

2010 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Steve McCusker: Operations

Executive Director, San Antonio Zoo

Steve McCusker has been a very active member of AZA and its accreditation program for many years. He has participated in 27 inspections, serving as team Chair fifteen times. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Michigan State University in 1969, followed by a Master of Science in Biology from Texas Christian University in 1976.



He became the Executive Director of the San Antonio Zoo in 1994. Before that he was the Director of the Reid Park Zoo, where for eight years he spearheaded a significant period of modification and growth. Previous to these positions, he worked at the Oregon Zoo, Fort Worth Zoo and the Harvard Primate Center.

He was a member of AZA's Board of Directors for seven years, serving as President in 1996. He has served on many other AZA committees, including the Accreditation Commission, Animal Health Committee, Membership Committee, Board of Regents, Ethics Committee, Honors and Awards Committee and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee.

Aside from AZA, he has also led a number of safaris to various countries in Africa and Central and South America. As evidenced by his long history of dedication and volunteerism over the years, he has been a major positive component of AZA.

2010 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Steve Wing: Animal Management/Husbandry

General Curator, Louisville Zoo

Steve Wing has been involved in AZA's accreditation program since 1992. He has participated on eight inspection teams in that time. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Wisconsin in 1980. Just a few months later he kicked off his zoological profession as a Zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Following that position, he worked as the General Curator of the Lincoln Children's Zoo for seven years and as Curator of Mammals for both the Jacksonville Zoo and Riverbanks Zoo & Gardens for two years and seven years, respectively. He has worked as General Curator of the Louisville Zoo since 2004, and is responsible for the long and short-term management and development of the animal department, among other things.



He currently serves as the Chair of the Bat Taxon Advisory Group, Studbook Keeper for the Rodrigues Fruit Bat and SSP Coordinator for the Black-footed Cat. He was also a member of the Honors & Awards Committee from 1999-2002, serving as Chair for one year. Aside from AZA, he has been a dedicated Kiwanis member since 1991 and currently serves as the Metrobon Club President. He is also a past Lt. Governor of the Carolinas District of Kiwanis. His knowledge and passion for the zoo and aquarium industry is evident in every task he undertakes.

2010 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Kelly Helmick, DVM: Veterinary

Associate Veterinarian, Woodland Park Zoo

Dr. Kelly Helmick is a strong supporter of AZA's accreditation program, and find participation as an inspector to be an enriching and rewarding experience. Since 2003, she has served on eight inspection teams. Always wanting to become a zoo veterinarian, she received her veterinary degree from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1993 and then completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Following a specialized internship in aquatic animal medicine at the Mystic Aquarium she completed a clinical residency in wildlife and zoological medicine at the University of Florida in 1999 with a concurrent Master of Science in reptile pharmacology.



In 2005, she became a diplomat of the American College of Zoological Medicine. Dr. Helmick worked at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium and the El Paso Zoo before joining the Woodland Park Zoo in 2005 in her current position as associate veterinarian. An active member of AZA, AAZV, AVMA, ARAV and IAAM, she has received a Presidential service award for her work on the ACZM Credentials Committee and the AAZV Legislative and Animal Welfare Committee. Her great accomplishments coupled with her dedication and passion for her work make Dr. Helmick an irreplaceable part of the zoo/aquarium industry, veterinary medicine, and the AZA.

2009 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Nancy McToldridge: Operations

Zoo Director, Santa Barbara Zoo

Nancy McToldridge has been involved in AZA's accreditation program for more than twenty years. She has participated in eighteen inspections, serving as Team Chair sixteen times. She has been a member of the Accreditation Commission since 2002, and served as Chair from 2006-2008. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in pre-professional zoology.



Working initially as an interpretive naturalist for the Ohio State Park system, she discovered the thrill of connecting people with nature and inspiring stewardship of our planet. This led to volunteer work as a docent at the Columbus Zoo, which began her zoo career. She became the Education Curator of the Santa Barbara Zoo in 1982, and was promoted to Assistant Director in 1988. Her title later changed to Chief Operating Officer in 2002 and then received her current title of Zoo Director in 2008. She is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the zoo.

She has served as Chair of AZA's By-Laws Committee, Ethics Board and National Awareness Committee. She has also served on the Conservation Education Committee, Public Relations Committee, Publications Task Force, Board of Directors, Conference Program Committee and Editorial Board. Her dedication and volunteerism make her an asset to AZA and to the zoo/aquarium industry as a whole.

2009 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Jim Robinett: Animal Management and Husbandry

VP of Legislation and Regulation, John G. Shedd Aquarium

Jim Robinett is a strong believer in the accreditation process, and views it as a valuable learning experience for all involved. He has participated in sixteen inspections, serving as Team Chair thirteen times. He has also been a member of the Accreditation Commission since 2004.



A Master's degree program, conducted in conjunction with the Shedd Aquarium, brought him to the aquarium where he began his career as an aquarist in 1977. He has been with the Shedd Aquarium his entire career. Currently serving as Vice President of Legislation and Regulation, he has worked his way through the ranks, previously working in the Fish and Marine Mammal Departments, as well as in the Lab and as an administrator. He currently serves as the Marine Mammal TAG Chair, and in the past has served as an advisor to WCMC, as a member of the Animal Welfare Committee and as a member and Vice Chair of the Government Affairs Committee.

Aside from AZA, his strongest interests lie in field work. From working as a cooperating scientist aboard a NMFS research vessel early in his career to more recently serving as a field inspector for the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, he has participated in a great deal of valuable field work. His dedication and commitment to volunteer activities makes him a true asset to the zoo/aquarium industry, and to AZA.

2009 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Sandra Wilson, DVM: Veterinary

Veterinarian, Sedgwick County Zoo

Dr. Sandy Wilson is a firm supporter of AZA's accreditation program, and finds participation as an inspector to be very rewarding and educational. She has served on seventeen inspection teams over the past thirteen years. Never considering a career other than veterinary medicine, Dr. Wilson received her DVM from Iowa State University, and worked for a small animal practice in Minnesota for four years.



In an effort to pursue her interest in wildlife medicine, she spent several months at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo before being accepted into the Zoo, Exotic and Wildlife Medicine internship program at Kansas City University. Following a residency and Master's degree program at KSU and the Topeka Zoo, she accepted a position as Staff Veterinarian at the Montgomery Zoo in Alabama. Eager to return to the

Midwest, Dr. Wilson joined the staff at the Sedgwick County Zoo in 1999, where she continues to work today.

In addition to her duties as veterinarian, she also serves as Chair of the zoo's Animal Care and Welfare Committee and is a member of Wichita State University's IACUC. Dr. Wilson served as a member of the AZA Health Committee from 2002-2008, and as a reviewer for the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. Dr. Wilson is an asset to the zoo/aquarium industry, veterinary medicine, and the AZA.

2008 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Paula Schaedlich: Operations

Chief Operating Officer, National Aquarium in Baltimore

Paula Schaedlich has been involved in AZA's accreditation program for the past nine years. She has participated on eleven inspections, serving as Team Chair for all of them. She served as a member of the Accreditation Commission for nine years. During that time she served as Vice-Chair from 2002-2004 and as Chair from 2004-2005.



Before beginning her aquarium career, she worked with several national and international environmental, social justice and conservation organizations. She has been involved with the National Aquarium in Baltimore since its opening in 1981. She has worked her way through the ranks and now acts as Chief Operating Officer of the aquarium.

Her current management responsibilities include Biological Programs, Education and Visitor Experience, Exhibits and Design, Capital Planning, and Facilities and Visitor Services. Aside from volunteering on accreditation inspection teams, she has also served as an accreditation mentor and as a member of both the Board of Regents and the Conservation Education Committee. Her hard work and volunteerism make her an asset to AZA and to the zoo/aquarium industry as a whole.

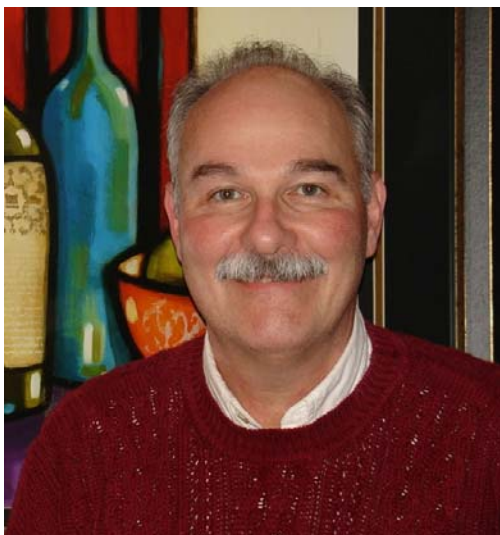
2008 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Ed Diebold: Animal Management and Husbandry

Director of Animal Collections, Riverbanks Zoo & Garden

Ed Diebold has been a proud member of AZA for 25 years and is a strong advocate of AZA's accreditation program. He has participated on fourteen inspections, serving as Team Chair nine times. He has been a member of the Accreditation Commission since September 2005, serving as Vice-Chair since October 2008.

He began his zoo career as an animal keeper at the Saint Louis Zoo in 1979, where he became Head Keeper of Birds in 1983. He then became the Curator of Birds at the Milwaukee County Zoo in 1986, where he worked until moving to Riverbanks in 1995. His service to AZA includes:



- AZA Ethics Board;
 - Chair of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee (WCMC);
 - Chair of the Raptor TAG;
 - Cinereous Vulture SSP Coordinator and Studbook Keeper;
 - KRA Leader for the North American Zoo and Aquarium Bird Curators Strategic Plan;
 - Member of the Raptor, Waterfowl, Penguin and Marsupial and Monotreme TAG;
 - Instructor for the AZA Studbook, Institutional Data Management, and Science of Zoo and Aquarium Management (SZAAM) courses;
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- Core Committee of the AZA Elephant Planning Initiative;
 - Conservation Endowment Fund Scientific Advisory Committee;
 - AZA Conference Committee;
 - AZA Long-Range Planning Committee; and
 - Animal Data Information Systems Committee (ADISC)

Aside from AZA, he has also been involved with a number of conservation initiatives, including the Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program, use of satellite telemetry to track migratory Trumpeter Swans, Piping Plover egg rescue, and research on the ecology of Humboldt Penguins in Chili.

In addition to these responsibilities, he also manages the Riverbanks Conservation Support Fund, which was created to provide financial assistance for conservation-oriented projects that promote preservation of the Earth's biodiversity. His passion for his work, coupled with a huge commitment to volunteer activities, makes him a true asset to the zoo and aquarium industry, and to AZA.

2008 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Tom Meehan, DVM: Veterinary

VP of Veterinary Services, Chicago Zoological Society

Dr. Tom Meehan has been involved in AZA's accreditation program for the past nineteen years. During that time, he has participated on nineteen inspections, serving as Team Chair seven times. He also served as a member of the Accreditation Commission from 2000-2006.

Dr. Meehan began his zoo career as a keeper at the Saint Louis Children's Zoo in 1970. In 1975, Tom received a BS in Agriculture from the University of Missouri, followed by a DVM in 1977. After a residency in Zoological Medicine at the Saint Louis Zoo, Dr. Meehan became the Director of Veterinary Services at the Lincoln Park Zoo. He moved to the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo in 1993, where he is currently VP of Veterinary Services.



His research interests include emerging infectious diseases, diseases of gorillas, and Vitamin D in primates. He currently serves as the head of the veterinary advisory group to the Gorillas Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Aside from his participation in AZA, Dr. Meehan also currently serves as the President of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, a member of the Steering Committee, Chair of the Research Subcommittee of the Conservation Medicine Center of Chicago, and as Adjunct Assistant Professor in Veterinary Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Meehan is an asset to the zoo and aquarium industry, veterinary medicine, and the AZA.

2007 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Chuck Wikenhauser: Operations

Director, Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens

Chuck Wikenhauser has been a strong advocate of AZA Accreditation since its inception. He has formally participated in the accreditation program for many years serving as both an inspector and as a member of the Accreditation Commission (1983 – 1989). Throughout his twenty-five years of service as an inspector, Chuck has participated on twenty-seven inspections, serving as chair for all but three. Chuck has also served as a mentor for institutions wishing to achieve membership in AZA.



He began his zoo career as a keeper in 1973 at the Niabi Zoo in northern Illinois. He subsequently became the director of Peoria's Glen Oak Zoo, the John Ball Zoo, and the Pittsburgh Zoo, leading each institution through their initial accreditations.

Chuck has served as the director of the Milwaukee County Zoo since 1990. He has been host committee chairman for two annual and three regional conferences. He has served as past chairman of the Membership Committee and has served on the Charter and Bylaws, Honors and Awards, Animal Health, and Code of Ethics Review Committees. Chuck firmly believes in the importance of volunteer service within the profession and AZA.

2007 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

John Hewitt: Animal Management/Husbandry

Senior Vice President/Director of Husbandry, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

John Hewitt has been involved in AZA's accreditation program for the past fourteen years (1994 – present). During that time, John has participated on twelve inspections, serving as Team Chair for all but three. He served as a member of the Accreditation Commission from 1997 – 2003, serving as Commission Chair from 2000 – 2002. Most recently John served as an Advisor to the Commission from 2005 – 2007.



John is a decorated Vietnam Veteran who served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman with the 1st Marine Division, and SEAL TEAM ONE. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from San Diego State University in 1972, followed by post-graduate work in marine biology at San Francisco State University (1982 to 1985). Throughout his career John has held curatorial positions at

SeaWorld San Diego, SeaWorld Orlando, The SeaWorld Shark Institute in the Florida Keys, and The Steinhart Aquarium at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

Currently John is the Senior Vice President and Director of Husbandry for the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas where he has worked since 1987. He has been a Professional Fellow member of the AZA since 1973. John's 35+ years of experience, coupled with his passion for the zoo and aquarium industry, is evident in every task he undertakes.

2007 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

William J. Boever, DVM: Veterinary

Director Emeritus, Saint Louis Zoo

In his 30 years of volunteer service to AZA's accreditation program, Bill Boever has participated in 21 inspections, serving as team chair 8 times. Bill has served two terms as a member of the Accreditation Commission, 1979 – 1981 and more recently 2002 – 2007.



After receiving his DVM from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1970, Bill joined the St. Louis Zoo as the zoo's first full-time staff veterinarian. He later became the Director of Research, which was followed by a promotion to Director of Zoological Operations in 1993. Bill became Assistant Director of the St. Louis Zoo in 1996 and was appointed Director/COO in 2002. Recently, Bill retired as Director Emeritus after 37 years of service.

During his career in St. Louis, Bill established and served as both Director and Major Advisor for the first Veterinary Residency in Zoo Animal Medicine. This cooperative program, with the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri, was established to provide training in the clinical specialty of zoo animal medicine for veterinarians. He also developed broad-based scientific research at the Zoo and initiated several conservation programs. His research interests include reproduction, anesthesia, and clinical medicine for both free-ranging and captive wildlife.

Bill has authored several books and over 100 articles on scientific literature. He has served as a reviewer for the "American Veterinary Medical Association Journal" and the "Journal for Zoo Animal Medicine." Bill was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Endangered Species Research Center and Veterinary Hospital, which opened at the St. Louis Zoo in 1993. For the past ten years, he has been intimately involved in the design and implementation of all animal exhibits at the zoo.

Bill has served on AZA's Board of Directors, the Ethics Committee, and as Chairperson of the Scientific Counsel for AZA's Elephant SSP. In addition to his active role in the AZA, Bill has also served as past President of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the American College of Zoological Medicine, and the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni

Association. Among the many honors that Bill has received throughout his career are Veterinarian of the Year for the State of Missouri (1983) and Charter Diplomat, American College of Zoological Medicine (1984). Bill is a true asset to the zoo/aquarium industry, veterinary medicine, and to AZA.

2006 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Jim Fleshman: Operations/Husbandry

Director, Cameron Park Zoo

Jim Fleshman has been an active participant in AZA's accreditation program for many years both as an inspector and as an Accreditation Commissioner (1999-2004). He has participated in nineteen inspections, serving as Team Chair for all but four. With his experience as a former Accreditation Commissioner, Jim continues to perform inspections and participate in special assignments to strengthen the Accreditation Standards and raise the bar for all AZA member institutions.



As a former Senior Keeper, and later Supervisor of Mammals at the San Antonio Zoo and Aquarium, Jim proved early on in his 23-year career that the zoo and aquarium industry is where he belonged. Recognizing his talent, the Abilene Zoological Gardens gave Jim the helm when he accepted the role of Zoo Director. Today, Jim is Director of the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco, Texas where he also serves as the Executive Director of the Cameron Park Zoological and Botanical Society.

In addition to his service as an accreditation inspector and member of the Accreditation Commission, Jim also served on the AZA Board of Directors (2003-2006) and several board committees. His knowledge and passion for the zoo and aquarium industry is evident in every task he undertakes.

2006 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Robert L. Jenkins: Operations/Husbandry

Director of Animal Care and Conservation, San Francisco Zoological Gardens

Bob Jenkins has been an active participant in the AZA Accreditation process for the last two decades as both an inspector and as an Accreditation Commissioner. He has been involved in all aspects of the accreditation process, including the recent revision of the Standards and the improvement of the inspection process. In addition, he has also served as a mentor for new institutions desiring to become members of the AZA.



Starting in 1970 at the then SeaWorld of Ohio, Bob began his career in the fish house preparing the daily diets of the facility's animal collection. Over the next few decades he served as a show trainer, animal keeper, and front line manager for a wide range of animal species. He became the General Curator at Marineland of Florida and then the Director of Operations and Husbandry at the National Aquarium in Baltimore and later the Senior Director for Government Affairs.

Following a successful term as the Director of the Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco, he became the Director of Animal Care and Conservation at the San Francisco Zoo. In addition to his service on the Accreditation Commission, Bob has served AZA in a variety of other capacities including as a member of AZA's Board of Directors, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, many TAGs and other AZA programs, and the Nominations, Program, and Animal Welfare Committees.

2006 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Brian Joseph, DVM: Veterinary

COO, Living Exhibits, Inc.

Brian Joseph, DVM, has been an active participant in AZA's accreditation program for ten years having participated in fourteen inspections, four of which occurred in the same years.



Brian began his career in the zoo and aquarium industry as a mammal keeper at both the San Diego Zoo and SeaWorld San Diego, returning to the latter after receiving his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He has held positions in the following categories at various institutions: Veterinary, Curatorial, Director of Biological Programs, and Vice President/Chief Operation Officer. In addition to those positions, he has served as a consulting veterinarian and program/exhibit consultant to 18 institutions in North America, Japan, Asia, and India; currently he is working with three institutions in this respect.

Today Brian is Chief Operating Officer and co-owner of Living Exhibits, Inc., and AZA Commercial Members that specializes in the development, construction, and operation of seasonal interactive animal exhibits at aquariums, zoos, and museums. Not only is Dr. Joseph a member of the Chula Vista Nature Center's Board, he also finds time to provide volunteer veterinary services to the Center which is located in Chula Vista, California.

Brian's involvement in AZA is not limited to accreditation, he has also served as Co-Chair of the Marine Mammal Taxon Advisory Group, Advisor to the Governmental Affairs Committee, and he has also served as a representative to the USDA/APHIS negotiated rule making process concerning marine mammals.

2005 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Gregg Dancho: Operations/Husbandry

Director, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

Gregg Dancho has been an accreditation inspector for fifteen years. During that time he has participated in twelve inspections, serving as chair for all but one. As a former Accreditation Commissioner he continues to serve the Commission performing inspections and volunteering his time as a mentor for institutions preparing to undergo the accreditation process.



Gregg's professional expertise and commitment culminated in his appointment as Director of the Beardsley Zoo in 1983. He continues to serve as Director today where he promotes all zoos as exceptional recreational assets that educate and entertain at the same time. As a Professional Fellow, Gregg has served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Membership Committee. He served on the Accreditation Commission from 2000 to 2005. He was a member of the Conference Program Committee and is currently working with AZA on the National Awareness Initiative. Within his community Gregg serves on a Governor's Council, and serves as Chairperson of the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce.

2005 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Mark Reed: Operations/Husbandry

Executive Director, Sedgwick County Zoo

Mark Reed has been an accreditation inspector for thirteen years. During that time he has participated in fourteen inspections, serving as team chair for all but three. Of all the things Mark does for AZA, he admits his passion is accreditation. In addition to performing inspections, Mark also provides the Accreditation Commission an invaluable service by volunteering his time mentoring institutions preparing to undergo the accreditation process.



Mark's passion for a career in the zoo industry was ignited by growing up at the Smithsonian's National Zoo where his father, Dr. Ted Reed, was Zoo Director from 1958 until 1983. Mark earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Kansas State University in 1972. His education continued at Texas Tech University where he was awarded a Master of Science in Park Administration in 1976.

In addition to being a full time student, Mark began working as a zookeeper at the San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium in 1972. As a result of his hard work and dedication, Mark was appointed General Curator at the San Antonio Zoo from 1974-1979. His commitment to excellence led to his appointment to Assistant Director of the Sedgwick County Zoo in 1979. After serving as Assistant Director of the Sedgwick County Zoo for twelve years, Mark was appointed Executive Director in 1991.

Busy with daily operations and future development, Mark manages to be an active member of AZA and has been since 1972. He served on the Ethics Committee from 1996-1998 and the Board of Directors from 1997-2004, acting as President from 2002-2003. Mark has served on numerous other AZA committees and conservation programs. In addition to his work with AZA, Mark has been an active participant in the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) since 1991. He has been a WAZA Council Member from 2003-2005.

2005 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Al Lewandowski, DVM: Veterinary

Head of Veterinary Services, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Al Lewandowski has participated in seventeen inspections during his sixteen years of service as an accreditation inspector. This type of dedication to his profession is commendable, as well as invaluable due to Al's wealth of education, training, and experience.



Prior to becoming the Head of Veterinary Services (1989-present), as well as the David Steffee Chair in Veterinary Medicine (2004-present) at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Al held positions at two other AZA accredited institutions. At those institutions he spearheaded renovation projects that directly involved improving animal care. His commitment to animal health was more recently made apparent by his instrumental role in the design and construction of the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Al's current role and involvement at the Metroparks Zoo is quite different from where he started there; renting strollers and taking tickets at the front entrance. He was able to work as both a seasonal and special relief keeper later on, while earning a Bachelor of Science in Zoology/Wildlife Biology. As a graduate of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a past resident of Exotic Animal Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Al now shares his professional experience with future Zoo Vets as a Clinical Instructor at Cuyahoga Community College (Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine) and as an Adjunct Professor at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

He has lent his expertise to at least seventeen professional publications and presentations. Al also remains active within both the zoo and veterinary medicine communities by maintaining an active membership in organizations such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the Cuyahoga Community College Medical Advisory Board for Veterinary Technology, and of course the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

2004 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Ed Asper: Operations and Husbandry

President and CEO, Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum

Ed Asper has been participating in accreditation inspections for twenty-three years. A former Accreditation Commissioner, he is currently an Advisor to the Accreditation Commission. He has given of his time to AZA for twenty inspections, serving as team Chair for all but two.



Ed began his career at Marineland of the Pacific in 1961 working with a variety of marine mammals and birds. In 1972 he joined SeaWorld of Florida as Curator of Birds and Mammals and progressed to Senior Vice President/Zoological Director for all SeaWorld parks. In 1991 Ed was appointed Executive Director of the Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History and was promoted to President/CEO in 1997.

In addition to service as an active accreditation inspector, Ed has served on several AZA committees, including the AZA Board of Directors, Accreditation Commission, Government Affairs Committee, Animal Health Committee, Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee and has represented AZA at numerous International Whaling Commission and CITES meetings.

To date, Ed has participated in the following inspections: Dreher Park Zoo, Miami Metrozoo (twice), Central Florida Zoo, Sea Life Park Hawaii, Waikiki Aquarium, Roosevelt Zoo, Chahinkapa Zoo (twice), Dakota Zoo, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, ZooMontana, Alameda Park Zoo, Grizzly Discovery Center, Biodome De Montreal, Ocean Park Hong Kong, Aquarium of the Bay, Bermuda Aquarium, American Fish & Wildlife Museum, and the Cincinnati Zoo.

2004 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Steve Taylor: Operations and Husbandry

Director, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Steve Taylor has been participating in accreditation inspections for twenty-two years. He served as an Accreditation Commissioner for six years (including two years as Commission Chair), and is currently an Advisor to the Commission. He has given of his time to AZA for twenty inspections, serving as team Chair for all but three.



Steve became Director of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in January 1989. As Director, his first job was to complete the RainForest, which opened in November 1992. Since that time the Zoo has opened several major new exhibits including Wolf Wilderness and Australian Adventure. Prior to coming to Cleveland, Steve was Director of the Sacramento Zoo. He started his career as an animal keeper at the Los Angeles Zoo in 1972.

Steve is very active in AZA and was on the Board of Directors from 1987 to 1993. He was President in 1992. To date, Steve has participated in the following inspections: Micke Grove Zoo, Honolulu Zoo, Santa Barbara Zoo, Indianapolis Zoo (three times), Belle Isle Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Detroit Zoo, Bergen County Zoo (twice), Minnesota Zoo, Toledo zoo, National Zoo, Miami Metrozoo, Little Rock Zoo, North Eastern Wisconsin Zoo, Bronx Zoo, Pittsburgh Zoo, and Buttonwood Park Zoo.

2004 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Bill Bryant, DVM: Veterinary

Senior Veterinarian, Sedgwick County Zoo

Bill “Doc” Bryant has been participating in accreditation inspections for fifteen years. He has given of his time to AZA for fifteen inspections, serving as team Chair four times. It’s really not unusual to find Doc generously serving on more than one inspection team per cycle to help out in a pinch.



Doc graduated from Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science and in 1980 as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He has been with the Sedgwick County Zoo for 21 years.

Doc is a long-standing member of the AZA and AAZV and encourages more veterinarians to participate in the AZA Accreditation process. He is also serving on both the AZA Ethics and Diversity Committees.

To date, Doc has participated in the following inspections: Roosevelt Zoo, Kansas City Zoo, Dallas Zoo (twice), Dallas Aquarium, Denver Zoo, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (twice), Riverside Zoo, Oakhill Center for Rare & Endangered Species, Folsom Children’s Zoo, Alexandria Zoo, Beardsley Zoo, Henson Robinson Zoo and St. Catherine’s Wildlife Survival Center.

2003 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Hayes Caldwell: Operations

Director, The Caldwell Zoo

Hayes Caldwell has been participating in accreditation inspections for thirteen years. He has given of his time to AZA for fifteen inspections, serving as team Chair for all but one!



Hayes worked his way up through the ranks, starting as a part-time summer keeper in the early 1960's at the age of 13 and became the Executive Director of the Caldwell Zoo in 1976.

In addition to service as an active accreditation inspector, Hayes has served on numerous AZA committees, including the AZA Board of Directors and the Accreditation Commission. He has received five Outstanding Service Awards from AZA. To date, Hayes has participated in the following inspections:

Three Barn N Ranch, El Coyote Ranch, Houston Zoo (three times), International Animal Exchange, Abilene Zoo, Montgomery Zoo, Ellen Trout Zoo, Tulsa Zoo, Moody Gardens, Dallas Aquarium, Henry Doorly Zoo, Cameron Park Zoo, and the Glen Oak Zoo.

2003 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Jack Grisham: Curatorial and Husbandry

Associate Curator, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Jack Grisham has been participating in accreditation inspections for twelve years. He has given of his time to AZA for ten inspections, serving as team Chair for half of them. Jack started at the St. Louis Zoo in the mid-1960s in a variety of jobs from concession stand to supply clerk. After two years in Vietnam in the U.S. Army Infantry, Jack landed his first keeper job at the St. Louis Zoo in 1971. He worked his way up through the ranks to Assistant Curator of Mammals in 1982, finally joining the Oklahoma City Zoo as Director of Animal Management from 1986 to 2002.



In addition to service as an active accreditation inspector, Jack serves AZA as the Cheetah Species Survival Plan Coordinator, and Chair of the Canid, Hyena and Aardwolf Taxon Advisory Group. To date, Jack has participated in the following inspections: Dallas Aquarium (twice), Dallas Zoo, Red McComb's Ranch (twice), Fossil Rim Wildlife Center (twice), Oakhill Center for Rare & Endangered Species, San Diego Wild Animal Park, and the Potter Park Zoo.

2003 Accreditation Inspector of the Year

Jeff Wyatt, DVM: Veterinary

Director of Animal Health and Conservation, Seneca Park Zoo

Jeff Wyatt has been participating in accreditation inspections for twelve years. He has done eleven inspections, serving as team Chair four times. Jeff's first experience as Chair came unexpectedly when he graciously agreed to serve in that capacity at the last minute to help a fellow team-mate involved in a family emergency. Coming to the rescue is in Jeff's blood, as evidenced by one occasion when AZA called and Jeff stepped in with only 24 hours notice before the inspection, and he did this after having just returned from another inspection!



Jeff graduated from Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine. He is specialty board certified by the American College of Lab Animal Medicine and holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Rochester. Jeff has been with the Seneca Park Zoo for twenty years, and is an Associate Professor at the University of Rochester. To date, Jeff has participated in the following inspections: Erie Zoo (three times), Pittsburgh Zoo (twice), Ross Park Zoo, Binder Park Zoo, Buffalo Zoo, Cape May Zoo, Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park, and Hutchinson Zoo.