

# Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 7, Issue 8 September 2007

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

Another Bird Fair has come and gone! We couldn't have done it without the dedicated help of our board and club members who volunteered their time and hard work to make it a success! I would like to say "THANK YOU" very much! I would also like to thank Jennifer Cira for contacting and organizing the volunteers for the Fair. We are still awaiting the final report from Nancy Marron. However, things are looking very positive.

I hope everyone had a good time at the fair as well as the hospitality dinner. I would like to thank Phyllis Cotton, Christine Kinkade, and Barbara Shaffer for preparing the dinner and thank those who donated the deserts. I think everyone will attest that the dinner was very good!

Aside from a couple of problems, everything went smoothly at the Fair. We did have a couple of complaints and they are being addressed.

Time now to gear up for next year! We will soon be making plans for next year's fair. Be ready for exciting things yet to come!

Please remember that we will not be meeting at the Kirkwood Community Center in September. Instead, we will be meeting at the World Bird Sanctuary for a special educational program.

Also remember that nominations for some of the Board members and Club Officers will be taken in November with the elections taking place in December.

See you at the Meeting. ---- Dave

## Tidbits

Trey Shaffer

**The Fair** – Of course the big news this month is the Fair. I have to confess to being a terrible reporter. While I spend the entire weekend at the Fair, I really don't see much of what goes on outside the seminars. But that is something all by itself. Attending the Fair several years ago, and several seminars, was what got me involved with the Club. This year a lady was anxious to tell me she drove down from Chicago for the event, and after seeing Yvonne's show, thought the whole trip was worthwhile. The Wings of Love shows were well-attended and I believe everyone was thoroughly pleased.

Yvonne joined Dr. Kersting and Pat Seiler for a panel discussion/Q&A on bird care topics. Erin Sorenson, from PEAR Tree Sanctuary talked about many aspects of ownership, breeding and rescue and what distinguishes the good from the bad in each.

We were very pleased the national Quaker Parakeet Society chose to have their annual meeting in St. Louis, in conjunction with our annual event. We were treated to a presentation by Steve Baldwin on the wild Quakers of Brooklyn, NY, and Ellen Krueger, the QPS editor talked about living with Quakers.

So even though I spent the whole weekend in a darkened room, it was interesting and entertaining and I look forward to doing it again next year.

Nancy Marron is preparing the financial report on the Fair. It is, after all our primary fund raiser. Look forward to hearing the dollars and cents of it at the September meeting.

You can find a list of vendors from the Fair, and their contact information, in the centerfold of the printed newsletter. For those of you receiving this electronically, the vendor info is [available on the website](#).

**September Meeting** – What a segue... Our September meeting will be held at the World Bird Sanctuary. It will be at our regular day and time, September 16, 2:00 PM. We have arranged a special education program. WBS is in Valley Park. From I-44 and 141/Woods Mill Road, take the North service road West and follow the signs to WBS. Arrive a little early. At this time, I don't have any details on parking arrangements or exactly where we are meeting. I will post those details on the website as the meeting approaches.

## Thank You - Yvonne

The GPC would like to thank Yvonne Patterson for her visit to our Fair. Yvonne and the Club go "way back." We'll have to have someone do an article on the history. Anyway, her trip to the Fair seemed more like a homecoming than a visiting presenter. The Wings of Love shows were well attended, and one visitor, from Chicago, told me it made the trip worthwhile.

So, Yvonne, you and the "Wings" were a hit, and we look forward to your next visit. Following is Yvonne's letter following up on the Fair...

### **THANK YOU!**

From: **Yvonne Patterson and the *Wings of Love* birds**

Where does one begin to thank the multiple people who made our visit to GPC's All American Hookbill Fair and Seminar so immensely fabulous?

First, it was an absolute honor to be asked to bring the Wings of Love birds to your awesome annual bird fair. GPC's fair was the first bird fair I had ever gone to about 15 years ago. Having had large birds since 1969 I always purchased necessities wholesale, but soon realized at your fair what fun it was to make acquaintances and connections at bird fairs. I just hand washed my beautiful embroidered shirt given by GPC and loved it so much I purchased four more!

Secondly, to again see Dave and Christine Kinkade, Phyllis (and meet her magnificent husband Dwayne who came to the hotel to help load and led us to Queeny Park to unload), Sharon Nochta, Carole Grommet, Janet Draper, Pat Seiler and others from the years your club helped us out at the home shows in St. Louis, was truly wonderful! Meeting Trey Shaffer and his enthusiastic daughter Niki was great, as it was Trey whom I had been in contact with mostly regarding the show. And let's not forget my wonderful new friend Nancy Marron (who paid us). What a beautiful lady.

Tim and Glorianne Jung were, as always, our very faithful friends and helpers who were always there for us loading, unloading, going to the store for the birds, or whatever needs we may have had. It is always great to see them and the beautiful babies they are raising. Tim tried to cram one of their lovebirds into an empty space in the van while we were leaving. At the same time, I needed to ensure he got Swoop the eagle-owl loaded as Tim and that owl developed quite a relationship while we were there and I wanted to be certain Swoop left with US and not THEM.

I chuckle at the years Tom Becherer (El Mel, Inc.) and I had talked by phone with bird food transactions because we just met at the fair. Being able to finally meet John and Pep Tomasovic was a total thrill as they too go into the tropics to see birds in the wild. They've been to some wonderful places and I hope to meet up with them on one of their trips in the next year or so. Since my true profession is in horticulture and their passion is birds, they and I have much in common.

The birds want me to thank each of you for all the wonderful love you gave them. It was great that they got handled during the shows and it proved to be a real treat to them since we normally do not allow any contact with people while performing. The birds are still quietly resting (aahhh) from the trip and they've barely been needy for love towards me because of your contact with them. Those hyacinth's and Moluccans were a handful weren't they? Wasn't it funny during Saturday's show when I was chasing after the lory on the ground; the male hyacinth was jumping across the floor in front of the work table and the performing cockatoo jumped across the table in the opposite direction?

What great topics of discussion were had during the Expert Panel and after the shows. How thrilling it was to sit beside your wonderful avian vet Dr. Kersting whom I had heard such wonderful things about but never been able to meet. You are all very fortunate to have him and Lisa his behaviorist, who answered some great behavioral questions after our Sunday show, along with Erin Sorenson.

I know there are other things you all want to read in your newsletter and you can see I could go on and on but I won't (like thanking you for helping to sell our DVD's). Instead please accept this HUGE HUG from me and all the birds here, to all of you. Thanks so much again and the best of everything to all of you in your endeavors.

## Poisonous Plants

This came from either Dr. Kersting or Dr. Cir...

### ASPCA-Animal Poison Control Center's

#### 10 most poisonous plants

##### Marijuana

Ingestion of *Cannabis sativa* by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

##### Sago Palm

All parts of *Cycas Revoluta* are poisonous, but the seeds or "nuts" contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver failure.

##### Lilies

Members of the *Lilium spp.* are considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.

##### Tulip/Narcissus bulbs

The bulb portions of *Tulipa/Narcissus spp.* contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

##### Azalea/Rhododendron

Members of the *Rhododendron spp.* contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poi-

soning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

##### Oleander

All parts of *Nerium oleander* are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects—including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

##### Castor Bean

The poisonous principle in *Ricinus communis* is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

##### Cyclamen

*Cyclamen* species contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, Cyclamen can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

##### Kalanchoe

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

##### Yew

*Taxus spp.* contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, incoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

## West Nile Virus First Case Reported in St. Louis

Yvonne Patterson



The first case of Missouri's West Nile (inflammation of the brain) has been reported this year in St. Louis, in a 40-year old man. You probably remember the original findings of West Nile in mainly crows and other birds a few years back. West Nile is responsible for killing thousands of Missouri's birds of prey and many humans. This reminder of how we can make a difference is devoted in memory to Mindy, above, one of Missouri's most beloved

spectacled owls who lost her life to this horrendous encephalitis.

Many of you remember Mindy being on loan to us from The San Diego Zoo. She blessed our lives for 13 years and thousands of people truly fell in love with her. She just adored children and people ~ when you would go to pet her she would bow her head and you thought she'd purr. Mindy died two years ago September 11<sup>th</sup> (a date which will always be ingrained in our memories) and she has been sorely missed.

Because of this spring's rains many aquatic areas were developed which are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Spare tires, bird-baths, backyard ponds are a few places mosquitoes lay their eggs. Mosquitoes must have water to complete their life cycle which in hot weather only takes 7 days. This means that our birdbaths should be emptied at least every 5-6 days and replenished with new water. There are tablets you can place in ponds to kill mosquito larvae that can be purchased at your garden center.

Female mosquitoes are the ones who transmit the disease by actually biting us and other mammals. Males have feather-like antennae and mouthparts which are not adapted for piercing ~ and are actually pollinators. Females have slender antennae and a set of needlelike organs in the proboscis with which they puncture the skin of animals and humans to feed on their blood. This blood is necessary for them to lay their eggs.

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It was heartbreaking to watch Mindy die of encephalitis as it seemed nobody knew how to help her. Brain damage occurs as the inflamed brain pushes against the skull, which leads to seizures and eventual death.

Let's all be responsible enough to change out our water areas frequently not only for our safety but for the safety of neighborhood birds.

## Recipe of the Month Apple-Cheese Muffins

Posted by: Barry - barry@newwave.net - May 8, 1996

Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
  
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, with shells
- 1/2 cup chopped apple
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot

Mix the first five ingredients together. Wash the eggs, then blenderize the eggs with the shell included. Add butter, sugar, apple, and carrot to the eggs and blenderize briefly to mix. Stir together with the dry ingredients until just combined. Spoon into greased muffin tins and bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, or until springy to the touch.

Recipe from the [Birds n Ways website, www.birdsnways.com](http://www.birdsnways.com)

## Book Picks of the Month

Christine Kinkade

I have decided that there will be no Library Picks for the months of July, August, and September because, after the July meeting, we won't be meeting again at the Kirkwood Community Center until October. August is our GPC Bird Fair, and in September we will be meeting at the World Bird Sanctuary. Library Picks will resume in October.

If you have a book that needs to be returned to the Library, please return it at the July meeting.

A complete listing of the GPC library is available on the GPC website [www.GatewayParrotClub.org](http://www.GatewayParrotClub.org). If you wish to check out any of these, or any of our books, please contact me prior to the next GPC meeting by phone (636) 343-8097, or email at [Librarian@GatewayParrotClub.org](mailto:Librarian@GatewayParrotClub.org), and I will bring them to the meeting.

All books checked out should be returned at the following GPC meeting. If that is not possible, please return the books by mail to Christine Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge, MO. 63049-2848.

Happy reading!

Christine

## The Biological, Ethical, and Human Health Aspects of Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation

Editor's Note: This is an older article from the AAV series. While it doesn't really draw conclusions or issue a call for action, it offers a number of topics for reflection. Take a few moments and think about it. We will be experiencing some conservation/rehabilitation efforts firsthand at our upcoming meeting at the World Bird Sanctuary...

James M. Harris, DVM

Release No 11, November 2005

We humans evolved as a species connected to and part of the flora and fauna with which we share. It has been suggested that our mental and emotional health in some ways is partly dependent on the opportunity for us to nurture. This relationship existed for

eons until recent times. The rise of the Industrial Revolution, improved health care, and the human population explosion all contributed to human numbers exceeding their loading capacity. Overpopulation, land acquisition, agriculture, and the urbanization of society have led to massive habitat destruction and humans isolated from the "Living Environment."

Our technologically-oriented society has reached out to nature to make amends for the destruction we have created. The question now is: how much good are we accomplishing and how much real and potential damage are we doing with our efforts?

In the 1970's, the California Condor Project started. The species was reduced to less than 20 birds. Evolved as a carrion eater of large herbivores, the species was biologically doomed with the extinction of the woolly mammoth and other large hoof stock that roamed North America. Lead and poisons introduced by humans further reduced their numbers. One of the biologists working on the project was asked by the press why bother saving condors? His reply is a classic to be remembered by us all. To paraphrase his answer: "The reason to save condors is not so much that man needs condors but, in developing the skills and techniques required to save condors, Man may learn to save himself!"

Conservation and wildlife rehabilitation are the buzz words of our efforts to reconnect with nature. Species close to extinction are often kept in captive breeding programs, but if the genetic pool is limited, one must wonder if there is a viable population to work with. Furthermore, if there is no habitat suitable for release, the numbers produced have no chance for a free existence, but are doomed to spend their lives in captivity. When down to the last member of a species, we now toy with the fantasy of freezing it hopeful that, one day, we can recreate it from the genetic material in the freezer.

In the last three decades, wildlife rehabilitation has become a popular endeavor, reasonably well organized in "First World" countries, but always lacking funds. Centers, training programs, and international organizations have rushed in to fill the need. Is this effort of any value to wildlife? What are the ethical, moral, and humane aspects of keeping and caring for wildlife? If an individual cannot be released because of some infirmity, is it appropriate to keep it confined in captivity for the term of its natural life. There is no such thing as an aged individual in "Nature."

Biologically, unless a rescued, rehabilitated individual can complete at least one successful reproductive cycle, the efforts to save it have been of no value to that species. Furthermore, there must be concern that during the period of time that the creature was

cared for pathogens were not introduced that might have devastating effects on the wild population after reintroduction. Can this be addressed? Where is the funding for this?

An example from first-hand experience involved California murrelets ("U alga") oiled off the coast of North America. The birds were de-oiled and kept in a facility located in a municipal park by International Bird Rescue Research Center, an organization formed in the early 1970's, to care for oiled sea birds. There were about 27 birds in this group. After de-oiling, some were released to swim back to the offshore islands they came from. The released birds were not strong enough and were recaptured shortly after release when washed up on the beach. A few days later, proliferative lesions started to form at the commissures of beaks. These rapidly progressed to massive lesions of the head and all the birds died. They all ate well until death, some dying with fish in their mouths. The first pathologist that evaluated the tissue sections of lesions described papillomas and suggested that this may have spread from fish in the area that were known to have a viral papilloma. Further examination revealed Bollinger bodies. The birds had classic pox. It was discovered that avian pox was endemic in the blackbirds in the park and there was a high population of mosquitoes and biting flies in the area. If the affected birds had returned to their islands where there were huge swarms of biting flies the whole population of birds, some 200,000 breeding pairs might have been lost.

### **Good Intentions, Bad Ideas**

During the early 1970's, birds arriving at oil spill receiving centers often had been seen first by "well-meaning" veterinarians. Some of these birds arrived accompanied by medical records listing observations and medications administered. Most birds had undergone "poly-pharmacy." In one case, 26 different medications had been administered by every conceivable route.

This brings us to another point: medicines, antimicrobials and the like, used unnecessarily or at improper doses for improper periods of time. The issue of antibiotic resistance is a can of worms we have opened and seem to ignore most of the time.

### **Human Health Issues**

What are the issues involving humans in wildlife conservation and rehabilitation? Zoonotic diseases need to be addressed. Are workers current on tetanus protection? Rabies virus is an issue for those working with bats, great-horned owls, and mammals. Eye protection must be provided and in use when working with fish-spearing birds. Personal hygiene is an issue with all activities. As

an example, Salmonella species must be assumed to be an issue when working with all reptiles. If volunteer manpower is used, are people briefed on issues of death and loss? Is there a mental health care professional available? People who "rescue" creatures are at increased risk of having pathological grief responses when loss occurs. Personalizing and humanizing creatures also puts people at increased risk of burnout. These issues must be addressed in training sessions prior to having volunteers participate in programs. Professionals can also be at risk when overwhelmed by the extent of a situation. We must always remember to care for the caregiver.

Finally, there must be realization that monitoring programs, subjects, and human participants requires an expenditure of funds in addition to the actual costs of the rehabilitation and conservation efforts.

Release #11, November, 2005. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member?

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## 2007 Meeting Schedule

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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 16	Special program at WBS!
October 21	TBA
November 18	TBA – Nominations for offices
December 16	Elections – Holiday party

## Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

### 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.

Officers			
	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
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		Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026
		Mandy Baumgartner	(314) 842-4191
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