

Heini Hediger Award

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) 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 was instituted by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums in 1995 to recognise individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the zoo and aquarium community.

Previous Heini Hediger Award winners

1995-Denver Conference

Dr. Ulysses Seal, Chair, CBSG, IUCN, SSC and Dr. George Rabb, Brookfield Zoo

1998-Nagoya Conference

Jeremy Mallinson OBE, Former Director, Durrell Wildlife Trust DWT, Jersey, Channel Islands

1999-Pretoria Conference

Dr. William Conway, Former President of WCS, New York

2001-Perth Conference

Prof. Roger Wheeler OBE FRSE FIBiol, Former Director of Edinburgh Zoo

2004-Taipei Conference

Sally Walker, Founder/Secretary, Zoo Outreach Organisation

2006-Leipzig Conference

Prof. Dr. Gunther Nogge, Former Director of Cologne Zoo

2007-Budapest Conference

Willie Labuschagne, Former Director, NZG of South Africa

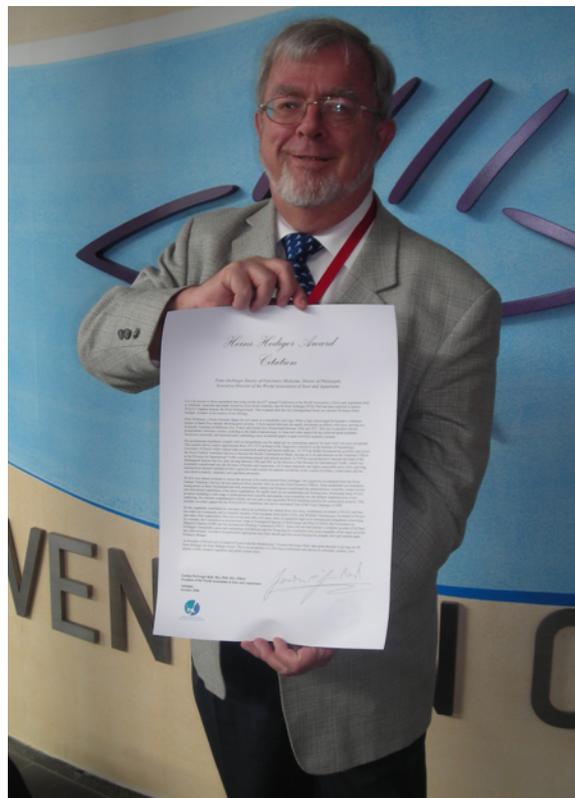
2008-Adelaide Conference

Dr. Peter Dollinger, DVM, PhD, Former Executive Director

Dr. Peter Dollinger received WAZA's highest honour, the Heini Hediger Award with whose namesake Peter actually studied. Peter served as Sci. Asst at Mulhouse Zoo & Zurich Zoo during his p.g. veterinary studies. He achieved great academic distinction. He was Head of Diagnostic Laboratory at the Institute of Parasitology, University of Zurich; he joined the Swiss Veterinary Service to become Border Veterinary at Basel, then Veterinary Officer responsible for species conservation and animal welfare at the Division for International Traffic in Animals and Animal Products and later, Head of the Endangered Species Service, and Director of the Division for International Traffic, which was eventually transformed into the Division of Permits and Inspections.

Peter was WAZA's first Chief Executive Officer. He established foundation HQ in Bern, Switzerland and transformed the administrative, scientific, conservation and educational capabilities of the entire organisation, increasing membership and funding base, developing many WAZA products including a wide range of publications both scientific and popular; even extending into the hitherto neglected area of zoo marketing. He initiated comprehensive website services and a very successful WAZA branding exercise for conservation projects. Space

here does not permit a complete account of Peter's remarkable career and outstanding contributions: the foregoing text is a mere drop in the ocean.



Peter Dollinger, Heini Hediger award. Adelaide 2008. Photos by WAZA.

2009-St. Louis Conference

Dr. Karen Sausman, Former Director, The Living Desert, Palm Desert, USA



Karen Sausman, Heini Hediger award, St. Louis 2009.

On 8th October 2009, Karen Sausman was granted the Heini Hediger award during the 64th WAZA Annual Conference held in St. Louis. She is a zoo director, artist, author, naturalist and conservationist all at once and she is unique in the breadth and depth of her contributions to the zoological park field. She has been editor, chairperson of many AZA committees, AZA board member (twice), desert antelope expert, computer programmer, ISIS planner, naturalist and President of WAZA.

When, after volunteering and working with several zoos, schools and related organisations, she decided that her concerns about nature would be best fulfilled as a director. She created a new and exceptionally imaginative institution, the Living Desert, and focused on the wildlife of the world's arid lands. She designed the new institution, found ways to fund and grow it and managed it from 1970 until 2009. She has won countless citations and awards while helping to lead a panoply of national and international zoo projects.

2010-Cologne Conference
Bert de Boer, Former Director, National Foundation for Research in Zoological Gardens



Bert de Boer, Heini Hediger award, Koln, 2010.

During his time at the NFRZG and immediately following, Bert made probably his greatest contribution to the zoo and aquarium world when he single-handedly wrote the first draft of the World Zoo Conservation Strategy (IUDZG-WZO/ IUCN-CBSG, 1993).



Bert de Boer with Mark and Gerald, Koln, 2009.

This was the first time that the global vision and mission of zoos and aquariums had been set out clearly and strategically, including a potential direct conservation role in wild habitats (*in situ*) at home and abroad. This seminal document became the mantra by which young and old zoo professionals defined their work and has been widely adopted internationally; being superseded by Building a Future for Wildlife: the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (WAZA, 2005) to which Bert also made a strong contribution. Bert strongly supported the

EAZA Research Strategy 2008: Developing the Research Potential of Zoos and Aquaria. In a characteristically passionate forward he emphasized the need for zoos to engage in field research for conservation and declared 'our one and only headline goal: to help save wildlife and nature from further destruction and, by doing so, help ensure the future of humanity'.

Bert de Boer's extraordinary vision, intellect, industry and management capability was acknowledged through a lifetime achievement award from WAZA at the 65th Annual Conference in Cologne, October 2010.



HH award Rhino introduced first time, Koln, 2010.