

loss of biodiversity in their region, country or locality in the coming two years. We brought out a Hoolock Gibbon calendar using this mechanism and also an Amphibian calendar. This programme will end in 2010.

Getting Along with Elephants

Another exciting programme, again funded by USFWS, is our educator training workshops which are mandated to cover four countries, with funds to cover a fifth and invitations from a sixth and seventh. Getting Along with Elephants stresses the importance of locals in areas affected by elephant visits learning and adopting small tricks and new habits which would preserve their lives and health. We stressed the principle of protecting their life, body and health which is worth more than compensation, or electric fences, etc. If human lose their life or legs in a stubborn battle with a giant, they can't do anything again yet many deaths are taking place which, on reflection, could have been avoided if victims and stopped to think before acting. Our programme advises being really smart and outsmarting the elephant by **not** crossing his path and getting in harm's way, as well as other interesting things !

Sri Lankan Elephant projects approved

A PHVA for Sri Lankan Elephant immediately followed by the MIKE Standard Survey Training /Dung DNA in Sri Lanka has been approved and will take place sometime in 2009.

2008 Ten Tarantulas on IUCN Red List

One of CBSG South Asia's proudest moments was getting 14 Asian Tarantulas on the IUCN Red List. It is the first instant of Asian Tarantulas having been assessed, and it was done by ZOO Dy. Director, Sanjay Molur with help from taxon experts in our office and outside as well.

Freshwater Biodiversity Assessments

Finally, ZOO, WILD, CBSG South Asia with their expertise in doing things that CBSG does, was invited to organise two Freshwater Biodiversity Assessments in 2009 with the IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Program. The project for the Western Ghats will begin about June 09 and the one for Eastern Himalaya in the fall. These have been initiated by the Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, IUCN and Conservation International, with lead organisation ZOO/CBSG, South Asia.

Ulie Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation 2008

By Sanjay Molur

Dr. Ulysses S. Seal, Chairman, CBSG, 1979-2003

Ulie Seal adopted the task of saving global biodiversity using his combination of expertise in many fields -- endocrinology, pharmacology, nutrition, genetics, and computer modeling. Dr. Seal was a scientist for the Veteran's Administration Medical Centre, Minneapolis where he researched prostate cancer. He also lectured on forestry in a local university and became involved with wildlife research. This led him to zoos for comparative data and when he found this to be in short supply and quality, he created the International Species Information System which was accepted ultimately by 5000 of the world's zoos. ISIS is a central database providing electronic access to records, advice, expertise and easy access to other people in the field.

Sir Peter Scott, then Chair of IUCN's Species Survival Commission appointed Ulie as chairman of the then Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) from 1979 to 2003 which is one of more than 100 such specialist groups in the Species Survival Commission of IUCN. Ulie was a prolific researcher and writer, publishing more than 260 peer reviewed journal articles and 70 book chapters and reviews. Ulie conducted more than 200 CBSG workshops in over 60 countries as Chair of CBSG. More than 6,000 participants were involved in these workshops. Seal was the recipient of many awards such as the AAZPA Marlin Perkins Award (1991), the Chicago Zoological Society's Presidents Award (1992), the Zoological Society of Antwerp's Gold Medal (1993), Emory University's Emory Medal (1993), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Great Lakes-

Big Rivers Region Silver Eagle Award (1994) the first Heini Hediger award of the IUDZG (1996), the SSC's Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit (2002), the San Diego Zoo's Conservation Medal (2002), and the North of England Zoological Society's Gold Medal (2002).

Having researched cancer all his life, it was a cruel irony that both Ulie and his beloved wife Maryalice had to do battle with the disease. Since Ulie's death 2 awards have been created in his name, the Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation of CBSG (2002), and the Ulie Seal Award (2003) of SEAZA.

Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation

Ulie's passion was his innovations regarding the application of new science effectively to solving the problems of wildlife conservation. His achievements in this field were enhanced by his talent for finding, recognising, encouraging, and utilizing others with the potential to make such innovative contributions. Thus, Ulie's memory is honoured by the annual Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation.

It was decided that a nominee not necessarily be connected with the CBSG, but their achievements should reflect CBSG values of creative thinking and improved conservation action. In calling for nominations CBSG requires that nominators should describe how the person exemplifies innovation in the application of science to conservation. Nominees must be living individuals and nominators must address criteria of 1. Innovation, 2. Contribution to

conservation science, 3. Conservation impact (divided into two sub-categories: a) impact on people, inspiring or enabling conservation action, and b) direct impact on conservation *in situ*.)

A committee appointed by the CBSG Chair reviews all nominations and makes a choice which is submitted to the CBSG Steering Committee for its endorsement. The Awardee is honored at the CBSG Annual Meeting. The Chair of CBSG creates a Citation from the nomination, comments from the committee and his own experience of the nominee and shares it before calling the Awardee to receive the attractive Medallion with the striking profile of Dr. Ulysses S. Seal engraved on it.

Previous Ulysses S. Seal Award Winners

2003 Nathan Flesness, International Species Information system, USA

2004 Frances Westley, University of Waterloo, Canada

2005 Georgina Mace, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Centre for Population biology, Imperial College, London, U.K.

2006 Jonathan Ballou, National Zoological Park, USA

2007 Paul Pearce Kelly, Invertebrate Conservation Centre, Zoological Society of London, U.K.

and last year

2008, Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organisation/CBSG, South Asia, India

Sally Walker was born in the USA, but has made India her home since 1976. She started from her country to enhance her knowledge and skill of yoga and Sanskrit and made her way to Mysore to learn under the famous guru Pattabhijois. She always had an interest and love for domestic animals and a fascination with wild animals. She planned to be an animal veterinary doctor but gave up the plan after failure to do well in science in college. She changed her major to Political Science, a field which has proved useful even in working with animals, particularly in India. Providence brought her to Mysore Zoo to cuddle tiger cubs, unbeknownst to her that this would be the turning point to a career in zoos and wildlife. It is Sally's inherent nature to be open minded and adventurous that has helped her learn, adapt and excel in fields in which she had no formal training. While in the USA she had worked with non-profit organizations with agendas in political campaigning, uplifting African-American profile, etc. but was not satisfied with any of her American pursuits. In 1975 she developed a passionate interest in yoga and Sanskrit which brought her to India where she studied both diligently for nearly seven years.

Sally did not like zoos and had not visited the Mysore Zoo in her six years in Mysore. A series of coincidental (or fateful) events literally threw her in the zoo. To work in the relatively unknown field of zoo management in any capacity is a challenge and Sally started from scratch by volunteering at Mysore Zoo and taking up a whole range of amazing projects. She founded the first zoo society in South Asia, the Friends of Mysore Zoo, set up a group of zoo volunteers, founded a monthly zoo magazine called GNUs Letter, started public education projects at

Mysore zoo, organized training for zookeepers, volunteers and teachers, coordinated the first demonstration of vasectomy of lions, etc at Mysore Zoo. A combination of those activities along with perseverance, hard work, endless reading, hand-rearing, and writing positive and constructive newspaper articles about zoos led to her being appointed by late Dr. T. N. Khoshoo to sit on the National Zoo Advisory Board. Subsequently officials in the Department of Environment actually suggested to Sally to establish a national version of the NGO she had started for Mysore Zoo, and agreed to fund it. She registered Zoo Outreach Organisation in 1985 and has steered the organisation to its present position, all the time adapting to disappointments, obstructions, and negative attitudes while not straying from the primary objective of working for wildlife. Sally earned the confidence that Dr. T.N. Khoshoo, Secretary of the Environment and Environmental Advisor to Indira Gandhi had in her by lobbying tirelessly for a central coordinating body for India's zoos. This eventually took form as the Central Zoo Authority in India, of which she was a Member for six years.

Innovation is one of Sally's strong points, which is why it did not surprise me to learn that she was to receive the 2008 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. After Sally was deeply entrenched in zoo work in India, she visited USA and met Ulysses Seal, Chair of CBSG, for the first time. Later at a CBSG meeting in Singapore, taking up on a passing remark by Ulie about wanting more "grass roots" activity, she convinced him to let her and ZOO set up the first CBSG national network, CBSG, India. CBSG, India was very effective in exposing people to CBSG itself, conservation biology and what Sally likes to call the "new conservation sciences." This set into motion a global movement in which there are now 9 very active CBSG networks in different regions and continents, and CBSG India morphed into CBSG South Asia. Ulie and Sally worked together on issues that challenged each other in their own spheres with Ulie promoting innovation in conservation globally and Sally establishing the same in India and the surrounding countries. As Robert Lacy rightly put it in his speech about Sally during the award presentation, "to observe Sally is to get a good idea what Ulie was like".

I had the unique opportunity to observe both of them work on conservation issues that Sally thought were important for the region. The confidence that Ulie had in Sally's ability and therefore his almost total support to her ideas led to a series of innovations in extending CBSG's role and profile for conservation in the region. CBSG led by Ulie Seal and Tom Foose had set standards far beyond any other organization to develop tools for promoting conservation as not only a research tool, but making it available to stakeholders. Sally improved on it, added several new dimensions, brought in regional thinking, and basically became an innovation arm of CBSG outside of the United States. I have been fortunate to have worked with Sally and understand aspects of conservation that would normally be glossed over.

Sally routinely had problems with a visa, sometime resulting from her frank and accurate but tactless and foolish remarks (in the press) about some of the conservation anomalies which were going on. This turned out to be a blessing as Sally got involved with international conservation organisations which have provided much help to the South Asian conservation community over the decades, in training, funding, exposure. It was these visits that enabled her to link so many organisations and institutions from different countries and regions. It also enabled her to enrich her own experience by sharing it in conferences and meetings. She spent two summers at the Jersey (then) Durrell (now) Wildlife Conservation Trust teaching in the International Zoo Educator Training Course. It also enabled her to research the history of zoos in the Zoological Society of London library and the India Office Library which made possible three chapters in Vernon Kislring's excellent History of Zoos of the World. The foreign visits and conferences covering a wide variety of zoo topics, also made it possible for Sally to contribute 26 essays to the world's first Encyclopaedia of Zoos, more than any other author.

Sally was accorded the Heini Hediger Award in 2004 (the highest award in the field of zoo conservation) and in 2008 the Ulysses S. Seal Award. Till date she is the only individual who holds both awards. In India she received the Jury's Selection of the Venu Menon Award in 1999 and an Honorary Scientific Fellow Award from Chester Zoo in 2001.

Sally's achievements are not only hers, but also belong to her parents for their support to her upkeep (she has worked as a volunteer all these years, which is another similarity to Ulie!). She attempted to return their generosity by first taking care of her mother until her passing in 2006 and now by spending half her time in USA taking care of her father's affairs.

It is also appropriate to credit Sri. C. D. Krishna Gowda, former director of Mysore Zoo, without whose unrelenting confidence and experience in zoos, Sally would not have developed many of the attitudes she has. I have been inspired by Sally's motivation, dedication, perseverance, patience, innovation, unwavering persistence, generosity towards persons who cause hurt and harm to her, and her attitudes and philosophy to assist conservation in South Asia and even other parts of the world.

I would like to follow my comments on Sally by listing a few of the things Sally's nominators, those on the Award committee and Bob Lacy, current CBSG Chair said about Sally. These comments ended up in the Citation which was read out to a the combined audience of CBSG, WAZA and IZE at the Annual meetings of same at Adelaide, Australia last October 2008.

You deserve this special award Sally, truly, and we all wish you many more years of service and achievements.

Points from US Seal Award Citation (summary)

- As one of her Indian nominator's said, Sally has been "a catalyst for both individuals and organisations, national and international. There is hardly any taxa of either importance or 'neglect' that Sally has not championed with a direct conservation impact. ... and Sally has a rare knack of turning her "obsessions of the season" into an exceptional educational version that reaches out far and wide."
- From Sally, I have learned that using cartoons and simple, funny illustrations to get across conservation messages is not talking down to our audiences. Rather, it shows that we understand that it is the stilted, arcane discourse of science that is silly, and which disrespects people by not bothering to put messages into a common language understood by all.
- She also has repeatedly modeled for us the importance and value of communicating using local languages and cultures and examples. She created a regional version of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, changing the illustrations and examples in it to be ones that would be more meaningful to people in her region.
- Sally understands networking and collaboration. She set up the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) and its flagship publications the Zoos' Print Magazine and ZOO ZEN in 1985, both of which have since gained an iconic standing not only in India but around the world.
- Sally showed us in CBSG the power of regional networks. She formed CBSG, India, and later expanded it to become CBSG, South Asia, to provide a mechanism by which our colleagues in that region can be much more involved in CBSG and conservation than they ever could have been if their connection to CBSG and IUCN was only through a global network with headquarters in the USA. Now there are nine such networks around the world.
- Sally builds capacity: She rarely runs a workshop or meeting without taking advantage of having those people together to also run a short training course on something. She follows up on her workshops, doing all that she can (and far more than most would ever think of doing) to make sure that the efforts lead to progress in conservation.
- When a species conservation workshop reveals that there is little knowledge locally about needed conservation methods, she starts planning a training workshop on taxonomic methods, or field methods, or reintroductions, or whatever is needed.
- Some of you never knew Ulie (although) you hear about him. Ulie was a remarkable man, and no one could possibly replicate him, but if you want to get an idea of what kind of person Ulie was, think about Sally Walker. She redirected her personal and professional life because she cares about people and animals.
- She just does things that need to be done without much concern about whether anyone else thinks it's feasible, or whether she might look foolish trying, or whether she might offend someone or get herself into trouble.
- She has an incredible amount of passion and energy for her work. When she sees a need, she creates an opportunity. Then she forms the organization or team to get it done, or she just does it herself if that is what it takes.
- Sally has transformed many organizations and people, showing them how they can contribute to conservation.