ Gold Coast 2006, ICZ Seattle 2009, ICZ Singapore 2012, and ICZ Leipzig 2015. Notably, she was the 2009 Conference Co-Chair for the joint AAZK-ICZ 2009 Conference in Seattle.

Erin Tully, Saint Louis Zoo

2015 National AAZK Conference Co-Chair.

Christy Poelker, Saint Louis Zoo

2015 National AAZK Conference Chair.

Certificate of Appreciation

Saint Louis Zoo, 2015 AAZK National Conference Host Institution.

Endangered Wolf Center, 2015 AAZK National Conference Host Institution.

Distinguished Service Award

St. Louis AAZK Chapter, 2015 AAZK National Conference Host Chapter.

Barbara Manspeaker Chapter of the Year Award

Pittsburgh AAZK Chapter, Pittsburgh Zoo.