

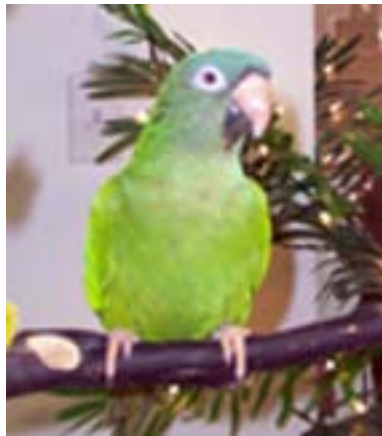
THE REAL MACAW

PARROT CLUB

August 2008



The Real Macaw Parrot Club
7-32 Richard Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410



The Real Macaw Parrot Club meets the second Thursday of each month.

Place: VFW Hall - No. 6699
6 Winslow Place
Paramus, NJ 07652

Time: 7:15 PM Social Time
8:00 PM Meeting Starts

All birds are welcome with club members only.
Visitors must join on their 2nd visit.

Incident Weather

Call one of the Board members on day of meeting or check the web site for cancellation notice.

Membership

Membership dues are \$45.00 per year for one family at the same address. Outside NJ and NY, it is \$25.

For membership information:
Call Art Zimmermann 201-489-1879

See our website for an application:
www.realmacaw.com/pages/app.html

RULES OF ORDER

1. BIRDS AT MEETINGS: Only club members are allowed to bring birds. Birds brought to the meetings should have clipped wings or should remain in their cage or carrier. Do not bring your bird if you have it for less than a month and it has not been vet-checked, or if your bird may have been exposed to a sick bird.

Disclaimer: Applies to all birds and their owners.

The Real Macaw Parrot Club is not responsible or liable for you, your bird, or anything that happens to you or your bird.

2. NO ANIMALS OTHER THAN HEALTHY EXOTIC BIRDS (except for guide dogs or programmed entertainment) are allowed. This is for the safety of the birds that share our meetings. Only members may bring birds.

3. NO SMOKING in the meeting room.

4. QUIET must be maintained during meetings. There is ample social time before and after meetings for talking.

5. CHILDREN must be seated with their parents during the meeting. Children who run freely are a distraction, and may also be responsible for a startled bird injuring itself.

6. Vendors must set up and remove all sale tables.

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THE NATIONAL ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER

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Contributors to the newsletter needed each month.

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Call Shelly at 201-791-0245
Email - sheldono@sprynet.com

BIRD PERMITS

If you own a parrot, you must, by NJ law, obtain a permit to legally keep the bird. For more information, write or call:

Dept. of Environmental Protection
NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
Office of Permit Management
CN400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
609-292-9591

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*6 mo. \$25
*1 yr. \$40

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The Real Macaw Parrot Club

An All Species Educational Club



August Meeting

Thursday, August 14,
2008

VFW Hall
6 Winslow Place
Paramus, NJ 07652

7:15 PM - Social Time
8:00 PM - Meeting Starts

August Speaker

Our August speaker is
Dr. Jill Richardson
from Zootoo.com

If you have web access,
you can always check our
Current Speaker web page for
last minute speaker updates at:

www.realmacaw.com/cs.html

Future Meetings

September 11, 2008

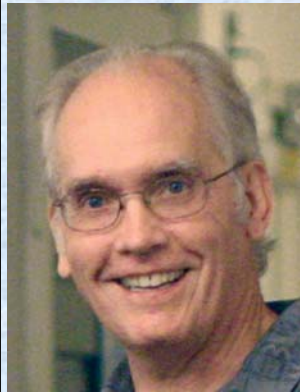
October 9, 2008

November 13, 2008

December 11, 2008

Please mark these dates on your calendar today. Speakers are subject to change.

Presidential Message



Hello, I want to start off by saying that I really enjoyed listening to Juan Romero at our last meeting. He was very informative about training birds and his speaking style kept the interest

of everyone. I am sure that everyone learned some new techniques to help them deal with their birds.

However the second part of the meeting, which was arranged independent of the Executive Board and in collusion with a grievance person, was very problematic. The way that this was handled was not in the best interests of the club nor respectful to the members. I will address these issues in an email to the ParrotGroup mailing list.

At the August meeting we are going to have a speaker, Jill Richardson, that Shelly was able to arrange. We are not going to have another discussion and vote, as was brought up at the end of the July meeting. The reasons for these not occurring will be made clear in my email to the ParrotGroup.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Art

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August 2008 Meeting

Dr. Jill Richardson from Zootoo.com will give a presentation and demonstration on using Zootoo.com, which is a social networking web site for pet lovers. When she was working for Hartz Mountain, she gave us a lecture at our March 2007 meeting on Toxicology in Pet Birds.



Zootoo.com will be providing us with pizza, so please arrive early and enjoy a meal before the presentation begins.

Dr. Jill Richardson is the resident veterinarian at Zootoo.com. She is also a columnist for Fido Friendly Magazine and an instructor for Penn Foster College. She started her career as a small animal practitioner in West Virginia and has worked in the Animal Health Industry for over 12 years.

“We would like to speak to your club members about Zootoo.com- the largest community internet site for pet lovers. Launched in October, 2007, Zootoo.com has become THE place for pet lovers to share, connect, and help. Pet lovers can start their own page and post photos and information about their pets. They can also meet other pet lovers and connect. There is something for everyone on Zootoo.com.”

The Real Macaw General Membership Meeting #238 Minutes July 10, 2008

Before the meeting started, Angela gave out birdie muffins that were contributed as samples by PARROTNUTZ@aol.com.

The 238th meeting of the Real Macaw Parrot Club was called to order by President Art Zimmermann at 8:00 pm..

We welcomed two new members, one returning member, and two visitors.

Art read the Financial Report.

No old or new business. The meeting was short.

Jim Wright from our grievance committee announced that he wanted a meeting in the back room after our speaker for the evening to discuss an issue.

Juan Romero from the Central Park Zoo was our speaker. Juan brought his African Grey and Sulphur Crested Cockatoo and gave a wonderful presentation on training your bird to do tricks. It was simple and to the point. He spoke over an hour and then answered questions we had. His presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Juan extended an invitation to all to visit the Central Park Zoo for a personal tour by him.

The club members then gathered to discuss an issue about President Art Zimmerman brought up by Vice President Angela Cupo. At the next meeting we will discuss the issue and take a vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Andrusko

Real Macaw Parrot Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes July 2008

There was no Board meeting in July.

BIRD TALK Magazine's Top Lists Reprinted courtesy of Bird Channel.com, www.birdchannel.com

Check out who you nominated for our Top lists of avian vets, bird stores, pet bird species and bird food recipes.

In celebration of BIRD TALK magazine's 25th anniversary, we asked bird owners to nominate their avian vets, bird stores, pet bird species and bird food recipes. Check out who you nominated for our Top lists.

BIRD TALK Magazine's Top Bird Vets

Find out who you nominated as a Top Bird Vet. [More>>](#)

BIRD TALK Magazine's Top Bird Stores

Find out who you nominated as a Top Bird Store. [More>>](#)

BIRD TALK Magazine's Top Bird Food Recipe Cookbook

Bird Talk readers share their bird's favorite bird food recipes. [More>>](#)

BIRD TALK Magazine's Top Pet Bird Species

Learn what bird species were voted as the most popular pet bird. [More>>](#)



Financial Report



Starting balance	- \$2178.95
Expenses	
Rent	- 85.00
Refreshments	- 19.98
Income	
Membership	+ 90.00
Closing Balance	\$2163.97



Rare St. Vincent Amazon Parrot Born At Houston Zoo Zoo welcomes Vincent, the third of her species born in captivity

By Erin O'Brien

Posted: August 1, 2008, 3 p.m. EDT

Reprinted courtesy of Bird Channel.com, www.birdchannel.com

The Houston Zoo welcomed the birth of Vincent, a female St. Vincent Amazon parrot, on May 28, 2008. Vincent, named in honor of the zoo's first St. Vincent Amazon, is the third of this rare species to be hatched in captivity at the Houston Zoo.

The St. Vincent Amazon is considered a rare species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature because in the wild, it lives only on the tiny Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

"We're the only zoo in North America that houses the species" said Chris Holmes, the supervisor in the bird department of the Houston Zoo who is hand-raising Vincent. "There are only about 800 [of the birds] left in the world."

The Houston Zoo welcomed the first Vincent, its original St. Vincent Amazon, as a donation in 1967 and housed Kirby, the first captive hatch of the species in the world, in 1972.

"After receiving Vincent, the zoo administration at the time made every effort to ... locate more of this species in zoos and bring them to Houston to initiate a captive-breeding program" Holmes said. "Including Vincent, the zoo was able to bring together five birds. In 1972, the male [named] Awk, on loan from the Bronx Zoo,

and Vincent hatched and raised Kirby."

The second captive hatch – the female offspring of Patty and Buccament – took place in 1999. Since Patty and Buccament also parented Vincent, the now 9-year-old St. Vincent Amazon and Vincent are sisters. As Vincent is only the second offspring of Patty and Buccament since the late '90s, this species' particularly slow reproductive rate is apparent.

Vincent, whose brown, green, yellow, blue and orange feathers have already come in, has come a long way since she was initially developed in an incubator, according to Holmes.

"Vincent is doing very well!" Holmes said. "She is flapping a great deal and eating mostly on her own. She is down to one syringe feeding."

Vincent's egg was taken from the nest and placed into an incubator the morning it was laid, since a captive hatching of a St. Vincent Amazon is extremely rare. When Vincent is ready, she will join her parents, her sister and her sister's mate in the Avian Conservation Environment (ACE) building, an off-exhibit site at the Houston Zoo.

"The specific date Vincent will go to live in the off-exhibit area



Photo Courtesy Houston Zoo..
At only 49 days old, Vincent exemplifies the colorful look of the St. Vincent Amazon species.

is up to her," Holmes said. "Before she is moved we want to make sure that she is eating well on her own and is progressing in her flight abilities. Most probably we will start doing soft introduction in the next two weeks [by] placing Vincent in the off-exhibit area next to the other birds during the day and bringing her back in at night."

Despite the Houston Zoo's recent confirmation that Vincent, like the original Vincent, is a female, Holmes said the zoo has not considered changing her name.

"We are not thinking of changing the name," Holmes said. "The first Vincent was also a female, and this chick is

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"ON THE WINGS OF THE GREAT WHITE BIRD"

Hi, it's Big Bob here, hoping everyone has had a great summer so far.

The Cupo kids summer vacation goes something like this:

First, we wanted to go camping. Our human said, Bob, that's not possible, I can't watch all of you on a camping trip. O.K. I thought about it and said, How about a trip to Atlantic City, I am old enough to gamble, but our human said, Bob, you can't sit on top of the gambling tables, people won't like it. I can't understand that, I have my own money, I should be able to have fun in A.C. LIKE the humans do, but no, can't do that either.

Listen, I said to our human, what do you suggest we do then since you don't think my ideas are any good. She says give me a minute BOB, LET me think carefully. So, I start tapping my feet and looking at her trying to be patient, but getting very anxious. Finally I said, well, what can we do, and where can we go. She looks rather sad and says Bob, I am afraid other humans won't appreciate all the Cupo kids in a hotel, out to diner, etc., they have rules about birds sitting at their hotel dinner tables. I simply am confused I told her, I sit at our table and eat sometimes, and you don't mind. Bob, bird people understand their birds share many things with their humans, but non bird people don't always understand. I am more confused now. Humans want us to talk, we do, they want us to converse back and forth with them, we do, they want us to play with them, we do. We do all of this to please them, but when it comes to being out socializing in public we don't fit in, is that what you mean. No, no Bob, I don't feel that way, but not everyone understands all of you are special, have feelings, emotions, they just don't realize you belong. I am so sorry Bob, I want them to understand, but non bird people look at me funny when I tell them some things you and

your brothers and sisters do, they don't believe it, but you and I know it is true.

I have decided we will go camping in our own backyard, have a barbecue, some cool drinks, non-alcoholic, of course, sing, and if you want to play your guitar, you can, I love your music. Athena can sing, and Frank, our hyacinth can keep an eye out for intruders. We can have a blast right here at home, where we all understand each other and we don't have to worry about getting those looks, you know the ones I MEAN.

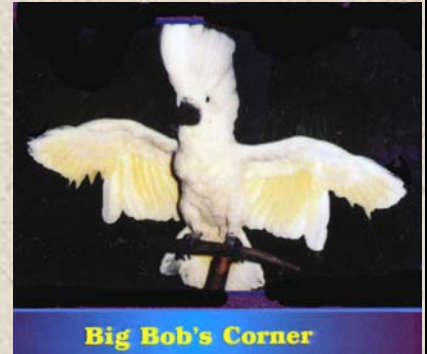
You better go brush up on your favorite guitar songs. I think I am getting pretty excited about this, Bob says. We can say what we want, do what we want, have fun, laugh together, and enjoy each other's company. I think that's a great vacation, even though our human thought of it. Being together with those you love is the best, doesn't really matter where you are, it's the company you keep that's important.

I can't wait, I better go tell all the Cupo kids about our upcoming event. I expect they will all want to participate in some way.

BTW-WE WANT TO THANK OUR BAKER LADY FROM PARROTNUTZ@aol.com for her generous gift of muffins to our club. We love her, she loves all of us too.

Till next time,

Big Bob, our human, Angela Cupo, and The Cupo kids.



Announcements

- The Club would like to welcome new member Lillian Lugo, and returning member Martha LaCoutre.
- Membership renewals for all members are due by the end of September. Dues are \$45 for one family at the same address if you live in NJ or NY, and \$25 if you live in any other state. If you joined during the past year then your renewal amount will be pro-rated; you will be informed how much you owe later this month.
- Pizza will be served at the August meeting, provided by Zootoo.com. Please arrive early to enjoy a meal before the presentation starts.

Not Your Ordinary Neighbor

Peacock a permanent fixture in Pearl River subdivision

By Chad Ruiz

St. Tammany News

Published on Wednesday, July 16, 2008 10:28 AM CDT

Reprinted courtesy of the St. Tammany News, St. Tammany Parish, LA

<http://www.thesttammanynews.com/>

Magnolia Forest residents in Pearl River have a different sort of neighbor to contend with

Most people have lived, at some point in their life, next to a grumpy Mr. Wilson, an encroaching Fred and Ethel or even a jovial Ned Flanders. To say the least, we've all experienced our share of oddities living next door

But imagine waking to the trumpeting of a neighbor roosting atop your roof about 4 feet tall with a tail of feathers 5 feet in length. Magnolia Forest residents, specifically the northern part of the subdivision around Nottoway and Fischer drives, are living in synergy with an adult India Blue peacock, and they've been doing so for nearly 20 years.

The males are called peacocks while the females are referred to as peahens.

The story goes, as told by 30-year resident Dawn Reves living on Nottoway Drive, a family moved in on a nearby street with the peacock as a pet, but when they eventually moved away, they left the fowl behind to roam the neighborhood. And that's just what he does, said Joe Delcarpio, also living on Nottoway Drive, who often spies the bird traipsing down

the street like a sentinel watching over the community.

The first encounter Reves had with the bird about 20 years ago shocked her into disbelief.

She said she was lying in her backyard sunbathing alone when she felt something grab her toe.

"It scared me to death because I knew I was alone," Reves said.

Instead of an intruder or peeping-Tom preying on her, Reves was amazed to see a large peacock eyeing her.

She did what any animal-lover would do and adopted it as a pet by feeding it everyday.

"It comes around about this time everyday and we feed it cheap, dry cat food," Steve Reves said while shaking a bag of the kibbles to call it near one evening.

Delcarpio, a medical school professor, and his family have come to call the bird Clinton while the Reves call it Perry the peacock and other neighbors refer to it with other pet-names.

As far as Delcarpio can tell, Clinton/Perry thrives in the large neighborhood located near the Pearl River.

But the many years of habita-



Perry the peacock displays his majestic tapestry of feathers during mating season for the residents of Magnolia Forest. (Courtesy Photo)



Not all majestic beauty, the Pearl River peacock often becomes aggressive when other animals go after his food like when he chased off this raccoon. (Staff Photos by Chad Ruiz)

(Continued on page 12)

UCSF Researchers Identify Virus Behind Mysterious Parrot Disease

Source: Kristen Bole
29 July 2008

Reprinted courtesy of the University of California, San Francisco web site, <http://pub.ucsf.edu/newsservices/releases>

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, have identified a virus behind the mysterious infectious disease that has been killing parrots and exotic birds for more than 30 years.

The team, led by UCSF professors Joseph DeRisi, PhD, and Don Ganem, MD, also has developed a diagnostic test for the virus linked to Proventricular Dilatation Disease, or PDD, which will enable veterinarians worldwide to control the spread of the virus.

Results of the study will be published in "Virology Journal" and will appear online in August. The findings also will be presented in full at the August 11 annual meeting of the Association of Avian Veterinarians, in Savannah, GA.

The new virus, which the team named Avian Bornavirus (ABV), is a member of the bornavirus family, whose other members cause encephalitis in horses and livestock. Working with veterinarians on two continents, the group isolated this virus in 71 percent of the samples from infected birds, but none of the healthy individuals.

"This discovery has potentially solved a mystery that has been plaguing the avian veterinary community since the 1970s," said DeRisi, a molecular biologist whose laboratory aided in the 2003 discovery of the virus causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, in humans. "These results clearly reveal the existence of an avian reservoir of remarkably diverse bornaviruses that are dramatically different from anything seen in other animals."

The discovery could have profound consequences on both domesticated parrots and in the conservation of endangered species, according to DeRisi and Ganem, both Howard Hughes Medical Investigators at UCSF. Those species include the Spix's Macaw, currently one of the most endangered birds in the world, whose number has dwindled to roughly 100 worldwide and whose continued existence is threatened by PDD.

The research was spearheaded by Amy Kistler, a postdoctoral fellow in the DeRisi and Ganem labs. Together with veterinarians Susan Clubb, in the United States, and Ady Gancz in Israel, Kistler analyzed affected birds using UCSF's ViroChip technology.

The ViroChip, which DeRisi and Ganem developed, is a high-throughput screening technology that uses a DNA microarray to test viral samples. The team was able to recover virus sequence from a total of 16 diseased birds from two different continents. The complete genome sequence of one isolate was captured using ultra deep sequencing.

The virus they identified is highly divergent from all previously identified members of the "Bornaviridae" family and represents the first full-length bornavirus genome ever cloned directly from avian tissue. Analysis of the Avian Bornavirus genome revealed at least five distinct varieties.

PDD is a fatal disease that causes nervous system disorders in both domesticated and wild

birds in the psittacine, or parrot, family worldwide. The disease has been found in 50 different species of parrots, as well as five other orders of birds, and is widely considered to be the greatest threat to captive breeding of birds in this family, the researchers said.

The disorder often leads to the birds' inability to swallow and digest food, with resulting wasting; many birds also suffer from neurologic symptoms such as imbalance and lack of coordination. Regardless of the clinical course the disease takes, it is often fatal.

Scientists have theorized for decades that a viral pathogen was the source of the disease, but until now, no one had been able to identify the likely culprit.

"This provides a very compelling lead in the long-standing search for a viral cause of PDD," Ganem said. "With the development of molecular clones and diagnostic tests for ABV, we can now begin to explore both the epidemiology of the virus and how it is linked to the disease state."

Co-authors on the paper include Amy L. Kistler, Peter Skewes-Cox, Kael Fisher, Katherine Sorber, Charles Y. Chiu and Alexander Greninger, from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Medicine at UCSF; Ady Gancz, from The Exotic Clinic, Herzlyia, Israel; Susan Clubb, Rainforest Clinic for Birds and Exotics, Loxahatchee, Fla.; Avishai Lublin, Sara Mechani and Yigal Farnoushi, of the Division of Avian and Fish Diseases, Kimron

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“What Then Must We Do..?”

[Part 2 of 2]

Given that there is a significant problem with overcrowding at many parrot adoption/refuge centers, and considering the fact that many of the birds inhabiting such facilities are mentally and/or physically deficient in some ways, what can we as caring birdkeepers do to help alleviate the problem in the years ahead? Certainly any solutions must be both fundamental and cooperative amongst those involved.

First of all we in the birdkeeping community need to stop being in denial. *Everyone* who owns parrots, sells parrots, breeds parrots, cares for parrots, or espouses the beauty and fun of keeping a parrot is in part responsible for the unremitting rehoming of individual psittacines in and outside the marketplace today. I am partially to blame when I write positively about attributes of birds. Behavior consultants and veterinarians are accountable when they counsel owners on ways to better train, feed and house birds. Aviculturists are answerable when they breed and sell more birds. This is a mutual crisis.

Make no mistake, a very small percentage of those hookbills entering adoption programs are actually misbehaved, abused or dysfunctional birds. Most adoptees are simply parrots being parrots—and are given up for convenience reasons. As such, we of the birdkeeping world are *all* a part of the dilemma. Breeders that insistently claim “There are no unwanted parrots,” or uneducated buyers who purchase a bird, then just as impulsively give it away after a year or two, and turn their backs on the problem are equally at fault.

You may only acquire one psittacine in your life, but passing it on to a rescue site does not absolve the reality that the bird was produced with *you in mind*. And most likely another and then another are being produced because you paid good money for that first one...

The point is not to level blame here, but to dole any fault out everywhere in small bits. We seek to come to some consensus on how to solve this complex predicament. It is fascinating to me all the “un-homed” psittacines I have taken in over the years (I use the term “un-homed” since not all are actually unwanted or surplus.) whose owners want to set down conditions for the bird’s care or long term ownership, etc. Yet, the same previous owners will then go many months, years, decades even without a single phone call to enquire about the health and happiness of the parrot they had so “loved.” Odd, that.

This is what I mean when cautioning not to deny responsibility. Even if breeders or pet stores or individual birdkeepers who have given up birds or who take my advice and go visit a sanctuary near themselves, would donate some seed or toys, or money or paper towels, volunteer time, *anything*—then we all would be further down the road to coping with un-homed birds.

Moreover, let us look here at the front end of the story. Given that so many parrots are going to end up in rescue places at some phase of their lives, how do we go about adjusting the way we all birth, raise and train psittacines in captivity to: 1) Anticipate and prepare the parrot for a potential episode of dispossession and



adoption, and 2) Create a bird with characteristics that logically make it less likely to be given up?

Unfortunately, that leads us back to the place from which baby parrots come—the breeder. Now if there is one thing that I have learned from my avicultural friends and acquaintances down through the years, it is that breeders do not particularly like being told to change their methods. After all, so many of their charges leave their premises as cuddly, endearing handfed babies. Many are not even weaned yet, so how could the persons producing these “perfect” chicks be at all responsible for behavior problems that occur when the cute little amazon or cockatoo or African grey turns two or three or four years of age?

Of *course* the breeders are not totally responsible for such outcomes. It is a shared accountability as I have stated. Yet, not to turn away in denial, an avicul-

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turist dealing with handfed neonate and fledgling psittacines must *at the very least* be answerable for the effect upon those psittacines during the days in his or her care.

And I, as a conscientious hobby breeder for the past 28 years, say that there is oh, so much a breeder and hand feeder can do to help a baby bird grow into a well-rounded, adaptable, independent adult with a better than average chance of fulfilling numbers 1) and 2) above...

Some advocates just claim "produce fewer parrots." I admit that this approach has its upside, as ostensibly fewer birds means more personal time and attention for each bird, a better chance to carefully select purchasing clients, and of course fewer psittacines out there heading for rehab institutions. I would agree with this in the case of white cockatoos which prove to be the most difficult parrots to properly keep in a home, while at the same time being raised mostly with the emotionally crude nurturing practices of artificial incubation and early pulling from the nest.

It takes a committed and expert owner to provide for a cockatoo for thirty or forty years in a way that keeps it both healthy and happy. If the bird was raised and hand fed in a way that eliminates any personal cockatoo identity, then it becomes nearly impossible.

So that is what we are looking for from the breeders and early hand feeders: a *personal parrot identity* for each and every baby bird they birth and sell. That is really straightforward. Raise the parrot extra weeks with its parents and siblings; fledge it and wean it with those of its own kind

and other species that are on hand, give it the time to develop that "birdness", that identity that it will carry as an insurance policy against neglect the rest of its life. We should not be turning our backs on our avian young by passing them on to someone else—be it broker or bird store or another hand feeder. It interrupts the learning curve of the parrot at a critical time; and to tell the truth, it is an admission that "someone else can handle this training period better than I can." Not very high accolade for anyone presuming to be an authoritative aviculturist!

Keep your fledglings longer. It will pay off in better long-term pets, and will eventually lead to your having a waiting list and all birds sold even before they are fully trained, as word of your method spreads. If your production scheme is just "raise lots of chicks and hope that they sell," then you are definitely a greater part of the trouble, and it is time to rethink your system.

So, what should we be teaching all our baby parrots? Life lessons...those schoolings which will stay with them and sustain them if and when an unforeseen dispossession arrives.

Get those fledglings outside where they can learn uncountable things we humans do not even comprehend. Show them wind and rain and trees and crows and airplanes and squirrels and lawn mowers on the move. Socialize them amongst men and women and strangers and other parrots with whom they can interact and gain experience. Emphasize instincts like food choices and ground foraging and bathing and fearful knowledge of big dogs. Leave the human speak to the final buyer, and accentuate species noises like warning call and bathing squeals and male

"don't do that" growls. Never, I repeat *never*, let one of your parrots be denied the right to early flight training. This, above all else is something that is a breeder/hand feeder responsibility because if not done at the correct time, it can handicap one of your offspring for a lifetime. Just think how you would feel if a psittacine you produced and raised went into a home before building up a body and a mental capacity to fly precisely, ended up being handicapped because of it, developed behavior issues, then was adopted out to a new keeper who offered a place for that bird to fly around in great expanse. But your early fledging decisions made it a hugely complicated issue to even get the bird doing basic aerial exercises.

Prepare our parrots for a potential un-homing by making each of them as complete a psittacine as we can during the time we are caring for them. Yes, it is great to teach our birds the 'up' command and the 'down' command and the 'ow' command and the 'quiet' command, if you can. But these are skills that seek to bring the birds into conformity with what people want of them. It is just as important to emphasize to bird owners that the more tolerant they become of the *natural* parrot behaviors in their pets, the better the chances that both they and the birds will experience a long, gratifying relationship.

What is the point in trying to teach an Umbrella Cockatoo not to screech and carry on, or a Military Macaw not to try and gnaw on things in the household, if it leads to years of confrontation and strain in both the parrot and the owner? April and I tend to accept many inconvenient behaviors in our psittacines and then give them an environment where

(Continued on page 12)

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named in honor of this bird. She came to us in 1967 before the advent of sexing techniques.”

Vincent’s parents, sister and sister’s mate will go back on exhibit at the end of breeding

season in August. Vincent, on the other hand, will probably stay off-exhibit for quite a while. Since St. Vincent Amazon parrots typically live between 50 and 60 years, the Houston Zoo is in no hurry.

“Vincent may be on display at a later date,” Holmes said, “but

for now, we would like to concentrate on getting her socialized with other parrots.”

Watch the video from the Houston Chronicle about the Houston Zoo’s latest arrival [here](#).

(Continued from page 8)

tion in the quaint community have not always been fowl-heaven.

Both deputies for the St. Tammany Sheriff’s Office at the time, Steve and Dawn remained home through Katrina.

“We had 40 trees fall on our property with six of them landing on our house,” Steve said. “After the storm was over and we didn’t see Perry the next three days following Katrina, we knew he didn’t make it.”

But, as in a Clint Eastwood movie with the western tune playing in the background, four

days after the storm they spotted the bird emerge from the rubble, feathers intact but a little wind-whipped, Steve said.

“We were so relieved he was still around,” Dawn said.

No one knows how old the bird is, at best estimates, he’s 20 plus years old, which would mean he’s outlasted his expected lifespan of 15 to 20 years in captivity.

The Reves know their courageous feathered friend who chases raccoons from their yard with its large spurs will not live forever. They’ve even come close to purchasing a peahen to accompany him.

For now, Perry continues to roam the suburb of Slidell, greeting the members of the community with its large train of iridescent feathers and bel-lowing mating calls.

Peafowl are native to India, Java, Ceylon, Malaya and Congo but have made their way into the U.S. where they are quickly becoming a common exotic pet among people. In Palos Verdes, Calif. where a large bevy of peafowl roam, an organization, Friends of the Peacock, has been formed to protect and ensure their existence.

(Continued from page 11)

they can channel such individual inclinations. It’s healthier and often proves to be the better option. This is why sales people who take pains to match birdie personalities to new homes end up with so many more satisfied customers, while shops and aviculturists just selling birds out the door are doing so at the expense of their long-term reputation and the continued satisfaction of their bird purchasers.

Leo Tolstoy once proclaimed, “What then must we do?” when

confronted with a human predicament. In the end, we as humans only do what we can...and in this case we must be content to do it one parrot at a time...

I believe that when we acquire a parrot, even for only a few years, then in a way we have it for life. We may pass on the daily care and the perceived ‘ownership’ of the bird, but if we try to disavow the impact we have had on that animal’s time on earth, from birth through childhood to adulthood and old age, then we are fooling ourselves. If we claim to be close to our pets,

but send that closeness off with the parrot to a new home, then we relinquish the one thing of true value that owning the bird brought us to begin with. The knowledge of how to do right by these intelligent creatures is readily available. We need only apply it industriously and with lasting love to make things brighter and less pessimistic at all of those overburdened rescue facilities.

Mahalo nui loa, EB

AFA In Brief

August 2008

Editor - Carol Lee

American Federation of Aviculture
34th Annual Convention
St. Louis, Missouri
July 29 - August 2, 2008

Fundamentals of Aviculture Graduates To Be Recognized at The AFA Convention

The AFA will recognize its first group of Certified Aviculturists at the 2008 Convention. Graduates attending the 2008 AFA Convention in St. Louis will be the first to receive an exciting new lapel pin designed specifically for students who have completed the Fundamentals of Aviculture, Level I course. These pins will not be offered for sale. They are a limited edition and only graduates of the class will receive them. The annual AFA banquet will be held on Saturday evening, August 2nd, at 8:00PM at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Dr. Benny J. Gallaway, Chairman of the AFA Education Committee, will present attending graduates with their pins, followed by an optional photo session for the AFA Watchbird.

We hope you will participate. Please R.S.V.P. To foatech@earthlink.net.

Read about the Convention in your latest issue of the AFA Watchbird or find up to date information on the website:

http://www.afabirds.org/2008_Convention/index.shtml

AFA Watchbird Volume XXXV-Number 1
A Celebration of Birds"

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I shout at the world, I scream to the sky
Hear me! Look at me! I am Parrot, I am I
Don't mourn that I live in captivity
Rejoice that I live! And that I am ME"

Don't miss this insightful article by Jamie Whittaker, found in AFA Watchbird Volume XXXV-Number 1. As always, the current copy of

the AFA Watchbird contains insightful, educational articles from cover to cover!

Written by Kathy Heaton

AFA's 2008 Avian Research Grants

The pre-Convention issue of the AFA Watchbird has this year's Convention bird, the African Grey, featured on the cover (Painting by Wayne Smyth). Another great job by Mark Moore and the Publications Committee.

Inside you will find articles on two of AFA's 2008 Avian Research Grants: nestboxes for the Cuban parakeet and basic biology of the slender-billed conure. The other two projects are PDD research at Texas A&M (come to the St Louis Convention for an update!) and medical tests in support of the Spix's macaw recovery committee.

All projects are supported by donations from clubs, specialty organizations, individual members, and friends of AFA. You may donate online at:

www.afabirds.org/2008AvianResearchGrants.shtml

or send a check to:

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Written by Janice Boyd

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Upcoming Area Events

- Sept 27 - New York Finch & Type Canary Club Annual Show - St. Judes Church, 9401 Seaview Ave, Brooklyn, NY - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm - 718-967-6899
- Oct 11 - Long Island Parrot Society Parrot Expo - Freeport Recreation Center, 130 Merrick Road, Freeport, NY - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm - 631-957-1100 - www.liparrotsociety.org/annualshow.htm
- Oct 18-19 - Bird Paradise's Parrot Palooza - 551 E Rt. 130 South, Burlington, NJ - 609-747-7777 - kathie@mybirdstore.com - www.bird-paradise.biz
- Oct 26 - Castle Enterprises PDD Benefit Luncheon and Birdie Bingo - Heritage Hotel, 500 Centerville Road, Lancaster, PA - 11:30 am - 4:30 pm - 717-957-4241 - info@PetBirdShows.com - www.petbirdshows.com



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(Continued from page 9)

Veterinary Institute, bet Dagan, Israel; and Scott B. Karlene, of the Lahser Interspecies Research Foundation, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

The research was supported by funding to DeRisi and Ganem from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Funding for US specimen collection and veterinary care was provided by

the Lahser Interspecies Research Foundation.

The DeRisi Laboratory is part of the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences, known as QB3, a cooperative effort among private industry and more than 180 scientists at UCSF, UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz. The collaboration harnesses the quantitative sciences to integrate and enhance scientific understanding of biological systems at

all levels, enabling scientists to tackle problems that have been previously unapproachable.

UCSF is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. For further information, please visit www.ucsf.edu.

Credits: The front cover, page 3, and back cover pictures are courtesy of Linda Costello.

Pictures from the July 2008 Meeting



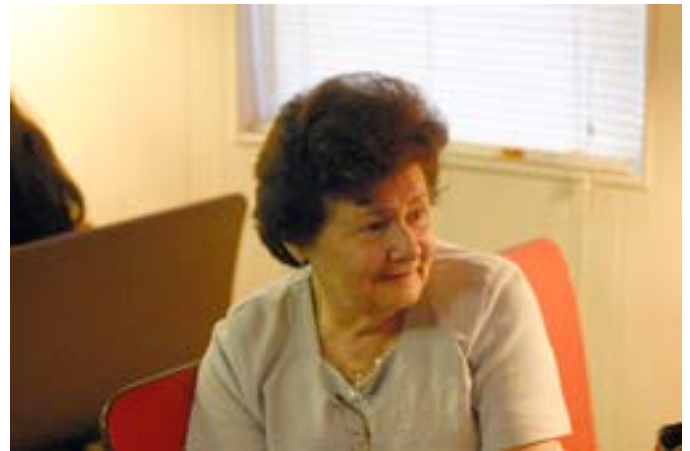
July speaker Juan Romero



New members Victoria Patrick and Bruce



New member Lillian Lugo and Alex



Returning member Martha LaCouture



Picture Overflow



This is the picture that would normally go on page 3



This is Renée Lane, who will be helping Dr. Richardson with her August presentation



Juan's Grey from the July meeting

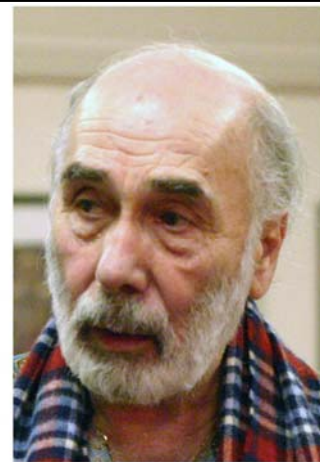


Another picture of Juan from the July meeting



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