



Rain forests crucial; keeping exotic pets is inhumane

We always hear that the rain forests of the world are the "lungs of the earth" creating oxygen for all living things. Since I notice all the trees around us all the time, why are these forests so important?

I always find this question troublesome in that so many people in this world today do not know how natural systems function. Yes, I see trees all around me in our area also, but it is now November and our trees have gone dormant for the winter.

The root systems will continue to grow, but the trees and plants are no longer making oxygen. During our winters our oxygen is coming from the rain forests and the oceans halfway around the world. As a species, we human beings have done more damage to this planet and all other living things that depend on this earth functioning properly.

I continue to see letters written to newspapers that state the greenhouse effect is evolution at work. Evolution happens over thousands and millions of years.

The damage we've done in the last hundred years, especially to the rain forests, is not evolution. It's called greed and stupidity.

This planet is fragile, and our very existence depends on it being healthy. It's us modern, educated human beings that are the problem. The native peoples of the world that we refer to as backward and uncivilized have done quite well living in harmony with this planet.

I can envision a conversation between two cockroaches in the future that could sound like this:

"Hey Freddie, did you hear that humanity became extinct last week? I told you that their lifestyles would do them in. The only thing left around now are all those piles of roach spray cans and us bugs. Finally, peace and quiet."

I've read about the recent panther sightings. Do you have an opinion on this issue?

I've been very involved with nature all of my life. I receive enough calls where people mistake one animal for another. However, by my many encounters with people and their pets, there are more exotic animals living in people's homes than you would think.

When it comes to the sighting of any exotic animal, you can't dismiss these reports as hoaxes or mistaking one animal for another. Any large exotic cat that gets loose is more than likely not going to be claimed by its owner. Just as cruel people turn loose dogs and cats that they no longer want. I know they do it with exotic pets.

I do wonder why the sightings are almost always of a black panther. We never hear very much about loose lions or tigers. A panther type cat could survive here as long as food was available and it could escape detection. Our Canada goose population could sustain an animal such as this should it care to eat geese.

I don't want to cause alarm, but in this day and age of irresponsible people you can never say never when it comes to any sighting of a loose exotic pet.

Dogs, cats, tropical fish are acceptable pets that are easily care for but I feel that there are many animals that you should not be allowed to own. Many if not most of these exotics are kept in cruel, inhumane conditions. They belong in the wild and not in basements.

There is a bill pending in the legislature that would ban the ownership of exotic cats. I will fully support this bill.

Joe Derek is the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. He will receive questions at (248) 475-9574.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



CLOVERGER-LAUHOFF
Cynthia Michelle Lauhoff and Daniel Charles Cloverger were married on June 4, 1999 at Our

Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington. A reception followed at the Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills.

The bride is the daughter of Frank and Vicki Lauhoff of Farmington. She is a graduate of Madonna University with a bachelor of science in nursing. She is a pediatric and maternity nurse at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

The groom is the son of Ron and Nancy Cloverger of Lansing and a graduate of Ferris State University with a plastics engineering/polymer science degree.

He is an account executive at Cooper Engineered Products in Farmington Hills.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Hawaii and now make their home in Novi.



WALLER-GURVICH
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Waller of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Cheryl Beth to Leonid Gur-

vich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vladimir Bogomolov of Redmond, Wash.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of North Farmington High School and a magna cum laude graduate of Brandeis University. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in fine arts and a post graduate certificate in publishing from Emerson College. She is a project manager at Jones Payne Architects and Planners in Boston.

The groom graduated cum laude from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He is pursuing a high technology master of business administration degree from Northeastern University in Boston. He is employed by Analog Corporation in Peabody, Mass.

A July wedding is planned.

Artists reception tonight is kickoff to FAC show

The Farmington Artist Club art show begins today Thursday, Nov. 4, with an artist's reception from 7-9 p.m. at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

The show was juried by Jon Krieger of Midland. He is the designer for future vehicles for Ford Motor Co. and Daimler-Chrysler Corp.

He has painted full-time since 1980, receiving over 50 awards in major national and international exhibitions and juried art shows across the country, as well as from Michigan Watercolor Society, Scarab Club and the American Watercolor Society. Corporations that collect his art have been Amway, Blodgett Hospital, Domino's Corp., General

Motors, Kellogg Foundation, McDonalds, Mazda USA, U-M Hospital, Upjohn and Walt Disney.

The fall show dates are 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday. Weekend hours are 10 to 8 Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6-7, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday Nov. 8.

The exhibition consists of

three sections: a juried art show, an open display of framed work, and a large selection of unframed art. FAC members are from throughout the metropolitan area. They work in media including watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, colored pencil, mixed media and collage. Their painting styles range from photo realism through abstract.

Picture perfect: Staci Miron (right) garnered a fourth place win for this piece in the Farmington Artist's Club juried art show. Below, Annetta Lind took third place for this work. The show opens tonight and continues through Monday at the Costick Center.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BADLER

Second place: Gwen Tomko with her award winning work. A wide variety of styles will be represented in the show.

FBI expert will address economic club

The chief of the FBI's Counterterrorism program will address the Women's Economic Club on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at the Marriott Hotel Renaissance-Detroit.

Guest speaker at the noon luncheon is Dale Watson, Inspector Deputy Assistant Director, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, who is responsible for the overall management of the FBI's Counterterrorism program.

Tickets are \$22 for members and \$27 for guests. For reservations, call 313-963-5088.



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	Sug. Retail	Our Price	Sug. Retail	Our Price
Highball (set of 4)	\$ 40.00	\$29.95	Teapot	\$160.00
Double Old Fashion	40.00	29.95	Two-Tiered Tray	50.00
Wine Glass (set of 4)	45.00	29.95	Candleholder (each)	45.00
Salt & Pepper Shakers	50.00	29.95	Med. Tree-Shaped Dish	60.00
14" Oval Platter	125.00	59.95	Open Vegetable Bowl	105.00
16" Oval Platter	150.00	69.95	Mug (set of 4)	72.00
Soup Plate	32.00	14.95	Tobler Tray	40.00
Collapsible	185.00	69.95	Carved Bowl	18.00
Gravy Boat/Stand	105.00	49.95	Fruit Slicer	21.00
Sugar Bowl w/ Lid	65.00	34.95	Spice Turbin w/ Lid	420.00
Creamer	42.00	29.95	Covered Veg. Bowl	240.00

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 Open Sunday!
 Oakley, Ann Arbor, Commodore • (734) 781-1002
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