

# THE PORCELAIN PRESS

April 2011 - Weeks 1 & 2

## Special Points of Interest:

• Celebrate **Earth Day** at the ES&H Fair, April 21st in the atrium 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up:

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
April 21st, May 19th  
June 16th, July 21st  
August 18th  
Transportation to clean-up site from WH, GF east side. Cleaning gear will be provided. Hot dogs & refreshments served afterwards to all volunteers! Questions? Contact Bob Lootens at lootens@fnal.gov or x3303.

## ES&H Concern or Suggestion?

• Talk to your Supervisor, SSO or go to the ES&H homepage & click on 'Concerns & Suggestions'.

## Watch out for Aggressive Geese

It's mating season, the time of year when Canada geese aggressively defend their nests and goslings. This instinct is understandable in the wild, but problems arise when the nests are in human high-traffic areas such as near building entrances. Geese view people who need to enter those buildings as intruders. Employees & visitors have encountered geese that have threatened and chased them and a few have been struck or hurt by the birds (see injury statistics below). If you get near a nest or gosling, you may hear a goose's defensive hiss. This is typically a first warning. If you are near their young, the birds may charge or fly at you. The aggressive behavior usually lasts from the time eggs are laid until the offspring take on adult coloring in May.



Here are some tips for dealing with aggressive geese:

- Know where geese are likely to be in your area. Watch for geese and avoid nesting areas and goslings.
- Show them who is boss: When challenged by a goose, Fermilab's Roads and Grounds Department workers recommend making yourself look larger and more threatening by yelling and flapping your arms. Maybe it doesn't look especially cool, but this technique has been highly effective in getting geese to back down.
- Protect yourself. If a goose attacks, or threatens to attack, put whatever items are available to you, such as a briefcase, purse or umbrella, between you and the goose.
- **Most importantly:** Please report problem geese and their locations as soon as possible to Roads and Grounds at x3303.

Reporting problem geese can help to prevent others from being harassed or attacked by the same goose. Roads and Grounds staff can place temporary fences between nests and walkways or apply deterrent chemicals to grassy areas where geese forage. Fermilab has also contracted with the Geese Police, a goose-control company from Naperville. They employ specially-trained border collies to discourage geese from building near entrances and lawns. This technique may take a few days to work, but is highly effective.

## Injuries at FNAL caused by Goose Attacks

When injuries occur, they are usually from trying to elude the goose. Over the years most of these injuries were minor first aid cases, however a few have been more serious involving restricted work, medical treatment and time away from work. Below are four examples of recordable or Days Away Restricted Transferred (DART) cases from goose attacks.

March 2009 - The goose landed on the employee's shoulder during attack. This caused a serious injury that involved medical treatment and time away from work.

April 2007 - The employee's injuries were significant enough to require medical treatment and prescription drugs.

March 2005 - The employee tripped and fell while running to avoid a goose attack, bumping their head, resulting in medical treatment.

April 2000 - While trying to avoid an attack, the employee fell and cut themselves significantly enough to require 6 sutures.

