

Monthly newsletter from the Gateway Parrot Club!

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# Squawk 'n Talk

## *Greetings from the Presidential Perch!*

There has been a lot of “stuff” happening in our bird world since our last meeting. Varietees and all of Valley Park were threatened by the record breaking flood of the Meramec River. Many, many areas south and west of St Louis flooded; parts of Pevely, much of Eureka, Washington and Union, parts of Fenton and Valley Park, Cedar Hill, and much of Arnold were underwater.

The Valley Park Flood Wall/Levee that is about 15 feet behind Varietees back door was expected to top out at 40' with the estimated flood crest to be 44' on January 1st. Many people; club members, dedicated customers, and staunch friends came out in force to help evacuate the store. Varietees staff and special friends showed up on Tuesday and Wednesday to evacuate all of the birds. By 2am in the morning on Wednesday December 30th all of the birds were safely moved off site and to high ground. Dick and

Carol Grommet took in many of the boarders and all of the unweaned babies are at my house.

The morning of Wednesday Dec 30th the store staff planned to be there by 8:00am to start moving out inventory. Mother Nature intervened by flooding Hwy 141 at Gravois and several other places between 44 and 55, Hwy 30 (Gravois), Hwy 21 (Tesson Ferry) were closed. Interstate 44 was closed from 270 to Hwy 100. Hwy 141 at 44 had already been closed for 2 days. Valley Park could only be reached via Hwy 141 at Big Bend or North of there. Big Bend and Dorsett Ferry roads flooded and closed later in the day. Fenton and Arnold each became their own separate Islands as the day progressed.

Dedicated helpers somehow found their way to Varietees that morning and they successfully evacuated or helped elevate all of the food, most of the toys, stands, cages and all electronics. We finished just in time because the authorities were kicking everybody out at Noon and all utilities were being shut off.

Many club members contacted me on Wednesday morning offering to help. I asked most to hold off because the official cut off time for us to be out of there was 10:00am.

Some who called had no way to get there because they were blocked in by flood waters. I wish to sincerely thank all of you who stepped up to assist or wanted to be there. Your help and offers of help were much appreciated by everyone at Varietees.

It's nice that our Club was willing to stand behind Varietees who has so graciously provided our meeting space.

I do wish to send a special thank you to Dr. David Kersting who spent his day off moving bags of food, cages, stands and being there to do anything that needed to be done.

Another special shout out goes to our special friends - WildLife Rehabbers from all over the City and County, they not only were there to help at Varietees (many do not even have parrots) but they stepped up to help an elderly handicapped V.P. resident who was panicked because she was being forced to evacuate and had no way to take her Cockatiel and cage with her. Julie JJ Klein drove to her home, took the bird and cage for safekeeping and helped the lady get to the transport bus with her wheelchair and some of her belongings.

We are enriched and blessed by all of you, Club Members, parrot people and dedicated friends for being there to support and help wherever it was needed. THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!!

I look forward to seeing you on January 17th. Jeff Meshach, Director of World Bird Sanctuary will be our speaker. His talk is titled "Feather Condition: Keeping the Perfect Feather Feather Perfect.

All are welcome. Bring your families and bird friends and join us at 2:00 on Sunday January 17th at Varietees

Georgia

## **Election Results:**

SECRETARY

Dave Kinkade

TREASURER

Sandy Newcome

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Renee Davis

BOARD MEMBERS (Even Years)

Rick Ruderer

Cathy Timma

Christine Kinkade

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This was taken behind Varietees at about 9am on December 30

Read the full article on [BirdChannel](#)

### Prepare For Floods

1) If your housing has two levels, locate your pet bird's cage to the second floor.  
Most of the standing water in Hurricane Katrina was 4 to 8 feet high, but was up to

10 feet in some places, so even the ceiling would not have been safe.

- 2) Have a bird carrier ready and stocked for an emergency. Don't try to add perches or clean the carrier at the last minute, when you may be rushing to evacuate.
- 3) Write your pet bird's name, your name, and all of your contact information on your bird's carrier in a permanent marker in case you get separated from it.
- 4) Keep a small "emergency birdie backpack" (e.g., a disaster kit and information kit) next to your carrier. Include at least seven days of bird supplies in the backpack, all double-bagged in sealable plastic bags to keep everything dry. In a flood, you may be carrying a lot of things away from your home, so don't make the backpack too bulky.

Read the other tips on [BirdChannel](#)

### **Evacuating:**

- 1) Have an evacuation plan. Don't "wing it" at the last minute. Know where you are going, and make sure ahead of time that it's all right to bring your birds.
- 2) Make sure that you are allowed to take your birds with you to the shelter or to your friend or relative's home.
- 3) Use caution when removing your bird from the carrier in a crowded shelter. Even though your bird might seem like he needs some "out time," he's safer in the carrier

for a variety of reasons.

- 4) Place a “pet sticker” on all of your home’s doors to alert rescuers about pets inside the home — use a permanent marker to write “evacuated” on all of the stickers so that rescuers know you have left with your pets.

### After The Flood

- 1) Remember that water will be contaminated after a flood, so have at least seven days of clean water available for your bird, or boil water before using.
- 2) Flooding can cause gas leaks, which are dangerous for people, but deadly for birds. Sniff around for gas and if you suspect a leak, call your gas company immediately and keep your bird’s area well ventilated.
- 3) Ceilings and walls can collapse after a flood – keep a thick blanket, piece of wood, or sturdy piece of plastic over your bird’s cage in case there’s an issue. But make sure your bird isn’t chewing on anything you put near or on the cage!
- 4) One part bleach to 10 parts water makes a good, nontoxic disinfecting solution to use inside your home. Do not allow your bird to touch anything that floodwaters have touched unless you disinfect it first.

Read the other tips and full article on [BirdChannel](#)

It's interesting to note that on <http://www.ready.gov/animals>, the following

### relevant flood preparedness and evacuation advice is noted:

- In an emergency, you may have to take your birds with you. Talk with your veterinarian or local pet store about special food dispensers that regulate the amount of food a bird is given. Make sure that the bird is caged and the cage is covered by a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light.
- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.
- Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

## Upcoming Events:

Monthly Meeting: Feather Condition: Jeff Meshach on Keeping the Perfect Feather Feather Perfect



01/17/2016

Monthly Meeting

02/21/2016

Monthly Meeting

03/20/2016

Monthly Meeting

04/17/2016

## Not a member yet?

[Download a membership application](#) and bring it to our next meeting, or email it to Renee Davis, our membership secretary membership secretary, at [membership@gatewayparrotclub.org](mailto:membership@gatewayparrotclub.org) .

Our new PayPal email address is [payments@gatewayparrotclub.org](mailto:payments@gatewayparrotclub.org)

You can also now join and pay dues securely from our

site: <http://gatewayparrotclub.org/join-now/>

**Our Officers and Board members:** <http://gatewayparrotclub.org/about-us/>

# Welcome new members!

A special shout out to our new member, Kyle Schwartz





Our Christmas Party was so fun! It is always a great time to socialize and spread holiday cheer.

We hope that your 2016 brings only good things to you and your birds.

If you had your photo taken, you can see all the edited proofs here: <https://turnstylemedia.smugmug.com/The-Birds/Gateway-Parrot-Club-Christmas/>

The Gateway Parrot Club, Inc. is a 501c3 not for profit organization based in St. Louis Missouri and 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.

[Become a Member Now](#)

# *Check out our website!*

Find previous editions of Squawk'n'Talk, maps, and more information on our website: [GatewayParrotClub.org](http://GatewayParrotClub.org)

**Join our FaceBook**

**group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GateWayParrotClub/>

Email Jessica at [kmurray@kmurraycreative.com](mailto:kmurray@kmurraycreative.com) if you want to submit an article, send cute pics to post on the website or future newsletters, have a suggestion, etc!

## **GPC December Meeting Attendance**

Georgia Fletcher

Dick Grommet

David Kinkade

Al Marks

Nancy Marron

Renee Davis

Carole Grommet

Christine Kinkade

Janet Marks

Jane Mueller

Audrey Bamberger

Cindy Burquin  
Dixie Danzeisen  
Janet Draper  
Heidi Hellmuth  
Jim Hermann  
Esther Hermann  
Aubre Kiener  
Linda Kraft  
Gloria Linnertz  
Jessica Murray  
Sandy Newcomb  
Penny O'Grady  
Barbara Peach  
Rick Ruderer  
Pat Seiler  
Bernie Seiler  
Cathy Timma  
Deborah Van Der Heide  
Pam Walsh  
R Judd  
Kurt Kausler  
Dorene Olsen  
Sue Rodgers

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