

Minutes for May 1, 2005 Meeting

John Long thanked Kitty Miller, Tom Marshall, and Elizabeth Moore for providing transportation to speakers of the BCV convention from the airport to the conventions' location in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Tammy Ellison, who didn't attend the convention, was presented with a Club Achievement plaque that was awarded to her at the convention.

The Southern Maryland Bird Club donated \$1000 to the Dick Ivy Scholarship Fund. Elizabeth Moore also made a generous donation. Around \$1600 was raised at the BCV convention for the scholarship fund. It will provide \$400 for textbooks to qualifying veterinary students specializing in the avian field.

The next BCV convention will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. There will be a Bird Show, with judging, for the first time with the intention of eventually turning this into the East Coast Nationals.

There is a photo contest that BCV is conducting and they will produce a calendar from among the winning entries. The clubs can use the calendars for fund raising. Information on this will be published in the June newsletter.

The next club meeting is the annual picnic. This year it will be held at Kitty Miller's house in Annandale, Virginia. Directions to her house along with items that attendees will need to bring will be put in the June newsletter. Kitty Miller and Sally O'Dwyer will organize the event.

There is a bird mart in two weeks and the club will have another bake sale. People who bring baked good to the club table at the mart before 10am will get in free. Also, the raffle item at the BCV convention will be raffled off at the bird mart. It is a copy for Mark Bittner's book, "The Wild Birds of Telegraph Hill," that he autographed.

It was announced that the July speaker will be Mark Sargent, who is a well known breeder of Pionus parrots.

Ruth Hanessian was the speaker at the meeting. She has a degree in ornithology from Cornell University and has owned a pet shop for over 26 years named Animal Exchange in Rockville, Maryland. Her main topic was "Foraging and Enrichment" but she also talked about cleaning cages, the danger of Teflon, and a new cancer fundraiser for Pet Luminaria, which is being conducted at the Animal Exchange.

She also talked about the dangers of Teflon and handed out literature on it. Teflon is in many products such as self-cleaning ovens and can be fatal to birds.