

From the Editor

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is an organisation which "promotes effective stewardship of the natural world by encouraging its members to bring people close to living animals, applying and advancing conservation, science and education, and setting standards of excellence in animal welfare and environmental responsibilities."

The Heini Hediger Award instituted by the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria in 1995 to recognise individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the zoo and aquarium community was presented to Ms. Sally Walker this year by current WAZA President Ed McAlister who also delivered a Citation (next page). Sally had been "warned" earlier so was not totally undone when called to speak, but delivered a warm, humourous and spontaneous acceptance remarks which have been re-created in the page following the Citation.

Previous winners have been : Dr. George Rabb (Awarded 1995, Denver), Dr. Ulysses Seal (Awarded 1995, Denver), Jeremy Mallinson OBE (Awarded 1998, Nagoya), Dr. William Conway (Awarded 1999, Pretoria), Roger Wheeler (Awarded 2001, Perth)

We at ZOO are as proud of this Award as if it had been given to each of us individually and we hope all of you will feel the same way. Characteristically, Sally claims credit on behalf of the whole zoo and wildlife community of South Asia for this honour.

Sanjay Molur, Editor, ZOOS' PRINT

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CBSG/WAZA Annual Conferences 04 linking, collaboration, integration, information, opportunities for all IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group & World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, 28 Oct - 4 Nov, 2004**

CBSG met with another IUCN SSC specialist group (Reintroduction S.G.) for the first time - great success -- **report next issue Jan ZP**

South Asia had 5 people attending CBSG : S.N. Senanayake, Prov. Env. Authority, Chief Ministry, Sri Lanka; Brij Raj Sharma, MS, CZA; Qadeer Mehal, President, SAZARC; Sanjay Molur, ZOO/WILD, Sally Walker, ZOO/WILD,

South Asia had 5 people attending WAZA meetings : -- Brij Raj Sharma, MS, CZA; Qadeer Mehal, President, SAZARC; Sanjay Molur, ZOO/WILD, Sally Walker, ZOO/WILD, Hant Perera, Chairman, SAZARC.

CBSG agreed to draw up Conservation Breeding Guidelines along the same lines as the famous Reintroduction Specialist Group Guidelines -- **report next issue Jan ZP**

CBSG worked on the last iteration of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy WAZCS -- **report next issue Jan ZP**

WAZA Council and Membership approved the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy -- **report next issue Jan ZP**

SAZARC attended WAZA as an Association for the first time represented by the President, Chairman, and Director. We

picked up our charter and attended a WAZA new members party. -- **report next issue Jan ZP**

WAZA presented the Heini Heidiger Award to a female, a volunteer, a non-academic, an NGO and an adopted Asian for the first time -- **report this issue ZP**

Linked with ISIS ZIMS, the great new iteration of ISIS and its transformation, in a more effective way and will have more information and updates for zoo personnel on a monthly basis from now on. **Starting a new monthly update on ISIS ZIMS next issue -- Jan ZP !**

Finalised a new arrangement for linking and collaborating with Wildlife Information Network. Now we have CD's for people who do not have consistent internet access. And WIN's information is more and better than ever. **Announcing a new membership strategy next issue - Jan ZP.**

New Regional Representative for Asia - Taipei Zoo based - collaboration with our new Zoo & wildlife education network for South Asia -- **see education this issue and our website**

Completed plans for SAZARC with President Qadeer Mehal - **report next plu issue Feb ZP**

**and more ... don't miss Jan & Feb 2005 ZP**



**World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)**  
UNITED FOR CONSERVATION

Citation Accompanying the Awarding of the  
Heini Hediger Award to Sally Walker

4 November 2004

Sally Walker was born in the United States of America. She first travelled to India in the early 1970's as a scholar of Sanskrit-the ancient and sacred language of the Hindus. A heightened awareness of Asian cultures encouraged Sally to become a student of Yoga. This deep cultural immersion also awakened a profound interest in the concept of a 'wholeness of nature', increasingly expressed in a concern for the welfare and conservation of the threatened wildlife in India. Sally's first practical commitment to this concern was as a volunteer at Mysore Zoo where, in 1981, she established the Friends of Mysore Zoo Society – an educational, public relations and scientific support group, the first of its kind in Asia. So began a life-long dedication to Indian and, subsequently all Asian Zoos, and a firm commitment to develop, through education and science, their role and mission in conservation.

Sally Walker's early success resulted in an appointment to the National Zoo Advisory Board of the Department of Environment, Government of India. Government officials encouraged Sally to set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in 1985. Although based in India, the organisation now extends throughout South Asia, including the nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives Islands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. This is a region which contains a tremendous amount of biodiversity, but is bedevilled by problems such as language differences, political differences, economic, cultural and social differences, not to mention ongoing conflict. We are all aware of the recent devastation wrought in Afghanistan. The Zoo Outreach Organisation, with Sally's guidance and support, has successfully tackled these problems.

Working both for zoo and field conservation, the zoo organization has become a model for successfully building networks to facilitate or catalyse conservation action. It brings together stakeholders, e.g., scientist. Other specialists and lay people to bring about consensus over a variety of conservation issues. Two monthly publications, ZOOS' PRINT and ZOO ZEN. founded and edited by Sally, carry the work of the organization far beyond South Asia.

A number of other publications have emanated from this organization, one of the most recent being the excellent 'Mammals of Afghanistan'

Sally Walker's other work has included lobbying initiatives, provision of educational material and the development of scientific training programs. In particular, as Convenor of the SSC IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group – India, has been instrumental in establishing the now celebrated CBSG Regional Networks. Sally's early work with zoos led to a six year membership on the Central Zoo Authority, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, and membership of Ministerial committees – rare and unusual honours indeed for those born outside India.

Sally Walker has become an expert in seeking support for her many initiatives, she has become an institution within the Zoo profession and has demonstrated a capacity for achieving successful outcomes from, often, extremely limited resources.

Sally Walker is a dedicated conservationist, has achieved a great deal, not only in the region in which she had decided to live and work, but all around the world. She is an inspiration to all of us and I have great pleasure, on behalf of the WAZA Council and you, its members, on handing over the Heini Hediger Award to her today.

Sincere Congratulations.

Ed McAlister, AO  
PRESIDENT WAZA

