

Squawk 'n Talk

April 2019



Dr. Jason Crean, Guest Speaker
"Avian Raw Whole Food Preparation"
April 14, 2019
1:00 p.m.
Varietees Bird Store
Valley Park, MO

This will be Jason's fourth time speaking at Varietees and we are very excited to have him back. The information he provides is so helpful to all of us in planning our avian diets. Jason is a biologist, educator, avid aviculturist, and zoo consultant specializing in avian nutrition. He is President of The Aviculture Society of Chicagoland, Vice President of the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) and moderator of the Facebook groups "Avian Raw Whole Food Nutrition" and "Holistic Avian Care"



Come join the Gateway Parrot Club for a fun afternoon:
Speaker
Food
Fellowship
Raffle
Meeting



Chirps from the Perch

The recipients of the (\$500 each) GPC Annual Grants for 2019 are:

World Bird Sanctuary

Bird Endowment - Saving the Blues

STAR (St. Louis Avian Rescue)

Thank you all who came to vote AND to enjoy Dr. Kersting's wonderful talk about what's new and up to date in the Avian Medical Community.

VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS:

I am very concerned about a recurring situation that has recently been brought to my attention. On more than one occasion, some of our GPC Members have chosen to waylay customers at Varietees with their opinions about buying birds and breeding birds. Each and every one of us have a right to our opinions, However, while you are shopping at Varietees or attending a club meeting is not the time to express them. I'm referring to instances where one or more of our members have approached a customer at Varietees and told them they should not buy a bird. Told them that breeding of birds is not acceptable; told them they should instead "adopt" a bird; that selling birds should never happen.

Varietees provides a very valuable resource to each and every one of us who choose to have birds in our daily lives. They work very hard to give all of us a well stocked, clean, welcoming and healthy environment that allows us to confidently shop, socialize, network and educate ourselves.

They have given generously of their time and space for our club and I must ask each of you to honor and respect the fact that without Varietees we and our birds would not be afforded the luxury of such a plethora of enrichment and a very pleasant and welcoming place to gather.

Georgia Fletcher

Pictures from March Meeting



General Meeting Information

Come and enjoy the fun and bring a bird (as long as it is clipped). It's so enjoyable seeing all the different species of parrots and talking to other parrot owners.

You don't have to be a member to attend, but we would love to have you join. Meeting starts at 1:00 and it will be a full afternoon of meeting, socializing, eating, program, and raffle. For members who have not renewed their membership or who would like to join, please see Renee Davis, our membership chair person. She will be at the meeting to sign you up. An annual membership fee of \$20.00 includes your family (two voting members) and brings you our monthly newsletter by email, and helps us to provide special speakers and to support not for profit organizations. Thank you for joining and helping support the parrot community in St. Louis.

We meet at Varietees Bird Store, 60 Meramec Valley Plaza, Valley Park, MO. Varietees will be open in the afternoon so you can purchase bird food, supplies, toys, cages, play stands, etc.

We do have a raffle most months so if you would like to donate item(s), they are always welcome. They do not have to be bird related. We sell raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Did you know that the Gateway Parrot Club has a Facebook group page? If you would like to join this group, search for "Gateway Parrot Club" in Facebook and request membership. We have over 500 members!

For our April meeting, Chef Christine is making glazed ham and rolls. She will also make potato salad, pasta salad, and bean salad. For dessert, she is making a cake. As always, there will be water and an assortment of soda. Please feel free to bring something to add to the food table.

Membership Report (Renee Davis)

Welcome New Members:

Leslie Elpers
Denise Shibe
Connie Dennert
Michael Coburn
Lisa Williams
Jacob Williams

March Meeting Attendees:

Georgia Fletcher	Jim Hermann
Dick Grommet	Esther Hermann
Cathy Timma	Debbie Hixson
Renee Davis	Nancy Marron
Heidi Hellmuth	Edwin Massie
Megan Augustin	Julie Morgan
Carole Grommet	Barbara Peach
Steve Johnson	Cheryl Ruder
Aubrey Kiener	Greg Ruder
Christine Kinkade	Rick Ruderer
David Kinkade	Pat Seiler
Beth Poll	Denise Shibe
Barbara Agathen	Pam Walsh
Paul Agathen	Sharon Wilkins
Jorg Augustin	Jacob Williams
Ron Blaker	Lisa Williams
Amanda Brantley	Michaeline Walsh
Cindy Burquin	Angela
Michael Coburn	Bob
Connie Dennert	Elijah
Jess Ellis	D K
Dan Fogarty	

Invitation to Club Members

Gateway Parrot Club has been invited by Rick Ruderer to participate in an event on Saturday, April 20 at Faust Park. The event is called "Great Saturday for Kids". There will be 11 children and 11 animal not-for-profit organizations participating. Check out their event page in Facebook, or you can access information about the event by going to [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for Great Saturday for Kids. The event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and it is free admission.

The club will be assigned to the old schoolhouse and will be called "School House Squawk." The inside of the schoolhouse will be used for presentations and limited to 5 birds. Members of the club are invited to participate, however the parrots would have to be outside the schoolhouse on the lawn, so keep that in mind if you decide to participate. Your birds would have to be in a secure carrier or harnessed. Some people trust their birds outside without a harness. That is another option as long as you know the risks.

It will be a fun event and an opportunity for us to tell adults and children about parrots. Beside a program inside the schoolhouse, Julie Morgan will be reading books to children on the lawn.

Weather will be an important factor that day because if it is raining or cold, we may have to cancel.

If you are interested in participating, please email rwgrommet@att.net with your name and phone number and any questions you may have. Your information is important so we know how many are coming and we can notify you of any last minute changes due to weather. If you know the time that you will be arriving, please note that in your email.

Below are photos of the schoolhouse and the yard outside.



Gateway Parrot Club



Meeting Dates 2019:

- April 14 , Dr. Jason Crean, "Avian Raw Whole Food Preparation"
- May 19, Michaeline Walsh, Phoenix Landing, Helping Parrots
- June 9, Stephen Johnson, Part 2, 2018 AAV Conference Rpt.
 - July 21, Toymaking Party
 - August 24 (Saturday) All American Hookbill Fair
 - September 15
 - October 20
- November 17 Randy Morgan, Honey of a Bee Presentation
- December 8, Holiday Party

*** Meeting will be on 2nd Sunday**

Recent Articles of Interest:

Parrots Think They're So Smart. Now They're Bartering Tokens for Food:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/11/science/what-makes-parrots-so-smart.html>

These 8 bird species are the first to be declared extinct this decade:

<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/8-bird-species-declared-first-be-extinct-decade>

Parrot Genes Reveal Why the Birds Are So Clever, Long-Lived:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/parrot-genes-reveal-why-birds-are-so-clever-long-lived-180970983/>

Finch's Bite Is 320 Times More Powerful Than T. Rex's:

<https://www.livescience.com/64472-finch-bite-beats-t-rex.html>