FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2022 T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner of the Year

Dr. Sharman Hoppes

When nominations closed for the 2022 T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner of the Year, 24 outstanding avian veterinarians were submitted for consideration. The independent Selection Committee narrowed the list to three finalists and the Award recipient, Dr. Sharman Hoppes, was announced during the Plenary Session at ExoticsCon 2022.

Sharman Hoppes, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice) is the owner of Texas Avian & Exotic Hospital in Grapevine, Texas and a Professor Emerita of the Texas A&M University zoological medicine service.
The autonomous Selection Committee, consisting of Association of Avian Veterinarians members, was chaired by Dr. Kenneth Welle.

About T.J. Lafeber

Dr. T.J. Lafeber was recognized as a pioneer in companion bird medicine and the human-companion bird bond. His concern for the health and welfare of his avian patients led him to develop medical treatments, diagnostic techniques, and nutritionally balanced foods. Dr. Lafeber’s lectures were infused with his caring demeanor and enthusiasm, inspiring students and veterinarians alike to advance the fledgling field of companion bird medicine. The Caring Hands Award statue (*shown above*) is a bronze cast of Dr. Lafeber’s hands and his most beloved avian patient, the budgerigar.