

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 9, Issue 8

October 2009

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

Fall (autumn) is here once again. Gone are the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer". The days are shorter, leaves on the trees are changing color, and the air is getting cooler. Although we may want summer to go on and on, fall can be a good time of the year, too. The weather is still warm enough for picnics and BBQs. Not to mention taking that hike in the woods that you have been thinking of doing but didn't because it was too hot. Its good exercise and a great way to get a little closer to nature. Take a pair of binoculars and look for the wild birds in your area. See how many song-birds, woodpeckers, and hawks you can spot. Enjoy a picnic while on the trail, but watch out for that hornets' nest in the tree or the yellow jackets on the ground!

Fall is also a reminder that it is time to test your smoke detectors and replace the batteries, if necessary. But, first, you may want to move your parrot to another area. That is, unless you don't mind your parrot mimicking the sound of the smoke detector all day long for the next month or so!

I would like to thank Lisa Rose for donating her time to do the nail, wing, and beak trims at our last meeting. I hope everyone was able to get their birds trimmed.

In November we will be soliciting nominations for club offices that expire at the end of this year. Start thinking now about who you would like to be officers & board members. And, don't be shy to nominate yourself! You must be a member in good standing (dues paid up) and have attended at least four (4) meetings within the previous 12 months. Elections will take place at the December meeting. Be sure to attend these important Club meetings.

See you at the meetings! Dave

Tidbits

More Fair... - Reactions to the Fair are still coming in. The Cockatiel Show made quite an impression, and you can read about it here in articles by Carole Grommet and Debby Martin. As they mention, we thank Sandy Warren for her efforts coordinating the competition. We apparently have a latent interest in showing tiels among members. As Carole mentions in passing, one of her birds is featured on the cover of the National Cockatiel Society, NCS, Journal. If you would like to receive the Journal and learn more about Cockatiels, you can join the NCS for \$20 per year. We will probably have the Journal at our meeting if you would like to check it out.

\$\$\$\$ - One clear cut measure of the Fair's success is the financial outcome, and this year we did well. We discussed the details of the revenue and expenses at the September meeting. The Fair is our only significant fund raiser for the year. It funds our meager operations, and we disburse the rest to organizations that further our mission.

New Members – The Fair is also our big recruiting event. We would like to welcome the following new members, joining since August... Maureen Dixon-Sullivan, Terry Allen, Katharine Bays, Christine Carter, Gabriella Plesovszki, Sandy Warren, Tamara Whitman, Jim Munis, Jesse Bohnenkamp, Linda Monta, Richard White, Melissa Slade, Mary Miller, Krystal Ballard, Gloria Lihl, Deborah Epperson, Robin Zlatic, Barb Hauenstein, Cheryl Rowland.

Fort Worth Bird Mart – If you happen to be in Fort Worth for Halloween, check this out... Will Rogers Exhibit Hall 3300 Burnett Tandy Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76107. Join the Fort Worth Bird Club to celebrate Halloween and their final Bird Mart! If you want to participate as a vendor you can bring candy to give away. Children are encouraged to trick or treat our vendors and to come in costume. Help celebrate twenty-one fantastic years!! For information, contact Ann or Mike Rankin at (817) 478-8320, www.thebirdmart.com or a.e.rankin@sbcglobal.net

To a Good Home – Members Mike and Ann Brown need to downsize their flock. They have three Cockatiels and four Parakeets for whom they would like to find new homes. The birds, with cages, are free to qualified, responsible folks that will give them plenty of sunlight and love. Contact the Browns at (314) 821-8956.

Seasonal Things – Obviously, it's getting cooler, Halloween around the corner, so let me take this opportunity to remind you to renew

your Club membership. You should do this before the end of the year. In November we will nominate for three positions on the Board of Directors, and the offices of Treasurer, General Secretary and Membership Secretary. Requirements to be nominated include membership, and having attended four meetings since the preceding November meeting. Nominees must be present at the November meeting to accept their nomination, or indicate their willingness to the President, prior to the November meeting.

As is our tradition, the election will be at our December meeting.

As you may, or should know... Nancy Marron is currently our Treasurer. Cathy Wendler is currently our General Secretary. Niki Shaffer is our current Membership Secretary. The Board positions for election this year are those currently held by Jim Berk Dawn Breer and Christine Kinkade.

PDD Update – There is an AAV article below, about coping with PDD, which we hope we will never need to do... But there is also big news on the research front. Those of you who heard Dr. Kersting talk at the Fair heard it first. Researchers have identified a/the virus that causes PDD. I'm trying to get Dr. K's notes for an article with more detail. For the moment, it is good to know this critical piece of information has been uncovered. A borna virus is the culprit. That is all for now. We hope further research may lead to vaccine and or treatment.

My First Cockatiel Show

Carole Grommet

Several months ago, I was very excited to hear that the Gateway Parrot Club was going to host a National Cockatiel Society show at our August fair. There is a special place in my heart for cockatiels so to attend a National Show and to see show-quality birds was an event I did not want to miss.

Sandy Warren, show organizer, announced at a club meeting a couple months before the show there would be a novice class and club members who were owned by cockatiels were encouraged to enter them and she mentioned we should start spraying them with cold water so their feathers looked beautiful. I decided I would enter two of our cockatiels. Of course the beautiful engraved wood plaque for the first place novice was definitely an incentive for me to participate. We continued the daily routines we have always done - baths

daily, healthy food, sunlight when weather permits, etc. I was extra careful to monitor fights that occurred among our cockatiels to make sure there were no injuries, plus anything else I could think of that bird owners do to prepare for shows. This was a first-time experience for me so I wanted to do the right thing.

On the day of the fair I got up very early in order to take care of our flock. I packed up the two birds I decided to enter and off I went to register. They were not too happy being separated from their cage buddies driving to the show, but once they reached our destination, they calmed down. Registration was easy especially since there were very nice NCS people there to help me with the process. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. They offered and provided me with two show cages.

I was surprised at how good our birds were that day. They were both calm, cool, and collected during the entire judging process, especially since they had never seen or been in a show cage.

The novice judging process was very informative thanks to Scott Mackey. He talked about what qualities were important to him and most other judges. He talked quite a bit about the NCS Standard and what constitutes a show quality bird. I'm glad I didn't read the standards prior to show because I may have decided not to enter our two.

I wasn't able to stay for most of the advanced judging because of volunteer commitments I had to fulfill for the parrot club. I'm sorry that I could not be present for the entire show, but I was able to return for the final best of show judging. There were so many of what I considered "perfect" cockatiels that judging must have been very difficult. It is very interesting to watch the process of picking a winner. Cages are constantly being shifted from one position to another until the final few top birds are in place. The judge then evaluates these birds and awards the "best of show."

I was very proud of the two cockatiels we entered in the Novice category. I didn't think they had a chance to win. Much to our surprise Petey, our Cinnamon White Face, was awarded the Novice Bird of the Show and also the Judge's Selection, and our Pied (Patches) placed sixth. The judging process for the best novice was interesting and stressful because it was obvious that the second place bird was very much in contention for the top prize and was such a beautiful bird.

After winning, I told everyone I saw at the fair (even people I had never met), I emailed pictures to friends and family, hung the plaque and ribbon on a prominent wall in our house, and I tell Petey that he is very handsome and what a perfect bird he is! I am just now coming

down from the excitement of winning, but am still telling anyone who will listen about the win. Now, by writing this article, hopefully I have told Petey's story to hundreds more!

Petey (first place novice) was named by his first family. They purchased him from a local exotic bird store. He was very much loved and spoiled, but their children became teenagers and they were not spending quality time with him. After they decided to find a new home for him, he spent a couple years in a large aviary with other cockatiels. He would fly to anyone who entered the aviary and talk to them... "Petey is a pretty bird", "Pretty, pretty Petey", etc. He remained tame throughout his aviary experience. He came to our house with all the rest of the 'tiels in the aviary when there was a threat of flooding about a year and a half ago. Petey won over our hearts and we asked his owners if we could keep him. They agreed and he has been with us ever since. We had eight cockatiels at the time and he fit right in with our "flock of tiels." He continues to be a very sweet bird; he gets a bath every day, plays on his play stand for several hours with his friends, flies around in our outdoor aviary, and joins us at the dinner table.

Patches, our bird who came in sixth place in the novice category, was in a home where the owners thought he was too loud and they never let him out of his cage. They were going to release him outdoors, but a couple "rescued" him and took him to a local exotic bird store where the owners offered him to us. We added him to our flock and he is also a great bird, but is not as tame as Petey. He will step up and allow us to transport him to his play stand for several hours every day, to our outside aviary, to the bathroom for a shower, and back to his cage. He occasionally will sit with us, but doesn't want to be touched. He enjoys the company of his cockatiel buddies.

Another exciting thing happened since the show. I was asked by the National Cockatiel Society to submit a couple of articles and pictures of our two birds. Much to our surprise and excitement, Patches' picture was chosen to be on the cover of the next NCS publication.

I would like to personally thank Sandy Warren for making the St. Louis show possible. It was a fun experience and I am looking forward to next year.

I would also like to thank Sandy for introducing me to the cockatiel show world and getting me enthused to compete again next year. We purchased a registered baby cockatiel from her at the show, so my goal for him (or her) is best of show 2010! I've got the bug!

I would like to encourage all Gateway Parrot Club members who own cockatiels to enter their birds in next year's show. It's a fun experience.

rience. Sandy is hoping to add a parrot show in conjunction with next year's fair. This will be a great opportunity for all club members to enter their pet birds.

Thank You - Volunteers

Niki Shaffer

I apologize for missing the deadline to get this in last month's newsletter, but since it is truly important, it's better late than never!

I wanted to thank all the volunteers that worked very hard to make the fair possible, especially those that worked more than 4 hours. Those are Larry and Debby Martin, Jim Berk, John and Penney O' Grady, Sr. Barbara Payne, Tina Munnerlyn, and Barb Shaffer. In addition to these Volunteers, the fair would not have been possible without the Officers and Board members that were present all weekend to make the wheels turn. In addition, a special thank you to Phyllis Cotton and Christine Kinkade for slaving away in the hot kitchen all day Saturday to prepare us a wonderful meal Saturday evening. For those of you who missed dinner, and want to be included next year, all it takes is 4 hours of volunteering or \$15 (this year's price). Finally, I want to welcome all the new and returning members to the club and I hope to see you at the meetings!

Tiel Show's Big Yellow Ribbon

Debby Martin

The Martin flock discussed whether Ginger and Mozart should enter the Cockatiel Show. Sandy Warren of the National Cockatiel Society volunteered to organize the show for the Gateway Parrot Club Hookbill Fair held in August. We all felt Mozart would do well but he vetoed it right away as his 'feather problem' wasn't resolved yet. Ginger looked smug, fluffed her crest and assumed her 'regal' pose. Alpha bird (aka Larry) and beta bird (aka Debby) were nervous about Ginger participating as she is a companion bird, not a show bird. But Ginger knew what she wanted.

Sandy gave us some pointers about getting ready and Ginger began her training: cool misting to bring out that luminous glow to her feathers, much more sleep time and nail trim. She worked very hard but

had total confidence! After all, she has been a 'princess' in training from the 1st day she joined our flock. Ginger tried hard to keep alpha bird (Larry) from getting too stressed over the show.

When we arrived, Sandy helpfully explained about the exhibition cages and how they were lined with seed on the bottom. Ginger stepped right into the cage with no fuss. While Larry hovered near the cage, Ginger became agitated, clearly wanting to be on Larry's shoulder. When Larry moved out of sight, Ginger calmed down and rehearsed her 'princess points' to herself.

The judging was fascinating. The judge carefully explained what he was looking for in terms of configuration, build and deportment. And deportment is where Ginger shone! She got on her perch, assumed her 'regal princess' pose and held it! Some of the other birds whose feathers may have been a leeeetle better wouldn't stay on their perches and so lost deportment points.

Sitting with our friends whose birds were also competing was exciting and we congratulated each other when they placed well!

So Ginger WON a beautiful yellow ribbon!!! A little rescue bird! Ginger now sits on her play-gym in the living room and her beautiful yellow ribbon is displayed in a special place of honor! We all ignore the fact that the yellow ribbon signifies seventh out of eight!

Mozart is planning his revenge debut for next year!

Personal Prints

Pat Burnett

Personal Prints is a business that shows off your pictures in very Unique Ways! Using your favorite photographs, either digital or printed, I can create a wide variety of personalized items. With the process of sublimation, photographs are transferred using a special dye that actually goes beneath the surface resulting in a product that holds up to wear and will not fade. For example, coffee mugs can be put in the dishwasher time after time and the colors on stay bright.

The beautiful colors of birds show up nicely on ceramic tiles, mugs, dog tags and a variety of purses and totes. Pat will be at the November Gateway Parrot Club meeting with her computer and scanner, so

bring your favorite pictures and let her create something special for you. All types of pictures can be used such as;

- Pets – Birds, Cats, Dogs or any other beloved pet
- People – Little kids' pictures are always a hit with parents and Grandparents, or consider making a dog tag of someone who is away at college or in the
- Places – Vacation memories can be enjoyed in a special way with many of items made for ceramic tiles
- Nature – Flowers, Wild Birds, Zoo Animals, and Scenery – all look great on many of the great products in my line.

This is a great opportunity to order personalized holiday gifts made for all the very special people on your list! Bring your pictures.

Book Picks of the Month (or not)

Christine Kinkade

As I will not be at the October meeting, there will be no Library Picks for the month of October. Library Picks will resume in November. However, if you have any book requests, contact me and I will be glad to bring them to the November meeting. Also, if you have a book that needs to be returned to the Library, please return it at the November meeting.

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 November meeting by phone (636) 343-8097, or email at

Librarian@GatewayParrotClub.org, and I will bring them.

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.

Clinical Management of Psittacine Birds Affected with Proventricular Dilatation Disease

OCTOBER 2006

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Susan Clubb, DVM, Mary Jo Meyer

Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) is a devastating disease for affected birds. It is also psychologically and financially devastating for their owner/caretaker. Management of cases requires difficult decisions, specifically, euthanasia or long-term management. The diagnosis of PDD in an aviculture collection can have devastating financial effects on aviculturists. Confering with your veterinarian as well as establishing a long-term management plan are important aspects of care. Clinical management of birds affected with PDD often becomes a flock management problem because so many owners of psittacine birds have multiple birds. Other alternatives for affected birds might be to place them in a rescue center that handles birds with PDD, or placement of the bird in a home with no other birds.

The social implications of a PDD diagnosis can also be devastating. Owners may be shunned from bird club functions or social interaction with other bird owners, or find it impossible to find a pet sitter. PDD can be hard to diagnose, take many forms, and have a very long incubation period. It is found that visually healthy birds were sometimes positive for PDD on crop biopsy. Waiting for the classic clinical signs such as vomiting or passing whole seeds will reveal only the tip of the iceberg. The bird owner should be encouraged to assess the disease status of his or her other birds, considering each bird individually.

To be in denial and avoid checking other birds in the home is placing them at risk. Early diagnosis can enhance therapeutic outcome. Mates of birds that succumb to PDD should not be automatically euthanized. These birds may have natural immunity to the disease and may be the best future breeders for an avicultural community hard hit by PDD. In consultation with your veterinarian, develop a treatment and control plan. Make

the commitment not to bring more birds into the home, placing them at risk, or not to transfer exposed birds to others without disclosure.

Crop biopsy is a simple and safe procedure with limited risks. While crop biopsy has a high false negative rate, it is the best diagnostic tool that we have at this time and is useful as a screening tool. Other helpful tests include radiographs, endoscopy, and hematology and chemistry profiles. An exceptional test for live birds is fluoroscopy, but this is rarely available to private practitioners.

As an infectious disease that causes inflammation of the nerves and affects the digestive system, we must think about preventing the spread of the disease, reducing inflammation, aiding digestion, and controlling secondary infections. And we must do this for a long time, probably a year or more.

Birds affected with PDD often ingest foreign bodies, especially pieces of wood. These materials may then be passed in vomitus or feces. The bird may be ingesting these materials in an attempt to provide relief from intestinal discomfort. These birds may need toys, perches, and cage accessories that cannot be chewed and ingested and may benefit from high fiber vegetables to fill this need.

With patience, perseverance, prolonged therapy, and attention to correction of secondary problems, many birds affected with PDD can be returned to health. Life expectancy at this time cannot be predicted. Unfortunately, until specific testing for the etiologic agent(s) is possible, the long-term prognosis is impossible to predict.

Release #10, October, 2006. 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?

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

October 18
November 15 – Nominations for office Personal Prints
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) 537-6175
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 Mullaney	(314) 645-8888
Website Newsletter Public Relations	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317