

A JOURNAL FOR BIRD BREEDING, CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017



# **NEXT ISSUE**

LUTINO PLUM HEAD PARAKEETS ROGER BRINGAS The purposes of the Society are the study of foreign and native birds to promote their conservation and protection; the dissemination of information on the care, breeding, and feeding of birds in captivity; the education of Society members and the public through publications, meetings, and available media; and the promotion and support of programs and institutions devoted to conservation. Front Cover: Emperor Penguins (Aptenodytes forsteri) Inside front cover: Luntio Plum-headed parakeet (Psittacula cyanocephala) © 2012-2017 Avicultural Society of America.

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## January/February 2017 Presídent's Message

Another Avicultural Icon Gone - Frank S. Todd

From my first ASA education conference at Rosarito Beach, Baja California, Mexico, I always came to expect a stellar presentation from Frank Todd, at every conference thereafter.

Frank Todd and Jerry Jennings approached then ASA President, Steve Duncan, with the idea of an annual conference. And thus the ASA conferences started in earnest, held on the iconic Queen Mary in Long Beach on April 1st and 2nd in 2006.

Frank's friends from around world came to speak at each conference and world renowned AZA institutions hosted guests for unique behind the scenes tours and BBQs. A practice observed to this day.

Frank was a natural conversationalist; a silver-tongued devil, as it were. His depth of knowledge, accumulated from years of real world experience, made him a go-to man on many avicultural subjects. He was an author, pioneer and the only person I know that went to the Arctic AND the Antarctic every year, for over 30 years.

Frank's contributions to aviculture live beyond his presence and the Avicultural Society of America is sponsoring the Frank S. Todd Memorial Fund. The fund's purpose is to continue Frank's tradition of bringing exceptional conservationists, zoologists and aviculturists to provide live presentattions at ASA conferences in the future. To donate, go to www.asabirds.org/FrankSTodd. A Frank S. Todd Memorial page has been created on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Frank-S-Todd-Memorial-Tributes-1760246757633522/?hc\_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf

Frank's last presentation on global warming was recorded and may be seen at:

Frank, the ASA conference will never be the same without you. I pray we will live up to your example. Penguin Power!

Carol Stanley

President, YOUR Avicultural Society of America

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# ASA Yahoo Email Group

Did you know ASA has an email group? It's easy to join. Email:

asabirds-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and you will start getting messages.

#### Like Us on Facebook

ASA has several pages on facebook. "Like" them all!

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- ASA Conference: https://www.facebook.com/ASA-Aviculture-Conference-324481397748582/timeline/
- ASA Bulletin: https://www.facebook.com/groups/asabulletin/



# Frank Sturtevant Todd - August 25, 1942 to December 8, 2016 *Carol Stanley*

Dos Equis missed the mark with their most interesting man in the world commercials. They should have chosen Frank S. Todd. Frank's life was an adventure that took him to every corner of the globe — literally. He was a brilliant pioneer that left a legacy. He was an author, lecturer, scientist, penguin habitat designer, photographer, and aviculturist. He was the driving force behind the Avicultural Society of America's Annual Education Conference, which is being renamed the Frank S. Todd Avicultural Education Conference.

Frank, along with fellow aviculturist Jerry Jennings, gathered speakers from around the world to give their presentations at ASA Education Conferences, mostly at their own expense.

Frank spoke at every ASA conference and was noticeably suffering from the cancer that would eventually take his life but that didn't stop him from giving one of his greatest presentations on global warming at the ASA conference in in Port Angeles, Washington in April 2016.

Frank touched so many people's lives. One need only look to "Frank S. Todd Memorial Tributes", the Facebook tribute page created in his honor.

The Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) is well known for its endurance and is just as well known for its pugnacious tenacity. Fearlessly, it will strike and cause as much damage to its percieved threat as possible. Paraphrasing photographer Sue Forbes commenting on the picture of Frank and the Artic Tern, "instead of being afraid, Frank was happy to have it light on his cap."

Frank enjoyed the ASA conferences, after all, they were gatherings of his closest friends and colleagues from around the world. The stories were fabulous—Frank was truly one of the greatest, if not the best, orators aviculture has to offer. Although we can't replace Frank, we can remember and honor him. It is with great pleasure the Avicultural Society of America announces the creation of Frank S. Todd Memorial Fund. The Frank S. Todd Memorial Fund will strive to continue in Frank's footsteps by bringing cream of the crop avicultural speakers to the annual Frank S. Todd Avicultural Education Conference, 100% of the donations will be used to pay for travel expense and, hopefully, lodging for conference speakers. We hope this small token will help keep Frank's memory alive in our hearts and at the annual conferences so the legend that is Frank S. Todd will endure.

The Frank S. Todd Memorial
Fund will strive to continue in
Frank's footsteps by bringing
cream of the crop avicultural
speakers to the annual Frank
S. Todd Avicultural Education
Conference.

# Remembering Frank S. Todd Debbie & Arnold Schouten

We met Frank during the early 1980s. It was at this time that we started attending IWWA conferences. Frank always made us feel welcome and being around him was a never ending education. We grew to be close friends.

For those of us who were close to Frank, it was business as usual when it came to being the recipient of his 'constructive criticism', jokes and humor, which certainly provided many good laughs and fond memories. We were constantly in awe of Frank's travel experiences, his intelligence with birds, penguins, and the animal kingdom. As a speaker at conferences, his presentations were evidence of his passion, expertise, enthusiasm and great photography skills. As a prolific author he provided us with a lasting legacy of his vast knowledge and his life experiences.

Frank touched the hearts of many people around the world... through his zoo career, naturalist tours, his books, his fabulous photography, or casual encounters, he left a lasting impression to everyone he met. We traveled with Frank on several occasions and it was a common occurrence for people to greet him with excitement and stories of when and where they met one another. Frank would often



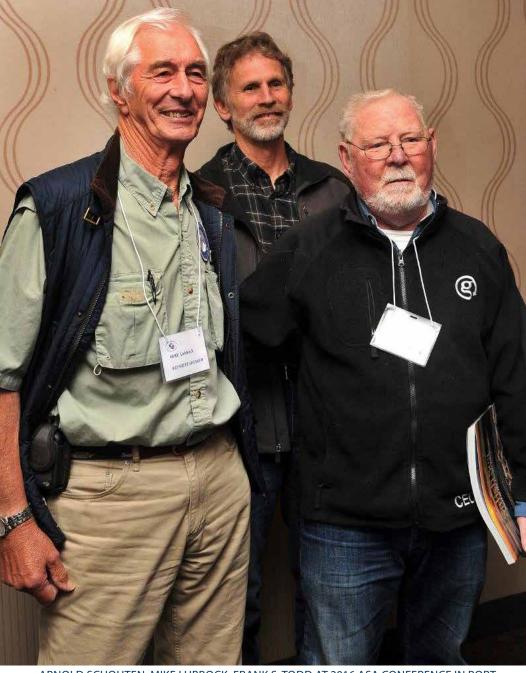
ARNOLD & DEBBIE SCHOUTEN PHOTO GLEN BROWNING

mention how he either directed their career, or saved their lives from some risk, or explained what they should be doing differently. He was always the expert. Even though he often joked 'I have no words', he was never without words. When we all cross paths at future conventions, we will be able to memorialize Frank through the many experiences and stories that we all shared with him.

At the end of the day, as the sun would set, Frank would likely be having a Cuba Libre with friends in the presence of birds in a special place. Cheers to you Frank! You will always be missed and you will never be forgotten.

As Frank would say...Keep the Faith and Penguin Power!

Arnold & Debbie Schouten



ARNOLD SCHOUTEN, MIKE LUBBOCK, FRANK S. TODD AT 2016 ASA CONFERENCE IN PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON PHOTO GLEN BROWNING

Even though he often joked 'I have no words', he was never without words.

# Frank Todd, Committed Penguin and Waterfowl Biologist Judy St. Ledger, Seaworld

San Diego, CA — Frank S. Todd, 74, died December 8, 2016 at home following a brief illness. Frank leaves behind his daughter, Suzy Todd-Johnson and son-in-law, Chris Johnson; a brother, John and his wife Judy Todd of North Carolina; sister, Joan Rasor of Idaho; nieces and nephews, Sturdy and Kathy Rasor and Eric and John Todd; and many close friends and colleagues around the globe.

Born and raised in Panama, before attending college Frank helped to found the Summit Zoo near Panama City within the Panama Botanical Garden. This small zoo is today home to about 300 animals. One of the attractions of the zoo is the harpy eagle; the national bird of Panama. After moving to the Continental US, Frank Todd received a B.A. from the University of Montana. His original goal was to become a forest ranger, but life had other plans for Frank. In the late 1960s, while working at the LA County Museum of Natural History preparing specimens, he met Dr. Nathan B. Gale from the LA Zoo. Frank wanted a zoo position working with reptiles but the zoo only had an opening with birds. On the advice of Dr. Gale, Frank took the position in the avian department and with Dr. Gale's mentorship he became the curator of birds for the LA Zoo. While in the position, Frank worked with Nate Gale and Art Risser on establishing the California Condor Conservation program. This program is now the key to the success of this species in the wild.

In 1972, Frank moved from LA to San Diego when he was hired to work at SeaWorld by George Millay. At SeaWorld he built and curated one of the largest collections of exotic waterfowl in the world. He was committed to cutting edge zoology; in collaboration with the National Science Foundation he oversaw the development of The SeaWorld Penguin Encounter which opened in May of 1983. This facility serves as the model for zoological penguin holding facilities worldwide. It created a population of penguins where biologists could view the full life cycle of these species without needing to weather cold and dark months in Antarctica. Frank's interest in penguin biology and Antarctic research took him to the Southern Continent every year to study penguins. As the summer research season in Antarctica is during winter in the northern hemisphere, Frank spent many Christmases in the world of the penguin. For him this environment populated by millions of penguins was the only place to be. "A biologist has to be where the action is. We can't forget that animals are unconcerned with the human calendar".

Following his time at SeaWorld, Frank founded EcoCepts International, an environmental and zoological consulting firm. In this capacity he influenced zoos and aquariums internationally in their design and management of birds. He also became a Senior Research Fellow at the Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute in San Diego. Later in life he continued to visit both Arctic and Antarctic waters as resident scientist on research cruises, educating and entertaining in formal lectures and in bars with

his vast knowledge and endless collection of pictures. At the time of his death he was serving on the board of the International Wild Waterfowl Association (IWWA) and inspiring conservation and ornithology on a global scale. His catch phrase "Penguin Power" is known to many.

Frank Todd's achievements were many and he was rewarded with high honors. His singleness of purpose and dedication to his goals were paralleled by few. In recognition of his work in Antarctica, He received the National Science Foundation Polar Medal, His conservation efforts and breeding successes include numerous penguin species as well as work with harpy eagles, red lorikeets, whispering ibis, and giant tinamou. These accomplishments were recognized with the San Diego Zoological Society Conservation Medal, three separate Edward H. Bean awards for penguin breeding accomplishments from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and election to the American Game Breeders' Avicultural Hall of Fame and the IWWA Hall of Fame in 2000.

Frank is the author of numerous articles and scientific papers in addition to his books: Antarctic Splendor; Penguins; Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese and Swans of the World; and 10,001 Titillating Tidbits of Avian Trivia. In addition to detailed writing. Frank was an avid and accomplished wildlife photographer. He was committed to sharing the beauty of the animal kingdom and his images were part of many lectures and the foundation of his most adored books. At the time of his death, he was working furiously on his final book, Waterfowl of North America. His last adventure was in August of this year to

the Island of Kauai in Hawaii seeking out Hawaiian ducks to get just the right images for the text. The chase was hard and the ducks were elusive. In the end, the best images came from some of the biologists he met while on the trip. Always one for details, Frank left specific instruction on how the work was to be completed. Publication is expected in mid-2017.

Frank married Sherlyn Todd in 1966 and they had two children, Jody and Suzy. Sherlyn accompanied Frank on many expeditions. On one memorable adventure, she injured a knee prior to a trip to Antarctica. Sherlyn explained back in 1986 how Frank was so committed to showing her the extensive penguin colonies that, "he took my crutches and leg brace and threw them overboard. From that point on, he became my physical therapist, patiently working with me for hours on end. I was able to climb the mountains of Antarctica, viewing thousands of penguins as he had always wanted me to."

In lieu of flowers, friends and colleges are asked to make a donation to the Frank Todd Memorial Fund to the IWWA (IWWA c/o Sylvan Heights Bird Park 500 Sylvan Heights Park Way PO Box 11 Scotland Neck, NC 27874 info@shwpark.com). Memories can be shared and viewed on the Frank Todd Memorial Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/Frank-S-Todd-Memorial-Tributes-1760246757633522/

Willow Rd, Lakeside, CA 92040. For inquiries, please contact Judy St. Leger: judy.st.leger@seaworld.com







TOP LEFT; BRAD HAZELTON & FRANK TALKING WITH JOAN EMBERY; TOP LEFT, FRANK; MIDDLE LEFT, MIKE LUBBOCK, FRANK & LYNN HALL IN ROSARITO BEACH, BAJA, CA; MIDDLE RIGHT, GLEN BROWNING, ARNOLD SCHOUTEN, FRANK, JERRY JENNINGS, MRS. MAYNARD AXELROD. BOTTOM; LORY ABLES, JERRY JENNINGS, PAULA STRASSER, UNKNOWN, DICK SCHROEDER, RIKKI SCHROEDER, CHRISTIANA MCKNIGHT AND FRANK S. TODD PHOTOS CAROL STANLEY





TOP: FRANK S. TODD; MIDDLE LEFT: FRANK, MICHAEL ROSE, JOAN EMBERY; MIDDLE RIGHT, BRAD HAZELTON, FLAVIA NOGUEIRA PAROTTI, MIKE LUBBOCK AND FRANK PHOTOS CAROL STANLEY

# **PLEASE DONATE NOW**

Help us keep Frank's memory alive by continuing the tradition he started with the first Avicultural Society of America Educational Conference. Frank developed the conference and, for many years, arranged for speakers from around the world to attend and make presentations.

Your donation will allow ASA to continue the tradition and help with travel expenses for our conference speakers. http://asabirds.org/frank-s-todd-memorial-fund/





A toast for Frank from Atascadero, CA with WATER. Has anyone ever seen Frank drink water? Not me. In fact, I can hear him right now telling me this doesn't count as a real toast. And then I would try to say it is because of the baby and he would probably tell me I shouldn't have "whelped". Like he did so many times.

I met Frank while working for Jerry Jennings in 2003. Throughout these 13 years he was so supportive of my career. I will miss him and his advice. Advice that only Frank could give and, the best of all, it was delivered in a way that only Frank could ever do it. Cheers!!!

Left page; top, Arctic Skua (Parastic Jaegar) flying with Frank's cap Photo kevin morgan; bottom, Rolan Cristo, Sheldon Dingle, Jerry Jennings, Frank Todd and Lynn Hall aboard the Queen Mary and an ASA conference.

Right page. December 17, 2016 was the day that friends and colleagues from around the world were encouraged to toast Frank. Flavia Nogueira Parroti with baby toasting Frank; below; David Hancock and Myles Lamont toasting Frank. To see all the online tributes to Frank on facebook search for: Frank S. Todd Memorial Tributes. It's an amazing read about the life of an amazing man.





MIKE LUBBOCK, FRANK TODD, LYNN HALL AND LORI ABLES AT ROSARITO BEACH BAJA CALIFORNIA MEXICO AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA 2ND ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE. PHOTO CAROL STANLEY FRANK TODD, JOAN EMBERY, CONNIE DALE-OLSEN AND MICKEY OLSEN AT WORLD WILDLIFE ZOO DILLON'S RESTAURANT







# Steve's Photo Pick

side and female on the other side, reproduce, although its offspring left and right halves will develop would only carry the genes from budgie in this image is the result one half or the other depending only visible when the two fused fusing together very soon after fertilization. If the two embryos halfsiders that are male on one embryos are of different colors. is genetically distinct. They are They result from two embryos from each embryo so each halt two siblings fused together to not common, but many do go of two male embryos so it can fuse at just the right time, the but these are almost certainly undetected because they are sex hormones. Halfsiders are Halfsider Budgie – Halfsiders form a single individual. The sperm. It is possible to have on which half produced the infertile due to competing are an accident of nature.



worry, especially in the winter. As a

long time breeder of various types

of softbills housed in outside aviaries



take. Most aviculturists, me included,

would love it if someone could

answer this question definitively,

# Weather or Not?

by Kateri J. Davis

Davis Lund Aviaries, https://dlaviaries.wordpress.com



because it would make wintering birds outside much less stressful, for us and our beloved avians.

Unfortunately, the question and the answers are not that clear cut. While

it may be a starting point, being told a minimum temperature doesn't really tell you whether or not it is safe for your birds.



SNOW IN FLIGHTS CAN MAKE PROBLEMS. HERE A PEKIN ROBIN AND A SPURWING PLOVER DEAL WITH A LIGHT DUSTING.

Actually, most birds in aviculture can take a range of temperatures. In the wild, it is natural for them to deal with changes in temps within a 24 hour period as well as seasonal changes. Birds that are kept at constant temperatures throughout their lives are typically not as hardy as birds that are allowed to experience variations, so weather changes can be beneficial.

Temperatures too hot or too cold do stress birds more though. Most birds can handle temperatures in the 40-50's degrees Fahrenheit, but what about lower? What about temperatures at or below freezing? Frustrating as the truth is, there are many other variables to consider when housing outdoor birds, and this

makes each outdoor aviary situation unique. No one answer fits all.

So, when queried, all I can do is to tell of my experiences and make recommendations so the aviculturist can make their own decisions.

Despite over 25 years of housing birds outside, I still make mistakes and worry about my flock every winter. Mistakes can be devastating, and severe weather can lead to frostbite issues, loss of toes or limbs, and even death.

Weather is unpredictable, although watching the weather reports certainly helps. And weather can change rapidly. An aviculturist needs to be flexible, observant, and well prepared.

How do you decide what to do to ensure that your outside birds survive the winter as comfortably as possible? Below are some points to consider when overwintering birds. Many of these points should also be considered if housing birds in hot weather too.

#### **ACCLIMATION**

First of all, any bird that is to spend the winter outside needs to be careful acclimated. Acclimating a bird requires time, usually weeks, during the fall season so the bird can gradually get used to the colder weather as it naturally occurs in that area.

If I receive a bird in the colder winter months, it will not go outside until spring. Even if coming from another person's outside flights. This is mainly since I do not really know to what weather variables the new bird is acclimated. For example, the winters in Sacramento, CA are quite different than Eugene, OR.

#### THE AVIARY CONDITIONS

Exposure to Elements: Each aviary is so different! Generally aviary birds need protection from heavy rains, winds, and snow, as well as severe heat. Aviaries can be designed with roofs over all or part of the structure, as well as one or more solid walls. Large plants and trees give protection too.

Be careful with snow in the flights. Make sure there are lots of dry perches available. The deeper the snow, the more potential problems. If panicked, birds can get trapped in snow drifts. Always provide a dry, snow-free ground area in which the birds can go. Ground birds are at risk of frostbite more so than other species since they are in the snow more.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL HEAT

Having some form of supplemental heat (heat lamps, heated perches, heated areas) can certainly help birds deal with the cold - if they use it. Birds can be...., well, bird brains when it comes to using the available heat. Just because you provide heat, doesn't mean the birds will use it.

Birds often need to be encouraged to use the heat by placing perches higher in roofed and heated areas. Food and water can be provided in the heated areas

In flights with multiple birds make sure there are enough heated areas for all. Birds still protect their personal space and are territorial when cold. The dominant bird may be the only one warm.

#### **DURATION**

The length of time at low temperatures matters. Typically it is colder at night and warmer during the day. Birds can take a low temperature for short periods, but if the low temperature persists longer than a few hours, it becomes tougher on the bird. For instance, if the temp dips into the upper 20's F. for a few hours at night and the bird does fine, it doesn't mean the bird can take days of constant upper 20's.

#### WIND CHILL

Protection from wind is key. Wind plus cold is devastating. Birds can take lower temperatures without wind than with it.

#### HUMIDITY

Birds can deal better with lower temperatures when the humidity is low. Raise the humidity, and they need higher temperatures.



Some aviculturists wrap plastic around their aviaries to hold in heat and protect from elements. This is great for that, but be careful as this often raises the humidity and hinders ventilation. Mold growth increases too, especially with species like fruit-eating softbills who have such copious and wet feces.

#### **SUNLIGHT**

Several bird species can handle low temperatures if it is sunny during the day for a few hours. Does the aviary get exposed to the sun? The ability to sun themselves and heat up naturally helps combat the cold.

#### THE BIRD

Species Type: Each species handles temperatures differently. Know your species' anatomy and physiology, and the climate and habitat to which they are native. Some birds, such Tockus hornbills, have thin feathering and do not handle low temperatures well. Long legged birds can be more prone to frostbite issues.



Birds native to mountainous areas usually can take low temperatures better than those from lower elevations.

Consider how you are housing the birds too. Offering nest boxes or logs to birds who sleep in them will help keep them comfortable and warmer during those cold nights.

Birds who cluster together at night do better at low temps when kept in pairs or groups. For example, mousebirds hang belly to belly in groups at night which helps kept them warm. A single mousebird would not do as well at the same temps.

Some temperature-tough (around freezing) species in my experience:

Diamond Doves, Pekin Robins, White Cheek Turacos, Zebra Doves, Bulbuls, Red Crest Finches, Parakeets White Back Mousebirds & Society Finches AGE & HEALTH

Old, young sub adult, and sick birds are more stressed by cold. Birds with any feather loss or condition issues are at more risk in colder temps. For example, mature lapwings are quite hardy but are temperature delicate for their first year.

#### **STRESS**

Stressed birds do not do as well in cold temperatures. Birds that are stressed by netting, housing or diet changes, crowded conditions, etc can be in danger. Cold birds will naturally be less active and often fluff more as they conserve energy. Do whatever you can to avoid stressing birds dealing with cold temperatures into undue activities.

Make sure that the birds have fresh, unfrozen water and food at all times. Don't let bowls go empty and frozen water deceive you. Birds can't drink ice

RED CREST TURACOS IN A FLIGHT WITH AN INDOOR AREA THEY CAN USE AT WILL.

and quickly get dehydrated in the cold. Fresh fruits and veggies will freeze also.

Check the birds several times during the day and leave a night light on so they can eat whenever they need. Birds will need to eat more during cold weather to keep their energy up.

IN CONCLUSION - PULLING INSIDE When in doubt or in severe weather emergencies, it is usually safer to pull the birds into heated indoor enclosures. Only heat the indoor enclosures to the minimally accepted temperatures otherwise the birds will be in shock and stressed once released back into their regular winter flights. No pampering them with temps in the 80's F, as it would be "de-acclimating" them. And, try to make the decision to pull them in before the severe cold hits. Netting stress can be dangerous at low temperatures.

Hopefully this article helps you make some decisions about housing birds during the winter. Feel free to email me at dlaviaries@aol.com if you have questions, comments, or want to hear more of my outside aviary experiences.

It can be the most nerve-wracking time of the year, but, above all, remember spring will come!



# **HARI Early Parrot Education**

Carol Stanley

Several years ago, I was invited to just outside Montreal, Canada, to visit the Hagen Avian Research Institute (HARI) on an invitation from Mark Hagen, Melanie Allen, and HARI nursery manager, Josee Birmingham, Fellow US aviculturists Nancy Speed, then president of the American Federation of Aviculture. and Rick Jordan were also present and a Canadian aviculturist joined the group for many of our outings. Mark Hagen personally escorted the group to the top notch avian facility that houses many generations of breeding parrots that are fed a diet exclusively of Hagen extruded pellets. Real world testing is a hallmark of all HARI products.

Babies produced from the pairs are raised by Josee Birmingham and the staff using the Early Parrot Education program developed at the facility over the course of many years. I have had many opportunities at conferences and events in the US to hear Mark, Melanie, and Josee give presentations on various and diverse parrot care subjects. They all really care about the birds and selling their products is never the main point of their presentation. I have learned much from them over the years and value their insightfulness and dedication. I decided to try Early Parrot Education on a Greenwinged macaw Ara chloropterus. On this trip, I got to learn about the tools and techniques used in Early Parrot Education and achieved an understanding of its basic concepts. The Early Parrot Training DVDs were

being developed during this time and, during one of the next times our paths crossed, I was given my own copies of volume 1 and volume 2.

HARI pioneered eliminating antibiotics for the treatment of bacterial infections in fledglings and harness training each of their avian charges. HARI also researched and developed Clay-Cal, to promote beneficial gut flora and to provide calcium and charcoal to psittacines and passerines. I promise this won't be bad, but, I must use a dirty word now, geophagia. Per Wikipedia, geophagia is the practice of eating earth or soil-like substrates such as clay or chalk. Our host guided us through the entire manufacturing process, complete with on-site laboratory testing facility.

Fast forward to February, 2016. My husband Delain and I move from the country to the suburbs. Hay fever and allergies made it impossible to live where you had to ride a tractor to mow your lawn (pasture in country lingo). Moving required downsizing my flock and letting go of all my macaws. Friend and aviculturist Steve Duncan told me in August that the Green-winged macaw Ara chloropterus pair he acquired from me had a fertile egg, to which I replied, will you sell it to me? On September 7, 2016, the baby hatched and its expert parents took good care of it until I got down to pick it up about six weeks later. At that point, I dusted off the EPE DVDs I had been meaning to watch and incorporated the program into the raising of





this, my last green-winged macaw baby, Omega. My suburb home did not have the separate nursery space I had been spoiled by in the

country. Due to a respiratory condition, I had to isolate feather dander and aerosolized feces from getting into the rest of the house.

At first I used a tub with holes cut in its plastic lid for air. I kept this on my kitchen counter, partially on top of a heating pad and a towel over the lid. I used paper towels for substrate and changed them with each feeding.

Once old enough for a training cage, I brought in an Animal Environments stainless steel cockatoo size cage. Conveniently, the cage fit into my

downstairs shower so I could use the exhaust fan to remove any feather dander and the hand-held shower hose to clean the area, cage, and baby as needed. One of the benefits of Animal Environments cages is the bottom grate can be mounted higher inside the cage to prevent babies from falling longer distances if unsteady on their perch as they learn to use their bodies to get from one place to another. I used Clean Machine door mats for foraging and keeping legs from falling through

and possibly getting injured on the grate. Once perching, the door mat was removed.

I had always fledged my babies, as does HARI, but, I soon learned they raised the bar a notch and harness train each of their babies.
After learning about harness training, I had to try it and found it to be a very practical and safe way to let a bird stretch its wings outdoors in safety.

Early Parrot
Education consists
of a six-phase
strategy which
correlate to
six phases of
development of
the baby bird. Each
phase is entered
not by a specific
number of days
but, rather by
developmental

characteristics being recognized by the hand feeder. Early Parrot Education DVDs provide in-depth instruction of the process and I highly recommend reviewing and trying them firsthand.

Some highlights of Omega's rearing included foraging, warm towel-preening, toenail dremelling and fledging. It was a fun process and it is always rewarding to watch an awkward fledgling develop into a graceful flier.







# 2017 Avicultural Society of America 12th Education Conference October 4 - 7, 2017

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## **Conference Schedule**

Wednesday

Afternoon, Check-in & Open Bird Photography Slide Show Evening – Cocktail Ice-breaker party

Thursday
 Full day of Aviculture Talks - Cheese & wine evening

Friday

San Diego Zoo Tour and BBQ; Evening Legislative roundtable discussion

Saturday
 Full day of Aviculture Talks,





The ASA Conference raffle and auction are highlights of the conference. If you would like to donate items, please contact Dick Dickenson, raffle coordinator, at:

(408)313-4986 rgdickinson@yahoo.com

# 2017 ASA Conference Speaker Line-up

This year's speaker line-up is nothing short of stellar! Presented by experts, the topics assembled are diverse and attendees will surely go home more aviculturally enlightened than when they arrived!

#### **KEYNOTE**

**Dave Rimlinger**, Curator, San Diego Zoo - **Africa Rocks zoo.sandiegozoo.org** 

Dave has graciously agreed to speak about the zoo's new \$70 million exhibit, Africa Rocks.



#### Photo San Diego Zoo

Jonathan Beilby Birds of Indonesia

Simon Degenhard ACTP & Lorikeets

#### **Stuart Denton**

The challenges of a tropical mixed species collection.

#### **Jerry Jennimgs**

History of Aviculture www.emeraldforest.com

**Susie Kaseilke** -Handfeeding

**Myles Lamont** 

# **Christopher Marley**Bird Reclamation www.pheromonedesign.com



Ingenius artwork above, in this column was created by Christopher Marley of Pheromone Designs for Alycia Antheunisse to immortalize her hyacinth macaw, Coco. Using an extensive preservation process, body, tail and wings are hermetically sealed and framed. Photo by Alycia Antheunisse

Christopher's amazing work is created for museums and, he has published two books.

Gamini Ratnivera - Birds of Sri Lanka

**Patti Strand,** Founder and CEO of National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA)

# THE RAFFLE

By popular demand, ASA will offer raffle tickets this year once registered with the state to do so. Below is a sampling. Thanks to Dick Dickenson and Mary Rose, raffle coordinators. Contact Dick if you wish to donate:



Scarlet Macaw Parent and Baby by Nancy Lipkin-Dodds framed and matted pastel artwork



Cruise the San Diego Bay or Point Arena with Captain Mary Rose at the helm with you & 7 of your best buds.













# Vol. I. No. 10

# Avicultural Society of America Magazine

October, 1928

# A True Aviculturist

Nestling in the Santa Clara River Valley Just Out of Filmore, California Is the Charming Home of Francis H. Rudkin With Its Wonderful Collection

By Dr. Dave Shverstone, Los Angeles, Calif.

HILE rambling through the country one day last Fall, I saw a Military Macaw circling over the orange grove. This was, indeed, a surprise and as the bird descended to one of the trees I could not resist the temptation to follow. The virtual paradise that greeted my eyes well repaid my insatiable curiosity.

Nestling in the Santa Clara River Valley just out of Filmore, Calif., is this home. The owner is sure an avid aviculturist is the thought and here he comes with the Macaw on his arm. After introducing ourselves we, (like all bird nuts) discover we have several mutual friends. Surrounding the home are pens and pens of birds—small birds and large birds—and they all know their "Keeper of the Birds!" I will try and give you some idea of the different varieties he has. Though as to their breeding and habits I want him to write this story himself some day-and soon,

Mandarin, Wood, Pintails, Formosa, Teal, and Whitling Tree are a few of the ducks. The quali are Valley, Mountain and Bob-white. Of Pheasants there were Golden, Black Neck, Mougolian, Chackalacas and Amberst. Australian Crested, Mourning and several other varieties of Doves, Nyassaland, Half-moon, Red-rumps, Madagascar, Masked, Ring-neck, Parrakeets and Love-links. birds, and all true pairs. Blue and White Penfowl, Euro-pean Blue Jays, Shell Parrakeets, both Green and Yellow; Canaries (what Englishman would be without them), Lemon Crested Cockatoos, a pair of Macaws that have, he assured me, already had four nests of eggs but so far have failed to raise any young. Many kinds of small aviary birds. And this is not a complete list by any means and I haven't said a word about all the young that are flying loose amongst the orange trees,

What joy is encompassed in meeting a man who can so instill confidence in these wild people of the field and forest that they have no prescience of fear and even if liberated never leave but always come back to their haven of safety.

I hereby take great pleasure in introducing to you the man responsible for this, Francis H. Rudkin (give him a hand). Mr. Rudkin was born in Belton, Rutland County, England, some 67 years ago and sixteen years ago he immigrated to this country and has proven himself more than a credit to his community and an inspiration for young and old alike. All those who may come in contact with this venerable soul leave him much happier in being than when they arrived.

How far he has gone in Bird Lore and knowledge since he received his first pair of Buddies as a boy. He gave them away because they would not lay and as he tore down the elaborate log contrivance he had made he discovered they had gone through the ceiling and therein had made their nest, but too late. His father before him was a fancier and as a boy they would travel miles to secure Goldfinch eggs and batch them under a canary,

Their home is the quintessence of probity and all due credit must be given to Mrs. Rudkin. She is the wife and mother in this home, bringing with her all the traditions of her native heath; she has not foolishly tried to change what was bred in her for the benefit of those that would not appreciate. You are at home and if it be late or early



The Peacock Struts His Welcome



Francis H. Rudkin and His Pet Military Macaw 24



One of the Large

Blast from the Past - circa 1928. Thank you Steve Duncan!







These cheerful bird centric postage stamps have been arriving on postcards to my house. I found them online, they are from 2015 and probably no longer available but, aren't they lovely? - Carol

# BVBNTS

## **2017 EVENTS**



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE - AFA's 43rd annual Educational Conference and Avian Expo will be held August 3-7, 2017 in beautiful Tucson, AZ. This year's conference theme is "Aviculture is Conservation, too". www. afabirds.org



Join the National Animal Interest Alliance as it rocks DC. Icebreaker night of Oct 2, presentations and dinner Oct 3 and lobby day on the Hill Oct 4, and Pet Night on the Hill Oct 4. www.naiaonline. org/get-involved/naia-annual-conference/



AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - ASA's 12th
Annual Education Conference will be hosted by the
San Diego Zoo. October 4-7, 2017 in San Diego. More
details online at www.asabirds.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 2017

OCTOBER 2017

Nednesday 10/A

Thursday 10/5

Friday 10/6

Saturday 10/17

TALKS, BANDUET, RAFFLE, AUCTION RAFFLE, AUCTION





INTERNATIONAL WILD WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION - IWWA's conference is slated for October 18-23, 2017 www.wildwaterfowl.org/index.html

## ASA MEMBER CLUBS

Central California Avian Society PO Box 5067, Fresno, CA 93755 www.ccasbirds.com

Contra Costa Avian Society P.O. Box 23115 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 www.contracostaaviansociety.org

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Overseas membership for 2012 £1800 (to be paid in sterling) Please visit our website to download a membership form and check on the latest membership fees. www.foreignbirdleague.com

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National Finch and Softbill Society Zoological Association of America

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