



AVIAN FLYER

JUNE 2021

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AVIAN FLYER STAFF

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Beth Murphy

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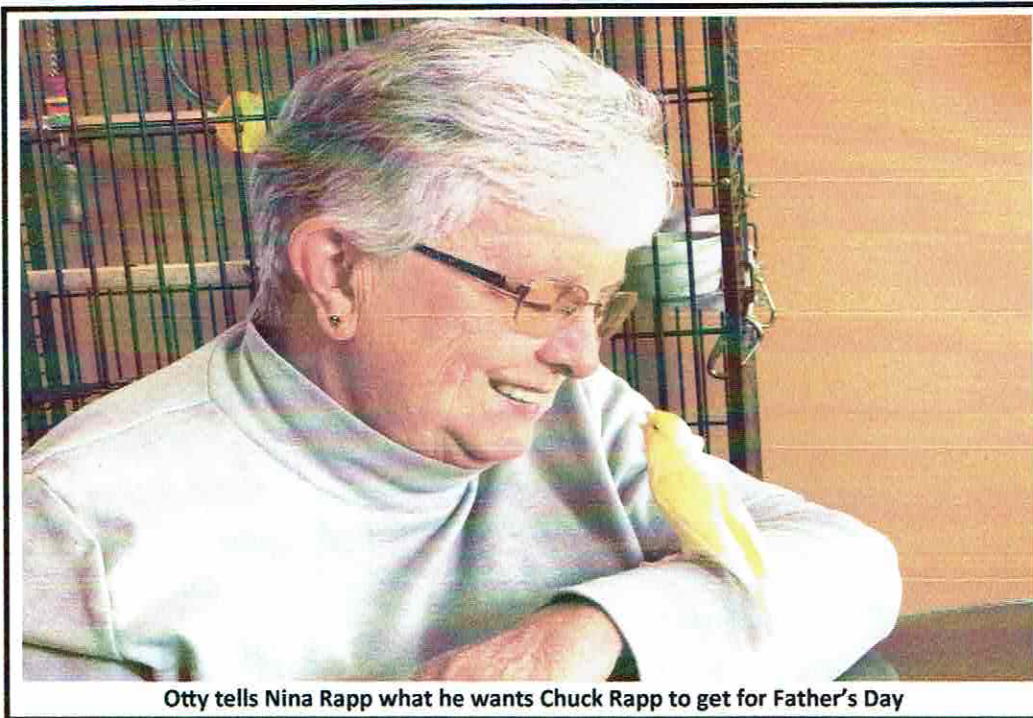
Sandy Foote-Gregory
Carol Groenevelt
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Beth Murphy

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Otty tells Nina Rapp what he wants Chuck Rapp to get for Father's Day

GREAT ISSUE THIS MONTH!!

Happy Father's Day to all the dads (and bird dads)! The ZOOM meeting will be this next Sunday, June 13, so watch for details in your email later this week.

This issue contains the first in an exciting new column written by Debbie Stout called "Meet A Member"! It begins with introducing us to Manuel Soto, so check it out on page 6! Debbie also wrote an additional article entitled "Less Is More" in this issue. I thank her for her contributions and she is an excellent writer.

Carol Groenevelt wrote a fascinating article explaining how beneficial it can be to own a microscope. She included actual pictures that she took through her microscope to show us what some of the health problems that

our birds suffer from actually look like! I thank her for that fascinating insight. Speaking of health problems, there is also an article on hypersensitivity pneumonitis, also called "bird breeder's lung".

Show Chair Dan Pitney gives us an update on our 51st annual show. Things are really coming together for that!

We believe that we will be able to start meeting in person beginning with next month's annual picnic, and I am REALLY looking forward to seeing everyone!!

Again, Happy Father's Day! Enjoy the spring weather and I will see you on ZOOM!

Your Editor,
Beth Murphy

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THE PREZ SEZ



Welcome CCC members. It is so good to see all of you. Friends who have the same interests whether it is a club, church, volunteer group or long time friendships, how it warms our heart. Thanks each of you for making our lives richer.

Watch your email to check for our June meeting. It will depend on weather and the virus. We can always hope. Whether it is meeting in the park or ZOOM it is always good to get together to plan and share. Directions to the park will be included in your newsletter.

This month highlights Fathers' and feathers. The feathers may be flowing and covering your bird room floor. Hopefully you have a good vacuum cleaner, broom and a dust pan. Our birds need daily baths at this time of molt. I add a tsp. of mouthwash. Bird don't like dirty water so the water needs to be removed early each day.

VANED FEATHERS are the main feathers which cover the outside of a bird. Vaned feathers have a stiff center, with soft barbs on the side, which seem like hairs. The center is called a Quill. This type of feather is called pennaceous. We have additional vocabulary to define the Vaned feathers. I am sure you remember the words.

DOWN FEATHERS are found in young birds which keep them warm, but cannot be used for flying. Down is very soft. Adult birds have down, but also have vaned feathers on top of the down. Down is also used in blankets. Down feathers are just one example of plumaceous feathers.

MOULTING or birds losing feathers at a certain times. By moulting, a bird can replace old feathers with new ones. Many birds moult once every year. People use feathers for many purposes. In the past, quills were commonly used as pens, and colorful feathers were worn on hats. Many pillows, cushions, mattresses, coats, and quilts are stuffed with down. Feathers are also used by people of many tribes for decoration.

The celebration of FATHERHOOD is known to date back to at least 1508. The in 1908, Grace Golden Clayton proposed the day to honor those men who lost their lives in a mining accident in the US. Though it was not accepted then. In 1909 Sonora Smart Dodd, who along with her five brothers were raised by her father alone, being inspired after attending Mothers' Day in a church. Fathers' Day is celebrated worldwide today.

Sandy

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and prevent your immune system from reacting to the allergens you inhale. You may be required to take this medication for up to three months and sometimes longer depending on severity. You may also require supportive therapies such as bronchodilators, which relax your airways to make breathing easier or oxygen therapy, which can raise oxygen levels in your blood.

Pet Birds, Allergies and Cleaning the Air

Not everyone who has birds will have a problem with hypersensitivity pneumonitis, particularly since people vary in their sensitivity to particulates in the air. But the fact is that birds do produce a dust that can trigger allergic reactions which can include hypersensitivity pneumonitis, allergic rhinitis, and some types of asthma.

People can react to the powder that birds give off just like they can react to dog or cat dander. Even if you do not have an allergic reaction to this powder, it can still irritate lungs -- especially in sensitive people. Some species of birds generate more of the powder than others and multiple birds obviously cause more indoor pollution than just one will. African Greys, Cockatoos, and Cockatiels are especially dusty.

Prolong exposure can increase sensitivity to bird dust. Since birds can be part of your family for many years, people who have only mild allergic reactions, or no reactions at all, may find themselves very sensitive to their bird and suddenly suffer allergic symptoms.

Doctors are quick to recommend removing birds from the home, but this is not a happy solution for most bird owners. Another way to control the amount of allergens in the air and possibly prevent problems in the future, is to use a high quality air purifier. The right air cleaner can dramatically reduce the quantity of offending particles of bird dust as well as normal indoor pollutants like dust, dander and pollen.

Choosing an Air Purifier

It is important to choose an air purifier that will be effective and do no harm. It is recommended to

select HEPA or better. HEPA (which stands for High Efficiency Particle Arresting) is a government standard. No manufacturer of air purifiers can claim to be HEPA unless their unit removes 99.97% of particles greater than .3 microns in size. Bird dust as well as dog and cat dander are large enough to be trapped in the HEPA material. In addition, a good air purifier will capture odors and chemical fumes as well as particles.

Not all machines claiming to be air purifiers will clean the air. Only air purifiers that capture and retain particulates (like HEPA units do) are effective. Manufacturers of ionizers and ozone generators advertise that their products give you healthy air and save you money because there are no filters to change. Do not be tricked into buying such a device. If there is no filter, the particles cannot be removed. Most, if not all, will simply remain in the air for you to breathe.

What's Wrong with Ionizers and Ozone Generators?

Ionizers like Sharper Image's Ionic Breeze or ozone generators such as the Living Air Classic not only are ineffective in removing pollutants, they generate dangerous levels of ozone. Although these manufacturers would have you believe that the chlorine-like smell their units produce is a good thing, in fact that odor is the by-product of ozone.

Ozone changes lung tissue in humans and birds and triggers asthma attacks in people who have asthma. Ozone is especially damaging to children.

According to the EPA, ionizers are not effective in removing particles, chemicals or odors and, to add insult to injury, generate unwanted ozone. The EPA states: "*When inhaled, ozone can damage the lungs. Relatively low amounts can cause chest pain, coughing, shortness of breath, and, throat irritation. Ozone may also worsen chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and*

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and compromise the ability of the body to fight respiratory infections."

Both the EPA and the American Lung Association are very clear about the dangers of ozone -- any amount of it. Both organizations recommend HEPA units that do not generate ozone to clean indoor air.

Recommendations

If you own birds, you need an air purifier with both good particle filtration and a significant amount of carbon. As a bonus, air purifiers can also protect your bird from YOU! In addition to removing airborne particles, each unit that has a large amount of activated carbon absorbs odors and chemicals. Many household items such as bleach, tobacco smoke, cleaning solutions, etc., can kill your bird. Over-heated Teflon is extremely toxic to birds and small animals -- and it isn't good for people, either. While there is no guarantee that toxins will never reach your pet, a significant amount of carbon in your air cleaners will remove vapors much faster than inferior units with minimal or non-existent amounts of carbon. (Don't consider them to be substitutes for not using those things that we know

WANTED

**Red Faced Parrot Finch
(Erythrura psittacea)
and
Gold Breasted Waxbill
(Amandava subflava)
2 pairs each and
all birds unrelated.**

**Rudy
in Salem**

whyrudy@comcast.net

Yellow Canaries for Sale:

The coloring suggests these canaries to be of the same lineage of the Spanish Timbrado, as their mother. They make a wonderful companion pet bird to be enjoyed for its song as well as its beautiful appearance. They were born 3/11/2021. Song/ Call: The males' song is delightful. It includes trills, vibrato, and warbling phrases. I am selling them for \$50 each or BO, which is one third of the price paid for each of the parents. Male and females.

Call Tava 503-703-0860



May's Treasurer's Report:

Income:
Paypal Membership 23.97
Bands: 22.25

Bank Balance: \$12,784.57

BONDED PAIR OF AFRICAN GRAY PARROTS FOR SALE

Not hand tamed. \$2000
 David Wilcoxon
 503-556-2160



MEET A MEMBER
Manuel Soto



Manuel Soto, a school bus driver from Philo, CA, has been a Columbia Canary Club member for two years. While he enjoys breeding diamond doves, cockatiels, Indian Ring-Neck parrots, and a small number of colorbred canaries, Waterslager canaries are his favorite. "I am a Waterslager man to the grave. I've always liked them. They sing a water note with a closed beak. Very nice."

While the doves and other birds are kept in outdoor aviaries, the canaries have a house all to themselves. Manuel breeds 30 pairs of Waterslagers, keeping upwards of 200 birds in their specially built house. Ventilation is key when building for birds, keeping an appropriate height of building and including windows for light. "Light is important; birds need good light."

"I was born in Mexico. As a child, I would climb cactus plants to catch birds. Birds in the wild, laying eggs and hatching chicks out, was something that always intrigued me. When we immigrated, I saw cages inside a house and I was like: 'Wow!' I was thrilled to realize I could own a bird of my own. That made me so happy."

Manuel bought his first two pairs of Waterslager canaries in 1980, while attending a California Waterslager club show. Soon he became a member of the Western Waterslager Club and participated in that club's song contests. Ten years ago, he achieved second place in song, completing with 150 breeders.

"I enjoy the breeding; the showing not so much. It is a lot of work. Most people do not appreciate the work and time that goes into the song training." A Waterslager is trained to become comfortable in a breed specific show cage, and requires practice and often tutoring to develop the named 'tours' that make up the Waterslager song.

When asked what he wished he had known when beginning with birds, Manuel said "There is a lot of poop. The clean-up is work and a job that is always to be done." He considers a powerwash, broom and scrapper essential tools in the care of his birds.

He treats with Cocco-Care twice a year and Iverlux for mite two to three months before breeding. He also recommends a bath every day. "For a good molt, baths are important. I also feed Quiko dry eggfood and plenty of broccoli. Broccoli is a good food for birds." Summer heat makes it difficult to feed egg, so he uses the dry eggfood.

Manuel's best advice for a beginner: "Birds need fresh water every day. The waterers need to be sanitized."

"Don't mistreat the birds. Please call for advice. I am just a phone call away. I'm not always right, but I'll give you my best advice. If you find you don't have time for your birds, or don't really want them, please give them away. Birds do not need to be mistreated."

Manuel wants to make one thing clear: "These are only my opinions. This is what I do; it is not necessary that you agree! These are the things that work best for me."

Visit Manuel Soto's Facebook page titled Redwood Aviary.



Song Training cages



Why I purchased a Microscope

By Carol Groenevelt

About fifteen years ago, I had the good fortune of going to a bird sale with a veterinarian on duty. I took her a sick bird and she not only made a diagnosis, but showed me the fecal smear under a microscope and the problem. She was very excited because she saw a yeast about to divide. I was happy for her but horrified that this hen was full of AGY (Avian Gastric Yeast) also know as "going light syndrome" or "megabacteria." An infected bird becomes a ravenous eater but loses weight until emaciated and dies.

I was able to find a medicine on the web at a pigeon supply house called Medistatin. You have to put it in food as it is bitter and the birds won't drink it in water. Couscous seemed to me to be a good medium for the medication so I used ½ tea-spoon of the powder to ½ cup cold water and ½ cup couscous. Sometimes I put half of the mixture in the freezer so I have fresh if I run out too soon or for the next time it's needed. Treatment is ten to fourteen days, twice a day or more.

After treating a number of birds over the years, I have to come to believe that yeast is a normal part of a canaries system and as long as it stays in balance there is no problem. But introduce stress like breeding, weaning, shipping, showing, etc. sometimes a bird will develop AGY. Last year, I had one young bird sleep too much during the day and was always the first one to the dish of eggfood. I did a fecal smear and examined it under the microscope: AGY confirmed. Ten days of Medistatin and the bird completely recovered. I tested the parents and the siblings and didn't find any yeast.

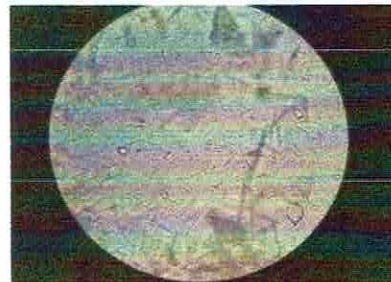
The problem with treating AGY with antibiotics is that it makes it worse. Without a microscope to diagnose AGY, one can only guess and try Medistatin as a first line of treatment, especially if the bird is a hen. The other issue I can easily see under the microscope is coccidiosis. This is also easy to treat if you use the right medication. I can also see worm eggs and protozoa but I've only seen this once in fifteen years. Finally, there are birds who get sick but don't show anything in a fecal smear. For

these birds, I treat with antibiotics. If one doesn't seem to be working after three days, I wait a day and try another antibiotic.

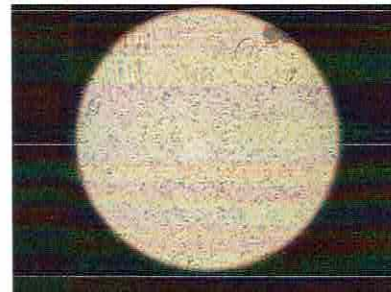
I purchased a microscope because I wanted to be able to diagnose a sick bird myself. With the help of a book titled Under the Microscope by Dr. Danny Brown, some of the guess work in diagnosing a sick bird has been eliminated. It is another tool in the toolbox.



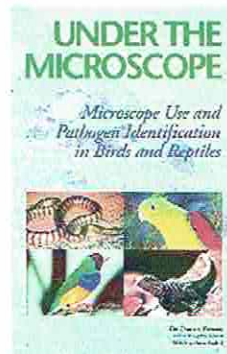
COCCIDIOSIS



**MALE
CANARY
AGY 2**



**MEGA
BACTERIA**



**Under the Microscope:
Microscope Use and
Pathogen Identification
in Birds and Reptiles
by Dr. Danny Brown**

**is available on
Amazon**

Life With Small Birds...

by Debbie Stout

Less Is More

The morning "coffee crowd" is busy chirping away, squabbling over broccoli bits, and I imagine them gossiping about their neighbors. I am in the bird room, taking a break from work, sipping my cup of Joe as the happy conversations of the canaries fill the room.

My chair is squeezed into a small space between a floor-to-ceiling flight and a stack of breeding cages. From here, I can see most of the room and am watching the flights of youngsters, taking notes on their behavior.

In the beginning of this "bird obsession" I call a hobby, my bird room had a very different appearance. There was room for a rocking chair with a foot stool, a small table for my coffee and notebooks, with hanging plants and lace curtains at the window. But as the number of birds grew from 6 pair to 40 pair, the space for "non-essentials" shrank.

Last year, I spent three hours in the bird room each day, plus washing water tubes, seed dishes, and nests added two more hours each week. I spent the time sweeping, feeding, banding and cleaning cages. I would rather have watched the parents feed their chicks or sat next to a young male with personality to listen to his first teenage song.

I am trying to remind myself why I bought my first bird, and the things that I most enjoy. I don't regret the hours spent in the bird room, but if I kept fewer birds, I'd have more time to play rather than work.

Less is more. Simple is better than complicated. That principle works for many things.

Whenever I am asked the question: 'What do you feed your birds?', my answer is always the same: less is more. I am not talking about putting your birds on a diet. I am talking about keeping things simple rather than complicated.

The basic diet for all cage birds begins with a few guidelines. And these principles apply to a single bird companion, or a bird room full of breeding pairs. Their food must provide nutrients to keep

them healthy and be clean and fresh. The diet should be items we can buy easily and, let's face it, must also be priced within our budgets.

Keep it simple. Some bird breeds have special requirements, but all need protein, fats and carbohydrates. The different types of seeds contain all of these, but in different proportions. Many bird breeders mix their own seed types; others buy a bag of pre-mixed seed for their general type of bird. It can be fun to do the research and make your own mix, but in all honesty, a packaged mix designed for your bird's breed will fill their need for seed.

Pellets are popular and contain seed products with other nutrients. Personally, I like to begin with the seed and add supplements and other foodstuffs. Somehow, I keep comparing myself to the birds, and I would much rather eat a variety of interesting foods than a bowl of concentrated All-Food flakes, even if it was a complete meal.

Seed only supplies a portion of their nutritional need, so we add other items. Following the example of the songbirds outside our homes, our indoor pets will benefit from green leafy vegetables, carrots, green peas, cucumbers and others such as seeds from a green pepper. Feed a small amount, lightly chopped or grated. You can feed these every day, or as an irregular treat on the days you have more time.

At various times throughout the year, our birds need additional protein and supplements. During breeding, while feeding chicks, and during the annual molt, add a small amount of animal or plant protein. This can be mashed hard-boiled egg, mixed with whole wheat bread crumbs or soy protein, mealworms, or sprouted seed. Here again, you can buy packaged foods or prepare them from scratch. There are powdered vitamin-mineral

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supplements created to be fed separately in a small dish or sprinkled into the soft mix.

Now take that simple diet of seed, vegetables, and make sure every bit is fresh. Don't feed stale seed. Don't feed wilted veggies, and don't let the protein mix spoil, if you use moist food.

Maybe you enjoy creating a complicated diet for your bird. I will admit to real satisfaction when I have mixed a bowl of mashed hard-boiled egg, grated carrots and dried bread crumbs. Even the crumbs are from bread that I made especially for the birds. But if you keep the list of ingredients small, and you use the same mix every day, you will find it saves time. You can spend several of those saved moments to watch them enjoy their meal.

Speaking of happy birds, back to my bird room. One young opal male is perched right up against the front of his cage, very still and watching me. He trills lowly, insisting that I feed him a special treat. He will eat broccoli and he received a portion with the rest of the room. But he really desires a few flakes of oatmeal, which I always feed him after he asks politely.

I must keep that opal male, because he returns my affection. So, add one more to my growing list of keeping birds. Less is more? If only I could simplify my Bird Life.

Q: What plants can I grow in my own garden to feed my birds?

A: We can grow many of the vegetables for our cage birds. Some are very easy, such as green leaf lettuces, kale and carrots which are commonly grown for our own tables. Other vegetables are more demanding. Green peppers can take three months to grow to full size. Cabbage and broccoli are often attacked by insects, so I cover them with special netting to keep the butterflies out. Cucumbers are an example of the plants that need lots of space to ramble as they grow. Don't forget to pull dandelion leaves (from lawns that are not sprayed or fertilized). They are a special treat much enjoyed by my birds.

Debbie Stout

UPDATE FROM SHOW CHAIR DAN PITNEY

"Plans continue to move forward for our Nov. 6-7, 2021 annual Columbia Canary Club show at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, Oregon. Our four judges have all been confirmed. Brian Johanssen will be judging Type Canaries, Henry Vela will judge Colorbred Canaries, KJ Brown will be our Finch and Softbill judge, and Bert McAulay judging small Hookbills. We have recently confirmed that the Cascade Budgie Society will be holding their show in conjunction with us.

Many details are coming together well. We are currently finalizing our classifications and awards, Sandra Foote-Gregory has arranged with the Salem Holiday Inn to be our host hotel with special rates for those attending the show. Details about hotel and banquet reservations will come in the next few months as everything moves forward.

All we need now is for as many of our members and friends to plan to show birds and donate items for our raffle. It is shaping up to be a fun show. You won't want to miss it."

Dan

WHAT WOULD A NOISY PARROT HAVE TO DO WITH HOW SKYSCRAPERS ARE BUILT???

The Great Chicago fire of 1871 burned for only 2 days but destroyed 1/3 of all the buildings in the city. During the next 12 years much of the city was being reconstructed. Population doubled there between 1880 and 1890 and an acre of commercial property skyrocketed from \$130,000 to \$900,000 per acre in the same time period. People realized that building up was the way to go but that had been long limited by wood and brick construction, and early elevators. Architect William LeBaron Jenney was working on a design for a new building when his parrot began making so much noise that he couldn't concentrate. He became so angry that he picked up the largest book he could find and began pounding the bird's cage in order to get it to shut up. The cage should have broken after such abuse, but it didn't even dent. Then it dawned on Jenney that if steel cages were that strong, why not make buildings out of steel? Because of his noisy pet he was able to design one of the first buildings with a steel skeleton. Thus the Home Insurance Building, which stood 10 stories tall when completed, was considered the first true 'skyscraper'.
Now you know!!!

MAY MEETINGS

ZOOM MEETING

Sunday, June 13th, 2021

1:00pm Board

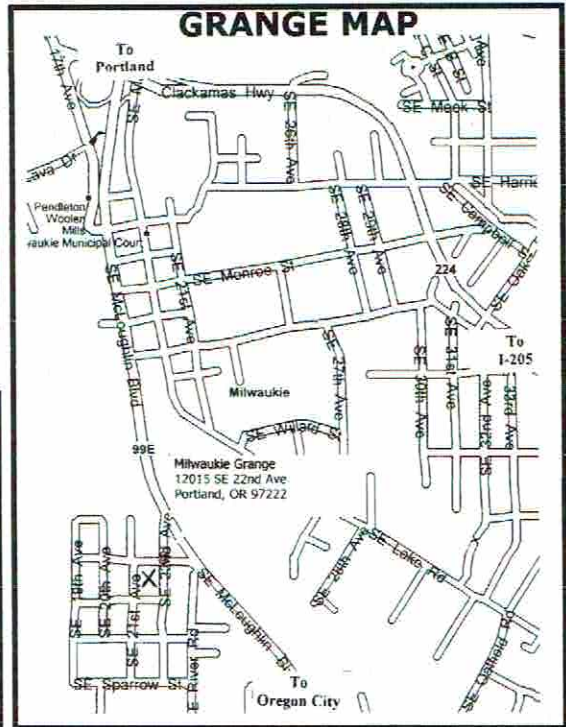
1:30pm Show Committee

2:00pm Regular Meeting

Watch for an email with ZOOM information.

MILWAUKIE GRANGE DIRECTIONS

Meetings are held at the Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Ave, about a block west of McLoughlin Blvd. (Hwy 99E), just south of downtown Milwaukie. Coming from the North on McLoughlin, turn right onto 22nd, following the sign, "To River Road South." Coming from the South, turn left at the signal near the RR crossing, then left onto 22nd. The Grange is located between Blue Bird and Bob White Streets. Parking is on the West side of the building.



Columbia Canary Club
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Clackamas, OR 97015

