



Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association 10-Year Anniversary 1997-2007

Volume 10, Issue 2

March 2007

“The goals of the Minnesota Building Permits Technicians Association is to provide, promote, and support education, networking, professionalism, certification, and recognition of its membership.”

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**People Helping People
Build A Safer World!**

MBPTA 10-Year Anniversary Lapel Pins

Are you creative? We could use your help. MBPTA is in the process of designing anniversary pins. If you have any ideas, please contact any of the officers with your ideas! We would appreciate your input.

2007 Building Safety Week Theme:

“Building Smarter...for Disasters and Everyday Life”

Building Safety Week is scheduled for May 7-13, 2007.

Sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, Building Safety Week is a special time set aside to increase the general public's awareness about the importance of making homes and buildings safe places where people can live, work, and play. Start planning now to celebrate Building Safety Week 2007 in your community. For more information, go to www.icc.org.



If you are interested in becoming a member of MBPTA, further information is available on our website.

Attention MBPTA

Members:

If you would like serve on an MBPTA Committee, please contact me at (763) 717-4028 or at barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us.

We're on the web....visit us at www.MBPTA.org

If you would like information regarding the Building Permit Technician program, you can obtain information by visiting the Inver Hills Community College website at www.inverhills.edu or the North Hennepin Community College website at www.nhcc.edu/schedule/. The courses are under "Building Permit Technology."

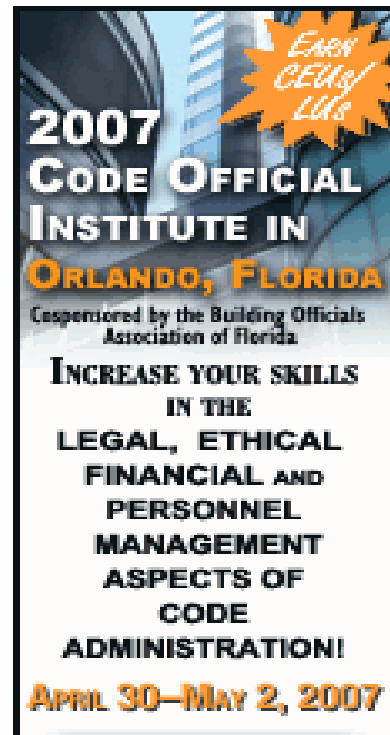
Please contact Barb Benesch at 763-717-4028 or barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us by Friday, February 23, 2007, only if you are planning to attend.



2007 Codes Forum

May 18-26, 2007

Rochester, New York
Make a difference in building safety and fire prevention...
Participate in the 2007 Codes Forum



**NEXT MEETING AGENDA: Tuesday, March 27, 2006
9:30 a.m., City of Mounds View**

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of minutes for February 27th, Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
 - Education/Planning - Britt Pease - (update on the Feb 27th mtg.)
 - Annual School - Discussion - Michele Engberg
 - By-Laws - Carri Levitski
 - Communication Committee - Barb Benesch/Barb Williams
 - 10K Lakes Representative - Aaron Borken
 - State Advisory Board - Carri Levitski
- General Business
 - Region III - Britt Pease - Roger Axel
 - New MBPTA Pin - Discussion
 - Caring for our community - Aaron Borken
 - Open Floor for Comments/Questions/Discussions
- Adjourn

Education

Kathi Osmonson, Building Official/Fire Marshall for the City of Mounds View will be providing hands on fire extinguisher training. Participants will receive a training certificate.

Next Meeting—May 22nd City of New Hope where Robin Roscoe, with the MN Department of Labor & Industry will be doing a demonstration on the online surcharge charge report.

Directions to Mounds View City Hall:

From South: I-694 to I-35W north to County Road 10 (not Highway 10) to Edgewood Drive, take right and then left into the parking lot (across the street from Walgreen's)

From North: I-35W south to County Road I exit, take left (west) to Edgewood Drive to City Hall on right (across from Walgreen's)

All meetings will be the LAST Tuesday of every other month @ 9:30 a.m., unless notified otherwise.

'PIECES' FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Help Support those in need...Bring a non-perishable food item for the Minnesota food shelf. Or donate cash, \$1.00 will buy \$9.00 worth of food for the Minnesota food shelf.



Committee meetings are conducted via e-mail. If you have any information you would like to share with committee members, please address your e-mails to all committee members. Please include all officers in your e-mails. We will try this out---if it does not work efficiently, we will go back to holding actual meetings.

Members,

March 21st is the first day of Spring. It's amazing how fast the months just fly by. With Spring upon us I'm sure we are all starting to get busier and busier. We had our first meeting of the new year on February 27th at the City of Cambridge with Steve Nelson, City of Shoreview Building Official, doing a presentation on the carbon monoxide law effective January 2007. Mr. Nelson also did PowerPoint presentation for the group on "Construction Bloopers". We also had a wonderful surprise, Rita Swearingen, ICC Regional Manager of Government Relations attended our meeting. Rita, it was a pleasure to meet you and we hope to see you again soon. A special thank you goes out to Carri Levitski, City of Cambridge for hosting the meeting. Thank you also to Mr. Nelson for taking the time to speak to our group and for your continued support of MBPTA.

I had the opportunity to attend the Annual Institute for Building Officials at U Of M in January and the ICC Upper Great Plains Region II Institute in February. Both of the institutes were outstanding. At the Region III Institute there was a sequence of Region III member meetings, board meetings, and events. The first Region III Presidents Summit was held on Thursday, February 8th. Many ICC officials were in attendance and it was a great opportunity for our members to meet and interact with them. In this newsletter, I included a section of notes and pictures from the Region III Institute.

Region III donated two booths to all Region III chapters at the institute's trade show to hand out chapter information. I do feel that by being at the trade show in 2006 and handing out membership information it generated a lot of interest from Building Officials and also some new members for our organization. I hope that we are as successful in 2007. My thanks to Britt Pease, Jennifer Harmer and Lisa Kelleher for helping our chapter staff the booth.

Looking ahead, our next meeting is March 27th at the City of Mounds View where Kathi Osmonson, Building Official/Fire Marshall for the City of Mounds View, will be providing hands on fire extinguisher training. Participants will receive a *training certificate*. Our May 22nd meeting will be held at the City of New Hope where Robin Roscoe, with the MN Department of Labor & Industry, will be doing a demonstration on the online surcharge report.

We continue our search for volunteers to actively participate in our committees. We have openings on some of our committees. If you are not actively participating in MBPTA, I would encourage you to join the team. Your input is valued and necessary for this organization to remain viable. Remember, our association is only as good as our members want to make it. Hope to see everyone at our next meeting. **Cecy Lukoskie, President MBPTA**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you to Carri Levitski and the City of Cambridge for hosting the February 27th meeting.

A huge thank you to Steve Nelson, Building Official for the City of Shoreview, for his presentation at the February meeting and for his continued support of MBPTA.

There is a MBPTA survey attached. Please take a moment to complete it and e-mail it to barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us! Thank You!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR INFORMATION



As you may have noticed, the newsletter format has changed. And it may keep changing for the next couple of issues until we find a format that works for us. I have never taken a Publisher class and just jumped in with both feet, so bear with me.

As always, please make sure you send all RSVP's and mailing list information to Barb Benesch. You only need to RSVP if you are coming to the meeting. You need not respond if you will not be able to make it (unless you are an officer).

If you are currently receiving a hard copy through the mail, and you have access to e-mail, please let me know and I will put you on the e-mail list.

We would love to receive articles for this newsletter! If you have any information, ideas or tidbits you would like to share, let us know.

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ICC Contacts



1-888-ICC-SAFE
(422-7233)

When calling this number you will have the option to push "0" for an operator, get a "dial-by-name" directory or push "3" for a list of departments.

Web address: www.iccsafe.org

ICC eNews

Are you current with the latest news from ICC?

By subscribing to ICC eNews or ICC Chapter eNews, you can stay in the know on what's happening with ICC and ICC Chapters. Each month, you will receive an electronic newsletter in your email that contains a variety of news pertaining to ICC and the building safety industry. The electronic newsletter will also provide contact information for ICC's various offices and updates on the various services and benefits that are offered, including information on new products, code interpretations, certifications and renewals for industry professionals.

To subscribe, go to: ICC eNews
<http://www.iccsafe.org/news/eNews/subscribe.html>

ICC Chapter eNews

You're Invited to Chat with the President



Wally Bailey

International Code Council Board President Wally Bailey will hold the first in a series of "Fireside Chats" on Tuesday, March 6. This 90-minute teleconference, which will originate from Bailey's office in Fort Smith, Arkansas, at 3 p.m. EST, is part of an ongoing effort to improve communications with Code Council members and stakeholders. It will allow listeners to ask questions and participate in the discussion.

The concept of fireside chats dates back more than 70 years, when President Franklin Roosevelt's radio broadcasts became a staple in American homes during the Depression and World War II. FDR's fireside chats gave people a chance to hear directly from the President himself on important issues of the day.

We hope you will join the March 6 Fireside Chat. To do so, [you must register in advance](#). Once registered, you will receive an e-mail with the dial-in number (toll-free in the U.S.), a unique access code and directions on how to participate.

MBPTA EDUCATION

How to Become a Certified Permit Technician

Books needed for the test

2006 IBC (chapters 1-3, 6, 12 and 34)
2006 IZC
2002 Legal Aspects
Basic Code Enforcement 8th printing
You Can Build It has been removed from the exam

Additional Study Material

ICC Study CD
ICC Permit Technician Study Companion

Exam Details and Fees

\$170.00 computerized
60 multiple-choice questions—
Open Book—2hour limit
General Administration 39%
Legal Aspects 22%
Plans and Documents 25%
Zoning and Site Development 14%

Upcoming Meeting Education:

March – Fire Safety and Extinguisher Training – City of Mounds View

May – Surcharge Reporting - City of New Hope

July – 2006 Code Changes (Windows, Siding and Roofing) - City of Elk River

Would you like to see something appear in the next newsletter? Please contact Editor Barb Benesch at barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us!

The Permit Technician Certification Exam has changed as of January 2007.

Reference materials required will be: 2006 IBC; 2006 Zoning Code, 2002 Legal Aspects; "You Can Build It" has been replaced with "Basic Code Enforcement". Basic Code Enforcement is new and available on the ICC Web-Site <http://www.iccsafe.org/dyn/prod/1016S02.html>. Be sure to check the Candidates Bulletin for a list of reference materials that will be needed when you schedule your exam: www.iccsafe.org/certification/bulletin.html and double check www.promissor.com to be sure you have the proper information when you take your test.

Just For Fun

Spring Trivia

1. On the first day of spring, the hours of daylight and of darkness are equal. True False
2. During the vernal equinox, around March 21st, an egg will stand on its small end. True False
3. The ancient Greeks celebrated Mother's Day in spring. True False
4. Finding a four-leaf clover is thought to bring you good luck. True False
5. The area along the California-Oregon border is known as the "Easter Lily Capital of the World."
 True False
6. Baby birds must learn how to sing. True False
7. Arbor Day, which encourages the planting of trees and celebrates the role trees play in the environment, is traditionally celebrated on the last Monday in April. True False
8. Spring Fever is a real physical condition. True False
9. An emerald represents spring. True False

Welcome ICC Representatives!

ICC Upper Great Plains Region III Institute a huge success!



Region III banquet was held Wednesday, February 7th with **Sara Yerkes**, ICC Sr. Vice President Government Relations speaking to the group.



Patrick Parsley, Region III President

Region III also had the first Presidents Summit on Thursday, February 8th with Mr. Wally Bailey, President of ICC in attendance. Chapter presidents from all five states were invited to this summit. If you didn't attend the Region III Institute this year I encourage you to make it a priority in 2008. This institute had an atmosphere of a true regional event.



Mr. Wally Bailey



Experts in the Field Wanted

ICC is seeking individuals experienced in the field who want to take the next step in their professional career by participating on an [ICC National Examination Development Committee](#).



2007 MBPTA Meeting Dates and Locations

Tuesday, March 27th— City of Mounds View
Tuesday, May 22nd— City of New Hope
Tuesday, July 24th— City of Elk River
Tuesday, September 25th— City of Blaine

Coming in next issue.....

Survey Results!

DRAFT MINUTES—Tuesday, February 27, 2007—Cambridge City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The following officers were present at this meeting: President Cecy Lukoskie; Vice-President Britt Pease, Secretary Barb Benesch; Treasurer I Jennifer Harmer and Treasurer II Lisa Kelleher. The following members and guests were present: Amy Weitalla, Carol Tempesta, Carri Levitski, Connie Duellman, Debi Close, Eileen Ottney, Jackie Freppert, Jeanne Witczek, Karen Zacho, May Vang, Michelle Engberg, Patti Wasmund, Patty Boysen, Robin Roscoe, Roger Axel, Tori Leonhardt, and Rita Swearingen.

Introductions took place. Following introductions, Jeff Pleski, Building Inspector for the City of Cambridge, addressed the group expressing his deep admiration and respect for MBPTA and for all that Permit Technicians do. He also personally commended Member Carri Levitski, Permit Tech for the City of Cambridge, for her professionalism and the expertise she provides their department.

Jeanne Witczek made a motion, seconded by Carri Levitski, to approve the December 5, 2006, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer II Kelleher gave the Treasurer's Reports for January and February 2007, noting that expenditures for January totaled \$531.00 and there were \$1,550 in deposits; and there were no expenditures for February and deposits totaled \$950. She also reported the balance in our account (copy of the reports are attached).

Committee Reports:

Education/Planning - President Lukoskie started the meeting by informing members that we need to address the education for the upcoming meetings for 2007. She also indicated that we needed input regarding the MBPTA fall seminar, the U of M Annual School in January, and Region III education in February. She reminded the group that the Education Committee would be meeting immediately following the regular meeting.

There was some discussion regarding combining the Annual School and Education Committees but that this would require a policy change in the Bylaws which could only be voted on in November. She asked members for input regarding this proposed change.

We discussed topics for upcoming meetings including Surcharge reporting, SAC reporting, Roofing/Siding/Window fundamentals and upcoming code changes. It was suggested that an e-mail be sent requesting members to provide input for future education topics.

It was suggested that a "blog" placed on the MBPTA website to assist with communication. It was reported that Barb Williams was working on this but is having difficulties getting it up and running. It was noted that ICC has a new Rewards Program designed for chapters and that keeping up our website may earn us points. This program rewards chapters for tasks that are accomplished and then the points that are earned could be redeemed for certain benefits, such as education.

It was brought to the group's attention at this time that ICC Government Relations Regional Manager, Rita Swearingen, was in attendance at the meeting. (Rita had missed introductions). Rita offered some helpful information to members regarding ICC and added that members could contact her if they had any questions regarding ICC.

Annual School - Member Michele Engberg expressed her concerns with the lack of member feedback regarding education topics. She also had concerns with combining committees since currently both the education committee and the annual school committee have such specific agendas for planning the education.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding education topics, committee breakdowns, communication, and also what kind of role the University of Minnesota sees MBPTA playing in the education committee this year.

Member Engberg also had concerns about whether or not she should continue representing MBPTA at the U of M education meetings when she hadn't been officially asked to do so. Several members expressed their desire to have Member Engberg continue her role as MBPTA representative.

Carri Levitski made a motion, seconded by Patti Wasmund, to have Michele Engberg continue to attend the University of Minnesota Annual School committee meetings as a representative for MBPTA. Motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws - Member Carri Levitski volunteered to remain in this committee, along with President Lukoskie. It was also noted that Secretary Benesch had contacted the members to have a notary present to sign the Bylaws. Amy Waitalla volunteered to notarize the officer's signatures.

Communications Committee - Barb Williams was not present, however, it was pointed out that some updates had been made to the MBPTA website. Member Levitski also volunteered to help on this committee since she has experience in website development. There were concerns regarding the fact that only Member Williams could make updates to the website, even though other members had volunteered to assist in this area. President Lukoskie indicated that she has tried several times to gain access to the site but has been unsuccessful. Vice-President Pease volunteered to contact Williams to get further details and host information for the site. Member Levitski commended Secretary Benesch for her work on the newsletter.

10K Lakes - Aaron Borken was not present, however, Building Official, Steve Nelson, reported that Kevin White is the new President of 10K Lakes and that there were also three new board members. He also reminded the group that the annual roadside clean-up project is scheduled for the first week in May and also that the scholarship applications will soon be accepted for 10K Lakes members. He also mentioned that 10K's summer conference in July is at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd and the June golf tournament will be held at Izayts Golf and Yacht Club. He added that, as always, MBPTA members are invited to attend.

State Advisory Board - Member Levitski reported that Linda Singer attended the State Advisory Board meeting. (Member Singer was not currently present at the MBPTA meeting). Member Levitski briefly talked about the proposed four-year BIT degree offered from Southwest State University in southern Minnesota. She reported that this course should be available 100 percent on-line for the fall semester. She said she would provide further information at the next meeting.

General Business

Region III - President Lukoskie briefly talked about the Region III training regarding legal aspects that was held in February. There was a great deal of positive feedback regarding this training and it was suggested that this same training be provided as our MBPTA fall seminar. It was suggested that the title of the training be changed to hopefully draw more people; one suggestion was "Legal Strategies". President Lukoskie added that the Region III training was a wonderful experience with not only a fantastic seminar, but the Northland Inn provided ample space and great food. She continued by saying that members should take advantage of educational opportunities, get involved and meet people in our field.

She also reminded members that ABM will be taking place in Minnesota in 2008 and that Planning Committee Chair, Mr. Patrick Higgins, City of Minneapolis, is already seeking volunteers to assist with this international event and is requesting input from local ICC Chapters. President Lukoskie added that there are copies available of Mr. Higgins' e-mail requesting this assistance from chapters.

2007 Committee Roster - President Lukoskie noted that although we are in need of volunteers for specific committees such as the Bylaws and Communications Committee, we can actually use help on any of the committees. She stressed that it doesn't matter how many members currently serve on the committees and that any assistance would be appreciated. Please contact her with any questions.

Caring for the Community - Although Aaron Borken was not present at the meeting, he sent an e-mail in January to officers. He expressed how thrilled he was by the level of participation that the MBPTA membership has shown in making donations for food shelf relief and Toys for Tots. He adds that he believes that MBPTA is making a difference in the lives of others. He thinks that we should have an annual event and had a few ideas: Greater West Metro Animal Human Society Walk, Bowling fundraiser, Susan G. Koman Race for the Cure and Volunteering for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

This item will be added to the e-mail survey in addition to education topics.

Open Floor - It was announced that Ron Holden of the University of Minnesota's Building Code Division and the City of Brooklyn Park are hiring Permit Technicians.

President Lukoskie informed members that she would be on vacation for the March 27th meeting at the City of Mounds View.

President Lukoskie brought in a variety of chapter pins that she has collected over the past few years so that members could get an idea of what we would be interested in as a design for our next pin. It was debated on whether or not we should have a ten year anniversary pin made. Roger Axel suggested that since ABM is coming to Minnesota in 2008, he thinks it would be a good idea. He added that ten years as a chapter is a big accomplishment. He also added that AMBO is creating a pin made of wood.

Mr. Axel continued by informing members that next month Region III will be starting to plan their 2008 education and, as always, MBPTA members are invited to attend their meetings to provide input.

Amy Weitalla made a motion, seconded by Robin Roscoe, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Barb Benesch

MBPTA Secretary

Memo from ICC:

RE: Federal Rulemaking on Recognition of the IBC and IFC as providing equivalent protection as the OSHA egress requirements.

Dear ICC Member/Stakeholder:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed the adoption of a rule that recognizes and accepts the combined Means of Egress (MOE) provisions of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC) as meeting OSHA's federal egress requirements for worker safety.

An employer's demonstration of conformance with the MOE provisions prescribed by the IBC and IFC would constitute compliance with OSHA regulations and eliminate an unnecessary, duplicative administrative burden. This action also represents a significant additional federal recognition of and respect for the IBC and the IFC. Please use this link (<http://www.iccsafe.org/osha-s-778b>) to review an advance copy of ICC's comments supporting the adoption of this rule.

Please voice your support for the proposed rule by using this link (<http://www.congressweb.com/cweb4/index.cfm?orgcode=icc&hotissue=24>) to our web-based advocacy system so you can prepare, print and fax your comments to OSHA and add your voice to others in support of the proposed rulemaking. OSHA's deadline for comments on this rulemaking is Tuesday, February 20th, so please do act promptly if you can.

Thank you,

Sara Yerkes, Senior Vice President * Government Relations Department

International Code Council * 600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. * Washington, D.C. 20006 * 888-422-7233

Fire Extinguisher Training at Next Meeting

Kathi Osmonson, Mounds View Fire Marshal, will be conducting Fire Extinguisher training at the March 27, 2007, MBPTA meeting at Mounds View City Hall. After a short classroom training session and video tape, participants will adjourn to an outside location where they will be taught, under supervision of the Fire Marshal, how to correctly use these life saving devices. They will be extinguishing a fire that is created from a fire burn pan which allows participants to actually learn how to use an extinguisher through actual use.

You need to take care of your extinguisher. Read the instructions. Learn how to inspect it and follow manufacturer's instructions for maintenance. Rechargeable extinguishers must be serviced after every use. Disposable extinguishers can be used only once and must be replaced after use.

When using a fire extinguisher, remember **P.A.S.S.**

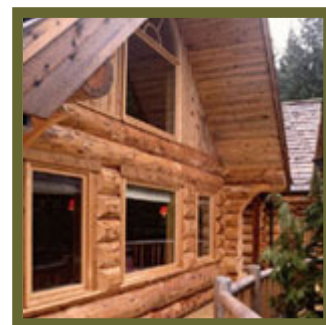
1. **P**ull the safety pin.
- 2, **A**im the nozzle or hose at the base of the flames.
3. **S**queeze or press the handle.
4. **S**weep from side to side.

Always have a clear exit at your back. Remember, fires grow quickly and are unpredictable. Evacuate the building. Have someone notify the fire department. Only fight a small fire with an extinguisher and know your extinguisher.



What to Do When Disaster Strikes?

Through practice exercises and case studies, participants in [When Disaster Strikes—An Institute for Disaster Response](#) will learn how to interface with onsite command structures; become a resource in identifying unsafe buildings and uninhabitable structures; and discover the skills, knowledge and tools needed to perform effectively as a Disaster Response Inspector. A customizable emergency preparedness kit, including a basic first-aid kit, disposable camera and training tools, will be provided to participants.



Standard Development Moves Forward

The [IS-LOG Standard](#) on Design and Construction of Log Structures has been submitted to ANSI for final approval. The standard should be published prior to the May 2007 ICC Final Action Hearings. The [IS-HRC Standard](#) for Residential Construction in High Wind Regions and the [IS-STM Standard](#) on Design, Construction and Performance of Storm Shelters are available for public comment. Both committees are expected to meet next month to consider comments.

ICC has the answers . . .

Benefits of [ICC membership](#) include expert code support services, opinions or technical assistance from experienced engineers and architects.

Answers to Spring Trivia (page 5)

- 1. True.** Around March 21st, the earth's position in its orbit around the sun places its equator in line with the sun. This time period is called the "vernal equinox" and is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. "Vernal" means spring and "equinox" means equal.
- 2. False.** Although some people would swear that an egg will stand on its small end during the vernal equinox, there's no scientific evidence to support these claims.
- 3. True.** The ancient Greeks celebrated Rhea, "Mother of the Gods," with honey-cakes, beverages, and flowers at dawn--the earliest known Mother's Day celebration.
- 4. True.** Four-leaf clovers are thought to bring good luck, but there's no scientific evidence to support that claim.
- 5. True.** An area along the California and Oregon border produces 95 percent of all bulbs grown in the world for the potted Easter lily market. They produce more than 11 million bulbs annually.
- 6. True.** Though baby birds are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the songs of their species. An isolated baby bird will learn simple songs, but not the complex songs of its species. A bird must hear in order to learn. Only a few birds can sing the songs of other species. The mockingbird seems to be the best at imitating the songs of other birds.
- 7. True.** Arbor Day is traditionally celebrated on the last Monday in April; however, each state can select its own date, depending on weather conditions. The first Arbor Day Celebration was held on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska.
- 8. True.** Spring Fever is a real physical condition which commonly occurs when a sudden warm spell follows a long cold period. When the temperature rises, the body has to get rid of heat; thus there's a dilation or expansion of the blood vessels so that blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. Some people experience an energetic feeling when this change happens due to the body's reaction to the great amount of internal work going on.
- 9. True.** An emerald represents spring, rebirth, hope, peace, and tranquility.

