

Patti Hall DIRECTOR EMERITUS



Ringleader, mentor, mother, task-master, mountain-mover, and most of all, motivator...If the animals are the soul of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo... then **Patti Hall** has been its heart for over 23 years.

And now that the New Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo is well on its way to becoming the safe and secure home she has dreamed of, Patti was ready to pass on the baton as Zoo Director and step into her new role as Director Emeritus. While she is not in the daily trenches running a zoo and caring for hundreds of animals, she is able to focus her energies on engaging communities, businesses, organizations and the public into forging deeper and longer lasting bonds with the new zoo.

Through various personal and media appearances. Patti will help promote the zoo and its programs as a prominent source of wildlife education and entertainment in the region. Educator, speaker and advocate for the future success of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo, Patti Hall will bring new inspiration to the title *Director Emeritus*.

Patti Hall PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Patti Hall's extensive background in management, education and public speaking contributed to the success of her endeavors as Director of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo for over 23 years, and now, as Director Emeritus. After college, Patti was appointed Director, Montessori of Kentucky Herr Lane Academy in Louisville. Five years later, she assisted in spearheading an innovative pilot project funded under the Older Americans Act. During her eight years, four centers throughout Louisville provided many public services to over 60,000 seniors, and 45 years later, the program is still going strong. Patti also spent 16 years in publishing, holding key management positions with the American Cities Business Group, and as General Manager for American International Publishing Inc., publisher of *International Business* magazine, in Rye, New York.

Patti's professional zoo experience was inspired early on by her childhood affinity with animals and time spent at the Louisville Zoo while she was a college art student. Years later, after resettling in the Gulf Shores area, her love of zoos led her to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. In 1995 she became a volunteer, then two years later, was appointed Zoo Director. Patti's goals: to turn a small, financially struggling, roadside zoo into a facility that placed animal care as its highest priority; offered a safe, family attraction that emphasized animal conservation education in an intimate, charming environment; and made fundraising, community outreach, and publicity integral to turning the zoo's fortunes around. Within a few years, Patti was well on her way to achieving every one of those goals when disaster struck the zoo.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast. But before it destroyed the town of Gulf Shores and the zoo, Patti and her staff made history becoming the first US zoo to perform a full-scale, off-site, total evacuation during a natural disaster. Over 265 animals were transported to Patti's home where they stayed for weeks while make-shift repairs were underway at the zoo. This courageous feat made global headlines, led to the hit TV series, *The Little Zoo That Could* on Animal Planet, and began Patti's journey to the creation of a new zoo in a safer location. Obviously, the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo's tremendous success today is a testament to Patti's professional experience, extraordinary skills, and dedication. Patti's first set of goals as Zoo Director have been achieved even beyond her wildest dreams; yet her next set of goals were even bigger...the relocation and rebirth of The New Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo - well on its way to reality in the very near future.

Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo | www.alabamagulfcoastzoo.com | 251.968.5732



Patti Hall

NATIONAL PRESS & PUBLICITY

- *Person of the Week*, Peter Jennings ABC World Nightly News
- National Geographic
- PEOPLE magazine
- The Weather Channel's *Animal Storm Stories*
- The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson
- CNN News
- Good Morning America
- BBC World News
- Entertainment Weekly
- Los Angeles Times
- New York Times
- Washington Post
- Newsweek
- Chicago Tribune
- Associated Press

Patti Hall

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2006 Alabama Dept. of Tourism *Director's Award*
- *Patti Hall Day Proclamation* October 23, 2006 Reading, Ohio
- 2015 Alabama "34 Women Who Shape the State"

