



Partners In Paradise

Newsletter for The Tropics Exotic Bird Refuge
a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization

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IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

.....since the last writing. We tried to go e-mail on the newsletters, and still do, but everyone was not being reached. The number of donors from 2007-2008 has DECREASED 50%, and of course, donation dollars are way down. Everyone is hurting, many losing jobs, homes, valuables. The Tropics is fighting to keep this property and pay its bills and necessities for the birds. Without your help, it almost cannot be done. It was realized that by you not receiving this newsletter by mail, you have not known this condition, that is the reason for this mailing. The Tropics is DESPERATE, TOO! So, you know what to do, if you can...PLEASE!

GOOD NEWS

Meanwhile, there is good news to report. ALL of the birds are strong and healthy and all but the smallest are living in the beautifully clean, renovated dome. A new pump has just been installed to replace the failed one that ran the waterfall. We were fortunate to get a FREE replacement from Northern Tools (if you need good products from reputable people, consider them). This waterfall /pool is a wonderful diversion for the birds. The background noise makes them feel more secure and like they are in a more instinctual environment. Only a few small birds remain in our house, proper. The Tropics has taken in a few new birds lately, mostly cockatoos of various species. They have settled in, are as happy as birds can be in captivity, eating well, playing, etc.

OUR HEALTH

We have both recovered nicely from our past illnesses. This enables us to be more spontaneous and happy with the birds, and now we look forward to our work again. We must admit that it had become quite a burden during our time of illness. That is all behind us now.

TESTIMONIALS

Dated 7/08 Mark & Marianne Seward, FL (all reference to "I" or "me" is Mark Speaking)

We have been close to The Tropics for over two years. To make a long story as short as possible, we have a Red Sided Eclectus that is a feather chewer. We raised him from 3 weeks of age, but he turned on me and began to see my wife as his mate. He then started biting me hard and got to the point where he would chase me around the house in a jealous rage. After spending a LOT of money on vet bills, we finally had to make a heartbreaking decision to put him in a different environment at least on a short term basis to see if his behavior would change. After contacting several locations within a reasonable driving distance of Charlotte, NC we visited The Tropics. We sat down and visited there for about two hours that first day and was shown the three locations where the flock was housed. All areas were kept clean, all of the parrots appeared healthy and happy. Trust me, our 3 parrots mean the world to us, and we would have walked right out if we did not feel this was an environment we were comfortable with. There was much more understanding of our grief in making this decision and was more The Tropics was more than willing to do whatever it could in an attempt

to re-habilitate Satch. There was a wealth of information, and we found that we shared a lot of opinions about how our feathered companions should be treated. We took Satch up a few days later, one of the hardest days of my life. It was GREAT. I was kept updated on how he was doing. After letting him settle in for about 3 months, we started visiting him on a regular basis, about once every 3 – 4 weeks. Satch is very much a “people parrot” so it was decided to keep him in the house instead of another area. Over time, he seems to have settled down quite a bit to where I (Mark) can now handle him. I have also learned how to read him and can avoid most biting situations. We have recently moved to Florida and purchased a home with a totally screened in back yard for the “boys” to live, fly, and roam outside during the day. The Tropics has been great to and for Satch; it is ironic that at the time of my writing this e-mail, I will be traveling to Charlotte soon to bring Satch home. Thanks to the willingness, patience, and TLC, of The Tropics, this is a success story and we look forward to bringing Satch back to his home flock.

If there is a bright spot in Satch’s situation, it is that in researching for more hours than I care to think about, I have learned more than I can describe here about the world of keeping parrots as pets. The world of parrot rescues is very small, and The Tropics helped lead the way in getting not for profit status for parrot rescues. A word of advice... Never take anybody’s word for anything in the avian world. Do your homework and make an informed decision, not one based upon what someone else tells you. I did that for a long time trying to get to the bottom of Satch's problems, and it pretty much got me nowhere except wearing out my charge card. Taking him to the Tropics was the ONLY thing that has worked.

The Tropics wishes to thank Mark and Maryanne for their honest and forthright information and advice.

FONZIE: Blue Throated Macaw

By: a Tropics’ volunteer

Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina with FONZIE!!

He is a male Blue Throated Macaw, approximately 12 years old and very much the clown. I don’t know how any animal can possibly know what a camera is, but whenever Fonzie sees one he immediately starts to strike poses...many poses. He is also very mischievous and sneaks up on me to yank at my shirt. He then blushes bright red on his face and begins to sway and sing to me, as I in turn do for him. His next act is to hold my finger in his beak, yes he does that, and regurgitates for me, the ultimate symbol of love from a parrot to a person. IF he wants preening, he holds onto my hand while I reach up with my fingers and preen his head and neck.

Blue Throated Macaws have a reputation for being nippy. Indeed Fonzie was. For the first month after arriving here he drew blood every day. Although he didn’t want to, he finally succumbed to verbal corrections, and only very occasionally will give me a small nip, rarely bringing blood. He abides in the dome and his next door neighbor is Tilly a 24 year old male Hyacinth macaw. NO, there is no strife between these two boys, rather they ignore each other and would rather pick on me. Needless to say, we enjoy Fonzie’s company very much.

HOPEFULLY, HELPFUL HINTS

Many ask why their birds won’t eat ‘people’ food. The main answer to that question is this; if they weren’t introduced to a variety of foods including fruits, vegs, etc., they grow up not recognizing those supplemental items as food. They learn as babies that what is put before them is OK for them to eat. Unless humans teach these birds, they cannot learn on their own or from other siblings or babies they might live with. **BABIES CANNOT TEACH BABIES...!** In the wild, parent birds teach the young ones what/where to find their food/water. In captivity it is up to people to do the same. Hope this helps.

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

ANY birds depicted in this or any other publications, including our web site does NOT constitute that those birds are available for adoption. To the contrary; most birds, with the exception of VERY few are up for adoption.

NO ONE will automatically qualify to adopt the very few that are adoptable without thorough scrutiny, application, visitations with said bird and with the operators of this sanctuary.

The Tropics is NOT in the 'business' of adopting out birds. The only reason one should/would become available for adoption is if it is deemed to be better off in a home environment rather than in a sanctuary.

Regarding the WEB SITE; it was updated in 2007 but the date had never been changed. Therefore, it seems that it is old. To the contrary. It is more expedient that the donations be spent on the birds rather than on paying to have the site date changed. I'm sure you will understand this view concerning the usage of YOUR donation dollars. As soon as it is financially feasible, it will be updated again with new photos, articles, and other pertinent information. Until then, the money will go first, for food/toys/maintenance and Tropics' bills.

Thanks to all of you loyal donors that have hung in there with The Tropics during this trying economic time, and a warm welcome to all of the new donors,

Sincerely, Mary & John Bradford

*Psalm 91:4—HE will cover you with his feathers, and under HIS wings you shall trust; HIS truth shall be your shield and buckler...JESUS!
The ONE who died for ALL!!!*

John 3:16—For GOD so loved the world that HE gave HIS only begotten SON (JESUS), that whosoever believe in HIM should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE!!!