

# International Primatological Society IPS 22nd Congress short review

The International Primatological Society was created to encourage all areas of non-human primatological scientific research, to facilitate cooperation among scientists of all nationalities engaged in primate research, and to promote the conservation of all primate species. The Society is organized exclusively for scientific, educational and charitable purposes.

The Society raises funds for research, education, conservation, participates in joint efforts to put together guidelines, conducts scientific meetings and the biannual congress which attracts as many as 1,200 attendees. The first of many conferences was conducted in 1976 in Frankfurt, Germany. Every year there is a new venue in a different part of the world, last few years being Turin, Italy (2004), Entebbe, Uganda (2006) and Edinburgh, Scotland (2008). The 2010 IPS Congress will be held in Kyoto, Japan. The Congress was held in Bangalore, India in 1979.

This year's congress conducted 10 concurrent sessions in every aspect of primatology throughout the mornings, afternoon, and evening. Every night there was a special primate event. This year the congress highlighted the urgent need for conservation funding and action to save the more than 40% of primate species that are endangered.

The Welfare of Primates in Captivity - Primates are maintained in captivity for a variety of purposes ranging from captive breeding and education through to biomedical research. The Congress will promote the highest welfare standards for the care and maintenance of any primates being held in captivity.

## Awards

### I.P.S. Lifetime Achievement Award 2008 Dr. Toshisada Nishida

*Forty Years of Chimpanzee Research at Mahale: Traditions, Changes, and Future*  
IPS Committee's citation: Prof Nishida's research has included studies of Japanese monkeys, red colobus and bonobos, but he is known best as the pioneering founder of the second-longest running field study of wild chimpanzees, in the Mahale Mountains, Tanzania. Since 1965, he has headed this project that has revealed findings about all aspects of the natural lives of our nearest relations, from diet to technology,



social organisation and communication. Notable discoveries included the fact that female chimps are the transferring sex, complex coalitionary tactics employed by male chimpanzees, much about the nature of female chimpanzee relationships and intergroup relations, and the medicinal use of plants. In addition to his research, Nishida has trained a generation of students in Japan and provided research opportunities at Mahale to several Western scientists, leading to more than 200 scientific articles from Mahale. Professor Nishida served as President of IPS (1996-2000), and continues to strengthen primatology in his current role as Executive Director of the Japan Monkey Centre. He is Editor-in-Chief of one of our leading journals, *Primates*, and has served on the Editorial Boards of the *International Journal of Primatology* (1997 - present) and *African Primates* (1995 - present), and edits *Pan Africa News* (1997 - present).



**P.S.G.B. Award : Medal of the Primate Society of Great Britain** (Affiliated to the International Primatological Society. <http://www.psgb.org/>)

**Stephen Nash** is employed at the Department of Anatomical Sciences at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook where he teaches anatomy. Stephen is also an artist, a very special kind of artist who uses his anatomical knowledge to draw very accurate natural history or "scientific drawings". Although he can do any sort of animal, his favourite is the primate groups and once made vow that his life's ambition was to draw every primate species and subspecies in the world.



The Council of the Primate Society of Great Britain voted to award Dr. Stephen Nash a medal of the Society in recognition of his outstanding contribution to primatology. PSGB only occasionally offers a special medal for such an exceptional and individual contribution and it was their third such award. The medal was awarded at the opening ceremony of the IPS meeting.

Stephen accepted the Award and spoke about his experience as a natural history artist and his love of the subject. We are particularly happy about Stephen's award at Zoo Outreach Organisation as we have worked closely with him over the past four years. We send him several photographs of a primate species and he turns them into a very attractive and very accurate illustration which is correct down to every whisker. His patience is as amazing as his talent. We are proud to know Stephen Nash.

**First Marsh Award for Excellence in Primate Conservation**



The Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation presented Dr. Nadler with this special award in August 2008 at the 22nd Congress of the International Primatological Society in Edinburgh, Scotland. On the occasion of the 25 Most Endangered Primate Species meeting, the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation used that appropriate opportunity to announce the presentation of its first Marsh Award for Excellence in Primate Conservation. The Award was given to Tilo Nadler, founder and director of Vietnam's Endangered Primate Rescue Center. Dr. Nadler had been selected to receive this \$10,000 award in recognition of his dedicated effort to save some of the world's rarest and most critically endangered primates.

By establishing Vietnam's Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park, Tilo Nadler is attempting to save several species whose populations are measured in the low thousands or even the low hundreds and dozens of individuals, such as douc, Delacour's and golden-headed langurs. The Rescue Center serves as a refuge for animals confiscated from the illegal trade, as well as a captive breeding center that is now beginning to produce animals for reintroduction projects. In addition to maintaining this facility and supervising its staff of Vietnamese biologists and caretakers, Tilo has also launched numerous field surveys to determine the conservation

status of little-known species, as well as contributed to genetic studies that better define Vietnam's unique primate fauna. In large part because of his efforts, the attention of the international conservation community is now squarely focused on the endangered primates of that country.

The Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation was created in honor of the late Margot Marsh, who lived in La Jolla, California and contributed very generously to wildlife conservation efforts during her lifetime. She was especially interested in programs that helped to ensure the survival of threatened primate populations. Since the Foundation was established in the mid-1990s, it has provided more than \$5 million to hundreds of primate conservation projects worldwide. It serves as a fitting legacy for Margot, helping to preserve a number of critically endangered species and fostering the careers of many young and talented primate specialists.

