

# Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 5, Issue 4

May-June 2005



## The Gateway Parrot Club Membership Application

Please complete this form and forward it to our Membership Secretary. You may do this by mail, to the address below, or bring it to a meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

We normally share contact information, phone and address, with our members. Place an X in the **Private?** column for any information you do not want published in our Membership Directory.

	Private?
Date	
Name (First Last)	
Mailing Address Street	
City	
State	
ZIP	
Email address	
Primary phone	
Secondary phone	
Other family members	
How did you hear about us?	
Do you currently care for birds?	
If so what kind(s)	
Are you a breeder?	

Annual dues are \$20 per household. Your first payment covers the balance of the current year and the following calendar year. Renewal is due by December 31 for each subsequent year.

Make checks payable to **Gateway Parrot Club**

Mail this form with payment to: Gateway Parrot Club  
317 Avalon Chase Drive  
Fenton, MO 63026

## Presidential Perch

### Monthly Update

We have had a change of caterers for the August fair & seminar. The new caterer is Orlando Gardens, who is very well known and does an excellent job. The new menu is;

- Top Round of Beef in Au Jus
- Italian Chicken Spedini
- Cavatelli Broccoli
- Roasted Garlic Mashers
- Green Beans Almondine
- Fresh Italian Garden Salad
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Assorted Desserts
- Coffee or Soda
- Complimentary Glass of Wine or Bottle of Beer.

You can most likely expect to find other assorted accompaniments as well. The price for the dinner is still only \$20.00 but you must Pre-Register before July 31, 2005

Next month we will be holding our monthly meeting a week earlier, on June 12<sup>th</sup> due to Father's Day falling on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Our education/entertainment will be Bonnie, the Bird Lady from Kansas City and her trained parrots, who will be performing numerous tricks for us. Bonnie has requested that no other birds be present that day, so please don't bring your birds.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to go to the Tivoli Theater this past weekend to see "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill". It was very enjoyable and Mark Bittner is an extremely unique & interesting person. I am looking forward to having him speak at the August fair. There will be a bookseller at the fair selling autographed copies of his book as well.

Volunteers are needed to solicit donations for the raffle table and silent auction. If you can help, please call Nancy Marron. If you are available at anytime from now until the end of the fair, please call Debby Martin and give her your availability. Debby has multiple tasks that need to be completed. The contact phone numbers are at the end of the newsletter. Thanks to everyone in advance!



## Bylaws Vote

Trey Shaffer

You should have noticed a copy of the proposed new bylaws in the envelope with this newsletter. Please read it. The new bylaws represent the collective efforts of several members over the past six months. As you may be aware from reading the newsletter, attending meetings, or following the website, this started as an attempt to make our current constitution and bylaws consistent with each other and with the current practice of the Club.

As that process evolved we decided to conform to a more typical format for not for profit organizations and combined the two documents into one, thus eliminating the Constitution. Your receipt of the new document satisfies one of the requirements for changing the bylaws, distributing the proposed change to members. Prior to this, the proposed change was submitted to the Secretary and passed by a simple majority, actually it was unanimous, vote at the April meeting. The final vote, requiring two-thirds majority will be taken at the June meeting.

Just to be perfectly clear, the change under consideration is the elimination of the existing constitution and bylaws, and the adop-

## Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us about any issues related to the Club and our Mission.

<b>Officers</b>		
President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679 (H) (314) 286-2202 (W)
Vice President	Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
Secretary	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
Treasurer	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Membership	Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026
<b>Board Members</b>		
	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
	Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
	Debby Martin	(314) 968-0949
	Larry Martin	(314) 968-0949
<b>Committees</b>		
Education Outreach	Dorene Olson	(314) 569-1310
Hospitality	Pat Seiler	(314) 462-4732
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Larry Martin	(314) 968-0949
Website Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

## Mission Statement

Gateway Parrot Club  
A not-for-profit organization  
Established in 1988

### *Dedicated to the following goals:*

- To bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.
- To create interest in bird care and responsible breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird fairs.
- To reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.
- To educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.

Note, this is the new mission statement approved at the May meeting.

tion of new bylaws. Throughout this process, our goal has been to retain the intent of the original documents, so there should not be any hidden surprises. At this point, there can be no modification of the proposed document. It must be accepted, or rejected, in its entirety. As soon as it is adopted, it can be amended. So from a practical viewpoint, I suggest accepting this document. If you would like to make changes, those can be taken up as soon as the new base document is in place.

There was also a proposed change to or mission statement or goals. Both those terms have been used to describe the three points that describe the reason the Club exists. That statement was contained in both the constitution and the bylaws. As it turns out, that language was actually part of our articles of incorporation. The "articles" are the original paperwork filed to create the Gateway Parrot Club, Inc. with the Missouri Secretary of State.

The current constitution and bylaws have no specific language addressing the process of changing the articles. All of these changes are strictly acts of the membership. While the Board has discussed the proposed changes, they, as Board Members and Officers, have no special role beyond being members. To accommodate the proposed change to the articles, to our mission statement, the change was proposed and accepted unanimously at the May meeting. Here is the old and new language. First the current mission statement:

- To bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.
- To create interest in bird care and breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird shows.
- To educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.

And the new version:

- To bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.
- To create interest in bird care and responsible breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird fairs.
- To reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.
- To educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.

As you can see, the first and last points are unchanged. There are two small changes to the second item, and the third item is new.

Assuming the bylaws are accepted, they will take effect immediately. If we accept the proposed change to the articles, there will be some sort of filing process, with the Secretary of State, to update our records. So read on, come to the meeting 5/15, and vote...

## Member Profile

**Editor's Note:** Quite some time ago we published a short series of member profiles. After a hiatus, the series continues. Please volunteer to complete a questionnaire. Here is a profile of/by Mandy Baumgartner.



### What do you do for a living?

I'm in transition right now. I graduated from Webster University in 2003 with a BA in psychology. I'm currently exploring my options while working part time in childcare.

### Where are you from?

St. Louis native.

### Tell us about your own personal birds.

Recently I lost my almost twelve-year-old cinnamon cockatiel, Hero.

Hero's story is a very important lesson. When I got her from the breeder she wasn't finished hand feeding. I didn't know any better and agreed to finish it. It was horrible! I was given some really bad advice, which led me to force wean her. Hero had food and other issues for her whole life. I believe that I unknowingly diminished her potential based on what I now know. Hand feeding is best left to the experts. I have a lot of respect for those that raise baby parrots properly. Hero was very bonded to me, but would get pretty scared of new people and new things. A very hard lesson for me to learn and I'm very sorry that Hero had to suffer along with me.

When Hero died, I could not remain birdless for long. I adopted a lutino cockatiel that I named Whisper from Perfectly Precious Par-

## Attendance

Attendance at the April meeting included:

- All Board members except Debby Martin and Janet Draper, who were excused for personal business.
- 21 members were present for the General meeting and we had one guest, Ramona Van Rifer.

Attendance at the May meeting included:

- All Board members except Nancy Marron.
- 15 members were present for the General.

## June Meeting

Just a reminder, the June meeting will be **June 12**, the second Sunday, rather than the usual third Sunday, which happens to be Father's Day.

Our guest at the meeting will be "Bonnie the Bird Lady" featuring her performing birds. At Bonnie's request, there will be no other birds at the meeting. So please come, but leave your bird at home.

## Cage For Sale

Used Animal Environments Acacia Cage  
White Powder Coated  
Approximate Inside Dimension - H 30-1/2" x W 21-3/4" x D 16-3/4"  
Bar Spacing: 11/16"  
Dome Top, 2 feeders, casters, apron and grate.  
Beautiful cage in great condition - perfect for smaller parrots.  
Asking \$190.00 or best offer.

Mandy Baumgartner  
clicktrink@mindspring.com  
314-842-4191

meal, play and sleep times and Mozart settles in much more quickly!

**Tip 7:** Plan ahead: Honestly, Mozart, people are going to think we are poor members of our flock! But OK, I'll confess. We had always been able to make the drive to KC in one night. But Alpha and Beta bird are getting older and that Friday we were OLD. Half way with Mozart in the back, Alpha Bird drifted out of our lane as he began to slip into sleep. We realized we wouldn't make it without stopping. But at 11:30 p.m. how do you find a hotel that takes pets! What a disaster! So keep a list of motels that accept pets with you on your trip – you never know! There are a number of web sites that provide a list of pet friendly hotels <http://1clickpethotels.com/missouri> is one web site. If only we had known about Days Inn, Holiday Inn or Red Roof Inn in Columbia. The author also recommends making a list of Avian Vets on your route and destination in case of emergency. And, of course, when you reach your destination, plan to spend time with your bird and include him in activities such as walks.

**Tip 8:** Rules: Know the regulations about birds which do vary from state to state and, of course, to another country. Keep proof of ownership and medical record copies.

There were a number of articles that suggested traveling was very stressful for your bird and leaving him with a sitter or boarding might be a better option. But, if you do need to travel with your "fid," Mozart hopes these tips prove useful. Happy trails!!

rot Rescue in April. Whisper is two years old and we are bonding to each other quite nicely. She is settling in nicely and starting to blossom as rescues do.

My mother actually got me into animals of all kinds. She bred finches when I was small and I still have a strong love for them. I also remember her having a few budgies. I would take great joy in helping her clean cages and arrange them.

In addition to cockatiels, I've had zebra finches, budgies and a Bronze-Wing Pionus in the past as well.

#### **What other pets do you have?**

I have two dogs – Trinket a mixed breed that I adopted from rescue, and Sophie a Shih Tzu that I inherited when my mother died. I also have a small aquarium with a Betta named Kermit the Fish.

#### **How did you first become involved in the GPC?**

I joined back in the early nineties after attending the annual fair. I was really impressed with the fair and remember hearing Chris Davis talk. I was disappointed however after attending a regular meeting, the club did not seem to be targeted for pet owners.

I rejoined just recently after talking with Dorene Olson. The club seems very pet owner friendly now. I hope it will be a great place to meet new people and learn new things. I especially really like the emphasis on education as well.

#### **What are your main concerns in aviculture today?**

Of course the continued destruction of natural habitat in the wild is a concern for a lot of us. Science is still discovering new species in the world – how many will we lose before we are even aware of their existence?

I am very alarmed about the amount of birds being produced for the pet market. In talking to rescue folks, we have quite a problem in the numbers of displaced pets flowing into rescue. I'm not against breeding – but we need to take a good look at why/how much we are breeding.

Behavior and education are my biggest concerns and interests. I've spent the past years educating myself on canine behavior and training and as a result have done very little reading on avian issues. Since I've been "back," I am surprised at how little is still out there.

There also seems to be a problem of information not trickling down to the average pet owner. Those of us who read avian publica-

tions and attend avian educational events are in the minority. So how do we in aviculture reach the average “I bought him on impulse at the pet store now what do I do” pet owner?

**What would be your advice to an inexperienced person who called you looking for a bird?**

First I would thank them for asking for help - they are already the elite of potential owners just calling for help. Next I would try to help them figure out what species they are interested in. Do they want a finch or a macaw?

I would quickly recommend they talk to as many people as possible that own birds. I would not gloss over the not so glorious details about what it means to share our lives with birds. The problem I see with many of the print materials is in our love of the birds we tend to glow about them and not really go into the “unmentionables” (screaming, aggression, veterinary bills, mess, etc). I would also recommend they meet with a behavior consultant for session *before* they get a bird.

I would also educate them on reputable breeders and rescue for sources of birds. I would be very careful to explain what traits make a good breeder (or rescue) and how to go about finding one. We are all quick to recommend doing your research and finding a good breeder. But we need to be mindful to define what we mean by research and good breeder. How many times have we heard/said – find a good breeder and not seen the confused person walk off without a clue as to what one looks like or how to find one.

Along with the above, we as experienced people need to make ourselves accessible and available to new people. We all started somewhere, it is important to have tolerance for hearing the same question again and again and be willing to educate.

We have had some terrific speakers this past year sharing stories and slides of their travels abroad to see birds in their native habitat - have you ever gone on any of these educational trips?

I have not had the chance to do educational travel. I'll have to remain a vicarious traveler for now.

**What other clubs or organizations do you belong to?**

I am the assistant director for Faery Tails Corgi Rescue of St. Louis Inc. and Faery Tails German Shepherd Dog Rescue. Along with fostering dogs for the program, I also maintain the program's website, edit the newsletter, and coordinate educational/outreach programs and events.

**Tip 3:** Think safety: Mozart will never forget the “rolling cage” incident due to a hard left turn, although he's too much of a gentleman to bring it up. Whether riding in a carrier or in the travel cage, always place it in the back seat, facing forward and secured by the seat belt. If there is an accident and the air bag deploys, a bird in the front seat is in real trouble! If in an RV – secure the cage in place with rope. Also, perches should be placed toward the front of the carrier or cage. This way in the event of a hard stop, the bird won't be thrown from the back of the carrier but may be able to just lean into the bars. Needless to say food cups should be at the sides and secured. And last, but not least, consider clipping wings just before you leave. If Mozart panicked and flew out at the country, he would never find his way back.

**Tip 4:** Enjoy local outings: Mozart loves to “take a walk” with me in his carrier – doing wolf whistles and “Herro” to people he meets. He is no longer anxious about getting in his carrier even for long trips. The author suggests doing the same kind of thing with the traveling cage – visiting and going to places outside where the bird can enjoy the fresh air – the cage becomes a positive thing. I worry a little about this because of mosquitoes, etc but even just car trips and visits to a friend for a little while would serve the purpose. Of course, don't forget to play “Pass the birdie” while there!

**Tip 5:** Bring food and supplies: Mozart points out that when you forget the pellets and millet seed (and your cage breaks) it doesn't make for a fun trip! He's determined to present that disastrous first trip in full! Seriously, we did leave his supplies and out in the country there are no bird stores. He couldn't look at another cheerio for weeks after we came back. Remember to bring that favorite play stand and mister! Also, like the author, I bring bottled water for Mozart because change in diet is hard on a finicky bird – oops sorry – discriminating connoisseur!

**Tip 6:** Keep to the program: Routine – Mozart prefers a structured existence. I think he was a military bird in a prior life! During the trip I try to keep a normal schedule for

## TRAVELING WITH MOZART

Debby Martin

Memorial Day is rapidly approaching! It is a special day for Debby and Mozart. Debby's parents are buried in a small family cemetery in South-central Missouri, and every Memorial Day we travel there, spending several days. Relatives gather and we clean the cemetery, place flags and flowers and share with each other memories of those we love who sleep there. Mozart has supervised preparing and mailing the reminder letters and now he's thinking about getting his "travel" stuff together for this bitter-sweet trip. He reminded me how stressful the first trip was for him and we found some helpful tips on traveling with your bird he felt would be useful, since many people travel on Memorial Day. These tips come from "Bird Times" in an e-zine article by Terri Ann King.

**Tip 1:** Provide a travel/visiting cage: Mozart's is smaller than his regular "apartment" sized cage at home, but allows for stretching, climbing, wing flapping, food and water cups and plenty of perches and a platform. He prefers his favorite toys arranged, as much as possible, as they are in his regular cage. Don't be confused, Mozart rides in the car in his carrier. But the author's bird rides in the car in the travel cage.

**Tip 2:** Get to know the cage: Poor Mozart! That first trip, we had a cage he was familiar with and all was calm until we went to leave. It BROKE just as we were ready to leave! Panic!! We had to buy a cage on the way and Mozart's beak was very out of joint! He spent the time sitting, angry and depressed, on his platform. We should have had time to have the cage set up so he could explore it and get used to spending time in it. In addition, we should have gone to visit a friend and taken Mozart and the cage for a couple of hours. This way he could have gotten used to being away from his "apartment" and still feel near us and safe in his new "home away from home".

I am a member of the Gaitway Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of Greater St. Louis, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and I just started volunteering with GeesePeace St. Louis.

### **Besides birds, what hobbies or interests do you have?**

I spend a lot of my time pursuing my fitness goals by walking and working out. I'm just starting to add in recreational biking. This spring and summer I plan to hike and find new ways to enjoy the parks of Missouri. I'm also interested in Belly Dancing and recently took a class. It is a lot of fun, but *much* harder than it looks. You learn a lot about history, dance, music and your body with belly dance. Learning to isolate muscle groups can leave you tired, energized and with new respect for dancers.

Along with fitness, I am interested in nutrition, cooking and trying new foods (we watch a lot of The Food Network in my house). Whisper is offered a wide range of nutritious food daily as a result of this interest. I also can be found in area bead shops as I make and sell jewelry as a hobby.

### **Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?**

I am looking forward to meeting everyone and learning as much as I can. I hope I can add something positive to the club.

## FLOCK MEMBERS VOLUNTEER TODAY!

The All-American Hook Bill Fair and Seminar on August 27<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> is getting closer and the call goes out to the Gateway Parrot Club flock – Can you help?? Some flock members have already signed up and Mozart and I are Sooo grateful to them. But we still need some volunteers.

You're probably asking yourself – volunteer to do what? Mozart suggests it might help if we share what needs to be done.

- Set up for the Fair Friday August 26<sup>th</sup> – gentlemen we really need you!
- Take down for the Fair Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Staff the registration, raffle, silent auction and seminar tables

- Staff the membership table
- Distribute flyers to stores and vet offices etc.
- Solicit donations to the Raffle Table
- Solicit donations to the Silent Auction Table
- Bring desserts Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>
- Bring soda and snacks 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- Make coffee and set out donuts for volunteers and vendors in the mornings
- Miscellaneous tasks as assigned by Phyllis

You tell us your special talent or skill that you can offer

If you could donate a couple of hours (or more) for any of the above it would be WONDERFUL!!!

Please contact Debby Martin if you can help!

(314) 968-0949 home

(314) 623-0617 cell

debbymartin@charter.net.

## PICK OF THE MONTH

Debby Martin

### THE AFRICAN GREY

After meeting “Oscar” the African Grey at the Club Meetings several times, Mozart has decided African Greys are so special we should highlight them in our next library purchase. BirdTalk magazine (June 2004) described the African Grey this way; “Greys are very smart. Greys are elegant and understated. They remind me of the well-dressed but not overbearing smartest guy at the party who takes everything in and only says something when he has something extremely witty to say. They are the perfect mix of brains and beauty.” Oscar is certainly a very sensitive and sophisticated gentleman!

BirdTalk Magazine also emphasizes the Grey’s great sensitivity to their surroundings and the emotional state of its caretaker. Since they are so intuitive it’s best to always approach them in a calm manner. BirdTalk Magazine’s article, “About African Grey Parrots.” by Monica Gonzalez emphasizes that they have the intellectual capacity of a five-year-old with the emotions of a two-year-old. While this makes for a highly intelligent pet, it also means they need a great deal of healthy interaction with their people and a stimulating environment with plenty of challenging toys and activities, large cage and play stand to prevent boredom and anxiety.

And of course there is Alex the African Grey who has been working with Dr. Irene Pepperberg from Brandeis University for 26 years. He is able to identify about 50 different objects by color, shape and matter. He can put words together to make a phrase for something he wants – and he knows what he wants. For instance Dr. Pepperberg says, “If he says that he wants a grape and you give him a banana, you are going to wind up wearing the banana”.

To help any members who are interested in African Greys we have purchased a new book **The African Grey, An Owner’s Guide to a Happy Health Pet** by Julie Rach. It provides a good overview of the special needs of an African Grey to help someone decide if an African Grey is right for their family; for example time commitment, allergies, diet, mess, expense. It discusses potential problem areas such as travel, moving, and season change impact on the bird. It gives a complete description of the basic care involved in diet, cage, cage placement, toys, games and talking and communicating. There is a good section on health and first aid. I thought perhaps the section on bringing your bird home could have been a little more in-depth. But the pictures are beautiful and the book is full of very specific tips.

Next month: The Senegal