

# Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 6, Issue 7

July 2006

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

Our annual fair is fast approaching and we need your help! We need volunteers to help with setup, hospitality, etc. The club is everyone's club, not just the officers'. The fair is really a lot of fun as well as a lot of work. If you have never participated in the fair, this is your chance. You will have a great time and meet a lot of new people in the process.

Please contact Debby Martin, if you haven't already, to volunteer at the fair. We also need desserts as well as vegan or vegetarian dishes for the hospitality dinner, catered this year by Kenrick's Catering & BBQ.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the July meeting, the final meeting before the fair. See you Sunday...

Phyllis

## Fifteen Minutes of Fame

Janet Draper

To help promote our All American Hookbill Fair, August 27, 28, we will be on television; appearing on KSDK Channel 5's "Window on St Louis" and "Show Me St. Louis."

Please join us. The more the merrier. It's your chance to be on TV! Please let me know if you can make it. It's a lot of fun. Come join us!

Contact info – (314) 432-3019 VicePresident@GatewayParrotClub.org

Both events are held outside the Channel 5 at 1000 Market Street. Park on the street. People coming to the early morning show, 8/22, will have no trouble finding a spot to park right in front of the station. People coming to the afternoon show, 8/23, should allow extra time to find a spot to park.

Of course birds are welcome too. But remember we will be outside, so appropriate precautions (wing trims and/or tethers) should be taken. Also, wear clothing suitable to the weather and bring water for yourself and your birds.

"Window on St Louis" Tuesday 8/22.

Arrive 5:50 AM and plan to stay until 7:00 am.

"Show Me St Louis" Wednesday 8/23

Arrive at 2:30 PM and plan to stay until 3:30 pm.

## Tidbits

Trey Shaffer

The June meeting was very productive. Special thanks to Dawn Breer for help in our toy making efforts. Dawn brought along her Sweet Peas inventory of toys and an array of parts and materials to make them. With inspiration, and Dawn's guidance, everyone pitched in and built a variety of toys that will appear on raffle/auction tables at the Fair.

No newsletter next month. I will be putting together the program for the Fair, and I will send that to the email distribution list for the newsletter.

If you use email and have not been receiving the newsletter, and occasionally other announcements, please go to our website, [www.GatewayParrotClub.org](http://www.GatewayParrotClub.org), and fill out a form to update your member profile, or call our Membership Secretary, Nancy Marron, and ask her to make the change. Her contact info, and all Board members and Officers, is at the back of this newsletter.

Of course the big news is the Fair next month. If you haven't already, contact Debby Martin and sign up to volunteer at the Fair. You will have fun and help the Fair run smoothly. Also at the Fair, join us for dinner Saturday evening. The menu is in this newsletter. Reserve your place (required) on the website or by calling Phyllis Cotton.

## Book Review

Mandy Baumgartner

*The Parrot Problem Solver:  
Finding Solutions to Aggressive Behavior*

By Barbara Heidenreich  
T.F.H. Publications Inc.  
ISBN 0793805627

Finally, a book that puts to rest all the false and sometimes abusive ways of dealing with parrot behavior! It seems parrots have been neglected in the positive training movement that took the dog world by storm. At last changes are coming and we can thank Barbara Heidenreich and other trainers like her.

In her book, Barbara, an experienced trainer, explains how to work with our companion parrots in a positive and productive way. Her techniques are built on trust, respect, and solid training research. Methods and theories such as the need for dominance (show him who is boss), dirty looks, yelling, and hitting are addressed. Barbara explains why they don't work and why they do not apply in our relationships with our companion birds. This book gives parrot owners real solutions and real tools to deal with the behavior of parrots.

The book breaks aggression down into ten categories: fear, physical state-induced (such as illness), displaced, territorial, possession, excitement, social, learned, frustration, and personal. Each category is explained and techniques are given to address the aggression. While focusing on aggression other important aspects

of parrots are also discussed. Chapter one addresses behavior in general and chapter five explains bird body language. Both are a must read for anyone who shares their home with a parrot.

I eagerly await more by Barbara Heidenreich. I have recently subscribed to her excellent new magazine, *Good Bird*, as well as purchased her new DVD on parrots. Barbara is speaking at our fair in August and I am very much looking forward to hearing her sessions! To learn more about Barbara or her publications visit her website at, [www.goodbirdinc.com](http://www.goodbirdinc.com)

## Member Profile Suzanne Dohack

Thanks to Mandy Baumgartner for compiling this interview. We would like to have a member profile in every newsletter, so contact Mandy and let her know you would like to be featured. Or, if you're a little bashful, nominate someone else!

### What do you do for a living?

I am a retired nurse and social worker, and mainly stay at home for my birds & cat. I quilt, putter in flower garden, swing on my small apartment patio while enjoying watching the birds at my outside bird feeders. During the school year I watch before/after school my grandson, as well as drive to school etc.

### Are you a St. Louis native?

Born and raised in Sycamore Hills, which is squeezed-in small section cut out from Overland, MO. I lived on Brown Rd/Medland Ave. all my life. My folks moved there in 1941 when it was the end of the trolley line. I attended Our Lady of the Presentation Church and grade school. I went to high school at Incarnate Word Academy. For higher education, I went to Jewish Hospital School of Nursing when it was on Kingshighway, then earned Bachelor of Science in Health Arts through Joliet College (now University) and my Master of Social Work through Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work. In 1977 I moved to St. Peters, where I currently reside with my ex-husband and eldest child.

## **Tell us about your birds.**

As a child I had two parakeets, but didn't get another parakeet till many years ago. When my budgie died, while I was in the hospital, I decided I'd get something different. My sister had zebra finches and I liked their twitterings and thought my quiet home could use a little twittering noise to keep me company; since both my girls were out of the house. Next came two peach faced lovebirds I got at a small-moderate bird fair in Fenton. The price fit my budget and who knows, maybe if I was lucky they'd mate (not even though they turned out to be one of each sex). Olive is the girl, and I hoped to mate with Sunny (lutino) lovebird. And Peaches is a male, who along with my grandson's Kiwi has had two sets of babies...all look like papa bird. Sunny is tame too. Then came Pearl my pearl colored cockatiel. She's sweet and very tame. No mate for her yet; approximately 3 years old. Last but not least loved, are my rosy Bourke's; tame and the sweetest personalities. First came Sweetie Pie who is approximately 1-1 1/2 years now. Then this year, came Joey who is 2-2 1/2 years old. I'm hoping I have one of each... consulted several people who raise them & sell them as to "best guess as to each sex." I'll give them a box this summer and see what happens. Sweetie Pie is pretty shy and just now will share a perch and eat some time with Joey. I find their chirps are so much more pleasant and soft compared to that of parakeets.

I want to sell (cheap) my 2-male/2 female zebra finches. I also have five baby peach face lovebirds born February, to sell too. In future I'd like to get a green-eared conure or a blue Quaker. I want something that will talk. My cockatiel, Pearl, despite constant playing of CD, and my efforts, only occasionally will wolf whistle.

As far as a story: when Kiwi and Peaches had first clutch and before I finally realized they were there...my Pearl started to change behavior. She got a lot quieter, began urinating large amounts and stool was watery no longer formed and seemed she was depressed. She seemed off her food too. At first I thought my winter depression had lead to these changes. So I took her to her doctor, Dr. Kersting (A-1 wonderful). After stool and blood tests...clean bill health...then motoring intake/output for awhile confirmed she was drinking way more than normal 1-2 Tbsp water a day and frequent outputs too. It eventually corrected itself but Pearl "normal" is 1 1/2 -2 1/2 Tbsp water a day even when stools are normal. Diagnosis was 'she had a psychogenic" induced excessive intake and excessive voiding (polydypsia, polyurea). Thought hearing the babies caused her female hormones and urges mothering to kick in. See all my birds are in same room and thus hear

each other and see each other. These symptoms did not (luckily) reappear when Kiwi and Peaches quickly had a second clutch. This time instead of 3 it was 6. Sadly we lost the runt of that group. Had I not handfed the babies, my little runt, would died sooner as Kiwi and Peaches had stopped feeding it. I was heart-sick over the loss of this special little guy. But being big on picture taking I do have pictures of him too at varying ages. As matter of fact I have a picture album of all my "babies!" My family thinks I've lost a screw or two and have too many birds now. But they are my companions and fill my "empty nest." And my cat, Pepper, tolerates them and has learned that she is top cat, but don't mess with the inside birds. She settles for occasional pounce on bedroom window when birds come close by during their frequent feeding trips to the bird cafeteria I have hanging outside my window view.

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

Pepper is my shorthair tortoise color female adult cat, adopted from APA on Hanley Road. She now meows a variety of tones but what attracted me was her "chirping." I had never heard of a "chirper" before. She loves to play and is always in tune with my moods and whether I'm getting sick.

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

Like many I worry about effect of the coming bird flu on our wild bird population and the fallout it may have on the domestic/exotic pet birds we all love.

Birds are big responsibility... for life, and they are messy, dirty little birds, especially the smaller they are, though I guess the big bird owner would argue theirs are much messier. Birds are great companions and need daily attention and need to be part of the family. Have a good friend or animal sitter so you can travel guilt free! Or like when I was so sick & feverish, came in twice a day to care for my birds, so I didn't get them sick, and because I could barely get out of bed or stand for a few minutes.

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

READ & READ several sources, visit others that have birds, go to club meetings, go to bird fairs & lectures. Ideally do these things before buying a bird. Avoid buying from pet stores. I prefer fairs and places like Bird Cage Warehouse or a rescue organization. Do get a good Avian vet and have bird checked out, and thus good references, so when it gets sick you know its normal state already. Plus you learn a lot about your bird from the vet. Prevention is definitely cheaper than visits/hospitalization.

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

I go to quilting class & quilt shop hops.

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

I love quilting (beginner) and for years loved photography. I could wallpaper a 3-story house with all the photos. I'm into nature shots, flowers, and animals; just anything beautiful, architecture, etc. I do my best with people but they don't always want to be in pictures, especially my kids now 21 and 30 (girls) and one grandson almost 9 years old. I enjoy planting flowers and mess with my house/yard. What is beautiful to one person, not necessarily is beauty to another. It hurt to see some of my flowers and trees are gone from my home of 28 years. I'm still adjusting to down sizing into an apartment. I'm still searching for my "new place" in this stage of my life. And I'm using sometime to grow spiritually. Now into my 3<sup>rd</sup> (really 2 1/2) year of bible study and that helps and learning things I either never knew or have forgotten through the years. Now is a time of life to reconnect with myself and God and new/old friends.

*Member Profiles are compiled by Mandy Baumgartner.*

*To be featured please email Mandy at [click-trink@mindspring.com](mailto:click-trink@mindspring.com) or ask for an interview form at a meeting.*

## Hookbill Fair Dinner

Plan on joining the vendors, volunteers and board members for dinner Saturday evening, August 26. Even if you don't come for dinner, please provide a dessert for the event...

Here is a sneak peek at the likely menu...

Hickory Smoked Pork Steaks

Hickory Smoked Chicken

Molasses Baked Beans (Vegetarian)

Tri-colored Spiral Noodle Pasta Salad

Roasted Whole Kernel Corn w/peppers

Hearty Dinner Rolls & Butter

Assorted Items for Vegetarians & Vegans

Desserts & Appetizers

Beverages

## May Attendance

## 2006 Meeting Schedule

Here is the year ahead, as it is shaping up. Mark the dates. More information will come later on topics for each meeting.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
July 16	Positive Reinforcement Video – Barbara Heidenreich
August 26-27	All American Hookbill Fair
September 17	TBA
October 15	Dr. Van Horn – AAV conference update, Bird flu
November 19	Eco-Tour of Peru, Dorene Olson Nominations for offices
December 17	Elections – Holiday party

Mandy Baumgartner  
 Carolyn & Jim Bell  
 Angie Birmingham  
 Amy Cann  
 Jennifer & Curt Cira  
 Cathy Dervalis  
 Janet Draper  
 Pat Flynn  
 Carole Grommet  
 Denise Hurt  
 Ray Hurt  
 Heidi Keifer  
 David & Christine Kinkade

Joe Lawler  
 Nancy Marron  
 Debby Martin  
 Julie Milster  
 Tina Munnerlyn  
 Dorene Olson  
 Sr BarbaraPayne  
 Niki Shaffer  
 Trey Shaffer  
 Lance & Karen Triplett

"Let me Up There!!!"

Debby Martin

Mozart views the world as his – put here by the Creator for Mozart's pleasure and dominance. Ginger just smiles her secret smile and preens – she knows who it was created for. Alpha and Beta Bird are really rather new at birds and have allowed things that while not a big problem with cockatiels, could be a major problem with a bigger bird.

After "stepping up", the 1<sup>st</sup> place they head is to that comfortable movable perch – the shoulder. Allowing a young bird on your shoulder may be a problem now, but in several years when sexual maturity arrives it may get aggressive and then problems will arise. Remember if your bird is "shouldered" it should be your idea – don't let him just run up there. He should politely step off your shoulder on to your hand when you request it. Remember how close it is to your face – a great deal of damage can occur in a short time. You can't see the bird's body language when it's on your shoulder – warnings of a bite may be missed. In addition, if the bird startles and fears it's falling it may grab the nearest thing – your ear.

So what is the alternative? Try and have multiple perches around the house; a basket, a t-stand, a flowerpot filled with sand and a branch stuck into it – give it try!

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## Mission Statement

Gateway Parrot Club

A not-for-profit organization

Established in 1988

*Dedicated to the following goals:*

- 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.
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# Contact Information

## Officers

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
Vice President	Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
Secretary	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
Treasurer	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Membership	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524

## Board Members

Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026
Mandy Baumgartner	(314) 842-4191
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Debby Martin	(314) 968-0949
Niki Shaffer	(314) 432-4890

## Committees

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



## 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.

Date		Private?
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