



ASIAN ELEPHANT S U P P O R T

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

AES Sponsors Richard Lair as Keynote Speaker at the 2011 Elephant Managers Association Conference (Rochester, NY)

Asian Elephant Support was pleased to be able to sponsor Richard Lair's attendance as keynote speaker at the 2011 Elephant Managers Association (EMA) Conference in Rochester, NY, in October. Linda, Sharon and April were in attendance at the conference and Gretchen was able to visit with him in Seattle after the conference.

After spending a couple of days with friends in San Francisco recuperating from the long flight from Lampang, Thailand, Richard's first stop was Little Rock, Arkansas and it started out a little 'rocky'. Due to bad weather in Houston, Texas, his flight to Little Rock on Thursday night was cancelled. The next flight out was not leaving until 8:00am Friday morning. Unfortunately, he was supposed to speak at the Little Rock Zoo at 7:30am Friday morning at a breakfast presentation for Zoo donors and volunteers. However, in the end everything worked out. April filled in for Richard at the breakfast and Richard arrived safely later that morning. We spent about an hour and a half at the Zoo's elephant barn talking with the staff and meeting the two resident elephants, Zina and Jewell. Then it was off to lunch with a couple of the professors from the University of Arkansas Little Rock before his speech at the University. His speech was written for an audience of elephant professionals, so he modified it slightly for the students. He talked a little about his background and the elephants in Thailand, but focused on how he combined his love of art with his love of science. His point for the students was to not limit themselves and to find something they are truly passionate about.



Justin Smith, Linda Riefschneider, Richard Lair and Jenni Bowman with elephants Jewell and Zina at the Little Rock Zoo



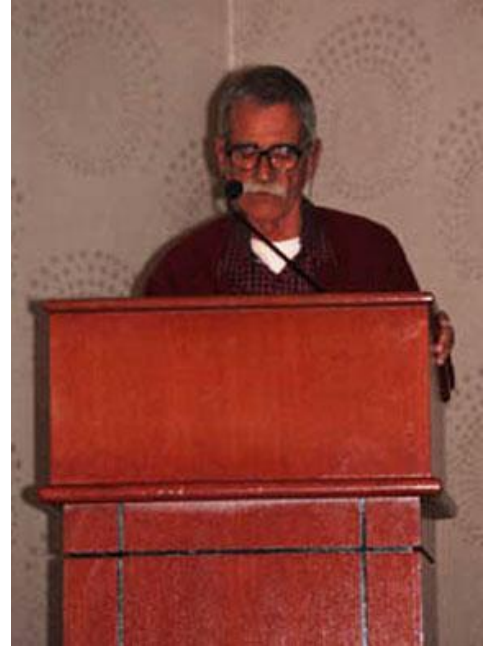
Richard Lair presents at University of Arkansas, Little Rock

Later we met Linda, our foundation President, back at the Zoo and took a tour of the rest of the zoo. Then it was off to the Riddle's Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary (www.elephantsanctuary.org) to visit with Scott and Heidi Riddle. After a good visit with the Riddles, Richard and Linda flew to Orlando for a day's visit to Ringling's Center for Elephant Conservation, whose motto is: "Endangered Species? Not if We Can Help It." It was a privilege to meet with both old and new friends at the CEC and we greatly appreciate everything they have done for Asian elephant conservation and research over the years.

Next, it was off to Rochester, New York. The staff and volunteers at the Seneca Park Zoo did a fabulous job hosting the 32nd Elephant Managers Association conference. There were approximately 110 participants from around the world and everyone enjoyed Richard's keynote speech. It was fascinating to hear about his journey through life and how he ended up working with the elephants of Thailand for 31 years.

He has had many unique experiences including training the first elephants to paint in Thailand and directing the one and only, world renowned, Thai Elephant Orchestra. The Orchestra has just released its third and final CD entitled 'Water Music'. He is also well known for writing two books. In 1997 he wrote "Gone Astray: The Care and Management of the Asian Elephant in Domesticity," which remains the definitive text on domesticated elephant in Southeast Asia, and in 2005 he coauthored the "Elephant Care Manual for Mahouts and Camp Managers". We are grateful to Richard for sharing his knowledge and experience with other elephant professionals.

Richard then traveled to the west coast to present at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, and to catch up with some old friends. The Woodland Park Zoo were gracious hosts and set up a very nice event, complete with an elegant reception with appetizers and beverages. Richard gave an engaging presentation about his experiences with elephants, and focused primarily on the situation of elephants in Thailand, where he has been living for over 30 years. Gretchen and her husband had worked for Richard in Thailand for 6 months and hadn't seen him for 2 years, so they were excited to meet up with him at the event. Richard then went on to visit other friends and family in Montana and California before returning to Thailand.



Richard presenting at EMA



Director April presenting at EMA



Our directors (minus one) and Richard



ElefantAsia

ElefantAsia is a French nonprofit organization working with and for elephants in Lao PDR, a historical range country of the Asian elephant. Founded in 2001, and hosted by the National Animal Health Center in Vientiane since 2006, the base of their work is in the Sayaboury Province of Laos.

ElefantAsia runs a mobile clinic that travels all over the country to help captive elephants that are in need of help. Many of the emergency calls are related to uncontrollable musth bull elephants that have broken their chains and are dangerous not only to themselves but to people as well. Owners and local authorities will call the ElefantAsia team to help calm down the elephant so that it can be taken back to areas safe for villagers. With only one sedative gun (kept in the Sayaboury province), the ElefantAsia team can't always offer a timely response to elephant owners facing such problems in other parts of Laos.

Asian Elephant Support is pleased to announce that in July we donated \$1500 toward the purchase of a second dart gun for the Vientiane-based elephant mobile clinic, thus aiding ElefantAsia in their efforts to help both the elephants and people who live with and among elephants in the country of Laos.

For more information about ElefantAsia, visit their website at: <http://www.elefantasia.org/?lang=en>



There's a free and easy way to raise funds for Asian Elephant Support! This is going to be the easiest thing we've ever asked you to do! We just signed up with GoodSearch.com (<http://www.goodsearch.com/>) and now every time you shop online or search the internet, a donation will be made to AES.

GoodShop.com works with more than 2,500 stores (including Target, Apple, Petsmart etc..) and every time you purchase something, a percentage will be donated to us! And, even more exciting, GoodShop also offers over 100,000 of the most up-to-date coupons and free shipping offers so you can save money at the same time. It's win win, and this is just in time for shopping for the holiday season!

GoodSearch is a Yahoo powered search engine which makes a donation to us each time you do a search.

Join the rest of our community in using these sites to help us easily raise money for our mission. Get started by clicking the link to our webpage (<http://www.asianelephantsupport.org/donate.asp>)!

THANK YOU

*We at AES wish to extend a very sincere **Thank You** to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.*

Please visit our website (www.asianelephantsupport.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions or concerns, please [contact us](#). We appreciate your support. Please consider the many [Ways You Can Help](#) Asian elephants and those who care for them.

ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

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