

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 10, Issue 6

June 2010

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

June is here and along with it is summer. And, along with summer is BBQs, family get-togethers, going to the park or zoo, and, of course, going on vacations. Whatever you do for the summer, I hope you have a fun and exciting time. Oh, and don't forget the sun block and bug spray!

While none of us looks forward to the end of summer, one thing we can look forward to is our bird fair in August. It is only two months away. We have some exciting speakers lined up that I think you will find interesting and informative. Currently, our speakers include Jean Pattison, Michelle Karras, Lisa Rose, and Dr. David Kersting, DVM. We are also working on getting one other speaker. Our vendor room is full and spilling over into the entrance way. We hope to have our Fair flyers available at our next meeting (As a reminder, our next meeting will be the second Sunday, June 13.).

We are also progressing with the bird shows. As mentioned before, we will be hosting four shows; two cockatiel shows on Saturday, and a parrot show and finch show on Sunday. For information about entering your birds in any of the bird shows, you can contact our Show Committee Chairperson, Sandy Warren, via email at Shows@GatewayParrotClub.org or by phone at 618-843-1460. You can find more information about the Bird Shows and the Fair at the meetings and on the GPC website, www.GatewayParrotClub.org.

You will be in for a real treat at our next meeting, as Lisa Rose will be doing Clicker Training for our Educational Program. Lisa, an animal behaviorist, will teach you how to train your bird(s) with the clicker method.

As always, visitors are welcomed. Bring a friend, as well as your birds!

See you at the meetings! Dave

Tidbits

Library – Fading away... After long consideration, we decided to discontinue the Club's library. Thanks to Christine Kinkade for managing the library, schlepping materials to meetings and writing monthly articles highlighting library items to borrow. Christine's last official act as Librarian will be to cull a few items from the Library, probably DVDs, to be kept. The rest of the materials will be disposed of at the Fair through auction and/or sale. So, if there was something in the library you liked, grab it at the Fair. I'm sure it will be a bargain.

Time For Dinner – Please note the brief article and coupons later in the newsletter, and join us Tuesday, June 22nd for dinner at one of the two SweetTomatoes locations in St. Louis.

June Meeting – Training – As Dave mentioned, Lisa Rose will discuss training methods at our June meeting. Don't miss this. You don't have to train your bird to do tricks, you can just make them better behaved. Rumor has it these techniques also work with spouses.

Bird Show – Peoria – A last minute reminder, the Heart of Illinois Bird Club is sponsoring a two-day show, June 12-13. Details are on our website. Some of the acronyms involved; NCS, SPBE, NFSS, ABS, ALBS; representing Cockatiels, Parrots, Finches, Budgerigars and Love Birds respectively. Contact Jody Lewis, at (309) 645-7773 for more information.

PDD Unmasked

Trey Shaffer

This isn't earthshaking to the layperson, but is a significant step in the scientific world. Since last year, at the All-American Hookbill Fair, we have been hearing about promising research at Texas A&M on isolating the cause of Proventricular Dilatation Disease, PDD. Evidence had been mounting to show the avian bornavirus, ABV, was the cause.

Further research has confirmed this to satisfy the scientific community. This required satisfying a set of criteria known as Koch's postulates. This was done, and the results published in the March issue of the journal, Emerging Infectious Diseases. In case you haven't re-

ceived your copy yet and would like a few more details for the non-scientist, check out the article on the A&M website:

http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/news/releases/2010/0511_pdd.html

Join Us For Dinner

Enjoy dinner at SweetTomatoes and generate some “free money” for the GPC. Get your family, and friends, and head out to SweetTomatoes in either Creve Coeur or Crestwood, Tuesday June 22nd, between 5:00 and 8:00 PM.

SweetTomatoes will donate 20% of your bill to the Club. Please note, for the Club to get credit, you must bring the enclosed coupon. Feel free to duplicate the coupon and share it with your friends. You can download/print coupons from our website at:

www.GatewayParrotClub.org/SweetTomatoesFlyer.pdf

Please do not distribute flyers at/near the restaurants. As you will notice, the coupon page has two coupons, one for each location. If you decide to separate the coupons, be sure to take the correct one with you.

In Creve Coeur, the restaurant is in the shopping center at 10401 Olive Blvd, 63141, near Lindbergh, with the AMC theater. In Crestwood, the restaurant is at 9846 Watson Rd, 63126, just West of Crestwood Bowling.

To qualify, you must buy dinner and a drink, about \$12 per person. So enjoy dinner and visit with our members and friends.

Michelle Karras

Michelle Karras will be one of our featured speakers at the All-American Hookbill Fair in August. Some of you will remember Michelle from past visits. It has been several years since her last visit, and we are looking forward to her next. Michelle will talk about behavioral issues and one session will be completely interactive. Here is her background... Michelle has worked for eight years as a practice manager, veterinary technician, and animal behavior consultant for a

small animal and exotic vet clinic in Lisle IL. Michelle has also worked in affiliation for 18 years with Narnia Pet Behavior in Naperville IL. Working with Narnia Pet Behavior doing dog, cat, rabbit, pig, and bird behavior she realized the extensive need for someone to concentrate solely on parrot behavior in the Midwest. With two years of psychology and after working with hundreds of rescued parrots to rehabilitate them to be able to be placed into loving homes The Polite Parrot was established in 1996. Michelle kept the parrots with the most issues and continues to work with them. Although most issues are resolved and they are living happily within the Karras home, she has chosen to keep twelve of the parrots; including six Congo African Greys, one Blue and Gold Macaw, one Meyers Parrot, two Umbrella Cockatoos, one Yellow Naped Amazon, and one Moustache Parakeet. The Karras home also includes two little girls, ages 5 and 6, one dog, one cat, one rabbit, and an a Bearded Dragon. Michelle's techniques are based on positive reinforcement and redirection of undesirable behavior, yet still allowing a parrot to be a parrot. Her days are very busy continuing to do behavior consulting via phone, e-mail, and in-home consultations. She works in synchronicity with your certified avian veterinarian and helps you and your family, understand your feathered friend to work out issues that are able to be resolved. She donates her time freely to licensed avian rescues, and donates time for avian conservation with her writings and hands on knowledge. Yes, she has bred birds in the past to study their natural instincts by allowing the parents to raise the babies; studying how often they fed and taught them. Having kept track of the babies she bred, it is delightful to see that none has developed behavioral issues. This was a two-year study and the parents are now tame and no longer breeding. She works hand in hand with many reputable bird supply stores and with reputable breeders. She believes we should all work together to help make the avian community an abundance of knowledge to help make our feathered friends as happy and healthy as they can be in captivity. Michelle now is available at Nurture Your Pet, pet behavior and training for classes and private consultations.

In total, Michelle has twenty- five years hands on experience working with behavior issues of our feathered friends.

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JOIN US FOR A FUN-RAISER AT SWEET TOMATOES AND RAISE MONEY FOR

The Gateway Parrot Club

Join us for dinner and help support our mission.



Sweet Tomatoes will donate 20% of sales generated by your organization. Purchase a meal and a beverage* and enjoy a great meal and help a great organization!

DATE:

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

AT THIS SWEET TOMATOES LOCATION:

Creve Coeur
10401 Olive Blvd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

TIME:

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For directions visit Sweettomatoes.com

*1. All participants must purchase a beverage with their meal in order to receive credit towards the organization. 2. Under no circumstances are flyers to be handed out in the restaurant, parking lot or vicinity. Failure to comply will result in a voided contract. 3. Coupons or discounts will not be honored in conjunction with any approved Fun-Raisers. 4. Must present this flyer at time of purchase. 5. Your receipt will be kept and stapled to this form in order to add up the event's sales.

HOUSEHOLD GUIDELINES: 1. For the safety of our guests, no horseplay, running or climbing at any time, please. 2. Please accompany small children when visiting food bars. 3. It is very much appreciated when a supervisory person is present at a table of children.

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DATE:

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

AT THIS SWEET TOMATOES LOCATION:

Crestwood
9846 Watson Rd.
Crestwood, MO 63126

TIME:

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For directions visit Sweettomatoes.com

*1. All participants must purchase a beverage with their meal in order to receive credit towards the organization. 2. Under no circumstances are flyers to be handed out in the restaurant, parking lot or vicinity. Failure to comply will result in a voided contract. 3. Coupons or discounts will not be honored in conjunction with any approved Fun-Raisers. 4. Must present this flyer at time of purchase. 5. Your receipt will be kept and stapled to this form in order to add up the event's sales.

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Parrot Posse

Dawn Breer

I have made and sold bird toys for over eleven years as Sweet Peas and dabbled in some bird fairs out of town. Georgia Fletcher has done bird fairs out of town for many, many years. Sandy Warren and Georgia breed birds together. Lisa Rose, who is a wonderful behaviorist, is trying to establish and share her knowledge in a private local market and educate people on the companion relationship of owning parrots. Thus, we came together as "The Parrot Posse" pooling our resources for the good of our clients.

We operate under the umbrella name of "The Parrot Posse", in every essence of the idea with a web site, business cards, letterhead, group decisions, advertising, travel and contracts. We all claim and operate our finances separate from each other as far as Uncle Sam is concerned.

We really are trying to meet the needs of the local bird owners. We hold clinics, like the one June 27 in Belleville. Many people we come across do not realize clinics like this exist outside a veterinary office or even realize that groups like The Gateway Parrot Club exist.

We get stopped many times due to our car signs (there are 5 of The Parrot Posse cars on the road) or our shirts, and once we share with them what we do, there is always a genuine interest. The same goes, when I hand out the many, many flyers with The Gateway Parrot Club membership forms.

Editor's Note: The Clinic Dawn referred to will be Sunday, June 27, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Dog Day Afternoon, 2527 Frank Scott Parkway West, Belleville, IL 62223. You can get some more details on the events page of their website:

www.ParrotPosse.com

Attendance

Here is a list of who attended the last meeting...

Present for the Board meeting:

- Dave Kinkade
- Phyllis Cotton
- Nancy Marron
- Niki Shaffer
- Jim Berk
- Christine Kinkade
- Trey Shaffer

Members present for the general meeting:

- Carole Grommet
- Mary Ann Saville
- Cindy Burquin
- Rhonda Kink
- Donna Mount
- Sr. Barbara Payne

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.

2010 Schedule

Here is the year ahead. Mark the dates.

June 13 (Second Sunday) – Clicker Training with Lisa Rose

July 18 – Toy making

August – No regular meeting, Bird Fair

September 12 (Second Sunday)

October 17

November 21

December 12 (Second Sunday)

Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

Officers

President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Vice President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 537-6175
Secretary	John O'Grady	(636) 384-6656
Treasurer	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Membership	Niki Shaffer	(314) 853-5323

Board Members

Jim Berk	(636) 586-1445
Janet Marks	(636) 441-0255
Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Penny O'Grady	(636) 384-6657
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

Committees

Education	Cheryl Rowland	(636) 577-1240
Hospitality	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Penny O'Grady	(636) 384-6657
	Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Website		
Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Public Outreach		
Bird Shows	Sandy Warren	(618) 945-3608