

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 9, Issue 5

June 2009

Greetings From The Presidential Perch!

Two more months until our Fair! And what a Fair it's going to be! The vendor floor is filled up. We have exciting speakers lined up for our seminars. We will be doing our own concessions. Busy, busy, busy! And, to top it all off, we are going to have something new this year.

The Gateway Parrot Club is going to host a Cockatiel Show affiliated with, and sanctioned by, the National Cockatiel Society! Although our club has had shows during the fair long ago, we have not done so since. The show will be organized by Sandy Warren, who is associated with exhibitors of the Southern Illinois/Tennessee area. She will be the show coordinator and will be making all of the arrangements for the show. See separate article.

The Cockatiel Show will be held in one of the upper levels of the hall along with our seminars and dinner areas. There is no cost to our club for hosting the show. The show should work for our benefit as it will hopefully bring more people to our fair. After the fair, we will review the cockatiel show to see if we want to do it during future fairs.

Our next meeting will be on the second Sunday, June 14th. You won't want to miss the meeting, as it will be a toy making meeting to make bird toys for the Fair. Dawn Breer will be there to supply us with parts and give us some pointers on making safe bird toys. If you don't want to make any toys, but would like to donate something for the fair, she will have toys to purchase at a reduced price. Also,

if you need toys for your own birds, she will also have them available for a reduce price.

I encourage everyone to make the effort to attend the meetings and get involved. Your ideas and knowledge are needed to help move your club forward. Visitors are always welcomed. Bring a friend! And, your birds!

See you at the meetings! Dave

All-American Hookbill Fair Update

Alex - Our featured, national guest speaker will be Irene Pepperberg, so spread the word and plan on hearing her speak both days. Irene

QPS - We will again be hosting the annual meeting of the national Quaker Parakeet Society, so all you Monk-lovers plan on stopping by to find out what is happening with "your" birds, and the national club...

Show - As Dave mentioned, we will also be hosting a sanctioned Cockatiel show. This is a competitive, judged environment where breeders of Cockatiels present their charges in competition based on their "breed" standard.

We are happy to promote responsible breeding. Breeders showing their birds typically represent the best standards of caretaking, and their efforts improve the species through careful selection. I'm drawing on my experience in the world of dogs, here, but to compete with other animals, breeders manage their breeding and produce better animals than those coming from puppy/birdie mills.

So look forward to seeing what bird show competition looks like. See the best Cockatiels around and talk to their breeders.

Alex Foundation Donation Challenge

Editor's Note: This came from Phyllis. As you (should) know, Irene Pepperberg will be our guest at the Fair in August. It takes money to do her work, and we will be supporting the Alex Foundation as a Club. Here is an opportunity to amplify your personal impact...

Fans of *The Alex Foundation* are rising to the challenge posed by New York bird-owner, Andy Sterner. Andy, a longtime admirer of Dr. Pepperberg's work, has offered a generous challenge to bird owners everywhere!

- For every donation of \$50-\$500, Andy will match 50% of the amount.
- For every donation of **more than \$500, Andy will match 100% of the amount!**

Times are tough—we know! And they are tough for the birds as well. Traditional funding sources are becoming less and less available. Griffin and Wart are stepping up to the plate, doing their best to help further the Alex's work—and we'd like to ask you to help as well.

Because of Andy's generous offer, you can give more than your actual contribution. Using the "latte' factor," here's how it works:

- For the cost of *one plain cup of coffee per week* for a year—let's say \$1 per week for 52 weeks equals a \$52 contribution – Andy's match will make it \$78!
- For the cost of 3 lattes per week for a year—\$10.50 for 52 weeks equals a \$546 contribution – Andy's match will make it \$1092!

To qualify for Andy's matching donation, your donations must be made from April 23 through June 30. Contributions can be made by going to www.alexfoundation.org, and clicking on Alex's Donate button. Checks are welcome, too!! (Actually, we get more, because there is no PayPal service charge!)

We'd also like to ask one more favor—and that is to help us make this challenge VIRAL! Please post it to your bird groups, or text it to your friends. If you belong to online social networks like Facebook and Multiply.com, please post it there. And if you Twitter, please send out a "tweet" for Andy's Alex challenge--after all, it IS for the birds!

Toy Making

Trey Shaffer

Be sure to come to the meeting this Sunday. We will be making toys for use at the Fair. Express yourself! Show your creativity, or your engineering excellence. Dawn Breer will supply the components and guidance. We will make toys to use in our raffles and auctions at the Fair.

This has been a popular meeting the past few years we have been doing it. Of course we will have our usual snacks and eats... Bring your favorite.

As you probably know, Dawn operates *Sweet Peas*, making and selling bird toys. She started out as a member and vendor at our Fairs, and is now a Board Member. She provides the toy parts for this activity at an extreme discount. If you don't feel like making a toy, you can purchase one of her "ready made" toys and donate it to the cause. And, as you may know, Dawn periodically brings some of her wares to our meetings where you can purchase them for your personal use at a Club member discount.

Thanks to Dawn for schlepping all the stuff...

Book Picks of the Month

Christine Kinkade

Here are the library picks for this month. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a book request, and I will bring the book to the next GPC meeting. A complete listing of books and videos can be found on the GPC website (www.GatewayParrotClub.org).

The book "Alex & Me" has been donated to the Gateway Parrot Club library by Sherry Miles, a friend of the GPC. Thank you very much, Sherry, we will all enjoy reading this book.

Irene Pepperberg will be our featured speaker at our 2009 August Bird Fair. "Alex & Me" is her latest book.

Alex & Me by Irene Pepperberg

Alex, an African Grey parrot, died at the age of 31. This book is a tribute to Alex and the bond that existed between him and Irene Pepperberg. Alex and Irene had worked together in animal research for over 30 years. Through Alex, Irene showed the world that Alex was capable of independent thinking, including the ability to add; understand concepts like bigger, smaller, more, fewer, and none; and to sound out words. (232 pages).

Cockatiels by Annette Wolter

A complete pet owners manual. Experts answer all your questions about pet care, feeding, behavior, health, breeding, and much more. Informative, yet clear enough for young pet owners. More than 50 color photos and drawings. (64 pages).

Tender Loving Care for Pet Birds by T. J. Lafeber

This book looks at bird keeping from a little different perspective. There are chapters on nutrition; Cage and furnishings; socializing; environment; beak, nail, ear, & eye care; and dangers in the home. A few illustrations. (113 pages).

Exhibiting Birds by Dr. A. E. Decoteau

This book presents an authoritative introduction to exhibiting birds and bird competition. It provides a highly informative guide that covers all aspects of bird exhibiting, preparing for a show, classification for showing, and more. Color photos. (189 pages)

African Gray Parrots by Annette Wolter

Answers to all your questions about raising African Gray Parrots: feeding, behavior, health, and breeding. Informative and clear enough for young pet owners. Eight pages of full-color photos plus drawings. (61 pages).

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. 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, 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!

Recipe Murph's Mash Cookies

From the Birds 'n Ways website

www.BirdsnWays.com

Posted by: Vickie, Bobber & Maggie

November 3, 2003

A different spin on a birdy favorite, Vicki from Macaw Talk altered the recipe for Murph's Mash (see soft foods page) to create a cookie that's sure to please your fid!

Cook one peeled, cubed sweet potato. Cool. Add 1 peeled, chopped apple, 1 egg, some cinnamon, 1 teaspoon vanilla. I had some dried parsley, so added a couple tablespoons. Grind some almonds fine in blender (I used about 1 cup). Add whatever other chopped veggies etc. Mix should be consistency of cookie dough.

Drop onto greased cookie sheet with teaspoon. Bake 12 minutes at 350. I divided the "dough" into three portions, added some chopped walnuts to one part, some coconut to one part, and stirred some extra spices (nutmeg, ginger) to the third part, so had three "kinds" of cookies from one batch. Bobber doesn't like the almonds in the mixed nuts that I get, so I have been pulling them out and those were what I ground up to thicken the dough. You could use whatever kind of nuts that are not "favorite" at your house.

Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

Officers

President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
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Committees

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Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Suzanne Dohack	(636) 734-4527
Website		
Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Public Relations		

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.

2009 Schedule

June 14 (Second Sunday)
July 19
August – All-American Hookbill Fair
September 13 (Second Sunday)
October 18
November 15 – Nominations for office
December 13 (Second Sunday) Elections and Party