

SEPTEMBER  
2008



### Presidents Perch

*Steve Fitzsimmons*

Welcome to the September issue of the MACAW Newsletter, your one stop source for news and information on pet bird happenings in the Madison area and beyond. If you have any news to share, please feel welcome to send Kim or I a note so we can get it in

here.

In June, MACAW members were invited to a private behind the scenes tour of the Henry Vilas Zoo Aviary. About fifteen people attended and were shown around. The freshwater stingrays and interesting plants in the aviary seemed to interest me the most. There were birds, turtles, and a weird looking fish among all the other things we saw.

At 1:30pm, on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dane County Humane Society, MACAW will hold its annual picnic to kick off our new season. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a dish to pass. If you can't think of anything to bring, maybe bring a bag of potato chips, cookies, or even a pizza, or send me a note and I'll find something for you. We will also hold a small raffle and maybe more.

In the news department there is a lot to discuss. How about starting off with the Presidential election? Better yet, maybe not. There isn't enough room for that here, LOL. Seriously though, there is some MACAW business to discuss and feedback to ask.

In the last few months through MissionFish, Paula and PJ Publications and Gifts have donated over \$65 to MACAW, and that number keeps rising. If you would like to see any items being sold with a generous percent being donated to MACAW, please visit this link [http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP\\_ID=24351](http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=24351) . Thank you Paula!

Speaking of Paula, she is also our new Membership Director having taken on these new duties over the summer. Is your membership up to date? Is the information accurate? If you need to know, Paula is the person to contact. I would

like to thank Ruth for doing this job over the past few years as it is one of MACAW's most important and time consuming. Thank you Ruth and Paula!

Speaking of Ruth, she is planning our next big event, the May, 2009 MACAW Bird Fair. In past years, this event has drawn vast media attention, brought in new members and raised thousands of dollars to help various avian causes. As Ruth prepares for this huge event, she will need all the help she can get. Please consider helping her in this worthy event.

We have an opening for an Education Director. The main function of this job is to find and coordinate educational speakers and events for MACAW meetings. This is an important job, as we all know how important it is to stay informed on avian issues. Please send me a note if you are interested.

On the weekend of September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Animart will host Pet Fest. They will have a petting zoo, hold contests and give away prizes, oh, and MACAW will be there to talk about birds too. To learn more <http://www.animart.com/pages.php?pageid=13>.

How would you like a shirt with the new MACAW logo on it, or how about a new clock? We have them at Café Press <http://www.cafepress.com/macaw>.

Paula and I and MACAW are mentioned in a new 300 page book titled "Of Parrots and People". The book is about our beloved birds and what's happening with them and the industry, and part of one page is about our bird club and how we try and make a difference.

Speaking of making a difference, for twenty-five years, the Madison Area Cagebird Association of Wisconsin has worked to help many of us by offering advice, friends with common interests, and support. It has raised money to help various avian rescues, our own humane society, zoos, future avian vets in our universities, and in avian research. When legislation is proposed that affects birds in pet stores, MACAW is on the front line speaking up on their behalf. When psittacosis closed over 700 Pet Smart stores, MACAW first brought psittacosis to the media's and to the people of Madison's attention. When complaints constantly came in about a local pet store that had poorly treated their birds, MACAW led the fight to City Hall to demand action, resulting in improved conditions for the birds. When you think of avian flu, west Nile or psittacosis, you know the dangers to our birds first hand, because MACAW invited speakers to discuss these topics at past meetings. Finally, every January 5<sup>th</sup> MACAW joins with other organizations around the world in declaring "Bird Day" in Madison. Here we work to educate people about avian issues,



### **SWEETIE'S BITES**

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR SWEETIE'S BITES. EMAIL KIMBERLEY AT AKASHA3691@AOL.COM**

something we do of course much more than one day a year. I hope your membership and support in MACAW makes you feel proud, because this bird club does make a positive difference in the lives of so many birds. I only touched on some of what we do, and there is so much more.

To continue to make these differences we need your continued support, we need to have fundraisers, and we need volunteers. Our current

volunteer base is small and tired, and in dire need of a helping hand. If you would like to be a more active part in our success, please let me know so that I can invite you when events come up and volunteers are needed. Don't expect the need for volunteers to be filled, as 99.99% of the time I ask for help, no one replies. Can you spare one hour a month?

Would you like to write an article for our newsletter? Here's a fun way to share your knowledge and add content to our newsletter. What do you think of our newsletter? Is there anything you would like to see more of? Is there anything you can do to help?

Thank you for visiting with MACAW today. As always, my door is always open to your ideas and suggestions. And now, back to the election, LOL.

Best wishes,

Steve



**Do you want to advertise your business in the M.A.C.A.W. newsletter?**

Business Card size ads are \$2.50 for members and \$5.00 for nonmembers. Inserts are \$20.00 plus you must provide the printed flyers to insert.

## Birdy Mart

MOVING ....Cages for sale.... call Carol 920-626-1209 plus breeder turquoise parrotlets, not blue these are actually turquoise pied. 2 pair left.

## MACAW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Just \$20.00 for a one year family membership!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of birds owned \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Owner  Breeder  Supplier of Bird Related Products

Yes, want to help with club activities and/or events

New Membership  Renewal

Please make checks payable to MACAW and mail to Paula Fitzsimmons, MACAW Membership Director, 5209 Odana Road, Madison, WI 53711

### MEMBER DISCOUNTS

- MadCat Pet Supplies offers MACAW members 10% off everything avian related including food.
- Animart and Mounds offer MACAW members 10% off everything except food (show MACAW membership card).
- Paula of PJ Publications offers MACAW members 15% off of their entire purchase.

**Education Calendar**  
**By Paula Fitzsimmons**

September 14, 2008 MACAW picnic starts at  
1:30 pm

**Where:** Dane County Humane Society, at  
5132 Voges Road in Madison (in the large  
room).



**When:** Every second Sunday of the  
Month, excluding June-August.

**Times:** Board meeting is 1:30pm until  
2:00pm (you are invited to attend);  
hospitality break is from 2:00pm until  
2:30pm; and the educational portion starts  
at 2:30pm.

**These meetings are free and open to  
the public. Bring your friends!**

STEVE FITZSIMMONS  
PRESIDENT OF M.A.C.A.W  
5209 ODANA RD.  
MADISON, WI 53711



WE ARE ON THE WEB!  
[HTTP://MACAW.AXISDATA.COM/](http://macaw.axisdata.com/)

TIME SENSITIVE, PLEASE RUSH!