

# Squawk 'n Talk

**Volume 9, Issue 11**

**December 2009**

*Greetings from the Presidential Perch!*

December is upon us again, marking the end of another year. I hope it has been a good year for everyone. It has been a good and exciting year for the GPC. I hope that you are looking forward to the next year as I am.

Along with December comes the first real cool snap of the season, a reminder of things to come. If you have to be out in the weather, be sure to bundle up. If you are inside, put another log on the fire and enjoy the warmth. Oh, by the way, if you normally turn the heat down during the night, be sure your birds are warm. You may want to cover them with an addition cover or a heavier cover to conserve their body heat. A small heater can be used, but be sure it doesn't put off any toxic odor.

During our November meeting we received nominations for Club Officers & Board members whose terms will expire at the end of this year. The election will take place at the December 13<sup>th</sup> (second Sunday) meeting, at 2:00 PM, right before the Holiday Party. Please make an effort to attend the meeting for the voting and then join in on the Holiday Party that will follow.

Niki Shaffer will once, again, be planning the games including the gift exchange game called "Rob Your Neighbor". If you wish to participate in this game, please bring an exchange gift under \$10.

We will also have plenty of food to eat. Christine Kinkade will be bringing a turkey along with dressing and gravy. Pat is bringing mashed potatoes, Phyllis is bringing a green bean casserole, and Georgia is bringing the rolls. You are welcome to bring a side dish or desert of your choice.

I would like to thank Pat Burnet, of Personal Prints, for coming to the November meeting. I hope that everyone had an opportunity to place an order with Pat. Dawn Breer of Sweet Peas was also at our November meeting for those looking for a gift for their birds.

Please join us as we celebrate the holidays and look forward to another exciting new year.

**See you at the meetings!      Dave**

## Tidbits

**December Meeting/Party** – Just a reminder... The meeting is this Sunday, 12/13, the second Sunday (rather than our usual third week).

**Elections** – Our annual election will be held at the December meeting. Nominations for three offices and three Board positions were made at the November meeting. Nancy Marron and Niki Shaffer were the sole nominees for their respective offices, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. John O'Grady and Cathy Wendler were nominated for General Secretary. We have six nominees to occupy three positions on the Board of Directors. They are: Jim Berk, Dawn Breer, Cindy Burquin, Georgia Fletcher, Christine Kinkade and Janet Marks.

**Holiday Party** – As Dave mentioned, the December meeting is also our holiday party, so bring some food to share, a gift to exchange, and some holiday cheer.

**Rescue** – I would like to do an article, or a series, on rescue organizations in our region. If you are a member/volunteer of a rescue organization, or know one, please contact them and let them know...

**Ways and Means** – We would like to thank Pat Seiler and Penny O'Grady for taking over this activity.

## Donation Time

### Trey Shaffer

It is again time for us to give away the fruits of our labors. We will use the same process instituted two years ago for nominating and selecting grant recipients.

This newsletter is the official announcement/kickoff for nominations. Nominations will be accepted until midnight January 31, 2010. The list of nominees will be posted, as they arrive, on our website, and the final list of nominees distributed in the February newsletter. Voting for nominees will occur at the February meeting.

Details... Members (in good standing) may nominate recipients. The official nomination should go to our President, Dave Kinkade. Dave's email address and phone number are listed at the end of the newsletter. Please submit the name of the organization and contact informa-

tion. I suggest you copy me on the nomination, as I will maintain the public lists. You should also include a brief description of the nominee and their mission/program. I would like a short version, about 25 words, and a longer version, say a paragraph.

Members (in good standing) will vote, at the February meeting, to select recipients.

I will have more information, in the January issue, about the number and size of grants. So for now, make those nominations, and don't assume someone else will nominate the program you are thinking about...

## Money, Money, Money

You may have noticed the cleverly disguised hint, about paying your dues, in the preceding article. A member, in good standing, is one who has paid their dues for the year. So dig down and pull out that Jackson and bring it to the next meeting, or send a check to the address on the newsletter, or go to the website and renew there. So many options, so easy... no excuses.

## GPC and Rescue?

### **Trey Shaffer**

Where does the GPC stand on rescue or particular rescue organizations?

Don't take this as an official policy statement, but it is my impression, based on observing our activities, and some recent discussions with Board members. Do take this as an effort to promote the discussion of this topic. I'm not sure the Club will, or should, have an "official" policy, but that will be a decision made by the Board.

Recent discussion was spurred by inclusion in the October newsletter of a member's request to rehome some birds. That was followed by another request for a similar announcement, and the prospect of recurring requests. How should we handle it?

The Club has wrestled with this issue for years. As I joined the Club, in the early part of this century, there was discussion of whether the Club should participate actively in rehoming/rescue. Around this same time Perfectly Precious was formed, now St. Louis Avian Rescue. Since the founders of Perfectly Precious were Club Officers, there was concern about blurring the line between the two organizations.

The GPC tries to be independent of any rescue organization, while supporting them in spirit and with financial assistance. So the outcome of the recent discussion of including rehoming requests in the newsletter was to not include them in the Club's official publication, but to offer referral information to rescue organizations in this area or near the requestor.

We will maintain information, on our website, about rescue organizations. There is no endorsement implied by these listings, simply because this would require a formalized policy or requirements for the Club's endorsement. To that end, I mentioned a call for information/articles about rescue organizations. So please do two things... First, give me the names and contact information for rescue organizations you are aware of in this region. Second, if you are familiar with the organization, or its principals, ask them to contact me so we can coordinate publication of further information about their organization.

What should you look for in a rescue organization? I will leave that to the organizations to discuss. If you want to find a new home for a bird, your primary interest is finding an organization to help you. If you are considering a new bird, one of these groups can help you reach that goal while helping one of our feathered friends.

## GPC Research Support

### **Lisa Rose**

The members of the Club got together at the September meeting and raised \$125.00 to be donated to the Proventricular Dilatation Research Program. Members brought their birds and, for a donation, could get nails, wings or beak trimmed. Lisa rose and Georgia Fletcher donated their time to do the trims and with everyone's help, the day was a success.

Thanks to all who helped raise the money to fight this terrible disease, PDD, which can affect our wonderful pet birds. If anyone wants to

donate on their own, they can do so at the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center

Veterinary Pathobiology  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Texas A&M University  
College Stations TX 77843-4468  
Attention: Dr Jan Tizard  
Dr. Sharman Hoppes

[www.cvm.tamu.edu/schubot/](http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/schubot/)

## 2010 Meeting Schedule

Nancy Marron has finalized our schedule with the Kirkwood Community Center. So here are our meeting dates for next year. Again, most are our traditional third Sunday, with exceptions as noted.

- January 17
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 23 (Fourth Sunday)
- June 13 (Second Sunday)
- July 18
- August – No regular meeting Bird Fair
- September 12 (Second Sunday)
- October 17
- November 21
- December 12 (Second Sunday)

Mark your calendar. Plan to attend.

## Book Picks of the Month

### Christine Kinkade

Dear Readers,

I will not be bringing any Library Picks to the December meeting, due to the fact that we will be having a very busy meeting with elections and the Holiday Party. However, if you have any library requests that I can bring to the December meeting, I will be glad to do so. A complete list of books can be found on the GPC website. You can also return any books from the November meeting at the December 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 next 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.

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.

Christine

## **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**

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
Penny O'Grady	(636) 384-6656
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	Pat Seiler Penny O'Grady	(636) 462-4732 (636) 384-6656
Website		
Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Public Relations		