

# Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 8, Issue 9 September 2008

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

After a whirlwind of activity, our 2008 Annual Bird Fair is over! I hope everyone who attended the fair had a good time. 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!

This year, in addition to presenting our seminar speakers with gifts, we also recognized, at our Saturday Hospitality Dinner, those vendors who have been to our fairs for 15 years or more. We presented gifts to these vendors in appreciation for their friendship and participation in our fairs.

We are still awaiting the final report from our treasurer, Nancy Marron, however things are looking very positive and comparable to last year.

Now, it's time to start planning for next year's Fair. Be prepared for exciting things to come. We are making tentative plans for a new location next year. If all goes well, it will not only save us money, but will be less work to set up and take down. Be sure to attend the meetings for more information.

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

**Fair Number 20!** – Yes, 20. Obviously the big news of the month is the 2008 edition of the All-American Hookbill Fair. It was a smooth operation. There were no issues I am aware of (of course I just hang out in the Seminar Room all day...) Speaking of which, we had our usual group of excellent presentations, and all were well-attended. I'll try to present a summary of each presentation in coming issues to help fill you in.

**How did the Fair Start?** – For that matter, how did the GPC start? I've been associated with the GPC for five or six years. Several of the Board members have been around much longer, but nobody goes back to the beginning. I have seen the paperwork that formed the Club, and the Mission Statement includes the words, "Established in 1988" so we know when the Club started.

As I prepared programs for the past several Fairs, I wanted to include that each was the XX<sup>th</sup> annual Fair, but no one was sure. I guess I assumed the Club started and some time later had its first event, then called a "Show." The early events were in fact shows in the competitive sense, like a dog show. Birds were presented and judged; and they, and their breeders, received recognition.

In conversation with Tom Becherer, of El Mel, I got some interesting background on the beginning of the Club and its annual event. The first President, Jerry (forgive me I forgot his last name) was interested in hosting an event, and was in contact with KayTee, the food company, who had been organizing an annual, national show. Now here is the chicken and egg dilemma... KayTee required a bird club host the event, and this was apparently the genesis of the Gateway Parrot Club, formed to host the event.

As it turns out, the event preceded the Club. The Great American Bird Show, as it was then called, started in 1986, in Chicago, an annual event for all birds. KayTee was heavily involved in management of the show over the years until 2000, when a separate Board of Directors took over management. You can find out more about the current incarnation of the Show at their website: [www.GreatAmericanBirdShow.org](http://www.GreatAmericanBirdShow.org). There is information there about the 2007 event, but nothing about 2008.

**Numbers from the Fair?** – Not yet. From Dave's article on the first page, we expect to hear more at the meeting this Sunday.

**Meeting This Sunday** – Just a reminder, we resume our normal meeting schedule this week, the third Sunday, at the Kirkwood Community Center. The general meeting is at 2:00 PM, preceded by the Board meeting at 12:30. We hope to see the new members who joined at the Fair. For those who haven't been to a meeting at the Kirkwood facility (we've been there about a year) it is in Kirkwood Park. The Community center is on the eastern edge of the park, on Geyer Road (111 S. Geyer, 63122). If you need help, ask someone where the hockey rink is, then look for our signs in the lobby. Our meeting room is on the second floor. [Detailed directions are on our website.](#)

**Found Bird** - presumably lost – I got an email from Sue Frayer, who happens to work at the Humane Society. She has a "parrot" taken in at the Collinsville, IL, High School, in August. She has contacted area agencies, and wanted to let us know. She is being careful about disclosing details about the bird. If you lost, or know of someone who lost a bird in that time and area, please contact Sue at (618) 346-9116.

**The Real Macaw** – Parrot Club. If you Google *Parrot Club*, the GPC comes up as the second hit. The first is **The Real Macaw Parrot Club**. They have a mission similar to ours, and are based in New Jersey. In conjunction with Shelly Orloff, their newsletter editor, we agreed to exchange articles for publication. Our writers, like Debbie Martin, Sue Owens and Cliff Patterson granted permission for use of their contributions. This month we have the first article from The Real Macaw, an installment of *Big Bob's Corner*. Check it out.

## Upgrade Your Online To Video

Take this as an introduction to one of our newer members, and the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Ok, everybody has a computer, a browser and an email account, right? But that is all so 20<sup>th</sup> century...

The old world is email and list/discussion groups (like our [GatewayParrots@YahooGroups.com](mailto:GatewayParrots@YahooGroups.com)). The new world is text messaging, flickr, facebook, MySpace and YouTube. I admit it, I'm one of those dinosaurs that doesn't have a MySpace/facebook page and from my corporate IT background, YouTube is just something you block with the firewall. But if you take what you know about email

groups and extend it to video, you will have an idea of what goes on at YouTube.

A case in point, Froggi's channel. Froggi VanRiper has a "channel" on YouTube. Froggi is one of our members, and by the way, will talk to us Sunday about behavior. She has Quakers and will attempt to take a vicious Quaker, named Topper, and show us how to get him into a flight suit.

YouTube is hard to describe briefly, but it's a lot of videos available at [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com). The range of videos is mind-numbing; everything from professional stuff like movie trailers and campaign adds to "home" videos. The site is organized into Communities, and Channels, based on common interests.

As a contributor, you can just upload your video with a description, or you can create your own channel, or video blog. Froggi has nine videos available. You can find them at <http://youtube.com/user/FroggiVR>

## FroggiVR

Froggi VanRiper

After long e-mail conversations with a friend in Georgia who just adopted 2 birds, we reached a point where words didn't cut it anymore. How to put on a parrot diaper? No, you just have to see me do it. So, my dear husband booted up the Apple, and taught me how to record a video of myself.

Widget sat nicely for the camera, let me put her diaper on, showed off a few tricks, and seemed to just love the attention! So, the next time a question came up, I made another video. Before long, it became something of a video "blog," with episodes going up fairly regularly. I covered putting the diaper on a cooperative and then an uncooperative bird, then I talked about avoiding bites from hookbills. I made 2 videos about toys - one about the kinds every bird should have, then one with tips for making your own safe and inexpensive toys.

After a discussion of anticipating bites, I recorded Widget responding to three people approaching her cage - myself, who she steps up lovingly and readily for; my husband, who she loves but bites

when she's on the cage; and a "stranger" who she has no interest in letting near the cage. I narrated the nuances in her behavior, to show what some signs of aggression might be. There's also a video on feathers, molting, and the fun of allopreening your bird's head. I'm planning to add more soon, and I hope you will enjoy watching them!

You can find all my videos at <http://youtube.com/user/FroggiVR>

## Special Thanks

Dave Kinkade

I would like to especially thank the following GPC members for their hard work during our 2008 All-American Hookbill Fair.

- Suzanne Dohack for contacting and organizing the volunteers for the Fair.
- Phyllis Cotton and Christine Kinkade for general Fair operations, contacting vendors, floor layout & vendor booth assignments, and, along with Barbara Shaffer, preparing the Saturday Hospitality Dinner.
- Christine Kinkade and Donna Mount for providing the all-important Vendor's continental breakfast for Saturday & Sunday mornings.
- Nancy Marron for seeing that the Fair expenses were paid promptly, soliciting donations for the Silent Auction, contact person for the St. Louis County Parks, and acquiring the gifts for the seminar speakers and the vendors that were recognized at the dinner.
- Trey Shaffer for setting up the seminar room for the speakers, acquiring the Fair lawn signs, editing the Fair Program, and maintaining the GPC website with up-to-date information about our Fair.
- Niki Shaffer for help with acquiring and wrapping the speakers' and Vendor's gifts; and for signing up new members and at the Membership Table at the Fair.
- Barbara Shaffer for her help in preparing the Saturday Hospitality Dinner.

- Jim Berk, along with his helper, for laying out the vendor floor, for setting up the vendor tables on Friday and taking them down on Sunday, and for putting out the lawn signs.

- Janet Draper for arranging and participating in the KSDK-TV "Show Me St. Louis".

- Ron Spittler for preparing and placing the large GPC Fair signs on either end of Weidman Rd.

## She's Looking At Me Mom!

Debby Martin

A newly cleaned Manzanita tree playgym complete with two of everything – exactly alike! New toys, new baskets, new stuff to shred. Well, thought beta bird, aka Debby, surely Mozart and Ginger can share this huge tree now. But she didn't notice there was only ONE Boing!!!! Peace lasted about 5 minutes. Mozart had noticed the Boing right away and scooted over claiming dibs. Ginger hurried over to steal Mozart's treats before eating her own. Full and drowsy she ambled over to the back of the tree and there it was – the BOING – the only Boing with a 'Boy' on it! Oh how awful – what a disgrace! She stalked slowly up the coil, head slightly forward, feathers slicked and eyes glaring. She moved level with Mozart and gave him 'The Look.' The poor guy shrieked, gave one little half-hearted hiss and flew in panic for Beta Bird yelling "She's looking at me Mom". Round 25 in the ongoing Cockatiel Wars. Girls 50, Boys zip!

What could Beta Bird do? Of course since Boings are favored, making sure two are there at the same height helps. But making sure there is an 'escape' route also helps. Mozart loves to sit on top of his cage. So next to the Manzanita tree we set up a TV tray with a small wire cage connected to the Manzanita tree by flexible perches. When he begins to feel surrounded by 'gurls' the cage and its soft perches provide a handy hide-away. A small T-stand on the top provides another handy perch. Sometimes there's a little foraging surprise hidden in there. He can get away from the pressure of "The Look" and feel pretty smug that Ginger hasn't figured out that sometimes it pays to have a small hide-away.

## Big Bob's Corner

Angela Cupo - The Real Macaw Parrot Club



Hi, it's Big Bob here. Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. This month our topic is "HUMANS WANT TO KNOW".

Humans want to know why we scream, why we talk, why we aren't talking, what to feed us, when to feed us, when to put us to sleep, whether to cover us or not, why second hand birds some-times bite

more, pluck more, etc. Curious minds want to know they say.

We scream for many reasons, we like it, it is natural at certain times of the day, we want attention, we want to eat, or maybe because we are hurt.

We talk to please you, our humans, that makes sense right, we don't talk in the wild, we have our own call, so needless to say, we do it for you to please you, and it does, doesn't it?

WE DON'T TALK SOMETIMES BECAUSE WE CHOOSE NOT TO, NOT BECAUSE WE CAN'T, AND SOMETIMES WE TALK TO certain people, but not others.

Feeding depends on the type of birds you have, but seeds are NOT a diet for any of us, it causes malnutrition, and there are so many wonderful diets available these days, do your homework on the type of bird you have before you get it, so you are well prepared. Most birds definitely want food and fresh water in the morning, as we do, and certainly some later in the day along with lots of fresh fruits and veggies every day.

Birds require at least 8 to 10 hours of sleep daily for optimum health and well being.

Covering is a preference, in our house we don't get covered, our human says we don't need that, we get peace, quiet, and plenty of shut eye every night to meet the requirements.

Try to remember when you get a bird from an-other owner, or several other owners, that bird comes with bag-gage, and depend-ing on the reason they gave the bird up, sometimes the owner dies or is terminally ill, some-times the owners can't handle their bird, sometimes the bird is a plucker for various reasons, or a screamer for various reasons. The bottom line is the new owner never knows the whole story, so you must have lots of time and patience to deal with your new arrival and all his/her good and bad traits that have developed.

The most important thing is always do your home-work before you get your bird, think clearly when deciding, it is a big commitment and not to be taken lightly. Remember how social we are, we need your attention, some of us more than others, if you don't have the time, or don't want to give it, then think twice before you commit.

I know my human gives us so much and every day, no matter how she feels. It is not such an easy task, but she always says she gets more back than she gives, but we think she gives us every-thing we need because she loves us dearly.

In closing, we would like to thank DOT ANDRUSKO for her dona-tion to the club (Real Macaw) in our Uncle BOB'S NAME. Our human and the CUPO FLOCK appreciate your kindness, and thoughtfulness.

TILL NEXT TIME,

Big Bob, our human, ANGELA CUPO, and the Cupo Flock

## Zootoo - More on the web

Niki Shaffer

In Case You Haven't Heard...

...of the website called [ZooToo.com](http://ZooToo.com), I highly recommend checking it out.

Zootoo is not like most of the other pet websites I have seen. When you register, you sign up for a rescue organization and an animal shelter. The choices for these depend on your zip code. With your various activities on the web site you earn points, but

unlike most sites, you do not get these points, you earn them for your rescue group and shelter. I think that is neat! Other than that the website itself is really neat. There are so many different ways to chat with other pet owners, like the traditional chat room format, or something I have found interesting; you can post a questions to the question board where other zootooers can answer them. In addition, there is a way to write journal entries and other zootooers can respond to them.

When you register, you create your "zoo," your page to enter all your pets. You can create a separate profile for each pet with all his or her information including a picture. When you upload a picture, you are automatically entered in the Photo War. This is a cuteness contest were your pet is put up next to one of the same species and zootooers vote on which one is cuter. This is a way to earn points. You can enter events in the calendar (which I did for the Fair). You can evaluate services like groomers (for dogs). You can even get directions to and look up services in their directory.

On the top of the screen, when you are in your zoo, there is a status bar to show your level, I don't remember all the levels but it is based on how many points you have earned I am a "Zoocomer". One feature I think really makes this website successful for someone like me, who has a million things going on in a thousand different places. Every time someone requests your friendship, zootoo sends you an email with a link, so all you have to do is click the link. It brings you to the page to accept the friendship, and then you are already logged in! How easy is that!

## Book Picks of the Month

Christine Kinkade

Here are this month's picks:

***The New Parrot Handbook*** by Werner Lantermann

A comprehensive book about parrot husbandry, purchasing, housing, care, diet, diseases, breeding, and more. Includes data on 35 species, 30 drawings by Fritz Kohler, 50 full-color photos, and 35 maps indicating distribution of parrots. (144 pages).

***Alex and Friends*** by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

This book addresses animal talking, thinking, and intelligence with emphasis on Alex, the African Grey, and his owner, Irene Pepperberg. Lots of color photos by William Munoz. (96 pages).

***Lovebirds, Step by Step*** by Arnold Weston

This book covers topics of interest for both the novice and experienced lovebird owners, with practical advice on selecting the right bird, housing, feeding, breeding, taming, exhibiting, and health care. Several full-color photos. (64 pages).

***Parrot Behavior & Training-Part 1*** by Barbara Heidenreich

This DVD, "Introduction to Training," teaches behavior basics and tools for training your bird.

***Captive Foraging*** by M. Scott Echols

"The Next Best Thing to Being Free." This DVD will help you to understand the natural instinct of all animals to forage, how to redirect this energy in a captive bird to prevent unwanted behaviors, how to build a foraging tree for a bird in a home, and how to create foraging toys to keep your birds occupied and happy.

GPC members can check out any of these featured picks at this month's meeting. **Please note** that some books are quite old and some of the information may be a little outdated. Please keep this in mind when reading the books.

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 next 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

## 2008 Schedule

September 21
October 19
November 16
December 14

### 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.

## 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

Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Dawn Breer	(636) 464-8085
Suzanne Dohack	(636) 734-4527
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
Jim Berk	(636) 586-1445

### Committees

Education	???	
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		