

# Gary K. Clarke: Curriculum Vitae

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Gary K. Clarke has had a lifelong involvement with wild animals, human cultures, and the natural world as an adventurer, photographer, author, safari leader, naturalist, lecturer, and former zoo director.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Zoo Director, Topeka Zoological Park, Topeka, Kansas 1963–1989

During his twenty-six-year tenure at Topeka Zoological Park, he developed the first master plan for the zoo and completed a number of new exhibits that allowed the zoo to earn its “world famous” status. These include the development of the Animals and Man complex, the Tropical Rainforest, which received the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Exhibit Award in 1974, Waterbird Lagoon, Lions Pride, and Discovering Apes/Gorilla Encounter, the first of its kind with a glass tunnel for visitors through the outdoor gorilla habitat.

The zoo received the AZA [Edward H.] Bean Award for the first successful captive reproduction of American golden eagles in 1971, and an AZA Silver Propagator’s Certificate for the pygmy hedgehog tenrec in 1982. He established the Friends of the Topeka Zoo, an extensive volunteer group, and the zoo’s education programs.

In 2004, the Topeka Zoo named the new education center the Gary K. Clarke Living Classroom, in his honor.

In 2014, the Topeka Zoo initiated Camp Cowabunga: Gary Clarke’s Africa, a unique African safari experience, as a tribute to Gary.

Animal Department Curator, Fort Worth Zoological Park, TX 1962–63

Senior Keeper, Kansas City Zoological Gardens, MO 1961–62

Reptile Research Supervisor, Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, MO 1958–60

Zoo Attendant, Kansas City Zoological Gardens, MO 1957–58

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## PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums [AAZPA]

President 1971–72

(The year it became independent from the  
National Recreation and Park Association [NRPA])

Vice President 1969–70

Board of Directors 1967–72

1981–84



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**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS** *continued*

Chaired or served on the following committees: Accreditation, Membership, Honors and Awards, Conference Program, Nominating and Public Relations; recipient of the Outstanding Service Award

Instructor at the annual Zoo Management School and three terms on its Board of Regents

Served as Chair in 1983–84

Taught evening classes at Washburn University of Topeka

Regular appearances on radio and television

Presented and published numerous papers (partial listing follows)

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**EXPERTISE**

Consultant on zoo design and management

Appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the first National Museum Services Board, 1977–80

Lecturer on zoos, wildlife conservation, and animal behavior, with appearances in forty-five states

Extensive travel in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe, as well as Africa, India, the Amazon, and the Galápagos Islands

Climbed Kilimanjaro in 1989 and turned fifty on the mountain

In 1990, founded Cowabunga Safaris and conducted 140 wildlife-oriented, educational/photographic safaris to Africa

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**FORMAL EDUCATION**

Washburn University of Topeka, 1979, bachelor of arts degree: major in sociology with a concentration in anthropology and a minor in psychology

School for Professional Management Development for Zoo and Aquarium Administrative Personnel, 1976, sponsored by North Carolina State University and the American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums

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**AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, MEMBERSHIPS**

Kansan of Distinction, *The Topeka Capital-Journal*

Citizen Achievement Award, Washburn University and KSNT-TV

Distinguished Service Award, Topeka Jaycees

Executive of the Year, Topeka Sales and Marketing Executives

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**AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, MEMBERSHIPS** *continued*

Hall of Fame, Topeka Parks and Recreation

Volunteer of the Year, American Cancer Society, Topeka

Liberty Bell Award, Topeka Bar Association

Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Club of Topeka

Inducted as a Maasai Elder of the Oltukai Mara Clan, Kenya, with the designated Maasai name: *Ole Isho*, “the one who gives”

Featured in the chapter, “A Certain Contribution,” in *A Man Named Hoffman, and Other Narratives of Medical Detection*, by Berton Roueché. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1965.

Featured in “Ad Astra: 161 Adventurers, astronauts, discoverers, explorers, pilots, pioneers, scientists.” Volume I of the biographical series *999 Kansas Characters*. Published by the Kansas Heritage Center, 2014.

Moderator, World Symposium on the Future of Zoos, Indianapolis, 1982

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**MEMBERSHIPS**

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London

The Explorers Club

Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria

Independent Zoo Enthusiasts Society

AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums), AAZK (American Association of Zoo Keepers), ZAA (Zoological Association of America)

Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum (Honorary Trustee)

East African Wild Life Society

Wildlife/Conservation Societies of: Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa

Association of Tropical Biology

International Center for Photography

Dictionary Society of North America

The Jayhawker Club

The Folio Society

The Flint Hills Literary Club

Royal Order of Dung Beetles (Honorary Doyen)



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## BOOKS PUBLISHED

- I'd Rather Be On a Safari.* Baranski Publishing Company, 2001
- Hey Mister—Your Alligator's Loose!* Baranski Publishing Company, 2009
- Gary Clarke's Africa: Wildlife, Rainbows and Laughter.* Cowabunga Safaris, 2011
- They Call Me Cowabunga! Once Upon a Time in Africa.* Cowabunga Safaris, 2013
- Somewhere in Africa: Serendipitous Journeys of Self Discovery.* Cowabunga Safaris, 2015

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## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “The AAZPA and Its Significance to the Zoological Park Profession.” Presented at the First National Conference for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Topeka, KS, May 5, 1970.
- “The Fascination of Gorillas.” Presented at the Sixth Annual Central Zoo Workshop, Abilene, TX, April 7, 1970.
- “Puberty in a Female Llama, *Lama glama*.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, Vol. 10, Zoological Society of London, 1970. Edited by Joseph Lucas.
- “Regional Zoo Conferences: Their Purpose and Value.” Editorial in the *American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums Newsletter*, Vol. XI, No. 1, January 1970.
- “Upgrading a Zoo.” *The American City*, Vol. 84, No. 11, November 1969.
- “European Zoo Marathon.” *Parks and Recreation*, Vol. IV, No. 10, October 1969.
- “Zoological Society—Municipal Zoo Relationships.” Member of panel discussion at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Oklahoma City, OK, September 23, 1969.
- “Topeka Zoo in 1968.” *International Zoo News*, Zoo-Centrum, Zeist, Holland, Vol. 16-3, No. 84, May 15, 1969.
- “So You Think a Zoo Chief's Job is Fun? You're Right!” *Animal World*, Evansville Zoological Society, Vol. 6, No. 1, January 1969.
- “Museum of Human Stupidity—A Psychological Deterrent to Vandalism in the Zoo.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, Vol. 9, Zoological Society of London, 1969. Edited by Joseph Lucas.
- “Zoological Park Appreciation.” Presented at the High Table Seminar, University of the Pacific, Raymond College, Stockton, CA, December 10, 1968, and November 21, 1967.
- “Topeka Zoo's New Australian Exhibit.” Presented at the Fourth Annual Central Zoo Workshop, Evansville, IN, September 13, 1968.
- “Large Mammal Building at the Topeka Zoological Park.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, Zoological Society of London, 1968. Edited by C. Jarvis.
- “Topeka Zoo Profile.” *Animal World*, Evansville Zoological Society, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1968.

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**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS** *continued*

“Aggressive Behavior in the Genus *Tapirus*.” Presented at the Third Annual Central Zoo Workshop, St. Louis, MO, September 26, 1967.

“The Zoo—Recreation for People and Animals.” *Kansas Recreation and Park Association Annual*, 1967.

“Operation Noah’s Ark...How Topeka, Kansas Became More Zoo Conscious.” *Parks and Recreation*, Vol. I, No. 6, June 1967.

“Fund Raising is Fun Raising—Operation Noah’s Ark.” Presented at the First World Congress of Zoos, Mexico City, Mexico, March 12, 1967.

“Kansas—A Zoo Visitor’s Delight.” *Kansas! Magazine*, Kansas Department of Economic Development, 1st Issue, 1967.

“Will the Real Brush-tailed Phalangers Please Stand Up?” *The Bear Facts*, Official Publication of the Topeka Friends of the Zoo, Vol. III, No. 1, January 1967.

“Pachyderms, Primates and People.” Presented at the Second Annual Central Zoo Workshop, Topeka, KS, September 20, 1966.

“Cooperative Research Opportunities in the Small Zoo.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, Vol. 6, Zoological Society of London, 1966. Edited by C. Jarvis.

“Of Millipedes and Marmosets.” Presented at the Indiana Zoo Seminar, Indianapolis, IN, April 19, 1966.

“Great Plans for Topeka Zoo.” *International Zoo News*, Zoo-Centrum, Zeist, Holland, Vol. 13, No. 2, April 1966.

“Animal Wonderland...For People.” *The Bear Facts*, Official Publication of the Topeka Friends of the Zoo, Vol. II, No. 2, March 1966.

“Topeka Zoo-Public Library Joint Educational Program.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, Vol. 6, Zoological Society of London, 1966. Edited by C. Jarvis.

“Zoo Below Zero.” *The Bear Facts*, Official Publication of the Topeka Friends of the Zoo, Vol. II, No. 1, January 1966.

“Psychology and Behavior of Zoo Animals—and Zoo Visitors.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Kansas Association of Biology Teachers, Pittsburg State College, Pittsburg, KS, October 16, 1965.

“Biologically Adequate Zoo Facilities.” Presented at the Economy Zoo Planning Symposium, 41st Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. Milwaukee, WI, September 21, 1965; published in the Conference Proceedings.

“Master Plan for the Topeka Zoological Park.” Presented at the Kansas Zoo Workshop, Topeka, KS, September 14, 1965.

“Longevity Chronicle of a Great Plains Rat Snake, *Elaphe guttata emoryi*.” *National Wildlife Society Bulletin*, Vol. 7, No. 6, June 1965.



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**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS** *continued*

“The Genesis of Zoos.” *Animal World*, Evansville Zoological Society, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 1965.

“Utilizing the Potential of a Zoo.” Presented at and published in Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums, Houston, TX, October 22, 1964.

“Control of the Snake Mite in Captive Reptile Collections.” (With J. H. Camin, L. H. Goodson, and H. R. Shuyler). *Zoologica*, New York Zoological Society, Vol. 49, No. 2, 1964.

“Observations on the Breeding Behavior of a Pair of Captive Freshwater Amazonian Pink Porpoises, *Inia geoffrensis*.” Unpublished manuscript. September 1963.

“Selected Breeding Problems of Birds.” Presented at and published in Proceedings of the Zoo Aviculturists Symposium, American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums Conference, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, March 4, 1963.

“Birthdays at the Zoo.” *The American City Magazine*, Vol. 78, No. 3, March 1963.

“Report on a Bite by a Red Diamond Rattlesnake, *Crotalus ruber*.” Presented before the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Chicago Natural History Museum, June 16, 1960. Published in *Copeia*, No. 4, December 22, 1961.

“Big Man: A Study of Gorilla Personality.” Psychology research paper, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO, January 1960.

“Heart Rates of Unanesthetized Snakes by Electrocardiography.” (With T. M. Marx). Presented before the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, San Diego, CA, June 12, 1959. Published in *Copeia*, No. 3, September 26, 1960.