



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 2003

Dec 7: NCBC Holiday Party

December's meeting is the Holiday Party on December 8 at 3:30 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.

NCBC Board Elections

We will be voting and counting votes for the new Board at the Holiday Party. In this newsletter you will find a ballot (family memberships will receive two ballots in their newsletter), which you are to use to vote with. You will either mail this ballot to Laurel Rosinger, our Nominating Committee Chairperson, or you may bring the ballot with you to the Holiday Party. The ballot will be printed on a separate page that is self-addressed, allowing it to be folded in thirds into

letter form, stapled, and mailed. See the specific instructions on the ballot for more details.

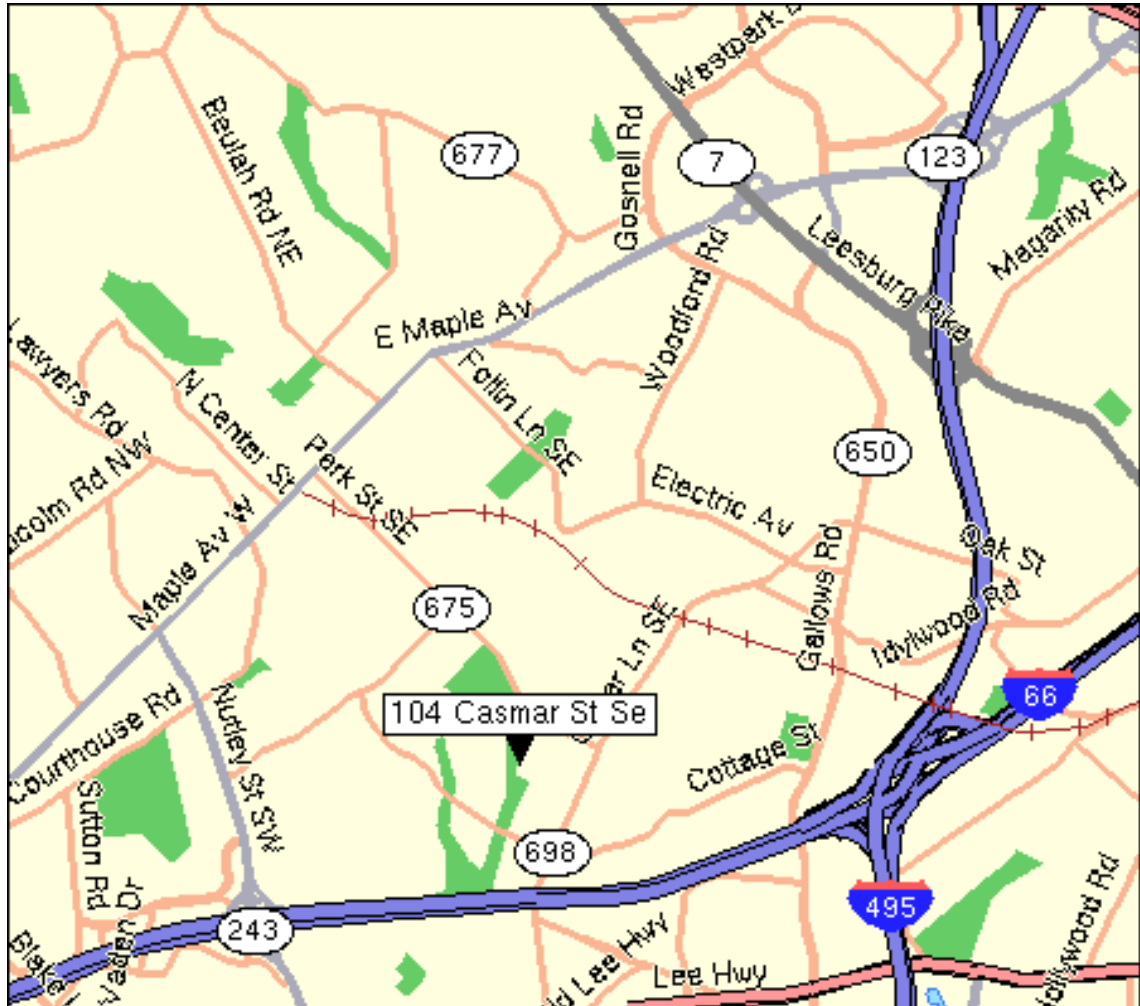
Because the November meeting and December Holiday party are so close together, the December newsletter will be mailed out early on November 25th. Ballots will need to be received prior to the December Holiday party unless you plan to handcarry them to the party. It is recommended that as soon as you receive your copy of the December

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FUTURE MEETINGS	
December 7, 2003 **	
January 4, 2004	
February 1, 2004	
March 7, 2004	
April 4, 2004	
May 2, 2004	
June 6, 2004 **	
July 11, 2004 *	
August 1, 2004	
September 12, 2004 *	
October 3, 2004	
November 7, 2004	
December 5, 2004 **	
* Date change	
** Different Location	

newsletter that you take out your ballot, vote, fold and staple it, put on postage, and then drop it in the mail. Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or bad weather, it is recommended that you vote by mail to ensure that your vote is counted.

Descriptions of the offices up for election are given on page 3 along with descriptions of the standing committees.

Map to Holiday Party



Bozena & Tony Pait

104 Casmar Street

Vienna, VA 22180

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

Resources Needed at Phoenix Landing

Consider a donation this holiday season to Phoenix Landing, a tax-deductible non-profit organization dedicated to parrot rescue located in the Northern Virginia area.

The following items are always needed and appreciated. To donate contact Phoenix Landing at (703) 533-3838.

Study cages in good condition;
New or good used toys;
Yard sale, flea market, or jewelry sale items;
Veterinary support;
Nuts and dried fruit;

Printing services: business card, postcard & brochure paper, printer cartridges
Full spectrum light bulbs;
Frequent flyer miles for our speakers;
Cash donations

National Capital Bird Club Offices Descriptions & Duties

Officers

The following officers are up for election. The next two-year term starts in January 2002 and ends in 2003.

President

Presides at all meetings, appoints all committees, approves all bills, and signs all checks in the absence of the Treasurer. Is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Vice-President

Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President and is Chairman of the Program Committee. Also arranges for speakers for the monthly meetings.

Treasurer

Keeps all records of income and disbursements and pays by check all expenses authorized by the Club. Also receives all monies earned or due the

Club, collects all dues, notifies members delinquent in payment of dues, notifies the Secretary when a member should be dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues, and makes a Financial Status Report at each monthly meeting and an Annual Financial Report at the end of the year.

Secretary

Keeps the minutes of the Club and Executive Board meetings and has custody of same, as well as conducting all of general correspondence of the Club.

AFA Delegate

Attends AFA meetings and reports back to the club about issues discussed.

Standing Committees

These positions are also available, and everyone is eligible to volunteer for them as well. Standing Committee positions include:

Hospitality Committee

Recruits new members, greets new members and guests, and coordinates refreshments.

Library Committee

Proposes acquisitions of books for the library, receives donations of books, and has custody of the Club Library.

Publicity Committee

Handles all outside publicity for Club activities.

Ways & Means Committee

Plans and conducts ways and means for raising money to finance Club projects and expenses.

Audit Committee

Performs an annual audit of the Treasurer's records and reports the results.

NCBC Membership Renewal

Your 2001 NCBC membership ends at the end of December 2001. Membership forms for 2002 are provided in both the November and December newsletters. Please don't forget to renew your membership.

Newsletters will continue to be sent to current members through February 2002. After that period, members who have not renewed their membership will be dropped from the rolls but will be reinstated upon payment of dues.

I have changed the membership form

to include a questionnaire. The information that you provide will hopefully enable me to put together a new members booklet, which will include information about local avian veterinarians, local bird stores, local bird breeders, local sanctuaries, and other resources that would be local to the Washington, DC area. I encourage each member to fill out the questionnaire. Thank you for your assistance.

Collection of Feathers for Indian Tribe

Please bring molted parrot feathers to club meetings. Elizabeth Moore will be collecting them and will send them to the Zuni Indian tribe that was written up in the World Parrot Trust newsletter "Psittascene."

Although macaw feathers are the primary species wanted, feathers from any parrot will suffice. Also, feathers from all parts of the bird are needed, not just the tail feathers.

Fur and Feathers by John Davey

We got a dog.

It was a surprise. We didn't want a dog. We didn't need a dog. We hadn't planned on a dog.

We got a dog.

Actually, we inherited a dog. We sorta backwards-inherited a dog. Younger Son had always wanted a dog, but we had been strong, very strong, over the course of the past two decades. We had resisted. We had stonewalled. We had just said "No." No dog. No way. No how.

Younger Son, after two decades now a young adult, received the dog – a puppy – as a birthday gift from his girlfriend. "Fine," said we, "No dog in our home. No how. No way."

"Fine," said Girlfriend, "I'll keep the dog at my home for you."

That particular arrangement lasted a couple of weeks until Younger Son and Girlfriend broke up. These things happen all the time. No problem. Girlfriend moved on. Younger son moved on. But dog had to move out. Problem. Younger Son had a dog with no place to go.

Younger Son moved into an apartment with two other guys. The landlord said that the dog was fine. The landlord loved dogs. In fact, the landlord loved dogs so much that the landlord made a special trip to the apartment, just to meet the dog. The dog loved the landlord so much that when the landlord made her visit to meet the dog, the dog – still a puppy – wheedled all over the landlord. The landlord was not impressed (Not at all!) and said that either the dog went or Younger Son went.

So, we got a dog.

We didn't want a dog. We didn't need a dog. We hadn't planned on a dog. But we got a dog. And dogs have a way of loving their way into families, even families that didn't want a dog and hadn't planned on a dog.

Right about now, you all may be wondering what the arrival of a dog into our family has to do with companion birds and parrots in particular. Let me try to explain. The new dog was ushered onto the screened-in back porch, the very same screened-in back porch where Old Teddy Bird, our neurotic, plucked nekkid Quaker parakeet and Old Bilbo Bob Bird, our sweet, stubborn Meyers parrot spend eight months of the year.

I think that I suspected that the two birds would not be overjoyed with the addition of a dog to their back porch sanctuary. But I have to admit that all parties involved, the two birds and the dog, were all rather intrigued and fascinated by their respective new roommates.

The dog was, and continues to be, fascinated by the lively, colorful, noisy, feathered creatures in the large cage. He will sit for hours and watch the birds as they eat and preen and squabble with each other. Like all dogs, he gobbles up any and all pellets that the birds manage to fling beyond the boundary of the cage apron. I can't imagine why he likes the pellets, but he scarfs them up. I imagine that the dog will wind up with the same sleek, glossy coat that all of the backyard chipmunks have – from consuming the leftover, discarded, premium, all-organic pellets that I toss out after changing the birds' food bowls.

The dog has made no moves towards the birds. He will sit and watch, with

his nose close to, but not touching the cage bars. I kinda think that at sometime he might have pressed his nose to the cage bars and had been "rewarded" with a sharp nose nip or two. Anyway, he keeps his distance. (Smart dog.)

By the same token, the two birds seem to be fascinated by this noisy, quick-moving black and tan creature that seems determined to chew up everything in sight. (That may be the link-up! They all of them love chewing!!) The two birds are great mimics, and since the dog is a puppy, it manages to whimper at least part of the day. Both birds have quickly learned to do a great canine whimper. Now, the puppy will start: "Whine, whine, whine, whimper," and both birds will quickly chime in: "Whine, whine, whine, whimper. Whine, whine, whine, whimper." Etc. Etc.

And so it goes. Now, I'm no fool. I understand that two companion birds and a young puppy (that is probably at least part hound and part hunter) are not the best mix of pets. But this is the hand that we were dealt, and we now have to play the cards we were dealt. I know that a bird fluttering to the floor would stand little chance against a couple million years of breeding and instinct. So, it's up to me as a responsible owner to ensure that the birds and the new dog can coexist in some sort of reasonable fashion.

And so it goes. This new addition to our family does make me more aware of some of the joys of bird ownership: You don't have to get up and walk a bird at 5:00 in the morning.



C: Ellen Krueger, 2003

CLUB NEWS

Plants Poisonous to Birds

Don't forget this holiday season to ensure that your birds don't ingest any of the following plants:

Amaryllis - bulbs

Azalea - leaves

English Ivy - berries, leaves

Holly - berries

Ivy

Mistletoe - berries

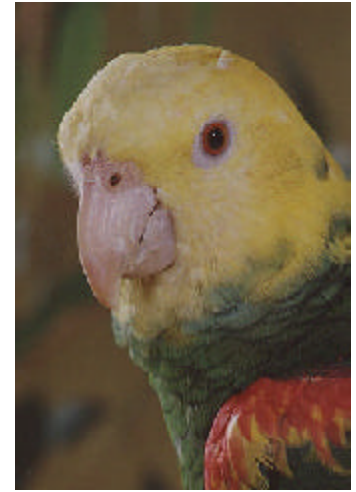
Pine needles - berries

Pointsetta - leaves, roots, immature

This partial list is from Birds n Ways. The entire list is at <http://www.birdsnways.com/articles/plntstox.htm>

In Remembrance of Aga

Bozena Pait's Amazon parrot named Aga died this past month due to Internal Papillomatosis, a disease that causes internal wart-like nodules that even if removed reoccur much like cancer. Currently there is not much known about the disease and much more research needs to be done. It is believed to be a virus since some birds housed with infected birds have developed it but that is not definitive.



National Capital Bird Club 2004 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.

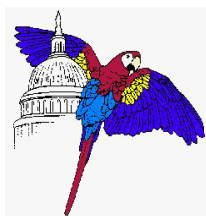
Annual **DUES** are payable on January 1 of each year: Individual - \$20; Family - \$25. After June, dues are one-half the above amount. Make checks payable to NCBC and send to: National Capital Bird Club, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740.

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.



CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

Ad Type	Member	Non-Member
Line Ad	Free	15¢/word - \$ 3 min.
Bus. Card	\$3	\$ 5
1/4 page	\$5	\$10
1/2 page	\$8	\$15

DONATE USED MAGAZINES: Please donate your old magazines to the Club Librarian when you are finished with them. The club resells these at bird marts and it really helps out in raising money.

NCBC Editorial Policies:

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Rockville City Centre
 605 Hungerford Drive
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

Sunday 11-3
 Mon & Thurs 10-8
 Wed, Fri & Sat 10-6

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13, 2003 (9:30-12:30)

Ask the Experts (Phoenix Landing)

Speaker: Liz Wilson, CVT & Renowned Parrot

Behavior Consultant

1725 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

*National Capital Bird Club
4615 Harvard Road
College Park, MD 20740-3752*



Address Correction Requested

