



The Cage Bottom News

APRIL 2010

Official Publication
Michiana Bird Society, Inc.

The President's Corner

Two exception and unusual things happened at this years fair. The first, MBS member Pamela Allen found a coin purse containing money, a credit card, and drivers license in the parking lot. She brought it in and gave it to Marla who took it to the Security Guard (an off duty Mishawaka Police Officer). He called the station to try and locate the woman. He was still on the phone when she returned to claimed it. She was so grateful that her belongings were still intact. It is wonderful to have such honest members and she wanted to make sure we thanked Pam. The second thing was that a man walked in the front door and handed Bruce Crowel a paper sack he said he found in the parking lot which contained a friendly Quaker. The bird had just about tore through the sack when we got him. He created a lot of interest especially when his story got out. We waited almost 4 hours hoping the owner might return before we put him in the Silent Auction. A mother and daughter bought him and gave him a loving home. Member Toni Fruits heard about the bird and donated a play stand for him. What a wonderful rescue. Thank you to Pam Allan and Toni Fruits for their honesty and generosity.

This year's 25% of the fair profits have already been sent. Potawatomi Zoo, Sarrett Nature Center and the World Parrot Trust each received \$534.60.

Anyone who took one of the fair signs Sharon was able to get donated, please return it as we will have them just change the dates for next year and re-use them.

The Bargain Table was a first this year at the fair. We are pleased with it's success. Marla will have a full report at the meeting. Loretta has volunteered to store items for next years bargain table and will accept donations all year long. Please no large items or clothing. If you have large items in good condition we will still accept them the morning of the fair. With Loretta's offer we hopefully will have a large amount of donations by this time next year. So when doing your spring and fall cleaning remember MBS.

Don't forget that next months meeting will be one week late because of Mother's Day.

This month we will finally be discussing the bylaw amendments previously scheduled for January and postponed by vote of the membership. We will also be requesting several Policy and Procedure changes. We do not anticipate this taking a great deal of time. We ask that you bring a bird with a cute story or share a cute story about one of your birds during the social time following the business meeting.

In the works for the May meeting is a presentation by Jason Crean and his mini toucan. You won't want to miss this one.

My grateful appreciation to all members who helped make our fair another success, see you at the meeting, Judy and Pearl the Goffin Cockatoo

NEXT MEETING

Sunday
APRIL 11
2:30 p.m.

**Willowcreek United
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accessible**

**In need of directions?
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mation on page 2.**

NEST BUILDERS

REFRESHMENTS

Ron & Mary Packer

GREETER

Loretta Wright

If you haven't paid your dues this is the last news-letter you will receive. Renewal form on page 3, fill it out today and don't miss out. Great things coming.

WELCOME

New members

Tim Griffin, Kelly Foster, Lisa Marie Edwards, James & Vicki Metzger, Mark & Debbie De-Biak, Helen DeGraw

Returning Former Members

Barbara Cudowski, Marilyn Livrone, Charlotte McGinnus, Laura Barkowski

World Parrot Trust Launches The FlyFree Campaign

The World Parrot Trust launches a 12-month program to end the wild-caught parrot trade. By Jessica Pineda Posted: January 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m EDT

The World Parrot Trust has announced a 12-month campaign to end the wild-caught parrot trade and to return parrots to the wild, called the FlyFree Campaign. Working with international organizations, the FlyFree Campaign will work to help to rescue, rehabilitate and release individual birds caught in the trade. The campaign will also encourage the adoption and enforcement of laws that protect parrots, as well as support global awareness and education programs for school-aged children and the general public.

Vitakraft Buys Sun Seed

New partnership will market both brands for pets including birds and small animals.

After a business relationship of nearly 20 years, [Vitakraft Pet Products](#) has acquired [Sun Seed Co.](#) The two businesses will be combined to form Vitakraft Sun Seed Co. and will operate from Sun Seed's Bowling Green, Ohio, headquarters under a joint management team. Most of Vitakraft's U.S. production will move to Bowling Green. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Andy Messinger, Vitakraft's U.S. general manager, will become chief executive officer of the new company and oversee administration, sales and marketing. Brent Weinmann, Sun Seed's owner and president, will be president of the new company, focusing on operations and product development. Weinmann's wife and Sun Seed co-owner Holly Hoffman will continue as marketing director. The new company will actively market both the Sun Seed and Vitakraft brands in North America.

"This new partnership between Vitakraft and Sun Seed will offer the convenience of one-stop shopping for our customers and help us to control costs in this challenging economic environment," said Weinmann. The merged company's product lines will include foods and treats for birds and small animals, including dog treats, horse treats and pond and reptile products.

Vitakraft Pet Products is the North American business of Vitakraft Wuehrmann und Sohn, a Bremen, Germany-based company founded in 1837. It recently launched Vita Life dog and cat food lines and "Pet's Corner," a store-within-a-store modular retail merchandising system, at Interzoo.

"Vitakraft is committed to the United States market, and this investment is a strong step in our strategy of growing Vitakraft's business throughout the world," said Heiko Wuehrmann, Vitakraft's chairman.

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**Honey in her holiday finery.
Who could resist that sweet face?**

MBS MEMBER'S GIFT OF KINDNESS

Our members do some wonderful non bird related things we are not always aware of. Honey pictured left is trained to be a therapy dog at nursing homes, etc.

We think Honey is the owner if you ever see them together, but Honey and her owner Kim Dienes visit weekly with patients and recently attended a birthday party for a young man turning 8 who was in the final stages of cancer. Honey was a wonderful surprise for this young man and they had a great visit. He told his family it was the best birthday ever. Within a few days of his party God called him home. What wonderful memories his family have because of the love and caring shown by Kim & Honey.



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Louisiana Couple Trade Exotic Bird for 2 Children

October 2009

And we thought we had heard every unbelievable bird story out there.

A Louisiana couple who admit bartering a bird and cash for two children will avoid prison if they testify against the alleged trafficker, court records showed.

Paul James Romero, 45, and Brandy Romero, 28, of Eunice, La. were each sentenced to five years of hard labor after pleading guilty Wednesday, the Daily World in Opelousas and The Advocate in Baton Rouge reported Thursday.

The couple, apparently unable to have children of their own, gave Donna Louis Greenwell, 53, of Pitkin, La., a cockatoo valued at \$1,500 and \$175 in cash in February for the two siblings, a boy, 5, and a girl, 4, the newspapers reported.

See more on page 5



Memberships expired April 1st.
Your membership is important to us.
This will be your last newsletter if you didn't renew.
Copy of form acceptable.

MICHIANA BIRD SOCIETY

Membership Renewal form

Amount paid _____ Single \$18.00- Family \$24.00

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If family membership **Please list all family members including month and day of birth and your anniversary if you are married.**

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Sharing a meal with your bird can be a wonderful bonding experience, but did you know that it can also benefit your pet's health? Many bird diets lack certain vitamins and minerals that birds need, which can lead to a host of serious health conditions. Feeding your bird a healthy diet does not have to be costly or time consuming. When you feel like your bird deserves a special treat, try serving up one of these cheap and easy options that are packed with taste as well as beneficial nutrients.

- 1. Fruit**—Grapes, oranges, bananas, melons -- just about any kind of fruit imaginable is good for your bird. Full of taste and various vitamins, fruit is a wonderful source of nutrients and is a favorite among the vast majority of pet birds. As with any fresh food you offer your bird, remove and discard any leftovers a couple of hours after serving. This prevents bacteria growth inside of your pet's cage!
 - 2. Beans** - Beans, beans, the magical fruit... They're good for you and good for your bird, too! Beans are an outstanding source of protein for your feathered friend. Try boiling a 15 bean soup mix without any seasoning. Allow the beans to cool, and then offer a scoop to your bird. Chances are that this will become a fast favorite with your little friend. Remember to never serve raw beans to your pet, as some varieties can be [poisonous](#) unless cooked.
 - 3. Sprouts**—Do you like alfalfa sprouts on your salad? Your bird will like them too! Be sure to thoroughly wash any sprouts that you offer your bird. Some may have come into contact with pesticides in their journey from the garden to your local supermarket, and you don't want to pass these [toxins](#) on to your pet.
 - 4. Vegetables**—Wild birds feast on an amazing variety of vegetables in their natural habitats, so it only makes sense that fresh veggies are good for captive birds as well. Try offering your pet some thoroughly cleansed broccoli, cauliflower, or greens next time you serve these veggies in your home. Other avian favorites include carrots, asparagus, and peas.
 - 5. Pasta**—No matter whether it's cooked or uncooked, birds love [pasta](#). The good thing is, it's full of energy enhancing carbohydrates! Try boiling some bowtie pasta with vegetables and serving it to your bird when cool. If your pet prefers his pasta crunchy, fill a few raw macaroni noodles with peanut butter for a fun and tasty snack.
 - 6. Bread**—Whole grain breads taste great, and are a wonderful source of fiber. Try offering your pet small bites of bread as a treat for good behavior. Your pet will think he's in hog heaven!
 - 7. Popcorn**—Believe it or not, many pet birds enjoy snacking on popcorn! You can serve your bird either popped or unpopped kernels. If you choose to serve the popcorn unpopped, boil the kernels for a bit in plain water to soften the tough hulls. If you desire, you can pop the kernels for your bird using a very light amount of pure vegetable oil. Be sure to never give your bird microwave popcorn. These varieties are extremely high in fat and salt, which can be harmful to your pet's health.
 - 8. Cereal / Grains**—Grain farmers often complain when flocks of wild birds descend on their crops to feast. A hungry group of birds can strip a field of grain in no time -- because grains are nutritious, and very good for them! Whole grains are another good source of vital protein, not to mention beneficial carbohydrates. Try serving your bird oats or shredded wheat, and watch the feeding frenzy begin!
 - 9. Nuts**—Nuts are extremely high in fat, and should be used sparingly to prevent obesity in your pet. They are, however, very tasty, and many birds appreciate them as special treats. Nuts can be used as exercise toys as well as treats, many birds will spend hours exercising their beak and jaw muscles on the shells of some varieties. Always make sure that any nuts that you serve your bird are clean and unsalted.
 - 10. Peppers**—although many humans have trouble eating spicy peppers, birds can definitely take the heat. It seems that our avian friends lack the taste receptors that pick up on a pepper's stinging bite, which makes them a favorite of birds around the world. Try giving your pet a nice fresh chili or banana pepper and watch him chomp through it to get to the meat and seeds inside. You may find out that you have quite a hot little t-male on your hands!
- So now you can even have your birds share your dinner plate with you, just make sure you teach them to share or you must might go hungry.

Congratulations go out to member Cynthia Clark (now Griffin). She got married on Valentines day to Tim Griffin and with her membership renewal she signed Tim up as a new member. We wish you many years of happiness and good health.

Dinner after the fair was wonderful with Sharon Bean getting Martin's to donate a birthday cake.



Jeannie Rinehart is enjoying herself.



Members relaxing at dinner after the fair.



Mary & Ron Packer below

Our own President and her husband having a great time.

TO ALL OUR MEMBER WHO HELPED WITH THE FAIR,

From the member who only told a friend to attend to the members who worked in many areas from the weeks before it even started or during the fair each of you played an important roll in the success of our fair.

Every single member did their assignments without complain. We did not receive a single negative from any vendor or attendee concerning our members. It shows we have the best members ever.

We must thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your hard work and tireless efforts on MBS' behalf.

Take a minute and read what one vendor sent us in an email on Monday after the fair just below this.

Again our heartfelt thanks,

Judy, Marla & Bruce Co-Chairman of the fair.

Dear Michiana Bird Club Fair Staff:

We say it every year, and we're happy to say it again this year ---this fair BY FAR is the most organized, the best attended, and the one with the most cheerful staff. Your hard work is clearly evident as year, after year, after year, you continue to outdo yourselves. We attend several fairs in many communities throughout the Midwest and feel quite confident when we say the MBS Fair is one which must be the envy of many other organizations/ clubs. Your entire event is a shining example of what a few hard working people with a common goal can accomplish when they roll up their sleeves and work together. You don't overlook one, single thing which would deter from the comfort or convenience of your vendors and you pull it all off with such finesse! Great job!

The only suggestion we have for improvement.....do more than one a year.....please!!!

Andrew and Becky Lakeside Aviaries

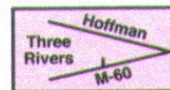


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To promote the health and well-being of all exotic birds. Including those not native to our geographical area, whether pets or living in the wild, housed in rescue or rehabilitation facilities or used to promote education and awareness such as a zoo, aviary facility or conservation. To promote the responsible breeding, preservation, and future study of these birds. To promote and encourage by example, fellowship among bird lovers.

MEMBERSHIP DUES prorated to April 1 annually.

Single—\$18.00 annually—Family—\$24.00 annually

MEETINGS—WHO MAY ATTEND

Members and Guests —Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month, and because this is a bird club, your birds are welcome to attend. Please remember owners are responsible for their birds. No "NEW" (owned for less than 60 days) or sick birds please.

ABOUT OUR PUBLICATION

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