

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG, SSC, IUCN) announces a semi annual award, e.g., the Chair's Citation of Excellence

For some years the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group has had the opportunity of honouring a special member for his or her outstanding service. The U.S. Seal Award was given annually to an individual that had made a substantial difference and displayed the interest that conservation requires.

This year Dr. Onnie Byers, Chair of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, herself made a difference by creating an award for members who are doing the "behind the scenes" work that is so important to the success of the organisation.

Onnie selected Mrs. Latha Ravikumar, MBA and Finance Director of Zoo Outreach Organisation. Onnie called Latha to the dias and read the Citation to her and the audience, e.g. "In recognition of her energetic, efficient and enthusiastic management of CBSG India/South Asia office since 1991 providing support to colleagues enabling them to make important and long-lasting improvements to the conservation of South Asian species."

Latha was flabbergasted, naturally, because, like most of the audience, she wasn't aware of this award much less her selection. While she calmed down, this writer (coincidentally her Boss) spoke for a few minutes about Latha Ravikumar in the office. Latha has always been a very conscientious worker, and her expertise in so many areas of Zoo Outreach

Organisation and our Partner Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD in the last many years.

Latha is capable of doing almost any job for both office and helping with some of the most advanced topics and projects. She was also chided and teased for neglecting her long-suffering family at times, although she did so with their proud permission. Latha never says no and she always wants to lend a helping hand. She is much loved and admired.



Dr. Onnie Byers and Mrs. Latha Ravikumar posing with the Citation.



Onnie, Latha and Sally admiring Citation.



Latha at the ZOO office with Radhika, Daniel, Arul and Ravichandran