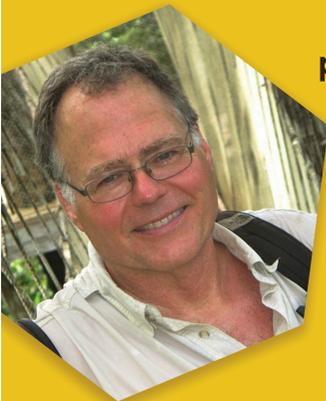


# Squawk 'n Talk

November 2019

## A Honey of a Bee



presented by **Randy C. Morgan**

Emeritus Curator-Insectarium, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Randy holds an M.S. in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin. He worked at the Cincinnati Zoo Insectarium for 32 years and is now retired from his position as Curator of Invertebrates, Reptiles & Amphibians. At the Zoo he managed a diverse collection of live insects and other small animals for public educational display and developed world-class exhibits. Randy has been a beekeeper for over 40 years, is active in the South Western Ohio Beekeepers Association and loves to share his passion for honey bees and the other little animals that propel and shape our living world.

Birds with  
clipped wings  
or on a harness  
are welcome!

The familiar honey bee *Apis mellifera* is a vitally important agricultural pollinator threatened by many human activities. It is also a behaviorally fascinating insect. This talk celebrates honey bees' sophisticated social organization, intimate association with flowers, and past and present relationships with humans. We will also explore the wonderful ways honey bees sense their world and communicate with nest mates.

**SUN  
NOV 17**  
Varieties Bird Store  
Valley Park, MO

**ALWAYS FREE TO ATTEND**

1:00p meeting  
1:30p food  
2:00p presentation  
3:00p raffle



## Chirps From the President's Perch

You don't want to miss this month's meeting on November 17th. Randy Morgan, brother of our member Julie Morgan, will be doing a presentation on bees. His talk will be educational, entertaining and very interesting. See the flyer above.

November brings colder weather, beautiful fall colors, Thanksgiving, and (drum roll.....) Board Nomination Time.

Our Club is a fantastic club. We have great members who I really enjoy seeing on a regular basis. At a time when many clubs throughout the country are closing due to lack of interest; ours is thriving and growing. This is all due to our members who WANT to be there, who WANT to learn more about their birds and WANT to spend time with each other and share their birds with each other. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you. I am so looking forward to 2020 being a momentous year. Please "step up" and volunteer to serve on our Board. We need you to join in and help keep this club dynamic.

The following positions are up for election this year, each position holds a 2 year term. Requirements for eligibility for nomination are: must be a member in good standing and must have attended at least 4 meetings in 2019 (November meeting will count as one attended).

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

Due to uncertain health considerations I will not run for President. If nominated, I would accept a position on the Board because I want to see us continue to thrive and grow. I will be unable to be at our November meeting because of an out of town commitment but hold great hopes for an outstanding show of interest and many volunteers who want to take an active part in helping us continue to excel.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

## Pictures from our October Meeting

We had a fun time and a wonderful presentation by Dr. Patricia Anderson!







## Got Feathers?

**Bring your feathers to any parrot club meeting and give to Board Member, Aubrey Kiener, who will collect them and send to “Feathers for Native Americans” (see article below). Here’s a picture of Aubrey and her Pionus (Leto) in case you haven’t met her. Bring any size feather, small or large, and please place in sealed plastic bag or box.**



# FEATHERS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

"Saving Wild Macaws and Parrots, one feather at a time"

Steven James, 3415 Butterfly Arch, Va Beach, VA 23456 -  
[featherman3415@icloud.com](mailto:featherman3415@icloud.com)

## About | Feathers for Native Americans

The "Feathers for Native Americans" project is a passion that I have of collecting molted Macaw, Parrot and Wild Turkey feathers and gift them to the Puebloan Tribes of Arizona and New Mexico to use in their traditional religious ceremonies, to adorn their ceremonial dance garb and to use along with their spiritual artifacts, at no cost or obligation on their part!

We are looking for Dedicated and Sincere bird owners or custodians of birds in the USA that will commit to donating their molted feathers twice a year, (Spring Molt & Fall Molt) to assist Native Americans in their right to express their rich cultures and traditions and in a small way help save Wild Macaws and Parrots.

By gifting molted Macaw, Parrot and other exotic bird feathers, we can eliminate sellers of illegally imported feathers from Central and South America, that are hunting and killing Wild Macaws and Parrots for profit. Every feather donated from a molted living bird will replace one that a Wild Macaw or Parrot was killed to supply the need. The molted feathers are a natural and renewable resource that's eco-friendly and humane. There is no danger to the birds and they are highly preferred by the Native Americans.

Native Americans have used feathers in their religious customs and traditions for the past millennium and will do so for the next millennium. Together we can HELP SAVE WILD MACAWS AND PARROTS and support Native Americans in maintaining their 1st Amendment rights under the Constitution and enable them to be able to continue their rich customs and traditions.

If you have molted feathers that you could donate towards this project it would be greatly appreciated.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** FEATHERS FROM RAPTORS SUCH AS EAGLES AND HAWKS OR MIGRATORY BIRDS ARE ILLEGAL TO POSSESS. WE NEVER ACCEPT DONATIONS OR EVER HAVE THESE TYPE OF FEATHERS! Wild and Domestic Turkeys, Macaw and other types of tropical exotic birds like Parrots, Cockatoos, Cockatiels, Parakeets and etc. from the United States are all acceptable. We never buy or sell feathers, they are always a gift.

Become a Donor today! Thanks for your interest..... Steven James

# **Gateway Parrot Club**



## **Meeting Dates - 2019:**

- November 17 Randy Morgan, Honey of a Bee Presentation

- \* December 8, Holiday Party
- 2020 Election of Officers/Board-

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

## General Meeting Notes

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, helps us to provide special speakers, and allows us the opportunity 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 700 members! Also check out our website at [gatewayparrotclub.org](http://gatewayparrotclub.org). If you ever want to contact the club via email, go to our website, select "Contact," select the board member you would like to contact, and send your message.

Chef Christine will be making chili with meat, chili without meat, and hot dogs (to make chili dogs) for our meeting. She will also have cheese, chips, and crackers to go with the chili. For dessert, she will make a pumpkin spice cake and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. As usual there will be water and an assortment of soda. Please feel free to bring something to add to our food table. We appreciate anything you would like to share.



# Association of Avian Veterinarians

## October 2019 AAV Bird Club News Release

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### **Top 10 Things Your Avian Veterinarian Doesn't Want You to Do (Part 2 of 2)**

*By: Jodi Berls, CVA, LVT Continued from September AAV Bird Club News Release.*

#### *6. Housing your bird in the kitchen*

Birds are very sensitive to inhalant toxins, and that includes smoke from cooking, as well as cleaners and sprays that are commonly used in a kitchen. Not only that, but a curious bird may well decide to investigate what's in that pan on the stove, not realizing how hot it is. Or he may decide to hop into the sink to take a bath, not realizing the water is hot or soapy or too deep for him to get out of it (most pet birds can't swim). Or he may chew on electrical cords or sharp objects, such as knives.

All in all, your kitchen is just not the safest place for your bird.

If you must keep your bird in the kitchen, always cage him while you are cooking so he is not exposed to the hot stove, oven or pans. Do not preheat pans on high heat, which can cause nonstick pans to release toxic fumes. Use a fan or open a window to reduce exposure to smoke or other airborne toxins. Store any toxic items, such as cleaners or pesticides, out of your bird's reach. Keep him

away from electrical appliances and any food or drinks that may be toxic, such as coffee or avocado. Take care to ensure he cannot get oils or butter on his feathers.

Above all, don't leave your bird alone in the kitchen while you're preparing food.



**Photo Courtesy Jodi Berls**

**The kitchen holds many hazards for pet birds, such as electrical appliances, human medications, oils, aerosol sprays, and sharp objects.**

## 7. Exposing your bird to hazardous household items

Your bird knows a million ways to get himself into trouble, and many of them are simple household objects that seem completely benign to us, as humans.

This is by no means a comprehensive list, but here are a few things you should be sure to keep your bird away from:

- Paints, varnishes, pesticides and other chemicals
- Jewelry
- Stained glass that may contain lead or zinc
- Any other object that contains lead or zinc, such as curtain hardware
- Electrical cords or appliances
- Open containers of water, such as toilet bowls or fish bowls
- Ceiling fans
- Certain house plants, such as avocado plants, dieffenbachia, kalanchoe and many others
- Mothballs
- Cigarette smoke
- Detergents and fabric softener sheets

Always supervise your bird when he is at play outside his cage to reduce his risk from common household objects that may be harmful.

Also note that plush or fabric sleeping huts sold for birds can be dangerous. Be prepared to remove the hut immediately if your bird's nails are getting caught on the fabric or you see your bird chewing it. If ingested, that fabric may have to be removed surgically.

### **8. Letting your bird play with pets that are predators**

Those Facebook memes of dogs and cats playing with pet birds sure are adorable, aren't they? So why does your avian veterinarian cringe every time he or she sees one of them? Because your avian veterinarian has had to treat the wounds that result when those scenarios go horribly wrong.

No matter how well-behaved or well-trained your dog or cat is, it is still a predator with instincts that tell it your bird is prey. Odds are, sooner or later, that predatory instinct is going to kick in, and it can be lethal in a split second. Do not let your bird play with a predatory pet, such as a cat, dog or ferret.

### **9. Housing multiple species together**

Similar to the above advice about separating pet birds and predators, keeping two or more birds of different species/sizes in the same cage is asking for trouble. They may be friends for a while, especially if they are both young, but any disagreement can have devastating consequences, especially for the smaller bird(s).

### **10. Taking medical advice about your bird exclusively from "Dr. Google" or "Dr. Facebook"**

There are thousands of great websites full of accurate information about care for your bird, with all of that good counsel available at the click of a mouse. There are also thousands of not-so-great websites full of inaccurate or misleading information about care for your bird, just as easily available. Facebook groups set

up for pet owners are notorious for offering recommendations so off-the-wall they make veterinary professionals want to tear out their hair.

It can be difficult for someone who is not a veterinary professional to distinguish between sound, science-based advice and nonsense, especially when it is couched in credible terms and coming from someone who claims to know about bird care. If it sounds too easy – like a medication or supplement

that supposedly can be used to treat everything from bird mites to cancer – that should set off alarm bells. If it is said to be safe with any species of bird, that should make you stop and think, too – penguins are birds, but medications for them are not necessarily best for parrots.

On top of that, some signs you may be seeing are non-specific, and without further information, even an authoritative online source can lead you astray. For example, regurgitation can be a sign that your bird is going through a normal hormonal phase or it could be a symptom of a serious illness, such as enteritis or proventricular dilatation disease. You don't want to treat a normal bird, but you also don't want to fail to treat a bird who is ill.

We understand that there are costs associated with veterinary care, while a Google search is free. But do you really trust the advice of someone whose qualifications may be murky and who has never so much as laid eyes on your bird?

## **Overview**

If you are doing any of the “uh-oh” items above, please correct them as soon as you can, for the sake of your bird and your own. If you need help correcting them, please call your avian veterinarian, who will be happy to help you change “oh, no” into “way to go!”

For more information, see AAV's downloadable handout on [Protecting Your Pet Birds from Household Dangers](#).

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