

Additional Display Cabinets Available for Sponsorship

The ISVMA and the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine have made additional display cabinets available for sponsorship in the Dr. Walter E. Zuschlag/ISVMA Veterinary Heritage Collection and Information Commons. Interest in this important project has been very strong and we have acquired more space to chronicle the history of veterinary medicine for students, alumni, and public.

We are inviting individuals, practices, classes, or other groups to sponsor display cabinets within the collection. The cost of sponsorship is \$3500 for which you will have an engraved brass nameplate permanently affixed to the cabinet of your choice. This is an outstanding way to provide a living legacy to your commitment to the veterinary profession in Illinois!

NOTE: The engraved brass nameplates will be ordered on Friday, June 22. Please contact Brenda Betts at bbetts@uiuc.edu before Friday if you wish to sponsor a display case and want to assure your sponsorship is included in the brass nameplate order!

The collection will affirm the important contributions of veterinary medicine in the past and its important role in the current and future protection of the health and welfare of animals and the public. The Veterinary Heritage Collection and Information Commons is envisioned as a place for veterinary students to study surrounded by hundreds of artifacts and documents that bring to life the everyday efforts and extraordinary achievements of Illinois veterinary practitioners, educators, and researchers.

The Dr. Walter E. Zuschlag/ISVMA Veterinary Heritage Collection and Information Commons will be dedicated at the College of Veterinary Medicine's Fall Conference for Veterinarians which will be held on October 4-5, 2007. I hope you will join us at the ceremony and enjoy touring the collection!

ISVMA Looking for Quality Veterinary Antiques

The ISVMA Museum Committee is meeting on Friday and Saturday (June 22 & 23) in Champaign to sort through thousands of antique veterinary equipment, books and collectibles. The committee volunteers will be making decisions on what items will be displayed in the Dr. Walter E. Zuschlag/ISVMA Veterinary Heritage Collection and Information Commons at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

ISVMA welcomes any high quality veterinary antiques and collectibles that can be used in the collection. We're looking for items that will really capture the attention of visitors and/or help visitors better understand the history of how professional veterinary medicine displaced the quackery and snake oil salesmen that were so prevalent until the early 20th Century.

If you have an item or items to donate, please contact Peter Weber, ISVMA Executive Director at peter@isvma.org.

Membership Renewal Period Ends June 30, 2007

Membership renewal packets were mailed to all ISVMA members in early May. The ISVMA membership year ends on June 30, 2007 and all renewals are due at that time.

The ISVMA Constitution states that "any member whose dues are 30 days past due shall be suspended and all privileges of membership discontinued. Members suspended for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated at any time upon payment of the current year's dues. The membership of those members who are under suspension for nonpayment of dues at the close of a membership year shall have all membership rights and privileges withdrawn."

Membership retention ratios are the best barometer of whether ISVMA is providing a level of service and support that is expected by our members. As such, they are even more important than acquiring new members.

For the past three years, ISVMA has retained an average of 97% of its members. All but a very few non-renewals are the result of a member moving to another state, retiring from practice or death.

If you have any questions about your membership renewal or did not receive your membership renewal packet, please contact Kyle Christiansen, ISVMA Director of Membership Services, at kyle@isvma.org.

About the Photo in This Issue...

The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) is a graceful, long-winged raptor that is found in scattered localities across the southern and central United States. It is a beautiful, falcon-like bird whose body is an overall gray color and whose head is a lighter ashy gray. It has a completely black tail, deep red eyes, and yellow to red legs. In flight, the Mississippi Kite is smooth, graceful, and buoyant.

Mississippi kites are very social in all activities. They do not maintain territories and they congregate at roosts in late summer. They primarily are insect eaters, with a preference for grasshoppers, cicadas, dragonflies, and other insects that they will, at times, catch in flight and consume in midair. Kites have been known to fly about cattle and horsemen in order to catch insects that are stirred up from the grass. They sometimes will feed on small snakes, lizards, frogs and small birds.

Paired kites generally begin nesting soon after their arrival in their old nests or in newly constructed ones. In late May or early June, kites breed and both sexes will incubate usually two bluish-white eggs until they hatch 31 to 32 days later. Mississippi kites, at times, cause problems for unsuspecting individuals. Kites, like many other birds, will dive at animals and people that venture too closely to their nests. This diving behavior is simply an attempt to ward off potential threats to the nest and young. Once the young leave the nest some 30 to 34 days after hatching, kites will stop their protective behavior. Kites normally may live to seven years of age in the wild.

Mississippi kites are highly migratory. They winter in central South America, but may occur casually as far north as southern Texas. In the spring, they often migrate in groups of 20 to 30 to their nesting sites in Arizona, east to southeastern Colorado, southern Kansas, southern Missouri and the southeastern states. In Illinois, their breeding range includes the northwestern third of Texas and North-Central Texas. It is also a very local nesting species in East Texas.

In Illinois, the Mississippi Kite is listed as an endangered species. It is an uncommon wanderer and local summer resident near the Mississippi River in the state's southern counties and is a rare wanderer into central Illinois.

In Illinois, Mississippi Kites require at least two major habitat types: wooded tracts for nesting and open fields or prairies for feeding. In Union County, kites used mature, mixed bottomland forest for nesting and fallow fields, mixed forest, marshes, or other openings for feeding. This species is known to reuse old nest sites

I photographed this Mississippi Kite in Cottonwood Canyon, CO in May 2007.

Contact Us

Please feel free to forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to veterinarians that are not receiving ISVMA's electronic newsletter. Any ISVMA member may subscribe to the E-SOURCE for free:

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to info@isvma.org and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISVMA values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email info@isvma.org.