

Greetings From Our President

Welcome to The All-American Hookbill Fair & Seminar, at our new location, the Machinists' Hall in Bridgeton, MO. We hope that you enjoy the new location as you support the vendors and attend the seminars. This year the seminars will be held on the 2nd floor.

If you have never been to our Fair, you are in for a great experience. For those that have been to our Fair, welcome back. You will see and meet local and out-of-state vendors who can provide you with everything you need to keep your bird happy and healthy. There are so many things to choose from, such as bird food and snacks, toys and toy parts, cages, swings, play stands and play trees, perches, and of course, birds.

Our seminar series this year features nationally known Dr. Irene Pepperberg of the Alex Foundation. Dr. Pepperberg will speak both Saturday and Sunday. You can also talk with her and purchase books she has written about parrots in general and the African Grey Parrot in particular.

You will find the topics of our local seminar speakers to be very interesting, informative, and will include a bird toy workshop. You will find a complete speaker listing and schedule elsewhere in this program. All seminars are free with a paid admission to the fair.

The Gateway Parrot Club is also hosting a Cockatiel Show, sanctioned by the National Cockatiel Society, in conjunction with the Fair. Sandy Warren is the Show coordinator. The Cockatiel Show is Saturday, on the 2nd floor. Admission is free.

If you would like to know more about the Gateway Parrot Club, stop by the Membership Table; where you will find information about our club and talk with our members. You will also find membership forms, if you wish to join our club.

Our next Club meeting will be September 13, 2009 at 2pm. And, like always, is open to the public. Lisa Rose will be there to perform nail, wing, and beak trimming for your birds for a nominal fee of \$5.00 for each trimming. Proceeds will go towards PDD research.

I hope you have a great day and find everything you need for your feathered friends.

Dave Kinkade

President, Gateway Parrot Club

More About The Gateway Parrot Club

The Gateway Parrot Club, a not-for-profit organization established in 1988, is made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds and ages. We meet monthly, on the 3rd Sunday at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Rd, Kirkwood, MO at 2 PM. We exchange information on bird care and breeding in a friendly atmosphere. Our meetings feature an educational program with different topics each month. Meetings are free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring your bird to the meeting, and need not be a member to attend. However, if you do wish to become a member, a Membership form can be found on the inside cover of the fair booklet.

We have an outreach program to educate the public, where our members and their birds appear at community events to talk about companion birds. If you would like to arrange a visit to your organization, or know an organization that would, please contact one of our members. Our Mission Statement and contact information for our club officers are listed elsewhere in this program.

You can find out more about Club activities and birds in general on our website:

www.GatewayParrotClub.org

The website changes periodically, but always offers information about Club activities, details about and links to bird-related information. We also have an email/discussion group. To join, just point your browser to:

Groups.Yahoo.Com/Group/GatewayParrots

Gateway Parrot Club And Unweaned Birds

This is our eleventh annual Fair since adopting a policy prohibiting sale of unweaned birds. This is a firm commitment to the welfare of our avian friends.

We do not allow display or sale of unweaned birds at the Fair. All vendors have accepted this policy and we are proud of their commitment to the health and welfare of their fledglings. They have taken an extra step to provide a higher level of care than breeders who sell unweaned birds to inexperienced but well meaning people.

This is not an easy choice for these breeders. Many have birds they are unable to present today because they are too young to go home with you. We ask you to applaud these breeders. Talk to them. Get to know them, and arrange for them to introduce you to their young charges when they are truly ready to move on to a new and wonderful experience in a new home. Let them guide you, teach you, and help you make the right decision about the best bird to be your life-long companion.

Why? You might ask. Without going into the unpleasant details, there is a body of unfortunate incidents associated with well intentioned, but inexperienced, owners taking responsibility for the care of an unweaned bird and not fulfilling that responsibility. More than ten years ago we were on the leading edge of the effort to eliminate the practice of premature transfer of baby birds. Today, major avian and veterinary organizations are united in this recommendation and States are passing legislation to make the recommendation law. If you would like more information on these organizations their policies, simply do a web search on the words “unweaned birds,” or talk with Gateway Parrot Club members at the Fair.

Got Feathers?

Just a reminder, don't throw them away.

Feathers are not just a nuisance, something to clean up along with the other “stuff” in the bottom of your bird's cage.

Native Americans use feathers from a wide variety of birds in ceremonial costumes and objects. Dr. Jonathan Reyman, an Anthropologist at the Illinois State Museum, started a program, in 1982, to collect feathers and give them, free of charge, to Native Americans.

The Feather Distribution Project is designed to help birds as well as Native Americans. Without going into unpleasant details, donating your bird's feathers will reduce the likelihood wild birds will be caught or killed simply for their feathers.

Dr. Reyman has been a guest speaker at our regular meetings and the All American Hookbill Fair. His experiences with Native Americans and insights into current and historic means of feather gathering are fascinating. You can find details about *The Feather Distribution Project* and view images of some of the ways the feathers are used, on our website.

The Gateway Parrot Club collects feathers and forwards them to *The Feather Distribution Project*. Simply bring your feathers to one of our meetings or contact a club member to coordinate delivery.

Bird Medicine – For You

David Kersting, DVM

Dr. Kersting graduated from the University of Missouri Veterinary School in 1987 and founded *Bird Medicine and Surgery* that year. The practice expanded to Kersting Veterinary hospital in 1994. Birds make up about 80% of the case load. The practice is available 24 hours a day for both clients and non-clients, and consults with five area emergency clinics.

Dr. Kersting was a founding member of the Gateway Parrot Club, and has been the Avian Consultant on staff for Grant's Farm since 1999, and is veterinary consultant for the Pekin Duck Fund and Wild Bird Rehabilitation. Dr. Kersting has been an avian consultant for the Butterfly House, Purina Mills Research Farm in Gray Summit, the American Cockatiel Society, and was a founding member of the Gateway Parrot Club.

The Perfect Bird

Behaviorist - Lisa Rose

Join Lisa Saturday at 11:30 AM for a Practical Approach to Behavior. Find out how you can enjoy a better behaved companion bird.

Lisa has worked with birds and their people for eighteen years, and enjoys helping them integrate new birds in their family, or smoothing out some of the rough spots in the relationship...

Schedule of Events

Saturday

- 10:00 AM** **Doors Open** To The Public
- 11:30 AM** **Lisa Rose** – Common Sense Approach to Behavior
- 1:00 PM** **Irene Pepperberg** – Alex's Understanding of Numbers.
Cognitive and Communicative Abilities of Grey Parrots
- 2:30 PM** **Carole Grommet** – Toy Making Workshop
- 4:00 PM** **Sandy Warren** – Cockatiels, Varieties and Care
- 6:00 PM** **Fair closes.** Dinner with vendors, speakers, members

Sunday

- 10:00 AM** **Doors Open** To The Public
- Noon** **Irene Pepperberg** – Alex & Me
A Personal Memoir
- 1:30 PM** **David Kersting**- What's new in avian medicine
- 3:15 PM** **Silent Auction** Closes
- 3:45 PM** **Big Cage Raffle** Drawing
- 4:00 PM** **Table Raffle** Drawings
- 5:00 PM** Fair Closes

Alex and Irene

Irene Pepperberg

The Alex Foundation

The world knew Alex, the precocious psittacine pushing the boundaries of our definition of animal intelligence, or was it Irene just helping Alex develop like a normal bird and pointing out our near sighted perception of animal abilities? Alex was the face and focus of Irene's work for two decades. Dr. Pepperberg brought the discipline of her scientific background in chemistry to research in animal intelligence and use of language. This structured approach helped overcome unfounded objections to what constituted true use of language and a moving target of requirements.

We are excited to have Irene Pepperberg returning as our guest this weekend. We encourage you, our visitors, to make the most of this wonderful opportunity to listen to and visit with a superstar in the "bird world." Irene will have two presentations in our seminar series. Saturday, at 1:00 PM, the topic will be, Alex and numbers. Can a bird really count? Sunday, at noon, Irene will talk about "Alex & Me: a Personal Memoir". This is also the title of her book, an autobiography of Alex and Irene.

The Gateway Parrot Club supports the Alex Foundation and Dr. Pepperberg's ongoing work. Besides these presentations, you will be able to visit with Irene during the Fair and purchase books and Alex Foundation merchandise to help support her work. Limited seats are also available for dinner Saturday evening, another chance to mix with speakers, vendors and Club members.

Cockatiels

Sandy Warren

What is a Bird Show? We are pleased to present a Cockatiel Show, sanctioned by the National Cockatiel Society. The show is Saturday. Registration starts at 8:30 AM with judging at 10:00 AM. Check it out, and see what a bird show looks like. Attendance to the Cockatiel Show is free.

Sandy Warren was the motivator for this show. Sandy is a Cockatiel breeder and exhibitor. She will also present in our seminar series at 4:00 PM Saturday. The topic will be, "Cockatiels – Varieties and Care". Find out about this friendly breed and learn more about how to care for them.

Sandy will be around all day. I'm sure she'll be busy during most of the day, but catch her seminar at the end of the day, and then stick around for dinner afterward...

More than twenty years ago, The Gateway Parrot Club had its beginnings in a bird show, and this, the Gateway Parrot Club, All-American Hookbill Fair and Seminar Series is the direct descendant of that first All-American Hookbill Show. Over the years our focus has shifted from breeding to education, but we still love birds...

Toys, Toys, Toys

Workshop

Carole Grommet

A happy bird has plenty of toys to occupy idle moments, even lives in a forest of things attached to the sides or hanging from the top of their cage.

If you've ever had the thought that you could make some of those toys, come to Carole's workshop. GPC

members are familiar with Carole as a long time member. Carole has been making toys for her flock for a long time. Join her at 2:30 PM, Saturday for a discussion of the *Do* and *Don't* of making toys.

There are safety concerns when designing toys. Then, when you are ready to start, you can pick up a supply of toy making parts from the vendors at the Fair. And if you decide DIY is not for you, you can stock up on fully assembled toys from vendors at the Fair. Either way, your bird wins...

Gateway Parrot Club September Meeting

We will meet September 13th, the *second* Sunday of the month (not our usual third week) The meeting will feature wing, nail and beak trimming by Lisa Rose. Each service is \$5 and will support Proventricular Dilation Disease (PDD) research. Please bring your own towel to wrap your bird.

New Bird Exam

There are many reasons to visit our Fair. One is to bring home a new family member. We hope you support the vendors at our Fair, but regardless where your new bird comes from, please follow these two simple recommendations.

If you have other birds, isolate your new bird for at least thirty, preferably sixty days. Make this isolation as complete as possible and practical. Don't allow contamination of food, water or cages through common cleaning materials and, if possible, air flow.

Have your new bird examined by an avian veterinarian.

If you do'nt currently have an avian vet, please choose carefully. The most important qualification for your vet is that birds are a significant part of their practice. While the Gateway Parrot Club does not officially recommend avian veterinarians, our website lists area veterinarians. You will find avian veterinarians at our Fair. Ask them about their practice and recommendations. Feel free to talk to our members and ask about their *personal* preferences for veterinarians.

Details of the initial exam will vary depending on veterinarian, bird and the environment the bird will live in. Talk directly with the vet before making your appointment and find out what the exam for your bird will involve. A complete exam involves a careful physical observation, fecal exam and blood test. The actual tests performed may vary based on the general vitality of the bird, and whether it will be in a community with other birds. Some optional services during the initial exam might include sex determination, in breeds where it is not obvious, and microchip identification.

Vendor Details

We encourage you to visit and support our vendors. As an incentive, you received a "check off" sheet with your program. As you visit each booth, ask the vendor to validate your sheet. After you have all the vendors signed off, turn in the sheet at our registration desk for a chance to win valuable prizes. You need not be present to win. Be sure to include your address and phone number so we may contact you about your prize. If you would like to contact any of our vendors after the Fair, please stop by our admission table and pick up a printed list of vendor information, or visit our website...

Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

Officers

President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Vice President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
Secretary	Cathy Wendler	(636) 586-0604
Treasurer	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Membership	Niki Shaffer	(314) 853-5323

Board Members

Jim Berk	(636) 586-1445
Dawn Breer	(636) 464-8085
Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Jenn Moore	(636) 795-4384
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

Committees

Education	Who? You?	
Hospitality	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Suzanne Dohack	(636) 734-4527
Website		
Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Public Relations		

Our Mission

The Gateway Parrot Club, Inc. is a not for profit organization established in 1988 to:

Bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.

Create interest in bird care and responsible breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird fairs.

Reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.

Educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.