



# American Association of Zoo Keepers

Awards Ceremony  
San Diego, California  
August 27, 2011



dedicated to professional animal care

# SaveNature.Org

## 2011 Conservation Prize



SAVENATURE.ORG

- Taking a leadership role in saving biodiversity.
- Creating conservation partnerships with a call to action.
- Saving threatened and endangered tropical rainforest, wild ocean and desert habitat in-situ.
- Conservation commitment that inspires the public to save nature.



# SaveNature.Org Conservation Prize Recipients 1993 - 2010

- 1993 San Francisco Zoo, Greater Bay Area Chapter AAZK,  
Denver Zoological Gardens, Natl. Aquarium in Baltimore
- 1994 Lowry Park Zoo, Suncoast Chapter AAZK
- 1995 Utah's Hogle Zoo and Utah Chapter of AAZK
- 1996 Milwaukee County Zoo & Milwaukee Chapter AAZK
- 1997 Woodland Park Zoo and Puget Sound Chapter AAZK
- 1998 San Diego Chapter AAZK and Greater Kansas City  
Chapter AAZK and Kansas City Zoological Gardens
- 1999 John Ball Zoo and ZooKeepers at the John Ball Zoo
- 2000 Tulsa Zoo
- 2001 El Paso Zoo
- 2002 Lake Superior Zoo and Northern Lights Chapter of  
AAZK
- 2003 Seneca Park Zoo
- 2004 Great Plains Zoo and Robin Shewokis
- 2005 North Carolina Zoological Park, North Carolina  
Zoological Society and North Carolina Chapter AAZK
- 2006 Central Florida Zoo
- 2007 Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
- 2008 Minnesota Zoo AAZK Chapter and Zoo
- 2009 Jenkinson's Aquarium
- 2010 Roosevelt Park Zoo



SAVENTURE.ORG

# Nice Shirts





SAVENATURE.ORG

# Faces of Conservation San Jose, California





SAVENATURE.ORG

# Faces of Conservation

## Kunene Conservation Area, Namibia





# Faces of Conservation York, Pennsylvania

SAVENATURE.ORG





SAVENATURE.ORG

Congratulations to the  
2011

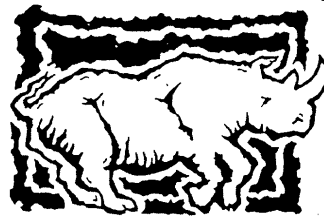
SaveNature.Org  
Conservation Prize

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

**The Certificate of Appreciation is given by the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) to an individual or organization outside of AAZK in recognition of outstanding contributions to the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.**



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Jeff Strawn*

In sincere appreciation for the completion of the marketing and promotional materials for the 2011 AAZK Membership Drive.



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

A black and white line drawing of a rhinoceros, facing right, enclosed within a decorative, rectangular border with a scalloped or wavy edge.

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

**The Certificate of Recognition is given by the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) to a member of AAZK in recognition of outstanding contributions to the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.**



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Shane Good - Cleveland Metroparks Zoo*

*2003 - 2011*

in special recognition of the service he has given to the Association by serving on its Board of Directors. His dedication and commitment to guiding the course of the Association and his unselfish efforts to that end are sincerely appreciated by all members of AAZK. Furthermore, his continued support and service has contributed towards AAZK's growth as an international professional association dedicated to promoting excellence in captive exotic animal management among all those involved in this field.



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Gisela Wiggins - North Carolina Zoological Park*

*2009 - 2011*

in special recognition of the service she has given to the Association by serving on its Board of Directors. Her dedication and commitment to guiding the course of the Association and her unselfish efforts to that end are sincerely appreciated by all members of AAZK. Furthermore, her continued support and service has contributed towards AAZK's growth as an international professional association dedicated to promoting excellence in captive exotic animal management among all those involved in this field.



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Deana Walz*

*The Living Planet Aquarium*

In sincere appreciation for serving as the Behavioral Husbandry Committee Chair.





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Greater Cleveland Area AAZK Chapter  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo*

In sincere appreciation for hosting the Acres for  
the Atmosphere Strategic Planning Meeting.





## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Polar Bears International*

In sincere appreciation for their outstanding support and leadership of Acres for the Atmosphere, Trees for You and Me, and Leadership Camp.



**POLAR BEARS  
INTERNATIONAL**

[www.polarbearsinternational.org](http://www.polarbearsinternational.org)

**PO BOX 3008  
BOZEMAN MT 59772**





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT IN CONSERVATION AWARD

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Certificate of Merit in Conservation presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding keeper-initiated contributions to conservation of wildlife and their habitats. It is hoped that recognition of outstanding efforts by keepers to contribute to conservation will provide incentive to keepers to continue to be leaders in this important endeavor.

The Certificate of Merit in Conservation Award was established in 2010 by the Conservation Committee, Amanda Kamradt, Chair. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT IN  
CONSERVATION AWARD

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Michelle Schireman*  
*Oregon Zoo*

for her outstanding work developing an orphaned animal placement program that gives assistance to state wildlife agencies and zoological institutions in placing orphaned pumas. Also noted was that over the past nine years, she has successfully placed 52 cubs from ten states and Canada in 25 AZA institutions.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT IN  
CONSERVATION AWARD

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Wendy Lenhart*

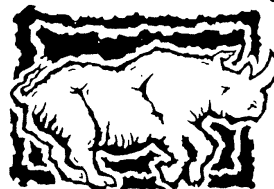
*Philadelphia Zoo*

for organizing and implementing the "Bird Strike" program to identify problem areas in the zoo where birds strike glass. The goal of the program is to create a bird-friendly environment for migratory species.





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## MAZURI ANIMAL NUTRITION AWARD

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Mazuri® Animal Nutrition Award (MANA) presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals in the zoological community who have been actively involved in projects/studies/research concerning zoo/aquarium nutrition. The award will carry a cash award of \$500.00 funded by the Mazuri® Foods Division.

The MANA was established in 2005. Mazuri® proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. Bruce Elkins, Curator of Waters at the Indianapolis Zoo, and Heidi Bissel, nutritionist at the Memphis Zoo, assisted in the development of the judging criteria for this award. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



dedicated to professional animal care

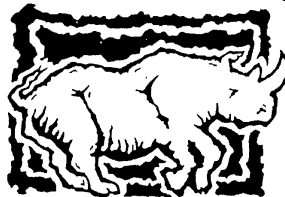


Shit Head





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN EXHIBIT DESIGN RENOVATION

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Certificate of Excellence in Exhibit Renovation (CEER) presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize institutions or organizations in the zoological community for the design and renovation of existing animal facilities which involved active keeper participation in the process.

The CEER was established by Janet McCoy, 1990 CHAIR. Bill Whittaker proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.

The evaluation of each nomination is broken down into four categories based on the general guidelines outlined for the award. The four categories are: Keeper Involvement, Exhibit Functionality, Exhibit Management and Visitor Point of View/ Other Information.



dedicated to professional animal care

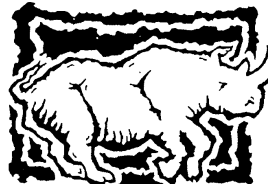


Shit Head





# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR ZOO KEEPER EDUCATION

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the *Certificate of Merit for Zookeeper Education (CMZE)* presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, institutions and organizations in the zoological community most actively promoting educational programs for zookeepers. Examples of such support are: reimbursements for formal education, keeper training courses and staff seminars.

The CMZE was founded by Jeff Roberts, 1976-1978 CHAIR, in 1978, to compliment the work of the AAZK Education Committee that had been formed at that time. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education Award

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Anne Knapp*

*Zoo New England*

for developing an extensive three-year keeper training and education program that is available to the entire zoo staff. Also noted is the development of short duration classes on specific topics.





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



**Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper  
Education Award**

Be it known that on this date

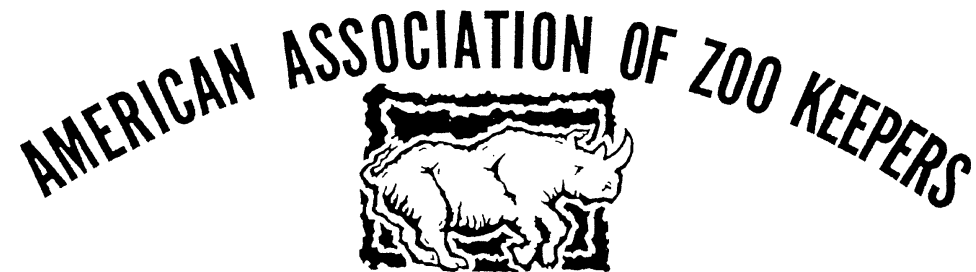
*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*CuriOdyssey  
San Mateo, California*

for their variety of educational programs. The Apprenticeship Program that teaches the “ins and outs” of being a Keeper, the six-month adult volunteer Internship, the Keeper-in-Training Program for teenagers, and support for keepers to receive continuing education at conferences and workshops.





## LEE HOUTS EXCELLENCE IN ENRICHMENT AWARD

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment (LHEE) Award presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding keeper-initiated contributions to the art and science of environmental enrichment. It is hoped that recognition of outstanding efforts by keepers to improve animal care and welfare through environmental enrichment will provide incentive to keepers to continue to be leaders in this important endeavor.

The Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment was established in 2001 by the AAZK Enrichment Committee. Lee Houts proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. The award was renamed in Lee's memory, and to honor her many contributions to the field of enrichment, following her death in 2005. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment Award

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*The Enrichment Team*

*Jennifer Zuehlke, Elizabeth Petersen, Laura Reisse, and Amy Schütz,  
of the Henry Vilas Zoo*

for developing and implementing an enrichment program with the Mounds Pet Store chain whereby customers may purchase specific enrichment items from the store and donate them to the zoo.





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



**Lee Houts Excellence in Enrichment Award**

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Jennifer Gale*  
*CurioDyssey*

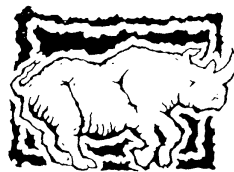
for developing an enrichment calendar, an enrichment column for the Daily Health Sheet, flash cards with animals on one side and enrichment ideas to construct on the other side, an Enrichment Binder and Summer Camp Enrichment Binder. Also noted is her work mentoring the Enrichment Internship position and video-taping animals interacting with enrichment items to show to the public.



dedicated to professional animal care



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## JEAN M. HROMADKA EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL CARE AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize achievement and determination of an individual in the animal care field and in fostering professionalism. Animal care is a science combining zoology, biology, animal management, behavioral observation and daily record keeping on the species in their care. This is essential knowledge for maintaining a species effectively in captivity. The excellent animal care professional must excel in one or more of these areas.

The Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award is named in memory of her outstanding contributions to the furtherance of AAZK through her work as President of the Association. This award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.

The winner of the Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award receives a cash award in the amount of \$500.00, endowed by a generous donation through the Lutz Ruhe Family Educational Trust for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. The award is endowed by the Ruhe Trust primarily to aid winners in making travel and registration arrangements to attend the AAZK National Conference in the year of their award, to receive the award and be recognized in person at a gathering of their peers.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



**JEAN M. HROMADKA EXCELLENCE IN  
ANIMAL CARE AWARD**

Be it known that on this date

*August 27, 2011*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. presents this award to

*Valerie Riegel*

*Happy Hollow Zoo*

for her outstanding animal husbandry, enrichment for all species, research, exhibit-design, public education and helping the zoo gain AZA accreditation. Specially noted is her development of a conservation project called "Conserving and Nurturing Natural Ecosystem Diversity". She was also instrumental in starting both the zoo's first education and volunteer programs, and the success of the Parma Wallaby breeding program.



dedicated to professional animal care



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement AAZK Professional of the Year Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize professional members of AAZK, in good standing in the association, for their day-to day professionalism within their facility. This includes participation in AAZK/AZA conservation projects, dedicating time to other facility-related projects or programs (BFR, conservation, wildlife education and individual breeding projects). Commitment and dedication to AAZK at a Committee or Chapter level enhances the nomination. The award was established in 1982 as a means of recognizing work done above and beyond the criteria of the Excellence in Animal Care Award. You have to be a professional member of AAZK in order to qualify.

The winner of the Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement Award - AAZK Professional of the Year Award, receives a cash award in the amount of \$750.00, endowed by a generous donation through the Lutz Ruhe Family Educational Trust for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. The cash award is endowed by the Luhe Trust primarily to aid winners in making travel and registration arrangements to attend the AAZK National Conference in the year of their award, to receive the award and be recognized in person at a gathering of their peers.



dedicated to professional animal care



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



**Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement  
AAZK Professional of the Year Award**

Be it known that on this date

**August 27, 2011**

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

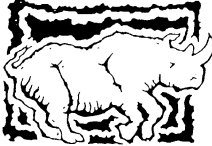
**Kelly A. Wilson  
Detroit Zoological Institute**

for his outstanding commitment to professionalism during his distinguished career as a zoo keeper. Specially noted are his conservation fundraising initiatives, presentations at the Detroit and other zoos, assisting with an animal confiscation of over 1000 mixed species of animals, organizing National Zoo Keeper Week at the zoo, and manning vending machines whose proceeds help send keepers to professional development classes or conferences. Also noted is his work on the AAZK Professional Development Committee, networking with other AAZK Chapters, developing his Chapter's website and, as Detroit Chapter President, dramatically increasing their membership.





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) is the administering organization of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the AAZK Awards Committee. This award is to be given at the end (retirement) of a keeper's career. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding commitment to professionalism as a zoo keeper over a long period of time and significant contributions to the community.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was established by the 1993 Awards Committee, Janet McCoy, Chair. Rachel Rogers proposed the award to the AAZK Board of Directors. The award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.



dedicated to professional animal care



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS



## Lifetime Achievement Award

Be it known that on this date

**August 28, 2011**

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
presents this award to

### Susan Chan

in recognition of your outstanding commitment to professionalism during your distinguished career as Managing Editor of Animal Keepers' Forum. The Association specifically notes your 30 years of service with the monthly preparation and production of Animal Keepers' Forum including six dedicated issues on special topics, Membership Directories, Enrichment Notebook, Zoonotic Diseases Handbook, Biological Values for Selected Mammals, the annual AAZK Conference Proceedings, Zoo Infant Development Notebook, Zoo Diet Notebook and Resources for Crisis Management in Zoo and Other Animal Care Facilities. We also recognize that you have promoted all aspects of the Association by dedicating a lifetime to furthering our knowledge and enabling us to connect through the communication link of AKF. Your diligent efforts to produce professional publications which are a reflection of the Association's dedication to animal care is a testimony to your own proficient and focused awareness of yourself as a person and as an employee of AAZK, Inc.

Such action earns the praise and respect of all members of the zoological profession and community.

*Janet McLoey*  
Awards Chair, AAZK, Inc.

*Shawn T. Chad*  
President AAZK, Inc.





# CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



For extraordinary initiative and support  
of the American Association of Zoo Keepers  
and its' worldwide membership, for the Chapter's  
commitment to conservation and helping to fulfill the vision  
of animal care professionals.



dedicated to professional animal care



# National Capitol Chapter AAZK National Zoo

