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Birdling
BITS BY
Cindy Brook

Summertime Blues

If you live in the suburbs, you're in luck. Eastern bluebirds love an open habitat. Bring them into your yard by painting bluebird houses blue, providing mealworms in smooth bowls, and giving them something tall to perch on -- since they like to look for food from high places.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• Do you suffer from pogonophobia? If so, you don't have much to worry about in this largely clean-shaven day and age. Pogonophobia is simply a fear of beards.

• I'm sure you've heard in recent years about Americans' steadily increasing girth. It's not just our waistlines that are getting bigger, though; our homes are, too. In 1950, the average new house provided 290 square feet for each family member living there. By 2003, that figure was 893 square feet, or more than three times as much space as 50 years earlier.

• The next time you're enjoying a sweet potato, you might consider the enormous distance it probably traveled before arriving at your dinner table. Eighty-five percent of the world's yams come from China.

• It was noted American poet Allen Ginsberg who made the following sage observation: "Whoever controls the media, the images, controls the culture."

• The small Minnesota town of Whalen is home to a unique celebration every year: the Stand-Still Parade. Yep, it's a parade that doesn't move. Instead of spectators lining a parade route and floats driving past, at this event the floats stand still and the people mill around to view them.

• The first Band-Aid brand bandage didn't exactly look like the Band-Aids we're familiar with today. For instance, it was 3 inches wide and 18 inches long. A bit of overkill for a scraped elbow, I imagine.

• The carnival treat that we in the United States know as cotton candy is called "barbe a papa," or "father's beard" in French.

• Researchers aren't clear on exactly why it's true, but studies show that women are better at guessing people's ages than men are.

*** Thought for the Day: "A child's education should begin at least one hundred years before he is born."

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.
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JAZZERCISE

BECAUSE FIT CAN BE FUN !

MONDAY	5:45 PM - 6:45 PM
WEDNESDAY	5:45 PM - 6:45 PM
THURSDAY	5:45 PM - 6:45 PM
SATURDAY	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

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