



28 SEPTEMBER 2005



The Remington Report



Kent **REMINGTON** . Micanopy . FL
surf@pig.net
blackhawk@mfi.net

K. C. Remington has been giving a few of us the update on the Gulf Region, specifically about the rescue efforts of the stranded and abandoned pets and other animals within the zone of the two hurricanes, Katrina and Rita as they ravage the coasts of the Gulf. Below is the first in a series of stories about K.C.'s friend Meredith, for additional information and daily reports, you can go to the American Humane Association website at <http://www.americanhumane.org>

Micanopy Woman Joins Quest to Aid Storm Animals

By BOB ARNDORFER Staff Writer
The Gainesville Sun
08 September 2005

The heartbreaking story of Snowball, the little dog confiscated last week from a young boy as he boarded a bus to evacuate New Orleans' beleaguered Superdome, focused attention on another aspect of the misery caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The animals.
Meredith Shields of Micanopy missed the Snowball story, even though she's within 90 minutes of where it unfolded.

"There's no television out here," Shields



said Tuesday by cell phone from Lafayette, La. "I haven't heard about Snowball."

As a national first responder with the American Humane Association's disaster team, Shields has been busy the past week with other animals. The day after Katrina devastated much of coastal Mississippi and Louisiana on Aug. 29, she and another responder, Ginger Bross, drove a truck from Micanopy into the heart of the wreckage to join a handful of other animal-rescue specialists from the American Humane Association and the Humane Society of the United States.

On Tuesday she was at the Cajundome, a facility in Lafayette being used as a Red Cross shelter for evacuees from New Orleans 80 miles to the south. A shelter for animals also has been set up outside the Cajundome.

"We've got about 270 animals here now," Shields said, her voice at times drowned out by the sound of barking dogs. "Most of them are dogs, then come cats and a handful of birds. All are owned by evacuees who for the most part feed and walk their animals. If they can't, we do it.

"There's a gentleman at the shelter here who said he and his dog were on their roof for three days before someone rescued them," she said.

People in the Gainesville area who couldn't go to personally assist in animal relief are helping in other ways.

"We've contacted most of the veterinarians and clinics in the area and many are setting up collection boxes for food and supplies," said Mary Decker, a certified veterinary technician at Aalatah Animal Hospital in Gainesville.

As she did after last year's storms in Florida, she's helping coordinate the effort to collect money, food and such supplies as collars, leashes, food and water bowls, crates and cages, litter, litter boxes and scoops. She's working with Sandi Huffman, a veterinarian who runs a mobile service.

"In New Orleans helicopters were rescuing people, but they had to leave their pets behind," Huffman said. "And there were people who were staying behind because of their animals."

It isn't just household pets that have been affected by the storm, she said. In rural areas of Louisiana and Mississippi, horses often ended up as strays and are in need of food and supplies, such as halters and leads, Huffman said.

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine is awaiting word from federal and state authorities on when it can get directly involved in the animal-relief effort, said college spokeswoman Sarah Carey.

"I know we'll be doing something," she said. "But (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) has to give us the go-ahead. We've been told to hold off until the situation gets better."

Meanwhile, she said, UF vet students are planning a weekend pet-and-car wash to raise money for animal relief. It will be held Sept. 17-18 at the vet school on SW 16th Avenue.

The Alachua County Humane Society has collected about \$1,500 in donations to the Katrina animal fund. It also is accepting donations of pet food and supplies at its 2029 NW 6th St. office.

"We're looking for a driver to ship food donations to the hurricane-damaged areas," said Becky Goodman, director of the Alachua County Humane Society.

She said they've gotten several calls from people offering to provide foster homes for animals left temporarily homeless by Katrina.

"That's kind of a dilemma for us because we have animals in Alachua County that are dying because we can't find homes for them," Goodman said. "So we're doing what we can to balance the animals at risk in this county and to help those in Louisiana."

Goodman said money collected locally will be distributed evenly among the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of the United States and the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in the Gulf Coast region affected by Katrina.

Back on the front lines of animal relief, Shields said the drives for money, food and supplies are critical because the American Humane Association and the Humane Society of the United States rely entirely on donations for the assistance they give in disaster situations.

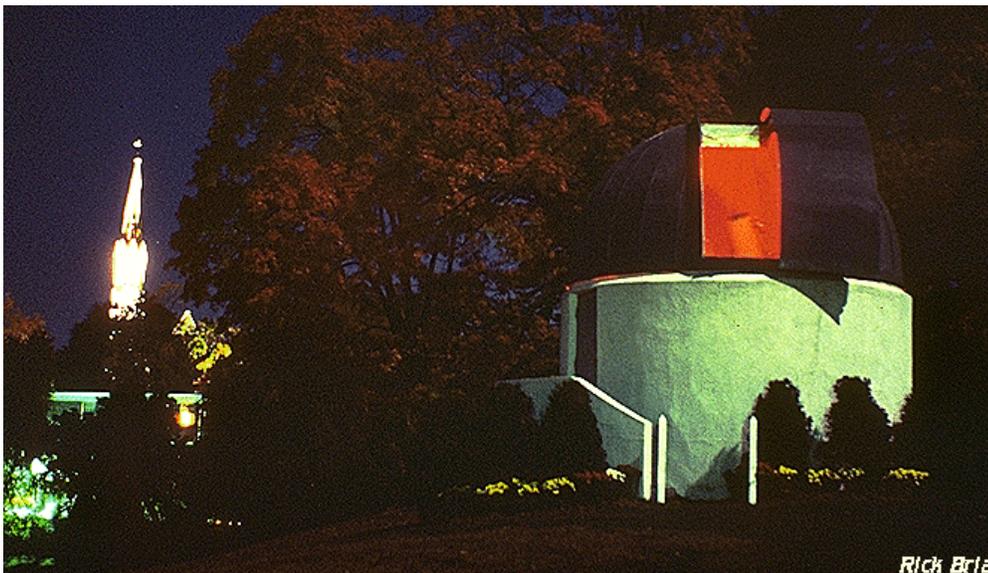
She and Bross joined about 10 others from across the country that are trained to provide initial response to care for animals during a disaster. Last year Shields spent two weeks in Punta Gorda after Hurricane Charley, and she was in Alabama after Hurricane Ivan. "This is worse than Punta Gorda because the damage is so widespread," she said.

She said they met a family of evacuees from New Orleans who were taking their three dogs and two cats and moving to Michigan. "A lot of people realize they have nothing to go back to and they're planning new lives," she said.

She and other responders have been going where the state veterinarian tells them a need exists. They helped assess the damage at some chicken farms in southern Mississippi, where in one county alone as many as 18 million chickens may have been killed.

On Labor Day, Shields said, some members of their team started going into northern New Orleans - at times under military escort - to start looking for animals left behind. "We've gotten hundreds of requests," she said. "People have left their addresses and want us to check for the animals. We need to go out and check all those requests."

About the Bowman Observatory



Built in the 1940's by Alden W. Smith, a science teacher at Greenwich High School, the Bowman Observatory has always been a teaching facility. The building, renovated and reopened in 1986, is owned by the Greenwich Board of Education and contains a 12 1/2" Meade reflecting telescope. The Observatory is open by appointment for group visits, and we welcome the opportunity to acquaint area teachers, students, and parents with

the joys of amateur astronomy. Operated by members of the Astronomical Society of Greenwich, the Observatory is open to the public, free of charge, on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, weather permitting, and also for special celestial events.

Bowman Observatory Reopens Tonight

By Keach Hagey Staff Writer
The Greenwich Time

Published 14 September 2005

If aliens are studying our species from afar, they could conclude a lot about us from the fact that something as terrestrial as liability insurance could shut the town's only public window to the universe for nearly a year.

But that's what happened at the Bowman Observatory, where the Astronomical Society of Greenwich's 20-year tradition of holding bimonthly public viewings was suspended last fall after the Board of Education, which owns the facility, discovered the evening events weren't covered by its insurance.

"It broke my heart," said Rick Bria, a society volunteer who has maintained the telescope and led the viewings since 1986. "I had people calling me up throughout the year saying they wanted to go through the observatory, and who were left out in the cold."

The hiatus will end tonight, when the society will resume its Public Nights on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. The society and school district solved the insurance problem by organizing the events under the umbrella of the district's newly reorganized department of Adult and Continuing Education.

The problem started with a leaky roof on the dome, which was built in the 1940s by Greenwich High School science teacher Alden W. Smith as an educational tool for students. After several years of patching holes, Bria and other members of the society appealed last year to the Board of Education, which allocated \$30,000 in its 10-year capital improvement budget for a new roof scheduled to be installed next year.

However, in the process of reviewing the request, district facilities officials noticed that, because society members were volunteers and not Greenwich Public Schools staff, they weren't covered under the district's insurance.

"Because of risk management, I'm not authorized under board policy to provide keys to the school facilities to non-school personnel and to open them up to public use," said Sue Wallerstein, assistant superintendent of business services.

Anne Burns, president of the society, said the board had originally urged them to buy their own insurance, but the cost was prohibitive for the 50-member volunteer-run organization. They found a temporary solution of including GHS physics and astronomy teacher Joseph Wesley in the nights, but he often had to leave before the two-hour public viewings would normally conclude, Bria said.

"It was awkward at best," he added.

By November, they decided to stop them altogether until the permanent solution was found this spring. Both Burns and Bria were relieved to have their program insured under Continuing Education, and eager to return to conducting their service for the community.

To run them, Bria moves the 12 1/2-inch Meade reflector telescope to several positions in the sky, and then lets visitors look through it one by one while answering questions.

"I've heard just about every question you can think of, from 'Is there life on other planets?' to 'How far away is that star?' "Bria said."One kid asked, 'What does Jupiter smell like?' "

Bria, a self-taught amateur astronomer who works at an auto dealership by day, said the last question was always his favorite since it was the amazement of seeing Jupiter through a telescope as a child that got him hooked on skygazing.

On Tuesday, provided the weather is clear, he expects highlights to include a good view of the shadow details in the moon's craters, Venus in the west and the star cluster M13 r. "We just show people around the universe," he said.

The observatory, located at Julian Curtiss School, 180 E. Elm St., is open to the public, free of charge, on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, weather permitting, and also for special celestial events. It is also open by appointment for group visits. For more information, call Anne Burns at 869-6786 x 338 or visit www.seocom.com/asg.

An Evening of Deceit



Joyce **LANTERNA** Tracksler (1959)
Kittery Point . Maine
joyce@jtracksler.com

The book-reading was held at JoAnn's Tom E Toes on Tuesday 20 September 2005, and the event was a success. Not just because of Joyce's Book, but the turnout of a group of old classmates and friends created the "aura" of a class reunion for the years 1953 to 1973... with someone from each year at least

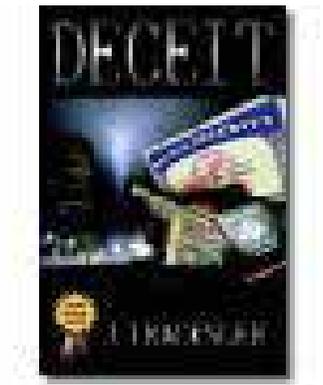
in the crowd. There was also, one wonderful lady that I

spent most of my time talking to. Being the "worst reporter" at W3W2 Newsletters, I forgot to write down her name,

but she was the Head Cook at North Street School, as well as at Eastern Junior High. This lovely lady, spent a while reminiscing about my mother and the mothers of several other 1962 grads, including John Kolok and Rudyard McGary. Of course, tears welled up when she talked of the death of Rudd as she remembered him as always being at the events that the Cook's held.



Not forgetting the purpose of the evening, but I did purchase a copy of Deceit and have gotten about 2/3rds of the way through it. I will spare any comments until I finish. The book is a great read and it is "a mystery". To top off the evening's event, Tony Ginise (1953) had a cake made in the image of the Book. Right down to the level of delineations of the pages... The book is now on the "Best Eating" list... Let's hope that it also makes the Best Sellers.



President Bush Sells Louisiana Back to the French

BATON ROUGE, LA. - The White House announced today that President Bush has successfully sold the state of Louisiana back to the French at more than double its original selling price of \$11,250,000.

"This is a bold step forward for America," said Bush. "And America will be stronger and better as a result. I stand here today in unity with French Prime Minister Jacques Shirak, who was so kind to accept my offer of Louisiana in exchange for 25 million in cash."

The state, ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, will cost hundreds of billions of dollars to rebuild. "Jack understands full well that this one's a 'fixer upper,'" said Bush. "He and the French people are quite prepared to pump out all that water, and make Louisiana a decent place to live again. And they've got a lot of work to do. But Jack's assured me, if it's not right, they're going to fix it."

The move has been met with incredulity from the beleaguered residents of Louisiana. "Shuba-pie!" said New Orleans resident Willie Babineaux. "Frafer-perly yum kom drabby sham!" However, President Bush's decision has been widely lauded by gleeful Republicans.

"This is an unexpected but brilliant move by the President," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. "Instead of spending billions and billions, and billions of dollars rebuilding the state of Louisiana, we've just made 25 million dollars in pure profit!"

"This is indeed a smart move," commented Fox News analyst Brit Hume. "Not only have we stopped the flooding in our own budget, we've made money on the deal. Plus, when the god-awful French are done fixing it up, we can easily invade and take it back again." The money gained from 'The Louisiana Refund' is expected to be immediately pumped into the rebuilding of Iraq.