

# 2005 Hargrove Annual Report, Executive Summary

(See the full report online at [www.hargrove.org/2005](http://www.hargrove.org/2005))

Let's start with **the big news**: Amy and Charles are **expecting a baby**, our first grandchild, in May. Now, a brief summary of the other news of the year.



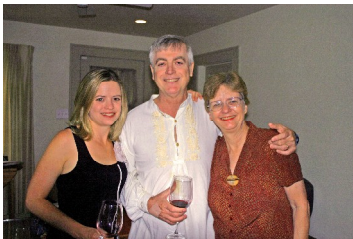
**Charles and Amy:** As reported last year, Charles and Amy moved to the Left Coast, settling in El Cerrito, near Berkeley, where they are renting a nice house and waiting for the housing market to ~~erash~~ return to normal. The house is conveniently located near the BART terminal, Amy's mother Marilyn, and a dog park even better than the one in Maryland.

Charles slaved away as an archivist at a daunting task: bringing order to the myriad boxes of paper at the Japanese American National Library in San Francisco. There is much work remaining, but he is done with his part and looking for something better.

Amy continues to work as a midwife and nurse practitioner, pulling down a 24-hour shift every Monday, including the day after Christmas.

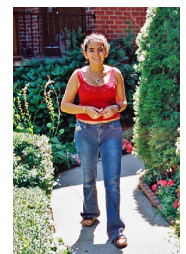
**Claire:** Finished her fellowship in Los Angeles, passed the boards (on the first try!) and started as a full-fledged pediatric anesthesiologist at Children's Hospital and Research Center in Oakland. Her plans for a nice apartment in *the city* ran into the same problem that Charles and Amy suffered. After reducing her expectations, she managed to find a comfortable apartment in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. Claire managed to travel as much as usual this past year. She learned to surf at an all-female surfing school on Mexico's west coast, then worked in another surfing trip to Baja. The complete list of Claire's travels is too long for this summary, but if you are curious, check out the web site.

**Jim and Linda:** With both kids out west, we naturally spent more time than usual exploring the delights of our most populous state, visiting for ten days around the Fourth of July and returning for a long weekend at Christmas. We found that if you drive north far enough in California, you can leave the population behind. We ventured up the coast to Mendocino County, where we spent a couple of days enjoying the few birds present in California in July. The Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden is a gem. We also got up close and personal with a male Spotted Owl who devoured four mice from Mike Stevens, a biological researcher, our guide for the evening. Back south, we spent a couple of days in Marin county, highlighted by seeing a herd of Tule Elk in the fog at Point Reyes National Seashore.



Over Labor Day, we flew to see Linda's sister, Leslie, in her new house in Seattle, taking Linda's mother, Lil, along for the ride. After a whirlwind round of whale-watching, BBQ with the neighbors, and a few spider photos, we headed home. We don't *yet* have plans to move to California.

**Panika:** Jim, in a display of avuncular responsibility, accompanied Panika to New York to help her get settled in Bronxville, NY. We managed to work in a *few* trips into the city for some poetry, map out the best walking route to Sarah Lawrence College, and find a great coffee shop that needed a part-time barista. One semester was enough to convince Panika that she needed to take some time off, so now she is back in Austin living with us working, as a part-time barista and doing some poetry. She plans to return to SLC in 2006.



**Belize:** In April, we joined other American Birding Association members for a quick trip to Chan Chich Lodge in Belize, an outpost of comparative luxury — and great food — reached after flying over seemingly trackless jungle.

Theoretically, you can drive there, but the route looked pretty difficult from the air. **Red-capped Manakins** and **Ocellated Turkeys** are common around the lodge and provided marvelous photographs, but the best bird of the trip was a Female **Ornate Hawk-eagle** and a fledgling who still wanted to be fed. The young bird's ceaseless calls made him easy to find, and the mother eventually returned one last time. A night walk turned up two snakes, one the highly-poisonous fer-de-lance, and *zillions* of wolf spiders, their tiny green eyes glowing with reflected light from Jim's new spider headlamp. Altogether, we managed to put together a nice list of 176 species, with 24 new ones.

**Unlovely Rita:** We didn't actually have to endure the hurricane, though we did have some unanticipated guests — Jenny Salomon with two friends and a spaced out cat — who straggled up to our doorstep after a horrendous 18-hour drive from Houston, six times as long as it normally takes. Claire had flown in a day earlier. The young people planned to attend the Austin City Limits Music Festival. TV alternated between blaring the news that Rita was the most intense hurricane in history, and telling us that the ACL Festival was still going to happen. In the end, the storm decided to change course at the last minute, making a mess of East Texas while leaving us with very hot (108°F) weather and not a drop of much-needed rain.

**Nature Photography:** This year, we decided to get serious about photography. We took a class on nature photography — mostly a waste of time as it concentrated on using film, but with some good tips on getting the right picture. We put some of the information to good use by acquiring a close-up macro lens to attach to our camera. That works quite well for most spider pictures. Then, on a late spring trip to Anahuac NWR, we missed getting a picture of an American Bittern eating a crawfish. That was enough incentive to buy a longer lens with an image-stabilization feature. This, together with the switch to digital photography, has revolutionized picture taking, making even amateurs capable of the occasional great shot. Jim has made great strides editing and enhancing pictures with Photoshop, but still needs Linda's editing suggestions. Check out some of our 2005 images of this year's offering on our web site.



**Texas Book Festival:** This year, as we have for several years, we attended the Texas Book Festival in late October. The featured speakers included Bill Clinton, Salmon Rushdie, Jane Smiley, David McCullough and Doris Kearns Goodwin. For the first time in our lives we stood in line for two hours with a bunch of interesting people to get wristbands that allowed entry into Bill Clinton's talk. Linda stood in line another couple of hours to get her copy of **My Life** signed. The book festival is well worth a trip to Austin. It's free, held in the state Capitol, and all the proceeds go to support Texas public libraries. Please come join us. We could have an intellectual *salon* that weekend, or perhaps a **Big Chill** get together.

**Other News:** We spent quite a bit of time in Houston this year, not only enjoying the world class ballet that has developed there, but also helping Jim's mother move from the home we've all loved since 1959 to an easier-to-maintain condo in the same high rise where Jim's sister Flo lives. Sometimes, when the weather cooperates, you can get a view that Tiel Way never had.



**Our 40th Rice Reunion** is next fall. We hope to see many old friends there.

**Closing thought, from Carl Sagan in *Cosmos*** "The cosmos is within us. We are made of star stuff. We are a way for the cosmos to know itself... We've begun at last to wonder about our origins, star stuff contemplating the stars, organized collections of ten billion billion billion atoms contemplating the evolution of matter, tracing that long path by which it arrived at consciousness.... Our obligation to survive and flourish is owed not just to ourselves but also to that cosmos, ancient and vast, from which we spring."