

Zoo Conservation Outreach Group



October 13, 2016

RON MAGILL CONSERVATION HEROES AWARD

Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) and the Zoo Miami Foundation are pleased to announce the establishment of the Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to *in-situ* wildlife conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean Basin, and promotes capacity building by providing professional training and project development opportunities to local field researchers. Preference will be given to conservationists working with emblematic or endangered species and to ZCOG field conservation partners.

Ron Magill, Director of Communications and Media Relations at Zoo Miami, remarked that: *"having had the privilege of working with researchers in the field over many years, I am always amazed at the dedication and passion these individuals have towards educating people about the wonders of our natural world while inspiring them to protect it for future generations. I, through the Zoo Miami Foundation, feel privileged to partner with ZCOG to create this annual award in an effort to support the admirable work done by these "heroes" of conservation. It is especially gratifying to concentrate these efforts in Latin America which is such an important part of my personal heritage and that of the Miami community."*

The Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award allows ZCOG to strengthen existing conservation partnerships in the Americas and provides field researchers with additional opportunities to fulfill their conservation potential. According to ZCOG Executive Director Daniel Hilliard, *"the award also serves as a bridge between ZCOG's dual missions to provide direct support for wildlife conservation projects and promote capacity building through professional development."*

ZCOG serves as a coordinating, fundraising, and financial management agency for wildlife conservation projects in the Americas, supporting field efforts for species like the Jaguar, Andean Condor, and Giant Armadillo, among others. The group's Conservation Training Scholarship Program supports wildlife conservation and stewardship by providing Latin American zoo and aquarium professionals



Ron Magill, Director of Communications and Media Relations at Zoo Miami, observes a Harpy Eagle chick in a nest set high in a Panamanian rainforest canopy. © Ron Magill



with training opportunities to obtain the skills necessary to manage and preserve wildlife. Since 2005, ZCOG has awarded nearly 100 training scholarships to individuals representing 45 zoological institutions in 15 different countries.

Information about ZCOG's Conservation Training Scholarship Program, field conservation partnerships, and the new Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award can be found at www.zcog.org.

For additional details please contact: scholarships@zcog.org.