

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

World's Leading Conservationists Honored By Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

2012 is the 20th anniversary of the **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Barrows Conservation Lecture Series**. Each year, the Zoo has invited several of the world's leading conservationists to participate in this series and has presented its annual **Wildlife Conservation Award** to one of the speakers. The list of internationally known conservationists who have been honored with this award is impressive. Beginning with the first recipient, Jane Goodall, in 1993 and including this year's honoree, founder of the Belize Zoo, Sharon Matola, the Zoo has recognized many of the most outstanding conservationists of our time.



Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon

This sculpture depicts Martha, the last passenger pigeon, sitting on an American chestnut stump staring up into an empty sky where her ancestors, the most numerous bird in North America, once flew.

The chestnut tree, once called the redwood of the east, was all but wiped out by blight in the early part of the 20th century. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is working to bring back this tree from near extinction.

"There is no greater legacy to leave than to inspire future generations to continue the preservation and conservation of the plants and animals with which we share this planet. It is my honor to sculpt the American passenger pigeon on an American chestnut tree to be awarded as an acknowledgement of exceptional contribution to the mission of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden by those true heroes of this generation."
- Gary Denzler, Sculptor & Founder of the Cincinnati Zoo's 'Wings Of Wonder' Bird Show.



Those receiving the Cincinnati Zoo Wildlife Conservation Award include:

1993 - **Dame Jane Goodall** – the world’s foremost authority on chimpanzees, who has spent the past half century in the jungles of the Gombe Game Reserve in Africa observing their behavior. Dr. Goodall serves as a United Nations Ambassador of peace.

1994 - **E. O. Wilson** – considered to be one of the world’s greatest living scientists, Dr. Wilson is often called “the father of biodiversity.”

1995 - **Roger Tory Peterson** – the father of modern bird watching, he made nature accessible to the general public through the Peterson Field Guides.

1996 - **Birute Galdikas** – anthropologist and the world’s foremost authority on orangutans. Dr. Galdikas has studied the species in Borneo for 40 years.

1997 - **Russ Mittermeier** – president of Conservation International. One of the world’s leading primatologists.

1998 - **Richard Leakey** – director of the Kenya Wildlife Service from 1989-1994, he was successful in overhauling Kenya’s troubled park system and implementing the 1989 global ivory ban.

1999 - **Ted Turner** – an ardent conservationist, whose family founded The Turner Endangered Species Fund. Turner is the largest private landowner in American history.

2000 - **Laurie Marker and Cathryn Hilker** – the most widely recognized experts on cheetahs in the world, Laurie Marker established the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Namibia; Cathryn Hilker, internationally known as a champion of the cheetah, founded the Cincinnati Zoo’s Cat Ambassador Program and is director of the Zoo’s Angel Fund which supports cheetah conservation in Africa.

2001 - **Peter Raven** – recognized by Time magazine as a “Hero of the Planet,” he is one of the world’s leading botanists and director of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

2002 - **Wangari Mathai** – founder of Kenya’s Greenbelt Movement and one of Time magazine’s top environmental leaders of the 20th century, Dr. Mathai was the 2004 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

2003 - **George Schaller** – considered the greatest field biologist of the 20th century, Dr Schaller conducted the world’s 1st studies of Gorillas, African Lions and other endangered wildlife.

2005 - **Cynthia Moss** – Director of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project who, during her research has come to recognize over 2,000 different individuals and has chronicled their relationships, social organization, behavior, and life cycles.

2006 - **Dr. David Western** - director of the African Conservation Center and world-renowned Conservationist, Dr. Western is a leader in community-based conservation.

2007 – **Dr. Mark Plotkin** - Founder and Chairman of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), Dr. Plotkin is one of the world's leading ethno botanists.

2008 – **Robert Kennedy** – A life-long falconer and Environmental Lawyer, Mr. Kennedy also serves as Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and as President of the Waterkeeper Alliance. Mr. Kennedy is a global advocate of a sustainable future.

2009 – **Iain Douglas-Hamilton** – Founder of the organization called 'Save the Elephants, Dr. Hamilton has been studying and protecting elephants in Africa for over 40 years.'

2010 – **Alan Rabinowitz** – Recognized as one of the world's leading field biologists, Alan Rabinowitz established the Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Preserve in Belize and the Hukawng Wildlife Sanctuary, to preserve tigers, in Myanmar. Dr. Rabinowitz serves as President and CEO of Panthera, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild cats.

2012 – **Sharon Matola** – With over 25 years of conservation work in her background, founding Belize Zoo Director Sharon Matola believes that the vital messages of biodiversity is preservation. Sharon has been able to provide a strong voice for the species at risk in tropical America.

The Barrows Conservation Lecture Series would not be possible were it not for the interest and support of the late Mrs. Winifred and Dr. Emil Barrows. Both were avid supporters of the Zoo and its conservation education efforts, Dr. and Mrs. Barrows made it possible for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden to bring the world's most widely respected and dedicated conservationists to Cincinnati. Mrs. Barrows' on-going support of our efforts is most appreciated.

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