

THE CAPITAL FLYER

The Monthly Newsletter of the
National Capital Bird Club
4615 Harvard Road
College Park, MD 20740-3752
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<http://www.ncbc-dc.org>

September 2004

September's Speaker is John Long

Our speaker for the September 12th meeting is John Long. He is both a former president of the NCBC and is also the new president of the Bird Clubs of Virginia (BCV).

The Wild Birds of Telegraph Hill

The Wild Birds of Telegraph Hill is a group of parrots in San Francisco who now live in the wild, who now number around 130. Mark Bittner has written a book about them and now has a documentary movie coming to theaters in 2005. You can learn more about these parrots at the website <http://www.wildparrotsbook.com/>

I recently received an email asking if anyone would like to assist in promoting the book and the film in our area. If you are interested, you can send an email with your suggestions, ideas, and thoughts to bookandfilm@earthlink.net

Sally Blanchard Seminar Phoenix Landing Announcement

Sally Blanchard, editor of Companion Parrot Quarterly, is coming on Saturday, September 18!! If you have not already registered, we hope you will. For many, many years, Sally has paved the way for a better life for parrots. She has helped us to understand and appreciate their natures, and taught us how to live together more compatibly in our homes. We can never stop learning about these subjects, and Sally has much teaching to offer.

Here is the registration form (on page 5), we urge you to send it soon if you are coming. If you will be there for lunch, we need to receive your registration no later than September 15th.

We now have a great AUCTION that day planned as well!

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FUTURE MEETINGS

September 12, 2004 *
October 3, 2004
November 7, 2004
December 5, 2004 **

* *Date change*

** *Different Location*

Next Meeting August 1, 2004

Budgie Showdown by John Davey

So, there I was ... all alone in an apartment in Canberra, Australia with a nice, used birdcage and three sort'a used Budgies – Veggie, Mite, and Cheese.

(For those of you just tuning in, I had written a month or two ago about a work assignment in Australia that left me without my family for months on end. It was a terrific personal and professional opportunity, and my family did get to spend 4 months "Down Under." But it also left me on my own for 9 months, and after a few months by myself, I started to talk to myself, so I bought a couple of Budgies to keep myself company.)

More background was that I bought everything – birds, cage, and accessories – on the informal economy of yard sales and flea markets. I got some great bargains, but as John Arbuckle used to say, "You get what you pay for."

How can I say this politely? I think the "Ocker Aussies" saw a poor, naive Yank coming a mile away, and they sold me some defective birds. Now, I don't mean that the budgies were in any way physically disabled – in fact, they were beautiful little birds. I had two of the natural green and yellow Budgies – which I have always thought looked so very lovely – and a nice, all yellow Lutino. All three were pretty, pretty birds.

But they were dumb! Goodness! They were dumb! All three of them.

Now, before anyone starts getting angry with me, let me assure you that I like Budgies. I've owned pet Budgies for most of my life. I think that Budgies (most Budgies) are smart, beautiful, personable little birds. But I honestly think that this time, over in Oz, I was sold three mentally defective birds.

I had owned Budgies that would come when called; I had Budgies that would do tricks; and I had owned Budgies that would talk like

chatterboxes. (Exactly what IS a chatterbox?) I still acknowledge that Budgies are one of the most perfect pet birds that a person could own. But these three!

This sojourn to Australia occurred a number of years ago – long before they days of pelleted diets and wing clipping. I would go to work all day and then come home to let the Budgies out of their cage at night. The three birds would quickly and easily fly up to the top of one of the drapery rods and perch there, making inquiring chirping sounds as I tried to coax them back down. (Hey! Maybe I was the dumb one in that group!)

I really wasn't home enough to tame those three Budgies, and I guess that it was all for the best that there were the three of them to keep each other company. I now know that it would have been easier to hand-tame the birds and safer for them if I had kept their wing feathers clipped, but as I said – it was long, long ago.

So, all of us – all four of us – the three budgies and myself – we all did the best we could, and we actually did have a nice – if not overly-close relationship. I would still let the birds out in the evening, and they would hightail it (literally) to the same spot on the drapery rod, and I would then spend the next hour or so trying to coax the birds down.

We all did all right, and I did have the company of the birds and could talk to them (but not with them) every evening.

That all changed one day – the only day that I think the birds were actually happy (probably relieved) to see me. It was one afternoon when I returned home to find the cage apparently empty. I looked into the spare bedroom from about 12 feet away from the cage, to discover an apparently empty cage sitting in front of the wall to ceiling

window. No birds to be seen! I walked up to the cage and found all three Budgies cringing together on the floor of the cage, looking terribly piteous. Those birds were happy to see me that day.

I couldn't figure out what was the problem until I looked out the bedroom window to discover a hungry-looking Currawong sitting on the bricks – just outside the apartment window. Now, the Currawong is one of the biggest, nastiest, toughest-looking birds I have ever seen. It's larger than the crows and ravens we have around here and is covered in almost all black feathers, with a few white feathers on its wings. It is one tough Hombre! It looks like a large, large raven.

We must have had a resident Currawong in our suburb, because I had seen the same bird once or twice before. Soon after I had arrived in Canberra and just after my family had returned to the States for the resumption of school, I had gone out to the carpark on some errand, only to find the footpath blocked by this humongous bird carrying a dead animal in its beak. I later discovered that the animal was probably a young possum or sugarglider or other such small marsupial – all favorite snacks of the Currawong. That bird obviously knew that I was poor Yank visitor and stood its ground in front of me, eyes glaring, as it held its prize. After what seemed to be an eternity, the bird hopped away, slowly into the undergrowth.

Now, I know that birds do not have teeth. I know that. But Jimminy! That bird had serrations on its beak that might as well have been teeth!

To return to my story about my Budgies, I was once again face-to-face with the same large hungry, hostile Currawong. He had obviously spotted

...continued on page 3

AFA in Brief - July 2004

YOUR NEW OFFICERS!

Congratulations to all the candidates elected during this 2004 general election! In some cases we had difficult choices to make when we voted, and here are the winners:

2nd Vice President - Brenda Piper

Secretary - Mary Ellen LePage

Specialty Vice President - Margrethe Warden

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director- Yvonne Catena

South Central Regional Director - Matt Schmit

Northwestern Regional Director - Paula Hansen

Southern California Regional Director - Tony Candelaria

In case anyone is wondering, "Why so few positions being voted upon?" Your Constitution and Bylaws provide that half the positions are voted on one year, and the remainder the following year in order to provide continuity on the Board of Directors.

BEAUTIFUL NEW CITES PINS

Collectors, go crazy! This time we have three (yes - 3!!) new pins available at and after the Convention.

The artist, Lyrae Perry, generously donates her time and talent to AFA, and a fine talent she has! These pins are wonderful. Pick a Violaceous Touraco (*Musophaga violacea*), Lady Gouldian Finches (*Chloebia gouldiae*) or a Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus galgulus*) or choose all three! Cost is \$6.75 each + shipping and handling.

Check with your Club Delegate - or State Coordinator - or call the Business Office at 816.421.2473 to purchase one. They are lovely to wear and a lovely gift for a bird-loving friend.

CITES pins depict some of the bird species currently listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Our profit is set aside to fund an AFA representative at CITES meetings and the Convention itself. We sit beside multi-million dollar animal rights, conservation, and environmental organizations which are often opposed to aviculture. AFA's attendance helps provide a workable balance between "no-trade" and "pro-trade" interests. We help provide attendees with education about the benefits of captive breeding and the importance of continued international trade in captive-bred birds.

CONVENTION 2005 is in MIAMI! Join us next year for more fun and learning in this neo-tropical city with a million things to do in the area. Start planning next summer's vacation in Florida and be sure to include Convention 2005.

Carol Brasaemle and Monica Bland, Ed.

Budgie Showdown *continued from page 2*

my three Budgies safely (I thought) ensconced in their cage in the bedroom window and had probably tried to avail himself of a picnic lunch. By this time, I was a little more knowledgeable about Australian flora and fauna, and the two of us – man and Currawong – sort'a stared each other down. I'll bet it was three or four minutes before the Currawong made a few hops and then took to wing for some better hunting.

I think that my three poor Budgies spent the rest of the evening and probably all of the next day on the floor

of their cage. They weren't moving until they were sure that the nasty old Currawong was long gone. It may be my imagination, but I think that the four of us got along a lot better after that incident. I think that maybe the Budgies decided that I was the flock leader. (Hey! I HAD stared down a Currawong!)

© John Davey, 2004

AFA Offers Disaster Relief Fund

During Hurricane Andrew, the American Federation of Aviculture established a Disaster Relief Fund to assist aviculturists who have been affected by natural events such as hurricanes, wild fires, earthquakes, etc. When the aftermath of hurricane Andrew was being assessed, AFA volunteers were involved in helping aviculturists and their birds deal with short term relief of their situations. When the wildfires hit California, assistance was made available from the Disaster Relief Fund and affected individuals were helped. Now, with hurricane Charlie gone, the Disaster Relief Fund is there to help our friends in Florida.

From the day after the hurricane passed, Fred Smith who is the AFA Regional Director for Florida, has been actively working to help those in need. He has been the focal point of offers of assistance, monetary and physical. Numerous people, organizations, and businesses have donated money, caging, food, and labor to get their fellow aviculturists on their feet again. If you would like to donate money to the Disaster Relief Fund, you may do so by sending your check to the American Federation of Aviculture office at:

American Federation of Aviculture
Post Office Box 7312
Kansas City, MO 64116

Or, if you would like to donate via credit card, you may contact the office at 816-421-2473. If you would like your donation to go directly to the Disaster Relief Fund, please note that in the memo line or let the office know of your intention. If you have physical items, such as bird food, cage wire, cages, dishes, etc. that you would like to donate, please contact Fred Smith directly at fredsmith@netzero.net or 863-858-6739. In addition, if you are someone in need of assistance or know someone in need of assistance, please contact Fred at the above email or phone number immediately. He is coordinating all efforts and will respond as quickly as possible.

Although many of the emergency problems have been addressed in Florida, experts in emergency management have indicated that oftentimes there is more relief and help needed weeks after the initial event as opposed to the first few days afterward. People have managed through their immediate crises and are now trying to move forward with their lives. Many jobs have been lost, which means that bird food supplies are starting to dwindle. Birds that were loose have been caught, but are in carriers while their cages need repair. This is when the Disaster Relief Fund can help get people through their transition period until they are able to rebuild their lives. Again, please consider helping your fellow aviculturists recover from this natural disaster. Thank you to all the generous people who have already done so much to help.

AFA Job Offer

Job Description: Sell advertising for Watchbird magazine as an independent contractor. Provide office space, equipment, and supplies at your own expense.

Requirements: Must have experience in sales and writing and invoicing contracts. Must have office and office equipment, including computer, quality printer, and fax.

Send your application, complete with a resume, references and expected compensation to:

Advertising RFP
American Federation of Aviculture
P.O. Box 7312
N. Kansas City, MO 64116

Deadline for receipt of applications is October 22, 2004.



The Phoenix Landing Foundation, a non-profit for parrots serving the Washington DC area, is honored to present a pioneer in the field of companion parrot behavior:

Sally Blanchard

Saturday, September 18, 2004

9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Virginia



Author of *The Companion Parrot Handbook* and *The Beak Book*, Editor of *The Companion Parrot Quarterly*.

Don't miss this special all-day seminar, during which Sally will address common parrot behavior issues, how to resolve them using her techniques, and take your questions.

Plan to join Sally for lunch at the Army Navy Country Club (additional fee). We must receive your registration by September 15 if you wish to have lunch onsite.

The Army Navy Country Club is located in Arlington, at 2400 18th Street South. There is a dress code. Attendees cannot wear jeans, T-shirts, shorts, or sweatpants.

Please note: You can register on the day of the event, but you must arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. to do so.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Event to attend (Please check one):

Sally Blanchard Seminar

Number attending: _____ (Cost is \$60 per person).

Have lunch with Sally Blanchard at the Army/Navy Country Club (11:30-12:30).

Number attending: _____ (Cost is \$22 per person)

Lunch choices (Please enter number of meals):

Salmon Salad (Poached fillet of Atlantic salmon on mescluin greens) _____

Grilled Chicken & Pasta Salad (With sundried tomato and feta cheese) _____

Enclosed is an additional contribution to help the parrots of Phoenix Landing:

\$10 \$20 \$50 Other amount (please specify) _____

Total enclosed: _____ Please make checks payable to Phoenix Landing.

Please add me to Phoenix Landing's mailing list

Return this form to:

Phoenix Landing

P.O. Box 7661

Arlington, VA 22207

For the latest information about this event, check our Web site at www.phoenixlanding.org

CLUB NEWS

NCBC Minutes August 1, 2004

At the August meeting, Joe Pesche gave a PowerPoint presentation that included pictures and film clips of a trip he took last year to Australia with his wife. They were able to not only see many parrot species in the wild but actually were able to have physical contact with some cockatoos at an Australian park. It was amazing to see our parrot friends in the wild interacting with humans.

Treasurer's Report September 3, 2004

Beginning Balance:	\$1621.70
Total Income:	\$22.00
Magazine Sales	\$7.00
Advertisements	\$15.00
Total Expenses:	\$100.00
American Bird Conservancy	
Membership	\$100.00
Donations:	\$300.00
AFA donation in	
memory of Dick Ivy	\$300.00
Ending Balance:	\$1243.70

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.

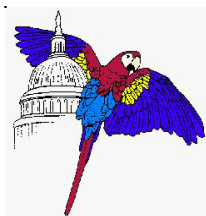
Annual **DUES** are payable on January 1 of each year: Individual - \$20; Family - \$25. After June, dues are one-half the above amount. Make checks payable to NCBC and send to: National Capital Bird Club, 4615 Harvard Road, College Park, MD 20740.

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:

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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

September 18, 2004 (9:30am-3:30pm)

Sally Blanchard

Sponsored by Phoenix Landing

Army Navy Country Club

2400 18th Street South

Arlington, VA

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

November 20, 2004

Liz Wilson

Sponsored by Phoenix Landing

[more details to follow]

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

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