

Squawk 'n Talk

May 2019



**Come Join Us
May 19, 2019
Gateway Parrot Club Meeting
Varieties Bird Store
Valley Park, MO
1:00 p.m.**



**Guest Speaker
Michaeline Walsh
Phoenix Landing, Helping Parrots**

We are excited to have Michaeline share with us the wonderful work that Phoenix Landing of North Carolina does.

Their objectives are:

- Education and Special Events**
- Adoption and Foster**
- Support veterinary students**
- Sponsor research and conservation for wild parrots**

You don't have to be a member of Gateway Parrot Club to come. We would love to have you as our guest. You are welcome to bring your bird(s). The only requirement is that your birds' wings be clipped (for their safety). If fully flighted, please keep them in a carrier. Business meeting will be at 1:00; food served at 1:30; program at 2:00; raffle drawings after program.

Chirps from the President's Perch

I very sorry to say that I will be away from St Louis for our May Meeting. I'll just be arriving in Park City, Utah on the 19th. A friend from Texas and I will be on an epic Road Trip through Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Montana, a touch of Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and back to Missouri. We will be trekking for about three weeks and about 5,000 miles. I'll be checking off many Bucket List items and will post photos to Facebook.

I'm sad that I'll be missing Michaeline's talk about Phoenix Landing. I have great respect for Phoenix Landing and I'm sure you all will learn much from her. I'm happy that Michaeline has been attending our meetings and will now be sharing much of her bird knowledge and experiences with us. We welcome you, Michaeline.

The Quaker Parakeet Society just learned that Wisconsin is a State that now outlaws Quakers. Apparently the ruling became effective in 2005 but has only recently begun to be enforced. You may follow the information about this ruling and those of other Quaker unfriendly States on the Quaker Parakeet Society Face book page. They will post updates as they become available.

The St Louis area is fast approaching flood stage, with ongoing rain in the forecast, please keep an eye and an ear open for potential flooding in the Valley Park, Varietees Bird Store area. Hopefully the crest will pass by with no issues for our most favorite Bird Store.

I have confidence you will be able to enjoy yourselves at the 1:00pm May 19th meeting. Share in the fun, learning, great food and best of all sharing an afternoon with friends.

Georgia Fletcher

April Meeting Pictures featuring Jason Crean





Below are a few websites that you may be interested in researching. We thank Jason for sharing these with us.

Questions?

Special thanks to:

www.chinaprairie.com
www.greywoodmanor.com
www.trueleafmarket.com (Code: C4AW)
www.texasnaturalfreeze-dried.com (Code: C4AW)
www.flukersfarms.com (Code: avianwellness)
www.royalavian.com (Code: C4AW)
www.wackywingsbirdtoys.ecwid.com (Code: WACKY10)

Collaborating
4 Avian
Wellness



c4aw.org

Pictures of Event at Faust Park that Gateway Parrot Club participated in, "Great Saturday for Kids"







Why Is Education So Important?

Birds are fascinating, beautiful creatures that require a very... particular set of requirements in order to have a happy and healthy life. If you don't get these requirements exactly right, precisely the way your lovable (demanding) bird wants, there will be consequences. These consequences can come in the form of a depressed bird, a sick bird, a "mean bird" or a seemingly constant screaming bird that will make you the least popular neighbor on the block. Either way, your bird is not happy. And, most likely, neither are you.

Learning how to get the environment just right for your bird can be a challenge, but it's a necessity that comes with owning a bird. When you take your sweet bundle of feathers home, you are taking control of that bird's life and happiness. It is a huge job to ensure that your bird's life is as fulfilling and enriched as it can possibly be. That's why education is so important for any bird owner.

The list of things to know before getting a bird is five miles long and the list of available resources is even longer. Where do you go? Who do you listen to? What if one article contradicts another? There are no right answers to any of these questions, which is why educating yourself on proper bird care is not an easy feat.

As a bird owner, the excitement you feel when you decide you are getting another addition to your home can be exhilarating. If you have a family, you know the excitement is contagious. This is especially true if you have younger children. I mean, birds are full of pretty colors, they're funny, and they talk... what more could a kid ask for in a pet?

While letting your child have the amazing experience of living in the same house as a parrot is great, ultimately, they will need to understand that birds are more than just 'cool' pets to have. They will need to understand their fingers cannot be pushed through the spaces between the bars on the cage, that you must be very gentle when petting a bird because they are so fragile, and sometimes loud

noises can be scary to a new bird. These are just a few things that children need to be educated on when bringing a new bird into the home. Not only can it be traumatizing for your new bird to have a toddler's sticky fingers trying to grope them through a cage, but it is equally traumatizing for your child to ultimately receive a bite from your frightened bird.

Often times it is the child who wants the bird, and the parents assume that it will be an easy pet to care for (bird owners laughing in the distance). So they go out the next day and get their child a bird. These parents also assume the bird will be the child's sole responsibility and are at their wits end a few weeks later when the cage and floor are a mess and the sweet new bird won't stop screaming and biting. While it is a great thing to let your child have the experience of responsibility, it is an even better experience if they understand how to properly care for a bird. Ensuring that your child has all the proper education on bird behavior, how to care for a bird, and what owning a bird truly entails, is only fair to your family *and* your new bird.

At STAR, we pride ourselves in offering a Basic Bird Care Class free to the public so the whole family can come and learn how to care for their feathered family member. This year, we would like to expand our focus to include youth education. We are partnering with the Humane Society of Missouri this summer to teach kids about parrots as pets at their weekly summer camps. And, in the fall, we would like to offer after school programs with local elementary schools. STAR is always looking for volunteers to help educate, and we would love for anyone interested in helping educate children to reach out to us. It takes a special kind of person to want to educate others... are you one of them?

If you would like to help us educate future bird lovers, please fill out an application to volunteer at www.staravian.org or contact amanda.barnard@starvolunteers.org to learn more.

Sincerely,

Haleigh Wagner, on behalf of STAR – St. Louis Avian Rescue

Gateway Parrot Club



Meeting Dates 2019:

- 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:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/parrot-dresses-up-by-ripping-up-calendar-to-make-fake-tail-feathers/vi-BBUbRYP>

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2019/03/01/india-parrots-damage-opium-crops-orig-vstan-bdk.cnn/video/playlists/atv-trending-videos/>

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!

Chef Christine will be making BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, apple and cabbage slaw, black bean salad, and chips for our May meeting. For dessert she will have strawberry angel food cake. As usual there will be water and an assortment of soda.

Membership Report (Renee Davis)

If you are not a member, we would love to have you join. You can do it online, at the meeting, or via snail mail.

Welcome new member:
Kenya Ditto

April meeting attendees are below.

Georgia Fletcher	Katherine Mueller
Dick Grommet	Richard Mueller
Cathy Timma	Donna Ruben
Renee Davis	Scott Ruben
Heidi Hellmuth	Denise Shibe
Dixie Danzeisen	Mary Staab
Carole Grommet	Andrea Stoppelmann
Aubrey Kiener	Karen Tabaka
Christine Kinkade	Laura Vinyard
David Kinkade	Sandy Warren
Barbara Agathen	Ron Blaker
Paul Agathen	Abigail May
Jim Berk	Nancy Phelps
Amanda Brantley	Gwynn Shelby
Jess Ellis	Michaela Shelby
Dave Guiot	Debby Smith
Elizabeth Guiot	Michaeline Walsh
Jim Hermann	Cathy Wendler
Esther Hermann	Lisa Williams
Nancy Marron	Joy Zimmer
Julie Morgan	



Association of Avian Veterinarians

April 2019 AAV Bird Club News Release

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Traveling With (or Without) Your Pet Bird

By: Jodi Berls, CVA, LVT

Has it crossed your mind that owning your pet bird means you are unable to leave home for more than a day? If so, you are not alone, but fortunately, this is just not the case. With some advance planning, you may be able to take your treasured pet with you or leave him in a safe place where he will be well cared for while you are away.

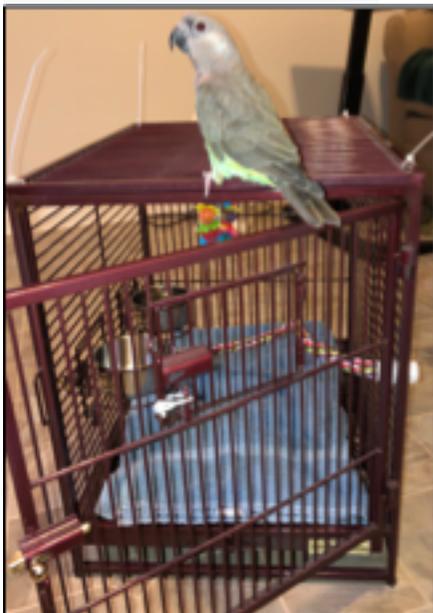


Photo courtesy Jodi Beryls, CVA, LVT

Taking Your Bird With You

It is considerably more complicated – and seems to get more complicated every day – but you may be able to travel with your bird right by your side.

First, no matter what mode of travel you choose, you will need a safe, secure carrier or travel cage for your bird. The truth is, you need this even if you are not planning a trip: for veterinary visits, moving to a new residence or emergencies such as a wildfire, flood or extended power outage. The carrier should be sturdy enough to withstand some chewing and any bumps that may occur in transport. It should be large enough that your bird can stand up and move around comfortably, and it should have a leak-proof bottom. There should be enough openings in it to permit good airflow, but no protruding objects or items inside it that may cause injury. If you install a perch, make sure it is placed so that the bird can't get a foot, leg, wing or its whole body stuck underneath it. You will want to line the bottom of the carrier with absorbent material that helps contain any mess and provides some padding in case of a fall.

Second, you will need some documentation to take with you. Contact information for your avian veterinarian, a copy of your pet's medical records and a color photo of your bird for identification purposes are the bare minimum, and should be with you even for a short trip out of town. Better yet, add to that list: microchip registration and contact information for an avian vet at or near your destination. The Association of Avian Veterinarians website offers a list of veterinarians in and out of the U.S.

Travel By Car Within the U.S.

Probably the easiest way to travel with your bird is to go by car. However, taking your bird across state lines is not simply a matter of loading the carrier into your vehicle. Make sure your pet is going to be welcome at the destination you plan to visit – some states prohibit certain species, especially Quaker parrots, and to a lesser degree, nanday conures, because they are considered invasive or nuisance species if released into the wild. California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Wyoming have outright bans of Quaker parrots; Kansas, Maine

and New Jersey require permits that may be very difficult to obtain. Some of those states allow for transit of the prohibited species across their territory, but some do not. Nanday conures are banned in Tennessee.

Some endangered species, such as blue-throated macaws, are prohibited from being sold across state lines, so may raise legal questions along the way even if you have no plans to sell the bird. Further, if your pet is a dove, pigeon or type of poultry, it may fall under regulations covering livestock. Check with the office of the state veterinarian at your destination to confirm that your bird will be welcome when you arrive.

Some states will require a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (commonly known as a health certificate) before you enter their territory. This certificate must be completed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian no more than 10 days in advance of your departure and will require an examination by the veterinarian before it can be issued.

When you have the paperwork and supplies together and you are ready to leave, situate your bird's carrier in a safe place in the vehicle – if possible secure it with a seat belt or harness. Check to be sure the temperature remains reasonably comfortable and your bird can get out of direct sunshine when needed. Some birds will not eat or drink while the car is moving, so be prepared to make some stops that will allow your bird to settle and relax for a little while, at which point he or she may take some food or water.

Never leave your bird unattended in a vehicle or transport it in the uncovered back of a pickup truck.

If you are planning to make overnight stops requiring hotel stays along the way, keep in mind that not all hotels or motels are happy to accommodate pets, or they may have restrictions about the size or type of pets they allow. Ask about the pet policy before booking a reservation, then confirm that there haven't been changes to the policy a day or two before you expect to arrive. It is best to get confirmation in writing if you can. While at the hotel, try to minimize the amount of time your pet will be alone in the room, and make sure hotel staff know how to contact you if there is a problem. Keep your bird caged or in its carrier while it is alone in the room.

Travel by Air Within the U.S.

Airline policies on travel with pets have changed a lot in recent years, and are continuing to change. Policies on which pets can go in the cabin with you are especially fluid. Unless your bird is small enough that his or her carrier can fit under the seat, he or she may have to go in the cargo hold or you may be required to buy a separate ticket. Check with the airline before you book a reservation, and be prepared to book your pet's reservation at the same time as your own. Ask specifically about the policy for transporting pets and get as much detail as you can, then reconfirm nothing has changed the day before your flight. Again, if you can get confirmation in writing, that is always best.

Most airlines require a health certificate, and some may require an acclimation certificate, especially if your pet will be traveling in the cargo hold. Note that this acclimation certificate is a waiver of the federal requirement that prohibits exposing an animal to temperatures lower than 45 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 45 minutes. These certificates are issued at the veterinarian's discretion and are based on an assessment of the animal's health. Federal regulations prohibit any animal from being transported by air when temperatures will be in excess of 85 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 45 minutes, even if there is a current acclimation certificate.

Federal regulations also require pets to be at least eight weeks old and to have been weaned at least five days before air travel. In addition, you should try to book a nonstop flight and avoid flying during busy holiday periods.

Check with the airline to be sure your carrier will be allowed, as some airlines have very specific requirements. Make sure the carrier is clearly labeled with your name and contact information, as well as contact information for your destination. It should be labeled "Live Animal" and have arrows to show which way is upright.

Lastly, be sure to make alternative arrangements for your pet in case something goes wrong and your pet cannot travel with you after all. Most airports have animal cargo agents who can assist you with getting your pet checked in and resolving problems.

Leaving Your Bird at Home

If all that just sounds like too much, you still have options: Board your bird or hire a pet sitter to care for him at home.

Your avian veterinarian may offer boarding at his or her facility, which offers the advantage of ensuring your bird is cared for by people who are familiar with him (or at least with birds in general) and can react quickly if health concerns arise. If the veterinarian's facility does not do boarding itself, your vet may be able to recommend a trusted facility or sitter.

Regardless of whether you are boarding your bird at the vet or at another facility, you should be able to visit the premises and see where he or she will be kept. A reputable facility will be happy to show you around and answer any questions you may have. Not all states require licensing, but all boarding facilities should be insured. Make sure the staff are experienced and familiar with handling birds, not just cats and dogs, and find out what medical examinations or tests may be required before your bird arrives. Ask whether your bird can be kept in his or her own cage and if you can provide your own food, toys and other furnishings. Birds are messy by nature, but the facility should be reasonably clean and well lighted. It is best if birds are boarded in a room separate from spaces for cats, dogs and other predators.

If you would rather hire a pet sitter so your bird can be cared for at home, you can search online at organizations like the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters or Pet Sitters International. You should be able to interview a prospective pet sitter in your home, so you can gauge the sitter's level of comfort with the bird (and the bird's comfort with the sitter). Let the sitter know that you will require a minimum of one visit each day to change food and water supplies; urge the sitter to send you an email (preferably with a photo) every day. Leave detailed instructions on how you want the bird to be cared for, including specifics on feeding, cleaning and what to do if something goes wrong.

Overview

Don't let owning a pet bird discourage you from leaving home. Your bird may be a great traveling companion, but even if not, you can still take that dream

vacation or be there for your best friend's wedding. Just take the appropriate precautions and be prepared to do the advance planning needed to ensure your bird is cared for while you are away.

References

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