

## WAZA's 2013 Heini Hediger Award goes to Dr. Miranda Stevenson . . . Zookeeper, Curator, Director, Association Director & now happy retiree!

Miranda Stevenson has been a close colleague in the international zoo community for many years. She began as a zookeeper at Edinburgh Zoo and left that zoo as a Curator. She was given Director position at the Marwell Zoo and later became the Director of the British and Irish Association.

The Heini Hediger Award was set up by an earlier iteration of WAZA in 1995 in order to honour zoo personnel for outstanding service.

Miranda herself focused on Heini Hediger, the famous in her acceptance speech below.

### Acceptance Speech by Miranda Stevenson

Thank you. I am humbled by this honour. I am not and have never been the sort of leader that I would have expected to win this award!

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

I am especially grateful for this Award because Dr. Professor Hediger was such a strong inspiration for me. It was one of the reasons that I wanted to work in the zoo community and he, like me, was also inspired by Timbergen and Lorentz and studies on animal behaviour – he very much influenced me to a zoo career.

I first read his seminal books Wild Animals in Captivity and The Psychology and behavior of Animals in Zoos and Circuses when I was a student in Dublin. It was amazing and there was more to learn from him as well.

Hediger, who was not only considered the "father of zoo biology" was also experimenting with animal behavior to assess what is going on in the minds of zoos animals and also their needs. He related behaviour of wild species to their needs in our zoos and aquariums.

Hediger was the instigator of the pillars we use today to define our

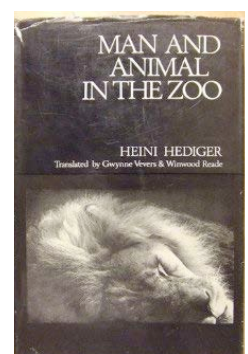
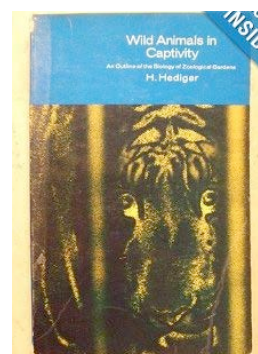


The Heini Hediger Award is given at two different venues. Here it was announced at the closing of the WAZA Conference where Miranda gave her main speech. The second venue is the gala dinner where a gift also is presented. Photo: S.Walker



After the Heini Hediger ceremony, Miranda had a "Hediger moment". Miranda and her friend Sally read Hediger from their early zoo days. Directly behind them in the red sweater is Alex Rubel, Director of Zurich Zoo, who worked and learned under Hediger and wrote an excellent book on Hediger's life. Dr. Terry Maple, Director of the Atlanta Zoo, had interviewed Hediger some time ago and was kind to share the interview with WAZA attendees. All about Hediger! Photo: Anon.

**Wild Animals in Captivity and Man and Animal in the Zoo by Heini Hediger are perhaps the best early zoo books and are also read and found useful today. Many senior zoo persons found these books about the only printed material that gave such practical and in depth information about wild animals in captivity.**



zoos, e.g., Recreation, Education, Research, Conservation and animal welfare. He was most particular about animal welfare.

Hediger was truly the father of the modern zoo – the evidence based zoo – the zoo world that we – as WAZA members hope for and are striving to achieve. This has been demonstrated in the wonderful workshops during this conference, and it is important that we continue to cherish and to develop and live by his legacy. I fundamentally and sincerely believe in the legacy Hediger has left us and the importance of carrying it on to younger zoo personnel and even to the public.

We are advancing but there is yet much to achieve in the areas that were closest to his heart:

- Staff, in particular, animal keeper training.
- Animal training
- Evidence-based husbandry and management research
- Keeping and using animal records.
- Conserving the natural world

Hediger provided us with vision and as a result, many aspects of zoos are far better today. But we still have a long way to go and many of you here today are the people who will be making these changes and carry out his legacy. Being part of the wonderful zoo community has been one of the best things in my life.

I'd like to wish you all the best and I shall enjoy watching future achievements. Again, thank you all for this wonderful award named after such a great man!



**Dr. Lee Ehmke, WAZA President, enjoying one of his first Presidential duties, congratulates Miranda and wishes her well. He presented her with WAZA's traditional gift to awardees, a beautifully crafted rhinoceros which decorates this page in different perspectives.**



**Jörg Junhold, immediate past President of WAZA congratulates Miranda and poses with her displaying her award certificate and gift.**



**Dr. Gerald Dick congratulate s Miranda holding the Heini Hediger Award certificate. Gerald had much to do with making the rhino gift for awardees a reality and much valued symbol of conservation efforts.**

Photos and write up by Sally Walker except where otherwise indicated.

**Just for fun ... photos of friends and colleagues congratulating Miranda !**



**Miranda with David Field**



**Miranda with Terry Maple**



**Miranda with Lesley Dickie**



**Miranda and Susan Hunt**



**Miranda and Miklós Persányi**



**Miranda and Heribert Hoffer**



**Miranda and B.S. Bonal**



**Miranda and Christopher Schmidt**



**Sally, Miranda, Leena Linden & Alex Rubel**



**Miranda and Eric Tsao**



**Miranda and Kirsten Pullen**



**Miranda and Simon Tonge**



**Miranda and Jackie Ogden**



**Miranda and Marcus Gusset**