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For Immediate Release!

AFA Presents Prestigious AVY Awards at the 37th National Convention!

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA - The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. (AFA) AVY Award Committee presented the most celebrated, esteemed and highest honor awards in the history of US aviculture - the prestigious AFA AVY's - to several AFA members during the AFA banquet festivities at the 2011 national convention.

Two US First Breeding AVY Awards were presented to Jerry Jennings of Emerald Forest Bird Gardens for his successful breeding of the Black-masked Emerald Toucanet bred on May 23, 2010, and the Lettered Aracari on May 26, 2010. The awards marked another success for private aviculture contributing to the existence and preservation of species in captivity.

A Silver AVY Award was presented to President-Elect Nancy Speed of The P Patch, in Category 1: “Most Progress for the Establishment of an Individual Species or Group of Related Birds” for the Golden Conure, *Guaruba guarouba*, that spanned twelve years of work. This award demonstrates continued work in the conservation of a species and growing a gene pool for the future.

An AVY Appreciation Award was presented to Mary Rose, nominated by the Arizona Seed Crackers Society, Inc. for the outstanding work and contributions given to an AFA Affiliated Club. This award is presented for distinguished service to an AFA organization that is above and beyond, and the nomination is unanimously signed by every member of the nominating organization’s board of directors.

The original committee named the AVY awards from the first three letters, “avi,” in the word, “aviculture,” which was modified to “AVY,” which is still in use today. The AVY Awards committee is composed of distinguished members of diverse avicultural backgrounds who have achieved or demonstrated avicultural expertise and knowledge, collectively spanning a wide spectrum of aviculture, including zoo species. Committee members are involved in researching, investigating and verifying claims, and in discussion, balloting and voting the results of nominations received.

The 2011-2012 AFA AVY Awards Committee members include Josef H. Lindholm III, Jason Crean, Philip J. Ryan, Ph.D., Jerry Jennings, and Linda S. Rubin (chair). A sincere

thank you to the committee members for their diligence, dedication, and time working to thoroughly investigate and confirm these awards.

The AVY Awards are presented annually to approved recipients during the AFA national convention's August banquet, although it is not mandatory to award all categories every year. Announcements are distributed to all AFA affiliated organizations - in the AFA Watchbird journal and other media - announcing that nominations are open. Nominees for the present year are encouraged to apply to the AVY Awards Chair to request an application for a specific category in which they qualify. Nominations for the calendar year are evaluated by the AVY awards committee and decisions are finalized and nominees notified prior to the national AFA convention the following year.

AVY Award categories are open to AFA members and in some instances, other aviculturists or institutions, who have uniquely distinguished themselves in challenging and difficult areas of aviculture.

For complete information on the AVY Award Categories and a list of all US First Breedings to date, please reference AFA Watchbird (volume XXXVIII, No. 3, 2011) for part I of AVY Award coverage. Recipient's articles for both First Breedings, and Most Progress awards, will appear in future issues of AFA Watchbird. A continuance of the article will follow in the next issue with a list of all other winning categories.

The Committee is now actively inviting nominations for the year 2011. Deadline for all applications is December 31, 2011. Awards merited by the committee will be presented at the August 2012 AFA convention in San Antonio. Award recipients need not be members of AFA, however nominations may only be made by AFA members. For further details on all award categories and rules, refer to the AFA Watchbird, or visit the website at www.afabirds.org and navigate to AVY Award Categories and Rules. All nominations and requests for applications should be sent to AFA AVY Awards Chair Linda S. Rubin at LSR@CockatielsPlusParrots.com.

The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3), nonprofit, educational organization incorporated in the state of California (business office is located at P O Box Box 91717, Austin TX 78709-1717; Phone: 512-585-9800, Fax. 512-858-7029). AFA's mission is to promote the advancement of aviculture worldwide, and its goal is to insure long-term, self-sustaining populations of exotic birds both in captivity and in the wild. AFA supports educational programs that enable better husbandry, management and living conditions for exotic birds; promotes avian research and conservation of exotic birds; keep members aware of legislative issues that affect aviculture and keep legislators aware of the need for fair and equitable regulations. Visit AFA online at www.afabirds.org.

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