

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2007

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays. Our December Holiday Party turned out very well and we all had a good time. I would like to thank all who brought food and snacks for the eats. It was all so good! I would also like to thank Niki Shaffer, Jennifer Cira, and Mandy Baumgartner for organizing and conducting the games.

Elections have taken place and I would like to congratulate everyone who was elected as an officer or a board member. I would like to thank Phyllis Cotton and Janet Draper for being an excellent President and Vice-President during the past two years. Both Phyllis and Janet will continue to be a voice in our club with Phyllis as Vice-President and Janet as a Board Member.

I would also like to thank Debby Martin for being a Board Member for the past two years. She has brought a lot of new and good ideas to the Board. She has contributed several interesting and informative articles in the Squawk 'n Talk, and I hope she will continue to do so.

Both Trey Shaffer and Mandy Baumgartner were re-elected as Board Members. Mandy had previously filled in for Pat Seiler. Pat had been a Board Member for several years in the past. I would like to thank Pat for all she has done for the GPC as a Board Member, as well as her valuable and helpful ideas over the past years.

I personally want to thank all of you for nominating and voting me to be your new president. Although my knowl-

edge and experiences are not as extensive as others in our club, I have learned a considerable amount over the past few years as a member of the GPC and with the birds that Christine and I have at our home. I hope that I can bring to the GPC the same professionalism that Phyllis and those before her have brought to the club

With this new slate of Officers and Board Members and with the ideas and input for all club members, we can look forward to another successful year for the GPC.

I hope everyone that is able to will make the effort to attend the meetings and get involved. We welcome all new members and hope to see you at the meetings as well. Our meetings provide an excellent time for club members to get to know each other and share their ideas, stories, and knowledge about their birds. Bring a friend! And, as always, birds are welcome to attend any of the meetings!

Plans are being made for a new meeting place. As many club members know, February 2007 will be the last month that we can meet at the Humane Society of Missouri. After that, we will be meeting at the Olivette Community Center. More about this at our next meeting.

As we begin the New Year, we also begin the planning of our August Bird Fair. Phyllis has once again agreed to chair the August Bird Fair. Let's all help out where we can. We welcome any suggestions and new ideas. Please, give us your input. The Fair is a great way to promote the GPC Mission to bring together and educate the public about bird care, responsible breeding, and reducing bird neglect and abuse.

The GPC Newsletter is also an excellent source of bird education. Trey, our editor, is always looking for articles to put into the newsletter. If you have an article to submit or know of an article for the newsletter, please contact Trey.

He can be contacted by email, phone, or through the GPC website, www.GatewayParrotClub.org.

See you at the meetings! Dave

Yabba Dabba Dues...

Yes, it's that time of year. This is about the second phase of escalation in the nagging/reminder process.

Technically most of you are not members. So get that check in the mail. The inside of the newsletter cover is a form you can complete and mail to:

Gateway Parrot Club
407 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

Or hand it to our new Membership Secretary at the next meeting. You can also renew online on our website, at:

www.GatewayParrotClub.org/Interact/MembershipApplication.htm

Please note, if you type that manually, it is case-sensitive.

That page allows you to update your member profile and select a payment option. You can also use the page, at any time, to update your contact information or email preferences.

I added a new option on the payment page where you can pay \$21 for your membership. Choosing that option will cost YOU \$21.00, but the Club will get a full \$20. Essentially you are picking up the service charge for the transaction.

The \$20 membership has all the same benefits as the \$20 payment.

Tidbits

Trey Shaffer

Well the obvious news is elections... Welcome our new President, Dave Kinkade, our new Vice President Phyllis Cotton, Treasurer Nancy Marron, and Membership Secretary Jennifer Cira. Welcome our three elected board members; Mandy Baumgartner, Janet Draper and Trey Shaffer. Now that was all very straightforward.

Elections we have every year. Another big piece of news is our new meeting location. We have met at the Humane Society for years, as long as I've been around. Unfortunately, for us, the Training Room, where we've been meeting, is needed for dog training activities on Sundays.

We have known about this for a couple months and have been looking at alternative sites. Our new location will be the Kirkwood Community Center. More details will be available at the February meeting, our last meeting at the Humane Society.

From Jennifer

Jennifer Cira, Membership Secretary

I hope this year has already blessed each of you with riches and good health. Curt and I are very fortunate to have found a new house in St. Louis County and should move in February if everything goes as planned. For those of you who don't know, my name is Jennifer Cira and I am the new membership coordinator. Curt, my husband, and I have a cockatiel, an Amazon, two bearded dragons, and two large happy dogs. We enjoy cooking, hiking, and any outdoor sports. Our favorite part of GPC is the guest speakers. We would love to hear from all of the GPC members, so send us a note and don't forget to include your yearly membership dues.

Jennifer Cira
407 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011
jefc253@yahoo.com

Legislation Update Illinois HB4612

Trey Shaffer

A recent post on the GatewayParrots@YahooGroups.com discussion group raised an issue with pending legislation in Illinois. The bill, HB4612, adds language to Illinois' animal welfare act to cover birds in the "Pet Store" environment, as defined in the bill.

I want to be very careful here and not present any opinion or position on behalf of the Club. The Board and/or Membership has not discussed this issue and does not have a position on the proposed legislation.

I should also point out that, by the time you read this, HB4612 will be dead, having not been acted upon by the end of the 2006 legislative session. What I hope to do in this article is present facts, and "nothing but the facts." The Club has had a position, on the sale of unweaned baby birds, for several years. We do not believe this should be allowed, and do not allow vendors at our Fairs to present unweaned babies. Beyond that practice, our Mission Statement encapsulates our goals, and the third point seems to apply here, "**Reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.**" The full mission statement is always available at the end of the newsletter.

Karen May, State legislator from Lake County, IL, sponsored the bill. When I spoke with her office, I was informed about the current status of the bill, about to die, and the fact there were no immediate plans to reintroduce the bill.

We, in the "bird world," have heard what can only be called, horror stories, about treatment of birds in what might be called the commercial breeding and retail channel. These verified stories, run the gamut from poor conditions in commercial aviaries to inhumane euthanasia in pet stores.

The bill attempted to address these issues in several ways. The [full text of the bill is available on the Illinois website](#). If you are reading this electronically, the previous line is a link to the bill. The URL is too long to type. I placed a copy of the bill on our website, at: www.GatewayParrotClub.org/HB4612.pdf

The bill may be removed from the Illinois web when it becomes inactive.

Following is my, very abridged, summary of the content...

The first part of interest for discussion includes some definitions.

Pet Shop Operator – This is what you would think. It also includes Rescue Operations, unless incorporated as non-profit and do NOT re-home birds. The term does NOT include individuals who raise and sell their own birds.

Bird Mart – Event with two or more vendors.

Bird Vendor – Anyone who sells or transfers a bird to final owner.

Weaned – A bird accustomed to solid food that eats without assistance and maintains 90% body weight without nursing or hand feeding.

Then comes the body of regulations. My summary only identifies topics included, not the specific requirements for each topic.

Here's an opinion... I think the specific content of each topic is reasonable and probably already practiced by quality providers. Read the full text and form your own opinion.

Section 18.2 – Bird Care; sanitation

Food and water provided and kept clean.

Section 18.3 – Vet care; euthanasia.

- a) Provide care without delay to prevent suffering or transmission of disease.
- b) Have a documented program for regular care, sick bird care by vet, euthanasia only by approved methods
- c) Vet treatment records available for inspection.

Section 18.4 – Minimum requirements for cages.

Section 18.5 – Adequate lighting.

Section 18.6 – No Sale of unweaned birds. \$1,000 penalty.

Section 18.7 – Record Keeping

- 1) Attending vet information posted.
- 2) Seller provides written information on care.
- 3) Sales Certificate with information about the seller, bird, buyer.
- 4) Records of vet care at "Pet Shop."
- 5) Store maintains historical records of acquisition care and sales.

After contacting Karen May's office for clarification of the bill, I received the following reply:

Thank you for contacting me about HB4612, for your opinion is truly important to me.

I am proud to be the sponsor of HB4612 which amends the Animal Welfare Act with provisions regarding proper bird care, sanitation, veterinary care, euthanasia, housing requirements, ambient conditions, sale or transfer, and recordkeeping. The bill provides that if there is a violation of the Act, the violation must be remedied within 14 days or within 24 hours if the violation endangers the immediate health or safety of an animal.

The bill has been referred to Rules where, if there is opposition, it must be negotiated during next session.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Karen May

Diet – A Four Letter Word

Tis the season... Maybe somebody can help me with some statistics, but my strong impression is there are a lot of new diets started in January, and health club attendance peaks after New Year's and returns to normal by Valentine's Day. But diet is not a temporary thing.

Not only are we responsible for our own diets, but for our pets' and, perhaps, children's. Since it is a slow month for articles, here is a dictionary's take on diet, when used as a noun:

1. food and drink considered in terms of its qualities, composition, and its effects on health.
2. a particular selection of food, designed or prescribed to improve a person's physical condition or prevent or treat a disease.
3. a selection or limitation on the amount a person eats for reducing weight.
4. foods eaten, as by a particular person or group.
5. food or feed habitually eaten or provided.
6. anything habitually provided or partaken of.

This was all inspired by a link, sent in by Dorene, to the Holistic Bird Newsletter, in particular an article titled Food Pyramid for Parrots.

www.holisticbirds.com/Hbn02/autumn02/pages/foodpp5.htm

If you do NOT rely on a commercially prepared food as your bird's primary diet, you should check this out in detail. There seems to

be a lot of good, and very detailed, information about the benefits and problems with various ingredients.

If you navigate to the home page of the site, www.HolisticBirds.com, you can branch off into additional information. But don't wait too long, there is a notice the newsletter is no longer being published, so the web site may not last either...

Your Expertise Needed

Debby Martin

The Newsletter came the other day and Mozart and Ginger and Beta Bird settled down for a bit of quiet time to check out the articles. Mozart and Ginger have directed me to say MANY THANKS to our editor Trey Shaffer and newsletter assemblers Dave and Christine Kinkade. Many hours have gone into this effort! They also send kudos to all the members who contributed articles last year! But what about 2007 they cried and sent this plea – We Need Articles! What could I write about – you may ask? Here are some ideas from Mozart and Ginger.

- Do you have an insight about your flock experiences that might be helpful to a new club member? What do you wish someone had told you when you first got your bird?
- Has your parrot learned a new trick? How did you teach the trick?
- Has he learned a new “good” behavior or stopped an inappropriate one. Please share how that happened, it would be SO helpful!
- Have you experience with a specific kind of parrot and can share what it's like to be in their flock –good and bad point please.
- Have you introduced different kinds of parrots into your flock – what kinds of birds worked together and which did not!
- Did your bird do something incredibly smart, funny, bad, pitiful – share it with us – we'll learn from your experience?

If you can help, please E-Mail your article to Trey Shaffer at Trey.Shaffer@GatewayParrotClub.org. If you don't have a computer, you can mail them to Debby Martin, 1384 N Berry Rd., St. Louis MO 63122. I'll type them and E-Mail them to Trey. Thanks for all your help!!!

Addition to Bylaws

Following are proposed additions to the Club's bylaws, intended to clarify election procedures in the event the election of an individual, vacates a currently-held office.

Section 4.2 of our current bylaws discusses election of officers. Section 4.2.4 addresses Vacancy In Office.

4.2.4 - Vacancy In Office

Should a vacancy occur in any office, a special election shall be called to fill the vacancy, except the office of the President which shall automatically be filled by the Vice President. Nominations for the filling of such vacancy shall be made by the members.

The intent of these changes is to establish a procedure whereby all offices are filled at the regular annual election meeting. To that end, the following language will replace Section 4.2.4

4.2.4 - Vacancy In Office

4.2.4.1 – General Vacancy

Should a vacancy occur in any office, a special election shall be called to fill the vacancy, except the office of the President which shall automatically be filled by the Vice President. Nominations for filling such vacancy shall be made by the members.

4.3.4.2 – Vacancy Caused by Election

An individual may hold only one office or Board position at a time. Should a vacancy occur, in any office, as the result of an Officer being elected to another position, the vacated office should be filled, with a special election, at the same meeting. As many elections as needed should be conducted to fill all offices.

Section 5.2 of the bylaws discusses election of members of the Board of Directors, with Section 5.2.4 discussing the term of the office. Openings on the Board are filled by the Board. The language for this is:

Vacancies in any office may be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

This sentence could be clarified:

Vacancies in any position on the Board of Directors may be filled, by the Board of Directors, at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

2007 Meeting Schedule

The year is just starting, and we are looking for topics of interest for our meetings. Dorene Olson is our Education and Program chair. She is looking for our input on suggestions for topics and speakers. Please let Dorene, or any Board member what interests you and what you think will make the meetings more interesting.

December Attendance

Mandy Baumgartner

Curt Cira

Jennifer Cira

Phyllis Cotton

Janet Draper

Carole Grommet

Christine Kinkade

Dave Kinkade

Joe Lawler

Nancy Marron

Tina Munnerlyn

Dorene Olson

Sr Barbara Payne

Lynn Ricci

Bernie Seiler

Pat Seiler

Niki Shaffer

Trey Shaffer

Ron Spittler

Karen Triplett

Lance Triplett

Contact Information

Officers

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Vice President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
Secretary	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
Treasurer	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Membership	Jennifer Cira	(636) 527-5889

Board Members

Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026
Mandy Baumgartner	(314) 842-4191
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
Niki Shaffer	(314) 432-4890

Committees

Education/Outreach	Dorene Olson	(314) 569-1310
Hospitality	Pat Seiler	(636) 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:

- 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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