



# 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>

April 2004

## A Holistic Approach

Dr. Jennifer Ramelmeier of Avian House Calls (Holistic Vet) will be April's speaker. She will talk about the holistic approach to treating pet birds, what it involves, and the advantages it has over traditional treatment. She will also answer general avian health questions.

## Phoenix Landing at Super Pet Expo

Phoenix Landing has a booth at the Super Pet Expo in Chantilly VA on April 2-4 and are looking for folks who can help run it. If you'd like to promote the Bird Club while you're there by distributing information that would be great.

**April 2-4, 2004**

**Chantilly, VA, Dulles Expo Center**

**Directions available here:**

**<http://www.dullesexpo.com/facilityinfo/directions/>**

We will be distributing information about PL, providing info about bird care, selling stuff, and, hopefully, meeting folks who would like to help us out. Bird Club members are welcome to join us in this effort, and to promote the bird club as well. Liz Wilson and representatives from Dr. Stahl's office will be at our table at different points through the weekend. Expo attendance last year was 15,000 – it's a great opportunity to spread the word about proper avian care.

The schedule follows. I have chosen slot times at random, just to make it easier on you. If you can come at another time, let me know and I will use that instead.

**Friday, April 2, Expo runs from 4 pm-9pm**

2.5 hour slots (4 pm-6:30pm, 6:30pm-9pm)

**Saturday, April 3, Expo runs from 10 am-8pm**

2 hour slots (10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm, 4pm-6pm, 6pm-8pm)

**Sunday, April 4, Expo runs from 10am-5 pm**

2 hour and 2.5 hour slots (10am-12pm, 12pm-2:30pm, 2:30pm-5:00pm)

Dr. Krum will be at our table from 10-2. Liz Wilson will also be at the table Noon till 2.

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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*

## Next Meeting April 4, 2004

If you have any questions about this event, let me know. Thanks for any time you can give to this effort!

**Jenny Drummey (703) 218-1572**

# Chip Off the Old Band By John Davey

Let's talk a little bit about a terrible subject – a subject that none of us ever, ever wants to consider and certainly never endure – the topic of lost birds. Let's not talk about the frantic neighborhood searches and the reward flyers on telephone poles and the calls to animal shelters. Let's assume that all of that really bad, bad stuff has happened, and wonder of wonders!!! – Someone calls and says that they have found a bird. How would you know that it was your bird? How do you prove that the found bird is your bird?

Now, I know that all of us bird owners claim that we could tell our own particular bird – or birds – in a crowd (flock?) of similar birds – in an instant. There is this bond ... this hard-to-describe knowledge ... that we all think we have. We are all very certain that we would recognize our pet, like the old song says, ... "across a crowded room." And I don't doubt for a moment that each and every one of us could do that – if we had to. And actually, I bet that each of our pet birds would recognize us long before we were certain of them. We bird owners are lucky – in many ways – but we all have intelligent little creatures who have very well defined preferences and distinctions. But let's think about those questions one more time – could we really identify our own bird in a large flock? Could we really prove ownership of a "found bird"?

Up until a very few years ago, leg bands were the only way for a breeder or an owner to identify and prove ownership of a specific bird. Nowadays, we can get and use subcutaneous microchips for our birds. These tiny marvels are small mechanisms approximately the size of a grain of rice. The Vet uses a hollow needle to insert the chip under the bird's skin – usually in the breast area. A special reader – a pistol-like instrument that you see in pharmacies and grocery stores every day

– is used to read an identification number embedded in the chip.

But, microchips are still cutting-edge technology, especially for pet birds. They aren't available everywhere, and some people don't like their birds getting medically unnecessary needle pokes. So, what other technology can we use to accurately identify our pets? Let's go back to old, old technology – leg bands – the technology that Long John Silver probably used to identify his pet parrot on Treasure Island.

There are two kinds of avian leg bands: Closed leg bands are just that – a continuous ring – like a wedding ring – around one of the bird's legs. Closed bands are slipped on the bird's leg when the bird is only a week or two or three old, and its leg and foot bones are still quite pliable. There are pictures in some bird books about the procedure but no specific titles come to mind. The closed band usually has numbers and letters that may indicate the month and year the bird was hatched, sometimes the state the bird is from and some sort of identification of the breeder. (Old Teddy Bird has a closed band that reads "MD 5-95 MWB" It means that she was hatched in May 1995 in Maryland. I don't know which breeder uses the MWB logo.) You can only put a closed band on a baby bird during the few days when its bones are still pliable. You CANNOT slip a closed band on or off a bird after those few magic days – you will HURT the bird!

Open bands are lengths of wire-like metal with numbers and letters impressed on them that are crimped around a more mature bird's leg. There is a gap on the band where the two ends of the metal were drawn together. Almost all wild-caught birds have or had open bands – they had to have these open bands when they were imported. The fish and wildlife people insisted on that. The open band shows that the bird went

through a quarantine process.

Some breeders and owners also put open bands on adult birds for identification purposes. This is where the "right leg – male" and "left leg – female" urban myth comes into play. I'm certain that some breeders use the open bands on different legs for an instant identification of a bird's sex, but I honestly believe that does not apply to most closed bands – the birds are too young for DNA sexing. Teddy came from a clutch of five birds – all had bands on their right legs – Teddy is a DNA-sexed female.

Most Avian Vets recommend removing both open and closed bands because of the perceived danger of the bird catching the band on some part of the cage and then injuring itself. Both open and closed bands are not easy to remove. Vets have special crimper cutter tools to do this process and the vet usually has two or three people helping with a band removal. I have heard, but never seen, where someone has broken a bird's leg or foot by trying to remove a band.

I live in Virginia, and the Old Dominion insists that Quaker Parakeets must have closed bands in this state. (I really don't understand why – unless they have big magnets that can catch escaped birds.) So Old Teddy Bird continues to wear her closed leg band while Bilbo Bob (Meyers Parrot) had his closed band removed before I bought him from his previous owner. Our Avian Diplomat Vet likes to remove all bands, but he has left Teddy's band because of the state law. (By the way – the Virginian closed band law is laxly enforced – if at all. I have seen dozens of unbanded Quakers for sale in Virginia.)

*continued on page 6...*

# NCBC Donates to Parrot Organizations

At the NCBC meeting on March 7, 2004 it was voted that the club would donate \$750 to StopPDD and \$750 to Phoenix Landing.

The donation to StopPDD will fund research of the Emerging Diseases Research Group, (EDRG) at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. Their web site is at <http://www.stopppdd.org/>

The donation to Phoenix Landing, a local parrot rescue organization, will assist in continuing their work in parrot rescue. Their website is at <http://www.phoenixlanding.org/>

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## Important National Parrot Survey

Ann Brooks, the Executive Director of Phoenix Landing, a parrot rescue organization, has been notified of an important survey being done on relinquished parrots.

If you have ever adopted or relinquished a parrot, we urge you to participate. This survey can be accessed at: <http://www.nprrp.org/>

The purpose of this study is to collect accurate and comprehensive information about the population of relinquished parrots in the United States. The main goals are to generate much needed information regarding the number of parrots that have lost their homes, the reasons they are relinquished, and the support or resources individuals require so that they may provide for the welfare of their companion parrots.

It is hoped that this survey will help provide better information about parrots and their needs. It is being funded by the PETsMARTCharities and being run by The Gabriel Foundation.

## Thank you letter from StopPDD

Dear National Capital Bird Club:

On behalf of Avian Health Network, Inc., I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous donation on 15 March 2004 in the amount of \$750.00 with check number 915.

All donations will be used solely for the StopPDD campaign with proceeds going to the Emerging Diseases Research Group (EDRG) at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine, in compliance with IRS 170(e)(3)(A). Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Should you have a question concerning this donation please do not hesitate to contact us [information@StopPDD.org](mailto:information@StopPDD.org).

Sincerely,  
Valerie Schuster, President

=====  
Avian Health Network, Inc. #54-2068091 is a 501(C)(3) headquartered and incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are an organization of volunteers with no paid personnel. We are committed to raising public awareness & funds for avian diseases such as PDD. <http://www.StopPDD.org>; \*Keep up with AHN at StopPDD News <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stopppddnews/> \* Living with PDD <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/livingwithpdd/>; Avian Health Info <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AvianHealthInfo/>

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## Thank you letter from Phoenix Landing

Dear National Capitol Bird Club Members:

Thank you very much for the \$750 donation to Phoenix Landing! It could not have been more timely. So many birds come to use, we have assumed responsibility for over 80 birds in the last six months alone. Several more are "waiting in the wings."

In addition, 37 birds ranging from finches to macaws were recently confiscated from a disreputable breeder by animal control authorities in Randolph County, NC. The County has asked Phoenix Landing to screen for homes and place the birds. The conditions in which they have been living were horrific. They are currently in quarantine at the shelter, but when they come to us they will require substantial medical support, new cages and many other resources. As everyone knows, these things can be very expensive!

So the parrots of Phoenix Landing thank you ever so very much! We are grateful for the continued partnership with the National Capitol Bird Club.

Sincerely,  
Ann Brooks, Executive Director  
<http://www.phoenixlanding.org>

# AFA In Brief, March 2004

**Editors: Carol Brasaemle & Monica Bland**

## MEET TONY CANDELARIA, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Mr. Candelaria began his relationship with birds when he was eight years old. His grandmother gave him two budgies. He soon learned that they were two females, so he needed two males, up went the nest boxes and he became a breeder!

Tony sees his passion for birds as an addiction - budgies led to lovebirds, finches to cockatiels. He studied and focused on Cockatiel genetics for many years and became a big fan of color mutations. He now focuses on Princess of Wales, Red Rump Parakeets, Indian Ringnecks and their mutations. His collection also consists of Meyer's parrots, Lilac Crown Amazons, Green Cheek Conures and Eastern Rosellas. He has exhibited at county fairs and won awards for his birds and his aviaries.

Tony is a Freight Logistics Coordinator for one of the nation's largest Mannequin/Display manufacturers. His duties include all methods of shipping via air freight, ocean freight, rail and truck world wide in order to meet major department store needs. In short, he is an organizer and a man who knows how to get things done!

Tony is also a musician, having played drums since he was 7, and has participated in many rock'n'roll venues. He still plays for fun and has his own studio at home.

He is a member of the Orange County Bird Breeders and has been the AFA Club Delegate for six years and President for two years. He was also a board member of the Long Beach Bird Breeders and currently serves on the board of the Aviculture Society of America (ASA). He attended his first 'bird' convention in 1998, the International Parrot Convention held at Loro Parque, Canary Islands. His first AFA convention was in 1999, when he came to Denver, CO and he hasn't missed one since!

Tony lectures on breeding and keeping Princess of Wales and Eastern Rosellas and also talks about AFA to encourage memberships. As an Aviculturist, he believes it is our responsibility to share our experience and information to help promote aviculture and its future through Q & A and open discussion at the many bird clubs he attends. His goal with AFA is to promote the organization more than ever before in So. Calif. and to do his part on increasing its membership.

## PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS TABLE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AFTER AFA PRESENTS POSITION

Animal rights activists attempted to change regulations and law in Pierce County, Washington, to allow the local humane society to be able to enter private property without first obtaining permission (or a warrant). The proposed ordinance would create major changes in local regulations and give the humane society great leeway to conduct inspections, require permits and confiscate animals. A hearing was held on February 24, 2004 on proposed Ordinance 2004-3. If approved, this ordinance would have impacted all bird owners and breeders in this county.

Representing the AFA, Regional Director Natalie Frumin, AFA Washington State Coordinator Wendy Crane and AFA Legislative VP Laurella Desborough attended the hearing and brought forward serious concerns about the ordinance. Local pigeon fanciers, budgerigar breeders, two commercial bird breeders, one bird breeder/dealer and many individual hobby bird breeders attended the hearing and spoke against it. This joint effort was successful and Pierce County Council members voted unanimously to table the proposed ordinance.

Presentation by AFA Legislative VP to Pierce County Council members on proposed Ordinance 2004-3. February 24, 2004. Full text [http://www.afabirds.org/afabirds2/News&Updates/Pierce\\_County\\_Presentation.htm](http://www.afabirds.org/afabirds2/News&Updates/Pierce_County_Presentation.htm)

*...continued on page 7*

Proposed Ordinance 2004-3. Pierce County, WA Full text (PDF File) [http://www.afabirds.org/afabirds2/pdf/2004-3\\_Ordinance.pdf](http://www.afabirds.org/afabirds2/pdf/2004-3_Ordinance.pdf)

Report on Proposed Pierce County Ordinance, by Laurella Desborough, AFA Legislative Vice-President. Full Text  
[http://www.afabirds.org/afabirds2/News&Updates/Pierce\\_County\\_Report.htm](http://www.afabirds.org/afabirds2/News&Updates/Pierce_County_Report.htm)

## CONVENTION 2004 SUPER DRAWING, SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLES

This year, the American Federation of Aviculture is celebrating its 30th anniversary, and the team putting together the Super Drawing, Silent Auction, and raffles has been working overtime to bring some very special and unique items to this convention. We decided to give our members an 'early bird' peek at some of the items that have been generously donated this year: The Super Drawing items for 2004 are some of the best we have seen in recent memory: Prize #1: Avian Library. The first item is something different as well as appropriate for the theme, Evolution of Aviculture, some of the premier avian books written over the past 50 years! These include 'The Encyclopedia of Lories and Lorikeets' by Rosemary Low 1998, donated by Dick Schroeder of Cuttlebone Plus, 'The Large Macaws' by Joanne Abramson, autographed by the author, and donated by Joanne Abramson of Raintree Publications, 'Genus Amazona' by John Stoodley 1990, autographed by the author, donated by Kelly Tucker, 'Pionus Parrots' by John Stoodley 1983, donated by Nancy Speed, 'Australian Parrots' by Forshaw 1988, donated by Wanda Elder, 'Parrots in Aviculture' by Rosemary Low 1992, donated by Wanda Elder, and many other wonderful books. More books are on their way, so watch the website <http://www.afabirds.org/> and the next Watchbird for more additions! Prize #2: Fresh Air Purifier Alpine Air Purification Systems donated by I Deal Purification Systems, approximate value of \$700. Prize #3: A \$500 Gift Certificate toward Gamini Ratnavira Artwork. Gamini Ratnavira has donated a \$500 gift certificate to be used towards any original or lithograph print. Prize #4: One Week in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Seven nights, from Monday, December 6, 2004 to Monday, December 13, 2004 at a resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. This prize includes accommodations only at the Hacienda Del Mar Vacation Club. This fabulous trip, with an approximate value of \$6,500, is donated by Dave and Terri Jones. Prize #5: Rainforest Expeditions Land Trip to Peru. Noted eco-tourism organization, Rainforest Expeditions, has donated a land trip for two (2), six days and five nights, to Peru. See the itinerary at [www.perunature.com](http://www.perunature.com). The approximate value of this prize is \$1,500. Prize #6: Avey Brooder. Avey Incubator has donated their best brooder, a 32" wide, featuring digital control of temperature and humidity. \$868 retail value includes ground shipment. Prize #7: Innovative Inclosures \$1,000 Gift Certificate. Innovative Inclosures of Fallbrook, California has donated a \$1,000 gift certificate towards one of their custom cages or accessories. Prize #8: Silver and Diamond Earrings. Long's Jewelers has donated a lovely pair of Scott Kay designed sterling silver and diamond (pierced) earrings worth \$1,100.

Tickets for the Super Drawing prizes are available on the dust jacket of the 'Watchbird', from the AFA office, the AFA website at <http://www.afabirds.org/>, and at the AFA Convention in San Francisco in August 2004.

Debbie Treanor has been collecting distinctive items for the Silent Auction prints, stamps, antique postcards, and more. In addition, John and Carol Brasaemle have once again donated a beautiful painting entitled 'Major Mitchells: Crests Up', matted and framed. Beth Greenberg is donating one of her inimitable painted ostrich eggs. Ideal Birds has donated 6 mm white pearl earrings, a tanzanite/diamond ring, a diamond ring, white sapphire earrings, and a set of diamond earrings and matching pendant, for all you fans of the sparkly things!

If you would like to donate an item to our raffles or Silent Auction, please contact Brenda Piper at [pipersparrots@comcast.net](mailto:pipersparrots@comcast.net) or 978-777-4567.

We are especially looking for airline tickets to go with our two trips to Peru and Mexico, so if you have lots of extra Frequent Flyer miles, consider donating a ticket to AFA.

# CLUB NEWS

## National Capital Bird Club Meeting Minutes 3/7/04

At this meeting club members voted on which organizations that the club would donate with the total amount being \$1500. Voters selected Phoenix Landing and StopPDD, which will each receive \$750.

The video of "Parrots - Look Who's Talking" was shown at the meeting.

The big upcoming events were discussed (BCV Convention in Hampton on March 27-28 and the Irene Pepperberg Seminar on April 2).

## Chip Off the Old Band

*continued from page 2*

Non-bird people are usually fascinated by Teddy Bird's leg band. Usually the first three questions I get from anyone who is not familiar with a pet bird are: "Does it bite?" "Does it talk?" and "What's that thing around its leg?" Always in that order. I now tell people that the leg band is like a dog license, and that's pretty close to the truth with the Virginia requirement that Quakers be banded.

Now, as I had mentioned earlier, we bird owners are pretty lucky – most lost birds know their owners, and they never need a band or microchip to identify their humans. The excitement and joy that a bird shows at a reunion is always proof positive.

©2004 John Davey

## Thank you John Davey!

I want to thank John Davey, a member of the NCBC, for submitting so many great articles for our newsletter. He's a great writer and has contributed over 30 wonderful articles that provide not only humor but incite in living as a companion to avians.

## Membership Report March 29, 2004

Exchange Memberships	17
Single Memberships	30
Family Memberships	17
<b>Total Memberships</b>	<b>64</b>

## 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**

Kelsie Holtje ..... 240-876-1741  
iowehp@aol.com

**Vice President**

Kitty Miller ..... 703-914-1050  
Silvia Tennison ..... 301-474-1833

**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:**

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Club or its members. Unless otherwise stated, articles appearing in *The Capital Flyer* may be reprinted provided that credit is given to the author and *The Capital Flyer*. To protect other authors, permission must be obtained from the original source. Send articles or newsletter submissions to: Carol Rees, NCBC Editor, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740-3752 or carol.rees@usa.com

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## ANIMAL EXCHANGE

301 424-PETS

Rockville City Centre  
605 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 27-28, 2004**

**Bird Clubs of VA 20th Annual Convention & Mart**

Hampton, VA, at the Holiday Inn

<http://www.birdclubsva.org/conv2004.htm>

Contact Carol Woodson at 804-264-8551 or [cvmga@aol.com](mailto:cvmga@aol.com)  
for registration & info

**May 23, 2004 (9am-4pm)**

**Mid-Atlantic Bird Mart**

Tysons Corner VA. Westpark Best Western Hotel

Contact John Long at 703-771-9678 or

[johndori@earthlink.net](mailto:johndori@earthlink.net)

**April 2-4, 2004 (4-9pm Fri, 10-8 Sat, 10-5 Sun)**

**Super Pet Expo**

**Dulles Expo Center**

4368 Chantilly Shopping Center

Chantilly, VA

<http://www.superpetexpo.com/shows/chantilly/>

**April 3, 2004**

**Dr. Irene Pepperberg**

GMU Fairfax Campus, Classroom 80

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

**May 15, 2004 (note date change)**

**Ask the Experts (Phoenix Landing)**

**Speaker: Dr. Stewart Metz, MD**

Parrot Conservationist

more info to follow

<http://www.phoenixlanding.org/seminars.htm>

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*Address Correction Requested*

