



Florida State University

ARF News Special Feature

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EDUCATION KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES: LEARNING AND SHARING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC THE REGAL SWAN® RESEARCH TEAM SPOTLIGHTED FOR TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY

BY
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Dodging rain, rescuing swans and providing veterinary medical care were just a few of the highlights of a trip to England taken by ARF Board Member/ Past President “Fancy” Funk and The Regal Swan® Foundation, Inc. (RSF), March 2012. The adventure was captured on film

for a special documentary for “Born to Explore with Richard Wiese,” which is scheduled to air on ABC in September and the National Geographic Adventure channel (international) in October/November. Wiese is a world-class explorer and an Emmy-nominated host and producer



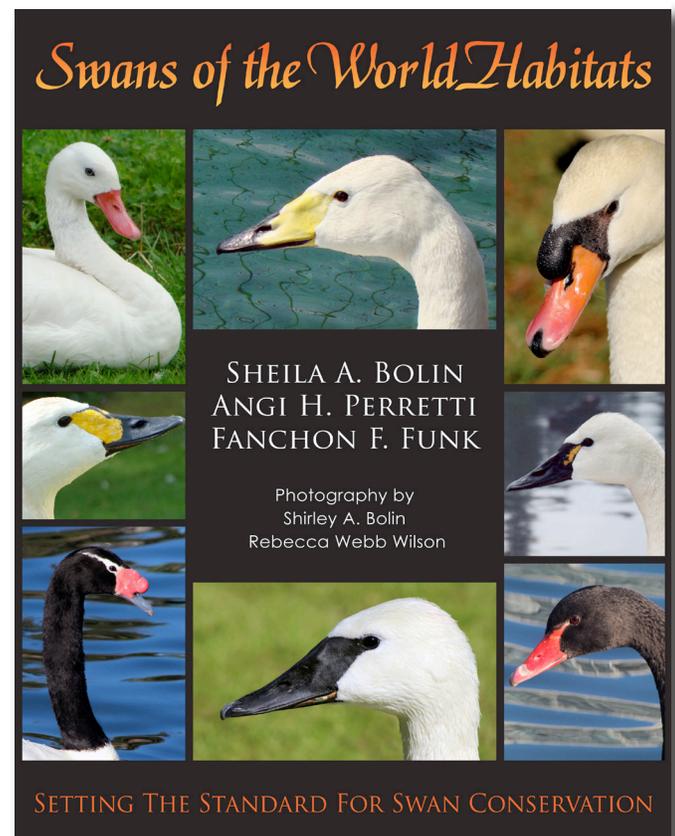
“Fancy” serves as Vice-President of Research and Education for the RSF and traveled with five other researchers from the program to collaborate with swan keepers from the UK and Latvia. Abbotsbury Swannery is the largest and oldest managed colony of nesting mute swans in the world. In 1993 the Swannery celebrated its 600th anniversary. Working with David Wheeler, the head Swan Herd, team members gathered reeds, also used in thatching, and built nests for the 900+ wild swans who call the area home. We also examined and treated injured and sick birds during our daylong trip to this area known as “The Fleet.”



During the course of the trip, which was sponsored by the British Tourism Council and began on March 6 through March 13, The Regal Swan® Foundation, Inc. unveiled its newest book, titled *Swans of The World Habitats: Setting The Standard For Swan Conservation*. published 2012. The book presents historical markers for swan research and promotes swan habitat conservation and swan species preservation.



Next, we traveled to Windsor, where we helped rescue injured and sick swans along the Thames River working with Wendy Hermon, Centre and Rescue Co-ordinator from Swan Lifeline. Swan Lifeline is the oldest registered charity devoted entirely to the care of sick and injured swans in the Thames Valley and surrounding area. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II owns proprietary rights to many of the swans along the Thames, which are banded as such and receive medical treatments at Swan Lifeline.



“Born To Explore with Richard Wiese,” is an educational exploration program that is broadcast on ABC on Saturday mornings in the US. The program takes viewers around the globe in search of adventure, wildlife and explores the people and cultures of the world. The show averages more than 1.3 million viewers every week and is hosted by world-class explorer, author, and adventurer, Richard Wiese. Wiese gained fame at the age of 11 when he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.



Although Wiese and his camera crew were kept busy capturing the weeklong trip on film, team members managed to get Wiese involved with the captures and release of the treated swans below the walls of Windsor Castle. The film crew also captured RSF members working with Her Majesty’s Swan Marker, Mr. David Barber and Her Majesty’s Swan Warden, Dr. Christopher Perrins.

RSF Research team members traveling with “Fancy” included Sheila A. Bolin, CEO; Dr. Geoffrey R. Gardner, veterinarian; Dr. Christopher W. Brown, veterinarian; Shirley A. Bolin, photographer/videographer; and Angi H. Perretti, vice-president product development.

