



PARTNERS IN PARADISE
Newsletter for The Tropics Exotic Bird

Winter 2002/2003

P.O. Box 686, Kannapolis, NC 28082, 704-932-8041, email: tropics@juno.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: tropics.parrotrefuge.com

RAFFLE!!!

Our latest and greatest raffle ever has already started. The item is a Queen Sized, hand made PARROT QUILT. Due to a shortage of funds, we are not able to show you this item in color in this newsletter, but it can be found and tickets purchased on our website: tropics.parrotrefuge.com. The last time one of this woman's quilts was raffled off for charity, it brought in \$10,000. Let's see if we can top that. Ticket prices are: 1/ \$5.00, 3/ \$12.00. Three raffle tickets are enclosed with this newsletter, so dig into your piggy bank for this one.

RECAPPING 2002/PREPARING FOR 2003

by: Mary Bradford

This has been an eventful year to say the least. There have been many ups and downs, more than we care to count. Our donations dropped off significantly at mid-year, but the good news is that we're still here, surviving and making plans for the new year. The birds continue to be well fed, warm in the winter, and those out in the dome are loving every minute of it.

In spite of the problems we've had with the dome, one of our television shows caught the eye of the owner of Monolithic Domes. They called us and after hearing our complaints, asked for a narrated video of the problems. We immediately sent them a 1/2 hour video which speaks for itself.

This company will be starting a huge dome project in Raleigh, NC in the near future, and feel they can send some/all of their crew here to fix the problems we have encountered.

So, 2002 ended on a sour note, but 2003 is beginning more upbeat. One very important announcement is this; after great thought and contemplation, we have decided to offer an adoption program. We did a trial run in December by adopting out 8 of our birds, most going to volunteers. The birds they took were tame, but had been here for many years, abandoned by their owners and not sponsored by anyone else. So far, a month into the program things are going great. The birds adopted out were 1 Amazon, 1 Umbrella Cockatoo, 4 African Grays, 2 Cockatiels. The reports are good, and from what I've seen personally, this looks like a successful project.

What does this mean to you if you have a bird here? If you or some other donor is sponsoring your bird, it will NOT be a candidate for adoption. Neither will handicapped, untamed, or retired breeder birds. We have drawn up a very precise adoption contract that must be signed, and accompanied by an adoption fee, depending upon the bird specie. Under NO circumstances can any of these birds go anywhere else, but back to us, and breeding is strictly forbidden. If a bird doesn't work out in a family, then we retain the right to take it back. We are very optimistic about this program and will keep you posted as the year goes on.

What will we do with the extra room these vacated birds create? We will make the dome accessible to as any birds as is comfortably possible. The two existing caged aviaries will be converted; one into a free flight aviary for Moluccan Cockatoos, and the other will continue to contain caged birds; those not suitable for free flight.

We have trimmed our budget down, exchanged our van for a small station wagon which cut our automotive expenses in half, and still have Topper as our primary fresh seed sponsor. Last month Diamond Avian Distributors in Durham, NC donated almost 900 lbs. of recently outdated pellets.

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THE DOME!

Last month I was contacted by an employee of Monolithic Constructors saying how excited they were to see the dome on "Ripley's". I began to tell them of our problems, and I was immediately put through to the founder/owner of Monolithic Domes.

The dome is leaking like a sieve. A \$400 dehumidifier has been donated. If the mistakes are corrected in the construction, we won't need to use it all the time. I will be speaking with Monolithic's owner over the course of the coming weeks and months, to work out some kind of arrangements for the repairs.

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS
Special thanks to:

*Topper Bird Ranch
Diet*

Beverly, Teresa & Jane

Michelle & June

*Sandy, Dale, Marie
and their children*

*Almost all of the above
have adopted birds
from us and all is well*

Check our website's Gift Shop soon, for purchases of hand embroidered items: Pillows, Doilies, Pillow Cases.

RECAP.....continued

In addition to seed, and pellets, we feed fresh & frozen fruits and vegetables, and pasta.

In an effort to keep as many birds here as possible, please remember that you can sponsor a bird for \$300/year. Also, we accept checks, money orders, cashier's checks, Visa, Master Card credit/debit cards, and American Express. Credit card purchases and donations can be made on our website or by writing directly to us at PO Box 686, Kannapolis, NC 28082-0686. A sponsorship form is included in this newsletter issue.

In addition, we have turned away approximately 100 birds this year. In the past, the word "NO" was not part of our vocabulary, but that is no longer a choice we have at this time.

ANOTHER TV APPEARANCE

As a result of the "Ripley's Believe it or Not" show, we are being considered for yet another show, this time on NBC. Taping was to be this past Dec. 19th, but has been postponed until they put together an entirely different show, one that fits our category better. We will keep you posted, and notify you of the show and air date as soon as we know it.

PARROTHEADS, WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!!!

We are asking that EACH parrothead club in existence sponsor one bird a year for \$300. Perhaps in order to raise these funds, you could take up a special collection from your members and save it up until you have enough money.

PLEASE DON'T LET YOUR NAMESAKES DOWN. SPONSOR A PARROT. THANK YOU!

Effective 01/01/03, donation receipts will be sent out once a year, unless otherwise requested.

Beginning next newsletter we will go back to our education and "featured bird" columns format.

10 For Life
by: June Reed-Lombardo

In New York City there is an elderly woman who lives on her social security check. Social security at the highest levels does not pay out enough to our senior citizens, and many of them go without things they really need like medication, food, even heat. In spite of all of the hardship living off of social security this woman manages to send \$15.00 every month to The Tropics. Every once in awhile she sends another small donation on top of the \$15.00. That got me to thinking. If that woman in New York can find that money to send every month, than you can too! If every person on The Tropics mailing list would make a commitment to send \$10 a month to The Tropics, we would be able to operate this parrot sanctuary. We wouldn't have to constantly ask for donations. The newsletter could go back to doing what it was supposed to do, educate people about parrots, help people who were having behavior problems and give us the time to play with the parrots. What we have come up with is a new program. It's called "10 For Life". What we are asking is that each and every one of you makes a commitment to send in at least \$10 a month on a permanent basis. Below are a few ideas on how to come up with that \$10 in a way you will never miss it. If you buy the 20 oz. Bottles of drinks it cost you at least \$1.00, same for coffee. Personally I fill up a few 20 oz coke bottles from my 99 cent 2 liter bottle, and throw a couple in my cooler when I have to go out for awhile. For coffee drinkers there are thermal carafes that pump out hot coffee whenever you want it. Instead of buying that hardback book from the store, get it at your local library. That would save you at least \$20.00. Brown bag your lunch once or twice a week and put that money in a jar, at the end of the month you'll be surprised on how much you saved! Go to a restaurant one time less in a month. Are you sure you want that CD? Unless you like most of the CD don't buy it. I'm sure if you think about it you can come up with even more ways to save money and not feel deprived. So won't you join us and become a 10 For Life Member? You have the power to make sure The Tropics can always care for our avian friends, and it'll make you feel good about yourself for doing it. Join us and together we can make a tremendous difference in the life of both the parrots and The Tropics.

Footnote: As shown in the past, The Tropics has done everything in its power to spend your donor money wisely. We still strive daily to meet that goal. M. Bradford

Become a 10 for Life-r
(Please fill out and return the form below with payment)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE#: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

I pledge to send no less than \$10.00 a month to the 10 For Life Plan.

SIGNATURE: _____