



International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

NEWSLETTER May 2012

Website: www.iaf.org

Formal Announcement of the IAF Women's' Working Group

From Frank Bond, President IAF

"Ladies and Gentlemen:

During the AGM in Al Ain Dianne Moller gave a presentation regarding the initial work a small group of women from the US and Europe who undertook to begin to discuss falconry issues specifically related to women. In the United States and perhaps in Europe too, the number of women coming into falconry is increasing at a far greater rate than men. We know that some women have some challenges to becoming falconers, particularly if they have grown up in non-hunting families. Yet once in their national clubs, they are usually well accepted, in fact women are increasingly becoming leaders in their national clubs. As all of you know, I have been an enthusiastic supporter of this effort by this small group and particularly to have them be a new important part of the IAF. And while the women might emphasize certain issues, I foresee the opportunity for them to be able to focus their energy and talents on broader IAF issues.

The informal group has met three times already, first in Belgium last fall, then during the Falconry Festival in Al Ain, and finally hosted by Zayed al-Madeed in Doha in January. They have put together a working plan and have established some goals for their future work. We have had an opportunity to review their plan. I am convinced that the WWG will be a valuable contributor to the IAF and their presence demonstrates that falconry is no longer a "good, old boys' club." We have to be ever cognizant of the image we present to the world, and through the UNESCO recognition, we will be ably assisted by intelligent, thoughtful women presenting falconry as sport and a cultural heritage worthy of protection and perpetuation.

It gives me great pleasure to announce my formal appointments to the IAF Women's Working Group: Dianne Moller (USA), Chair; Elisabeth Leix (Germany), Vice Chair; Tula Stapert (Netherlands); Veronique Blontrock (Belgium); Lauren McGough (USA, currently residing in UK); Marcela Medkova (Czech Republic); Christine Basset (Switzerland); and, Sue Cecchini (USA).

Dianne tells me the group is looking for ladies from the Spanish and Arabic speaking countries and I know she would welcome suggestions of ladies in other parts of the world as well. When they locate suitable candidates, then I will be pleased to appoint them.

I take this opportunity to thank these ladies for their organizing efforts during my presidency of the IAF. I have no doubt that future IAF Presidents will be assisted by them, and I look forward to the day when one of them, or another lady, will lead the IAF. I know that all of the AC members join me in extending to them our best wishes."

Frank Bond.

The WWG

Submitted by its newly appointed Chair

"In late January 2012 five members of the IAF women's working group (see photo) received an invitation as sponsored guests to attend the Falconry Festival in Doha, Qatar. Also present at this event were Frank Bond, IAF President and members of the IAF Advisory Committee. Attending this event allowed us the opportunity to meet face to face and continue our discussion. We were able to accomplish a great deal during our meetings including developing a strategic plan. Some of the goals and objectives we are currently working on include various sources of communication and networking. We would like to sincerely thank Zayed Al-Maadeed, Qatar IAF Delegate and the Algannas Society for their generosity and providing this opportunity for us to meet. The events at the festival were well planned which made for a very enjoyable experience and the people of Qatar were gracious and kind providing us with many memorable experiences. "

Dianne Moller, Chair WWG



WWG members. From left: Lauren McGough – USA., Dianne Moller – Chair – USA., Veronique Blontrock –Belgium., Elisabeth Leix - Germany, Tula Stapert - Holland



Tula Stapert, Frank Bond, Zayed Al-Ali-Al-Maadeed IAF Delegate and host, Nasser Bin Ghanim Al-Ali Al-Maadeed President of Qatar Society of Algannas. Tula presents a gift on behalf of the WWG to the Qatar Society of Algannas: glass artwork donated by the Netherlands Valkeniers Verbond Adriaan Mollen, artist Arnoud Heyke (original artwork by German artist Joseph Wolf, 1899)

2012 AGM

The 2012 IAF AGM will take place in Kearney, Nebraska, USA in November. This will be combined with the NAFA Annual Field Meet. The details of the Meeting place, transport and accommodation, as well as registration forms can be found at <http://www.n-a-f-a.com/iaf/meetIAF.htm> Please register as soon as you are able. More specific details regarding the Annual General Meeting, as well as other meetings, will be sent out shortly. If you have any difficulty with your registration please contact Ralph Rogers, whose details are available on the website above. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me directly.

Adrian Lombard, Executive Secretary

Vice President Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania : Bohumil Straka (Czech Republic)

Vice President for the Americas: Ralph Rogers (USA)

Executive Secretary : Adrian Lombard (South Africa)

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The I.A.F. currently has 77 associations from 54 countries worldwide totalling 40 000 members.

Frank M. Bond
President

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