



THE CAPITAL FLYER

The Monthly Newsletter of the
National Capital Bird Club
4615 Harvard Road
College Park, MD 20740-3752
carol.rees@usa.com

<http://www.ncbc-dc.org>

December 2002

Dec 8: NCBC Holiday Party

December's meeting is the Holiday Party on December 8 at 2:00 p.m. at Bozena and Tony Pait's house in Vienna, Virginia. The club is providing a ham and rolls. The Pait's are providing the drinks. Club members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Directions to the party from the McLean Government Center:

- Start out going Southwest on Balls Hills Rd toward Lewinsville Rd.
- Right onto 123 (Dolley Madison Blvd/Chain Bridge Road) towards Tysons Corner, Oakton. (The road will change name to: Maple Ave in Vienna)
- Left on Park Street
- Past two stop signs (the second stop sign is next to Elementary school on your right)
- Past Kingsley Road (on your right), past Fardale Street
- Turn right onto Casmar Street to house # 104 on right side.

Bozena & Tony Pait

104 Casmar Street

Vienna, VA 22180

TEL. 703 207 0384 Please call if you have any questions.

Note:

Park Street ends on Cedar Lane, if you will see stop lights – go to the Cedar shopping center on your right and back onto Park Street. From here take second street (Casmars St.) to the left. The house is on right side.

Liz Wilson Seminar Cancelled

Due to very low registration, the seminar scheduled for November 24 has been cancelled. Those who registered should soon be receiving the return of their checks. The seminar may be rescheduled for the spring and hopefully at that time there will be greater interest.

Club Donation Will Be Decided at December 8 Meeting

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FUTURE MEETINGS

December 8 *, **

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1 **

July 13 *

August 3

September 7

October 5

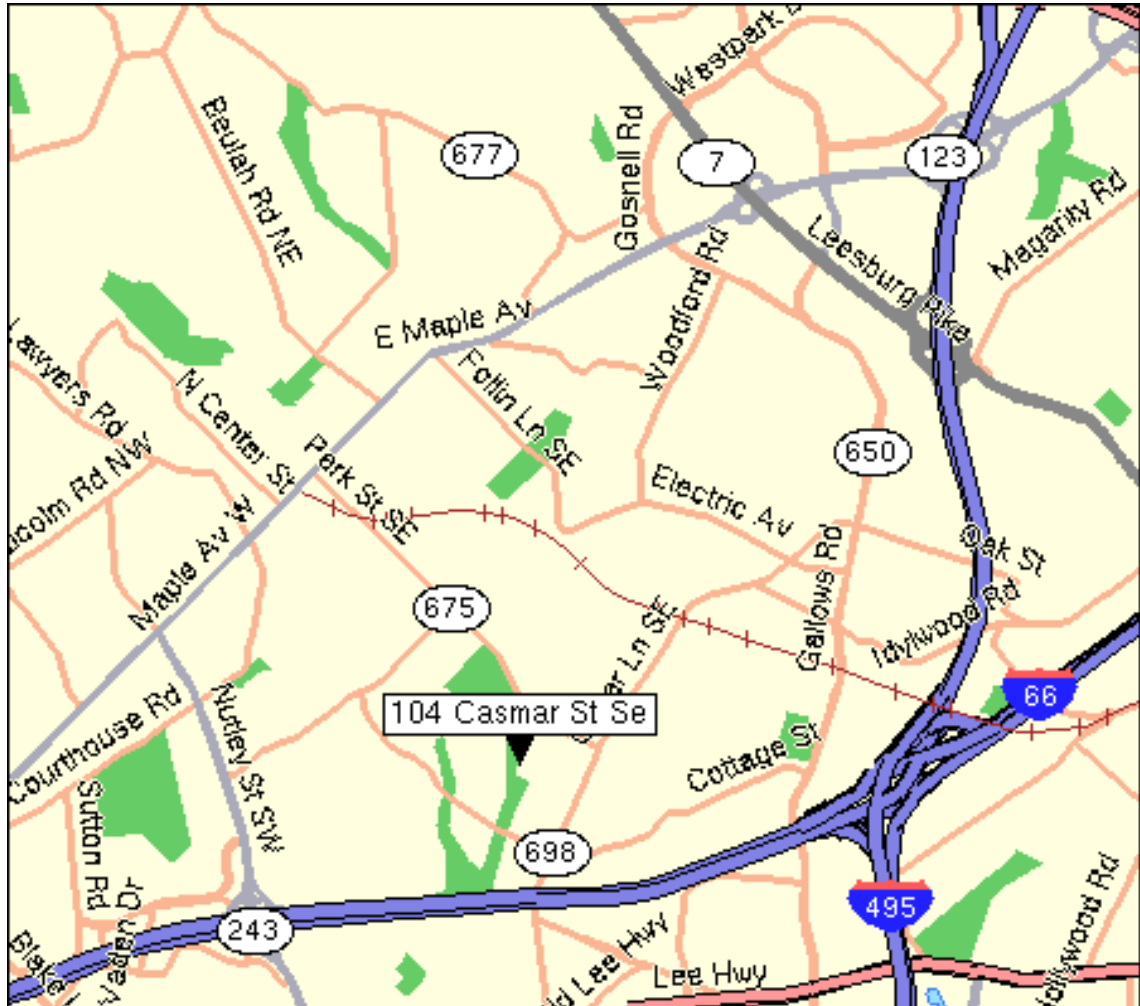
November 9 *

December 7 **

* Note date change

** Different Location

Map to Holiday Party



Bozena & Tony Pait
104 Casmar Street
Vienna, VA 22180
TEL. 703 207 0384 Please call if you have any questions.

Come to the December 8 meeting and give \$1,000 to a worthy cause. One of the things our Club does is support organizations that protect and promote avian interests. In the past we have supported a number of conservation and research groups. It's time to make another donation and what better way to celebrate the holiday season than to help our feathered companions and their kin. We attempted to come up with a recommendation for the Club. Although it was gratifying to research these organizations, the number of deserving entities was overwhelming. Even after limiting our review to only those groups with proven track records for accomplishing conservation or research goals, it proved too difficult to narrow our decision to only one or two. So here are the finalists and you will get to decide at the December 8 meeting. The rules will be simple. Each member will vote by allocating \$1,000 between any number of the organizations (1\$ = 1 vote). We will total all of the votes and divide the Club's \$1,000 donation proportionally between the organizations based upon the votes they received. Any entity that receives less than a 10% of the total votes will be eliminated and those funds will be allocated between the other organizations. Here are the nominees. Most of them are already well known to most of you but some brief comments are provided. Please do your own research (or check with other members) and come ready to vote on December 8. Absentee ballots can be mailed to Elton Ellison 4103 Fogel Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906 but all votes must be received at or before the December 8 meeting.

| RECIPIENT | AMOUNT |
|---|-----------|
| World Parrot Trust 12 Funds (www.worldparrottrust.org) The WPT is one of the leading organizations on parrot conservation Issue. | |
| Lear's Macaw (1) | (1)_____ |
| Echo Parakeet (2) | (2)_____ |
| Golden Conure (3) | (3)_____ |
| African Grey (4) | (4)_____ |
| Great Green Macaw (5) | (5)_____ |
| Palm Cockatoo (6) | (6)_____ |
| St. Vincent Amazon (7) | (7)_____ |
| Kakapo (8) | (8)_____ |
| Imperial Amazon (9) | (9)_____ |
| Red Throated Lori (10) | (10)_____ |
| Hyacinth Macaw (11) | (11)_____ |
| Mollucan Cockatoo (12) | (12)_____ |
| American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org) Although not limited to parrots, they have done some great projects with parrot conservation. (13) | (13)_____ |
| Nature Conservancy – Latin American/Caribbean (www.nature.org) This organization sets the standard for habitat preservation. (14) | (14)_____ |
| Bob Dahlhausen DVM, MS - Research Associates Laboratory, Inc., Milford, Ohio 45150 - "Avian Research Fund" - Conducting research into the cause and nature of Proventricular Dilatation Disease (Myenteric Ganglioneuritis, or Macaw Wasting Disease) in pet birds. (www.blackstone-aviaries.com/pdd.html)(15) | (15)_____ |

TOTAL = _____ \$1,000

It's the Holiday Season! By John Davey

I sometimes wonder what our birds make of us humans – what they really think of us – especially at this time of year. (Actually, I ALWAYS wonder what our birds think of us – at all times of the year. These are not dumb animals, folks, and we must do stuff that appears entirely miraculous or downright crazy to them. Just think about changing clothes or vacuuming floors or even just turning lights on and off!) But back to this holiday article: Right now, it's dark outside – as dark as it gets all year – and yet inside and outside our homes, most of us are decorating and setting up lights and sparkles to recognize the season and to drive the darkness away.

Almost all people and all religions (belief systems?) recognize this time of year as something special – something that deserves the lights and sparkles and decorations to recognize the “specialness” of the time of year and to brighten up some of the darkness outside. And, as all of you parrot owners know, ANYTHING that has to do with bright lights and sparkles is OK in any parrot's book.

We have all heard that many birds are frightened or agitated or upset by anything new or different in their environment. And I guess that's so. I've often wondered if my leaving my hair brush face down on the dresser is the

reason that Old Teddy Bird, my female Quaker, has been plucking herself nekkid for the past 6 or so years. I wonder that if only I had put the hairbrush face up on the dresser, we might have avoided all those years of plucking upset and turmoil. But who's to know?

Now, I do know that, without exception, all of the birds that I have owned, over many, many holiday seasons – all of my birds – have always seemed to love and be fascinated by the holiday lights and colors and sparkles. My wife has always been very keen on decorating our house for the holidays, and each and every year she seems to outdo her last year's effort.

Whenever I take the birds into the decorated living room or the den, and they spot the tree or the mantelpiece or some other decoration, I can just feel the excitement and interest course through their bodies. There is a tightening of the birds' feet grasping my fingers and a shift in weight as they lean towards the lights and the colors. I can just sense the wheels turning faster in those little bird brains as they calculate how they are going to get within beak range of all those stimulating shapes and colors.

The birds can sit and watch the decorations for hours. Well, no – they can't. Whenever I sit down with the

birds to enjoy the time or listen to the music or just to let them drink in the spectacle, there is a momentary pause and then an ever-quickening parrot shuffle as the birds try to amble inconspicuously over towards the biggest and brightest decorations to give them a good beaking.

I know that our birds can't really smile, but they certainly do appear to have a grin on their beaks and a sparkle in their eyes as they try to sneak away from me and get within beaking distance of the pretties. Many times, my extended finger and “Step up!” command is answered with a more than half-hearted hiss and beak lunge as they continue around me, towards their goal.

So far, the birds have never made it all the way to any of the decorations. I can just imagine the fun that they would have and the mess that they would make and the explaining that I would have to do – if ever they made it – even one time – to their goal. I know that it would be wrong, and I know that it would be dangerous, and I really will never let them get that far.... but, Brother! Wouldn't they have fun!!!

So, now we are looking forward to a New Year – with new hopes and new plans and new aspirations. Bless us all. Bless our birds. See you next year.

Message from AFA President Continued...

reasonable and appropriate standards for all of U.S. aviculture. This is going to be a long, involved process that will require your support and involvement. For now, what we need to be doing is building membership in AFA—we are going to need to be stronger in numbers, and more healthy from a financial standpoint than we are at present. It is

once more time for AFA to step-up to the plate. I solicit your support and trust it will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Benny J. Gallaway

PRESIDENT

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
AVICULTURE, INC.®

Message from the President of the American Federation of Aviculture

A SUMMARY OF THE AWA DISCUSSIONS AT THE TAMPA CONVENTION, AUGUST 2002

Greetings!

Well, the 2002 Annual Convention of the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.® (AFA) has come and gone. In my view it was a good Convention featuring an outstanding slate of speakers. Congratulations to all who made it happen, especially the Speaker Chairs (Natasha Schischakin and Sandy Molenda); the Convention Coordinator (Esther Aboumaadi); CFO Jim Hawley; the Registrar (Natalie Frumin-Weiss); the AFA Store Chair (Mark Moore) and many others who will go unnamed at this time. Thank you all!

One highlight of the Convention was the series of presentations made by Dr. Chester Gipson and Dr. Jerry DePoyster of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Animal Care addressing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In this (the first of several post-convention articles I plan to prepare), I want to summarize what they told us. First, the full text of their formal presentation can be found on their website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac>. All 58 slides presented are shown at that address. In summary, they first described the organization of their group and then described the AWA in terms of who was covered (dealers, researchers, exhibitors, transporters). Many of us may fall under the "Dealer" category as either wholesale breeders of "animals" for the Pet Trade or breeders of "exotic animals" for retail or wholesale. In the later case, the present definition of animal could include many birds. Of interest, the Retail Pet Trade is presently exempt, but this exemption could change as it has been challenged in the Courts.

They then gave the tortuous history

of how birds came to be covered. In essence it "boiled down" to a change in wording (punctuation really) of the definition of "animal" and which groups of animals were excluded from the definition. In the beginning, the key phrase was "this term [animal] excludes: birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research..." In this definition all birds are exempt as are all rats of the genus *Rattus*. However, for mice, only those mice in the genus *Mus* bred for use in research would be exempt. Next came lawsuits, settlements, amendments, and so forth. The bottom line was a definition that now exempted "(1) birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, [!!!] bred for use in research (exclamation points and underline added). The insertion of the comma following the word *Mus* in the final definition adopted in the 2002 Farm Bill (Senator Helm's "Rider" to the Farm Bill was to amend the AWA and it passed) made it very clear that birds, rats and mice were exempt **only if they were bred for research**.

Okay, we're covered; now what? Well, first let us look at what the AWA ensures. This list includes adequate veterinary care, proper housing, safe transportation, shelter from the elements, adequate feeding and watering, humane handling practices, qualified personnel, proper sanitation and recordkeeping. Minimum standards will be defined and published in Regulations and Standards which will be enforced using unannounced inspections. At present, there are **no** Regulations and Standards written specifically for rats, mice and birds; these will be developed through a "Rulemaking" process which will be conducted by Dr. Gipson and his staff at APHIS/Animal Care.

This process, because of the significance of the AWA, is going to take several years (3 to 5 years is my estimate) to complete. The most exciting thing I heard is that not only will AFA and other affected parties be involved in the process, we are being viewed as being critical to it. Dr. Gipson put it this way "The destination is the development and enforcement of minimum standards; how we get to that destination is up to you-I am the passenger, you are the driver." He also admonished "Be careful what you ask for, because you're likely to get it."

The avicultural community has talked about the need for minimum standards for years. Indeed, various standards have been developed at the international, national, and local levels. An overview of some of these were presented in a Round Table talk at the Convention. Many of us already adhere to these standards without any legal requirement. Now the time has come where everyone covered under the Act is going to have to meet minimum standards. This is a good thing, not a negative. The only problem is that the standards need to be flexible, reasonable and appropriate. However, we are being asked to help develop workable standards appropriate for aviculture. I am excited about the opportunity. If we have to have minimum standards as is presently required by law, we could have no better group to work with than Dr. Gipson and his staff. Furthermore, we (and others) are being afforded every opportunity to guide the process. As AFA President, I have made the commitment to seek to develop and participate in a broad coalition of avian interest groups to help develop

Continued on page 4...

CLUB NEWS

Treasurer's Report October 2002

Beginning Balance: \$3418.59
Total Income: \$0.00
Total Expenses: \$25.00
Speaker Expense: \$25.00
Ending Balance: \$3393.59

Membership Report October 2002

Exchange Memberships 18
 Single Memberships 43
 Family Memberships 20
Total Memberships 81

National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 11/10/02

Ruth Hanessian, of the Animal Exchange in Rockville, MD, spoke at November's meeting on her experiences with owning a pet shop and selling and breeding birds.

She talked about the concern of the legislature about foreign species establishing themselves in our area such as the snakehead. She also talked about the implication of prospective legislation on the keeping and selling of pet birds.

National Capital Bird Club 2003 Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Would you like to be published in the roster? _____

Membership Type: Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00

(If you are joining after June, your annual dues are one-half the above amounts for the year.)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

If family membership, names of other family members: _____

Types of birds you own: _____

Are you a: Pet Owner Breeder Other _____

List any other societies, clubs, or bird magazines you subscribe to: _____

How did you hear about NCBC? _____

List the topics you would like to see covered by speakers or articles: _____

Would you consider volunteering on a committee for special projects or serving in a leadership position? Yes No

Would you be willing to serve as a guest speaker or do you know someone who would make an interesting guest speaker on pet bird-related topics? Yes No
 If so, who? _____

ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE ON JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR

Mail your check, made payable to NCBC:

4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740-3752

Meetings are normally held the first Sunday of the month

At the McLean Government Center, 14537 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, VA

CLUB INFORMATION

President

Tammy Ellison 301-946-3511
 elton.tammy@verizon.net

Vice President

Tom Marshall 703-777-3252

Treasurer

Wayne Porter 703-751-5717

Secretary

Carol Rees 301-277-9846
 carol.rees@usa.com

Audit Committee Chair

OPEN

Hospitality Committee Chair

Elizabeth Moore 703-751-5717

Library Committee Chair

Silvia Tennison 301-474-1883

Newsletter Committee Chair

Carol Rees 301-277-9846
 carol.rees@usa.com

Publicity Committee Chair

OPEN

Ways & Means Committee Chair

OPEN

AFA Delegates

Tom Marshall 703-777-3252

NCBC is affiliated with the American Federation of Aviculture, Bird Clubs of Virginia, and Bird Clubs of America. NCBC is dedicated to education and aviculture with respect to all types of birds.

Annual **DUES** are payable on January 1 of each year: Individual - \$20; Family - \$25. After June, dues are one-half the above amount. Make checks payable to NCBC and send to: National Capital Bird Club, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740.

Club **MEETINGS** are normally held the first Sunday of each month at 3:30p.m. at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA; (703) 356-0551.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETINGS:

From Capital Beltway (I-495): Exit onto Rt. 123 EAST (toward McLean). Follow Rt. 123/Dolly Madison through watching for small blue sign that says "police substation." Turn left onto Lewinsville Road. Take immediate right on to Balls Hill Rd.

BIRDS are normally welcome at meetings; however, NCBC assumes no responsibility for their safety or welfare.

REFRESHMENTS: Please bring a snack to share at the meetings whenever you can. It doesn't need to be fancy or handmade, store-bought is fine.



DONATE USED MAGAZINES:

Please donate your old magazines to the Club Librarian when you are finished with them.

NCBC Advertising Policies

Advertisements appearing in *The Capital Flyer* are not endorsed by NCBC unless stated otherwise. NCBC assumes no responsibility for advertiser's claims or the quality of their product or service. NCBC reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it considers inappropriate. Advertisements must be prepaid.

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CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

| <u>Ad Type</u> | <u>Member</u> | <u>Non-Member</u> |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Line Ad | Free | 15¢/word - \$ 3 min. |
| Bus. Card | \$3 | \$ 5 |
| ¼ page | \$5 | \$10 |
| ½ page | \$8 | \$15 |

**Your new membership card
 is stapled here for paid members.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1, 2002
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

February 23, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

May 4, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

June 8, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Fredericksburg Holiday Inn
I-95 & Rt #3
Fredericksburg, VA (540) 786-8321

August 24, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

October 26, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Fredericksburg Holiday Inn
I-95 & Rt #3
Fredericksburg, VA (540) 786-8321

November 23, 2003
Mid- Atlantic Bird Mart
Tysons Westpark Best Western
McLean, VA (703) 771-9678

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