

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 9, Issue 8

September 2009

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

Whew! What a Fair! After eleven months of planning and work, our 2009 annual bird fair came in a blaze of glory and left in a cloud of dust with a Hi, Ho, vendors Away!

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help out at the fair. Without the dedicated help of Club and Board Members, friends, and neighbors who volunteered their time and hard work, it would not have succeeded. And, succeed it did! To all of you I would like to say, "THANK YOU" very much!

Our new location was a success. Both, the fair attendees and the vendors with whom I spoke, liked the new location, citing that it was far easier to find and get to than at our previous location. Admittedly, things were a little tight space-wise in the vendor area. We had a few ruffled feathers at first, but our fair coordinators were able to smooth things out.

There was plenty of room for the Cockatiel Show, the speakers, and the Saturday dinner. The Cockatiel Show was well received and a couple of our club members won ribbons for the cockatiels they entered.

Dr. Pepperberg's talks were well attended. Dr. Pepperberg has expressed her thanks for being invited to our fair and did well with her table for the Alex Foundation.

The Bird Toy Workshop also had a big turnout, and it may have to an encore performance next year!

The Saturday dinner was also a success. We received a lot of good comments on the dinner from the speakers and vendors.

And, speaking of food, the concession stand seemed to be very popular and did very well.

For those who joined or renewed their membership at the fair, I would like to thank you. Don't be a stranger. Please come to the club meetings to get to know other club members and share your interest in your birds.

We are still awaiting the final report from our treasurer as to how well we did. As education is a big part of our mission, some of the fair proceeds will go towards the costs of the fair seminars, which include lecture fees, travel & lodging expenses, and supplies. Proceeds would also go toward any costs that may be incurred for the monthly Educational Program or the Public Outreach Program. The remaining proceeds go towards other avian organizations that support our mission and goals.

Now that the fair is over, we can sit back and relax for a while. But, not for long. It's time to start planning for next year's Fair. So, start planning now on how you can help your Club have another successful fair, as well as helping others in our avian community.

In the month of November we will be soliciting nominations for club officers that will expire at the end of this year. Start thinking now who you would like to be officers & board members. And, don't be shy to nominate yourself! Elections will take place at the December meeting.

Please note that our next meeting will be on Sept. 13, 2009, the 2nd Sunday of the month. Lisa Rose will be doing a wing, nail, & beak trimming, so bring your birds.

As always, bring a friend! And, of course, your birds!

See you at the meetings! Dave

Tidbits

The Fair, the Fair, The fair – Clearly, the news large and small is about the 21st annual All-American Hookbill Fair and Seminars. Our Club was started, initially to put together the first edition, the All-American Hookbill Show, more than 20 years ago. Over the years, the Club's and the Fair's focus shifted away from breeding toward education, and the event name changed to reflect the emphasis.

Pictures At An Exhibition – One of my favorite pieces of music, sort of describes individual perceptions of our event. We will have to wait a while and talk with several different people to get an overall view of the Fair. There was so much to see, do and coordinate, nobody had the big picture.

Seminars – My view of the event is always from the seminar room. I get to attend every seminar. It was originally these seminars that brought me to the Club. As mentioned in other articles, Irene Pepperberg was both a great draw and a great presenter. Thanks again to Dr. Pepperberg and best wishes to The Alex Foundation. The seminar room was busy all day... Look forward to more discussion/articles about our other sessions: Lisa Rose on behavior, Dr. Kersting on avian medicine, including news about the identification of the PDD virus, our own Carole Grommet hosted a toy making workshop, and Sandy Warren, coordinator of the Cockatiel Show, gave us lots of information about what makes up all those different Cockatiels.

Thanks – In his article Dave thanked everyone for their effort bringing the Fair together and making it run smoothly, and there were a lot of people involved and helping. I would like to say a special thanks to a small group of people who put in LOTS of time and effort, over months, to make the event a success... Dave Kinkade, Christine Kinkade and Phyllis Cotton. Thank you!

Tell Me More – As I mentioned, we are just scratching the surface of information about the Fair. We are all anxious for the

numbers from Nancy. We're not in it just for the money, but it is a good yardstick and it does make our mission real when we give it away. Send me an email... Tell me what you thought of the Fair. Something big, something small, something we did right, something we can do better next year... Let us know.

Internet Philanthropy iGive.com

Trey Shaffer

Irene Pepperberg mentioned iGive.com as a way to help The Alex Foundation get money without cost to you... free money. Sound too good to be true? Well, somebody is paying for it, just not you. It is a form of advertiser support.

When you sign up and USE iGive.com to shop, or more importantly BUY things on the web, the merchant "kicks back" a small amount to iGive.com, which then passes it to your chosen beneficiary. Obviously this requires Internet connection and an online buying habit, but hey, this is the 21st century...

This also requires a small adjustment to your pre-buying behavior. In order to get the donation, you must link to the merchant's web site FROM the iGive.com website, where you will also find a list of "participating" merchants. There are more than 700 merchants, and that number will probably grow if the program continues successfully. There is also an iGive.com toolbar you can add to your Internet browser to make this process more convenient.

You can also generate a penny for each Internet search you make. Give the penny to The Alex Foundation rather than Google...

Following is a step-by-step discussion of setting yourself up at iGive.com. Check it out and generate some free money. The process is painless and pretty quick. As with all Internet sites, exercise caution when disclosing personal information. This site has a good privacy policy and doesn't ask for intrusive information.

After setting up your account take a few minutes to review the available merchants and plan how you will use the service when you are ready to buy...

The first thing to do is visit the iGive.com website. Need the URL?...

iGive.com

The first time you visit, you will be presented with a sign up form. After your first visit, you will get a personalized page. You will get the sign up page if you go to the site from another computer. In that case, select the Member login link at the top of the page. So here is the step-by-step to sign up... starting from the iGive.com first page.

First - Search for The Alex Foundation. In the **Keyword Search** field, enter *Alex Foundation* and click the **Find Causes** button. Then select **The Alex Foundation** from the list of similar names.

Second - Sign up

Enter your email address, first and last names, password and ZIP code.

Next is an optional field, check/or not **May we reveal your name and iGive.com results to your cause?** I assume this is independent of the site's privacy policy, available as part of their member agreement.

Next are a few optional questions. Answer if you like: gender, age, kids at home.

Tax Donation Preferences - Presumably you will take one of the first options and donate any tax deductions. I actually had to read the Member Agreement to see what they are talking about here, and depending on how much you shop, I think we are talking about milli-micro-nano cents here...

This seems more like a formality for the IRS than anything else, not having anything to do with the actual shopping event, but with the accumulated amount your shopping generates for your chosen cause. If a donation to that organization is otherwise tax deductible, the amount generated by your shopping, thereby donated to "the cause" would qualify as tax deductible... That is what I got from it, but I'm not a tax specialist, and as my accountant reminds me frequently, haven't filed my 2008 return yet.

Step 3 – iGive Toolbar

After completing the registration, you will be presented with a page allowing/suggesting you install the iGive.com browser toolbar. I will leave you to this decision. It claims enhanced tracking of purchases and to generate additional monies for your chosen cause.

Ok, the setup part is done, now how do you actually generate money for The Alex Foundation? Two ways: searching and shopping. Both these activities need to start from the iGive.com website or toolbar, if

you installed it. Details are available at the iGive.com website, but basically you *start* there to do your normal web searching, and it generates a penny per search. If you go there prior to shopping/buying from one of their list of 700+ Stores, they get a piece of the purchase price, but remember, you must link to the merchant from the iGive.com site to make the purchase.

Here is a special item, make your first iGive.com related purchase within 45 days of sign up, and The Alex Foundation will receive a special \$5 donation/payment.

Wing, Nail, & Beak Trim

Dave Kinkade

Lisa Rose will be at the September 13th meeting of the Gateway Parrot Club from 2 pm until 4 pm to do wing, nail, & beak trimming for your birds. The Gateway Parrot Club meets at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Rd., Kirkwood, MO and is open to the public. So, bring your birds!

There will be a nominal charge for Lisa's services as follows:

- Wings \$5.00
- Nails \$5.00
- Beak \$5.00

NOTE: You will need to bring your own towel (appropriate size for your bird) for the grooming procedure.

Proceeds from the grooming will go towards Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) research.

This is a good opportunity to get your birds groomed for a nominal fee and support avian research.

For more information call (636) 343-8097 or (314) 537-6175.

Editor's Note: Dr. Kersting, in his presentation at the Fair, had very interesting news. The virus causing PDD has been identified! Look forward to more information about this in the newsletter and all places bird. The Club has donated money to avian research in general, and PDD specifically, for many years. We look forward to continuing efforts to develop this breakthrough into a treatment for this disease.

My Bird Is Smarter Than Your Honor Student

So reads a bumper sticker I've seen. There was one in the parking lot at the Fair last week. Dr. Pepperberg was talking about a smart bird, Alex. Heidi Keifer sent a link to an article about another smart bird. Sorry, I didn't get permission to reprint, but it was fairly short and I'll summarize... Here is a link to the article:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090806/ap_on_sc/us_sci_aesop_s_crows

The article starts by mentioning an Aesop fable about a thirsty Crow who finds a pitcher partially filled with water, but the water level is too low for the bird to reach. The Crow then fills the pitcher with stones until the water level rises to where he can reach and drink it.

In an experiment, a worm is placed, floating on water, in a clear cylinder. Like the Crow in the fable, this bird, a Rook, similar to a Crow, proceeded to fill the cylinder with stones until he could reach the worm. Apparently three different birds used the same technique. I'm sure there are more details in the scholarly publication of the article in the journal, *Current Biology*.

I hope you all had a chance to hear Irene Pepperberg speak twice at the Fair last week. As I saw it, the first presentation was from Dr. Pepperberg, and the second from Irene. On Saturday she discussed the cognitive abilities of the African Gray. On Sunday she talked about her journey with Alex, scientific research in an academic environment biased against animal intelligence in general and birds as subjects, and the difficulty of sustaining the research and activities of The Alex Foundation.

The cognitive presentation showed how Alex's skills were developed and documented with scientific precision. Language research with birds continues today, but most is being done outside the United States, notably in England and Italy. Some of the research is being done with the Crow family, as noted in the Aesop fable and stone-dropping Rooks mentioned above.

In conjunction with Dr. Pepperberg's visit, the Club made a nice donation to The Alex Foundation. You too can help support The Alex Foundation. You could of course write a big fat check, and that would be appreciated, I'm sure. Or, with just a little effort, and no individual expense, we can all generate funds for The Alex Foundation through our Internet activities.

Even humans are smart enough for this...

Irene mentioned two easy ways to help The Alex Foundation using Internet advertising-based methods. First, if you intend to buy something through Amazon.com... go first to The Alex Foundation website and then go to Amazon with the link on this page:

<http://www.alexfoundation.org/donate.html>

A portion of your purchase price will then be donated to The Alex Foundation.

The second method Irene mentioned was using iGive.com. Details of setting up this method are in a separate article in this newsletter. Basically, you sign up and shop at one of the affiliated merchants, and a portion of your purchase goes back to The Alex Foundation.

As I was writing this, and getting the link above, I noticed there is a third method, MissionFish, which seems to be something similar, associated with eBay purchases. Check it out and let me know the details...

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).

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).

The African Grey by Julie Rach

A complete up-to-date resource book that includes websites of interest to bird owners. Everything you need to know about behavior and well-being of your African Grey. Color pictures. (126 pages).

Guide To A Well-Behaved Parrot by Mattie Sue Athan

A parrot-care handbook that helps you understand parrot psychology as the first step in dealing with the most common parrot behavior

problems ---- screaming, biting, and feather chewing. Full-color photos. (143 pages).

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).

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!

Christine

Recipe Pizza!

From the Birds n Ways website...

Parrot Pizza

Posted by: Joe & Rebecca - clubicki@tl.infi.net

March 12, 1997

Ingredients

- 1 small pizza crust (ready made) or 1 large flour tortilla

- 3 tbs pizza sauce
- 1 tbs wheat germ
- 1/4 cup shredded carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped broccoli
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Preparation

Place the crust or tortilla shell on a lightly greased cookie sheet.

Spread pizza sauce over the crust and sprinkle with the wheat germ.

Sprinkle carrots, broccoli and then cheese over the sauce.

Bake as crust package suggests and let cool down before serving to your feathered companions.

Parrot Pizza 2!!

Posted by: Sarah

October 3, 2002

This is a great treat for a parrot.

Ingredients

- Small pizza crust
- Peanut butter
- Fruit or veggies
- Bird seeds (for the kind of bird you have)

Preparation

First bake the crust and when done, take it out and let it cool.

Spread the peanut butter on the crust

Add the fruit and/or veggies.

Lastly, add the seeds.

I have a parrot and she loves it.

Visit the Birds n Ways website at:

www.BirdsnWays.com

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

September 13 (Second Sunday)
October 18 –
November 15 – Nominations for office
December 13 (Second Sunday) Elections and Party

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

Jim Berk	(636) 586-1445
Dawn Breer	(636) 464-8085
Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Jenn Moore	(636) 795-4384
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

Committees

Education	Who? You?	
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		