

Monthly newsletter from the Gateway Parrot Club!

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Squawk 'n Talk

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

April is here already. Tax Day looms and our next Meeting is very near. This year is melting away before my eyes. I apologize for the late delivery of this months newsletter. My fault, I was delayed in preparing my President Message.

Last months speaker was our very own Heidi Hellmuth, a very active and supportive member of our club. Heidi is the Curator of Primates at the St. Louis Zoo. Heidi discussed the importance of enrichment in the lives and environment for all of the animals and birds in our care. Heidi presented us with some great visuals of our own Zoo inhabitants as prime examples of a variety of forms of enrichment. She also discussed the importance of utilizing the correct style and size toys which tied back into the talk about toys in February.

This months speakers will be from Wildbird Rehab. They will help us learn how to properly help wild birds who have become injured or orphaned. Their care and husbandry are very very different from our companion parrots. It's amazing how well they adapt and survived not what can very often be a hostile place. It's also surprising how quickly they mature in comparison to our Tropical and Savannah parrots. I'm very much interested to learn more about the beautiful but somewhat mysterious lives of the wild birds that we see and enjoy each day.

I regret to inform you, our Members, that our newly elected Treasurer Sandy Newcomb, has found it necessary to resign from the Treasurers office. He will be changing jobs soon and that change along with the growing responsibilities as Treasurer at his Church require a much larger demand on his time than he predicted. Sandy felt he wouldn't be able to properly devote the time and personal resources to the Gateway Parrot Club Treasurer position at this time. I'm confident that Sandy will continue to be active as a member and look forward to seeing him at our future meetings and at the Fair. Thank you Sandy for your efforts.

We will be calling a Special Election at the April Meeting to nominate and elect a new treasurer. Cathy Timma has offered to accept a Nomination as Treasurer. If you have any other member in good standing you would like to Nominate, please send a written Nomination to our Club Secretary - David Kinkade at secretary@gatewayparrotclub.org. The nominated candidate must have agreed to accept your nomination and your written Nomination must be received by David no later than April 12th.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 p.m. at Varieties Bird Store in Valley Park, MO. Come on to the meeting, bring friends and enjoy the fellowship of other "bird people".

Georgia.

Our April 17th GPC meeting will feature Deborah Martin, a GPC member and a volunteer at Wild Bird Rehabilitation (wildbirdrehab.org) located on Midland Avenue in Overland.

Wild Bird Rehabilitation has been a recipient of GPC grants for several years. This year is no exception. At our March meeting, the club approved a \$500 grant to this wonderful organization.

Did you know that Wild Bird Rehabilitation is the only organization in the St. Louis area that cares for native wild songbirds? Their mission is to provide care for injured, ill and orphaned native wild songbirds and to release them back into their natural habitat. They also provide public education regarding the humane treatment of wild songbirds and the conservation of their habitat.

Debbly will be discussing:

- Wild Bird Rehabilitation's Mission
- Care of injured through Admissions, Emergency Room, Nursery, Recovery, Aviary and Release
- Cage enrichment and species specific requirements
- Tips on what to do if you find a baby bird, a fledging or an injured adult
- The most common injuries
- What it is like to be a volunteer

It will be interesting to hear Debbly talk about cage enrichment and species specific requirements. We know all about cage enrichment for our parrots, but what enrichments are added to a songbird's cage? Come and find out. Debbly mentioned she will have lots of pictures of their feathered patients.

- Carole Grommet

Upcoming Events:

04/17/2016

Monthly Meeting - Deborah Martin of Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Attention Bird Fair Vendors!
Please join us in August

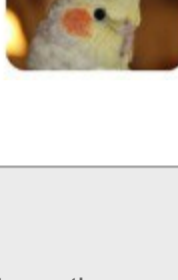
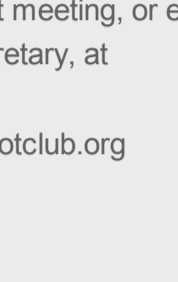

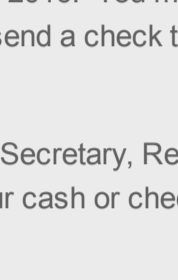
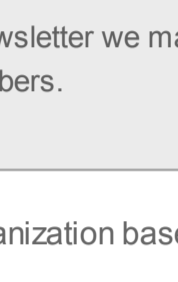
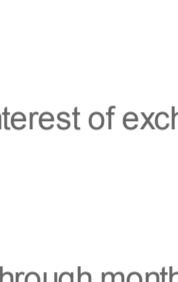
Gateway Parrot Club (St. Louis, MO)
29th Annual
All-American Hookbill Fair and Seminar

Saturday, August 27, 2016
10:00 - 6:00 p.m.
12365 St. Charles Rock Road
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Featuring:

- Birds, cages, food, supplies, toys, and much more
- Raffles
- Silent Auction
- Speakers

Contact Information:
Dick Grommet - 636-529-0026
Email: VicePresident@GatewayParrotClub.org
Website: www.GatewayParrotClub.org
(Vendor application available on website)

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.

Our new PayPal email address is 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/>

Membership Dues Notice -

Please make certain your membership status is current for 2016. You may pay for memberships with cash, check, online with PayPal, or send a check to our P. O. Box number.

At our monthly meetings you may contact our Membership Secretary, Renee Davis. She will be able to verify your status and accept your cash or check to become a new member or to renew your membership.

If inactive members are not current by our next month's newsletter we may no longer send the Squawk 'n Talk newsletter to inactive members.

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'nTalk, maps, and more information on our website: GatewayParrotClub.org

Join our FaceBook

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

Email Jessica at 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!

Used with permission Jeannine Miesle of The Science of Avian Health (Facebook

Group): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/872079712863055/>

THE EFFECTS OF TOBACCO USE ON AVIAN SPECIES

Birds and other exotic animals have extremely sensitive respiratory systems. They have small, fragile lungs, and their air sacs do most of the respiratory work. It takes very little to negatively impact the lungs and air sacs of birds. The respiratory system of birds is affected by any form of air pollution.

Signs Of Tobacco Toxicity Are:

- Dyspnea (labored breathing)
- Hyperexcitability
- Tachypnea (abnormally rapid breathing, panting)
- Twitching and tremors
- Agitation
- Seizures
- Salivation
- Muscle weakness
- Gastrointestinal upset (e.g., vomiting, diarrhea, or regurgitation)
- Tachycardia (increased heart rate)
- Enlarged cere
- Rhinorrhea (sneezing)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic or acute coughing
- Collapse, coma and cardiac arrest, and eventually to rapid death

Tobacco products contain varying amounts of nicotine:

- Cigarette 3-30 mg per 1 whole cigarette
- Cigarette butts .75-7.5 mg
- Cigars 15-40 mg
- Moist snuff 4.6-32 mg/g
- Dry snuff 12.4-15.6 mg/g
- Chewing tobacco 2.5-8.0 mg/g
- Nicotine gum 2-4 mg per piece
- Transdermal patches 15-114 mg per patch
- Nicotine nasal sprays 10 mg per ml
- Nicotine inhaler rods 10 mg per cartridge

Animals may lick up toxic chemicals. Nicotine, tar and carcinogens may land on their fur or feathers after the smoke in the air settles, thus increasing their chances of developing cancer. In addition, they may eat products containing nicotine, such as cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco, nicotine gums and patches. Nicotine is often used as an insecticide, so animals must not be allowed access to any such products or onto grass and other foliage that has been sprayed.

Marijuana

The toxins produced by smoking marijuana are dangerous to birds because of their sensitive respiratory systems; they require far less to suffer from toxicity. In birds, exposure to marijuana causes severe depression and regurgitation and should be strictly avoided. Marijuana may be smoked, eaten, drunk, or inhaled. Although it does not contain nicotine, it is often rolled up with tobacco or inside cigar leaves, so nicotine will be included in the smoke. Combustion produces large quantities of hundreds of hazardous chemical compounds, such as carbon monoxide and soot and other particulates. Holding in the smoke allows for more time for THC and other bi-products to be absorbed by the lungs and not be exhaled. Cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco are present in cannabis smoke - and at twice the levels they are in smoke from tobacco.

The marijuana smoker and his pets will encounter:

- Lung disease
- Increased heart rate and heart attack.
- Mental illness
- Physical and mental damaging effects

TOXICITY FROM SECOND-HAND SMOKE

Exposure to tobacco smoke causes respiratory disease and diseases involving other systems of the body. A lit cigarette, pipe or cigar releases smoke and toxins, from both the lit end and filtered end. People and animals constantly exposed to tobacco smoke are more likely to develop and die from heart disease, lung cancer, and breathing illnesses. Tobacco smoke contains over 4000 thousand different chemicals that fill the air as either gases or particulates, including 69 compounds that are known to cause cancer. These include formaldehyde, ammonia, cyanide, nicotine, benzene, chromium, nickel, vinyl chloride, arsenic, carbon monoxide, methane, tar, carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). The concentration of these carcinogenic chemicals is actually higher in secondhand smoke than in the fumes directly inhaled by smokers.

Secondhand smoke is classified as a class-A carcinogen, the same classification given to asbestos. Passive exposure to tobacco smoke is responsible for many clinical illnesses, including conjunctivitis, sinusitis, air sacculitis, rhinitis and dermatitis. In many cases, respiratory signs will cease if the bird is removed from the contaminated environment. It may take from a few weeks to several months for this to happen, and medications may be necessary to detoxify the bird's system. Even "vaping" (smoking of e-cigarettes) is a cause of illnesses in humans and birds. Formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, is present in the vaporized liquid of e-cigarettes, and it could be 25 times higher than that found in cigarettes.

SMOKING'S EFFECTS ON THE BIRD'S RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Second-hand smoke predisposes birds to pneumonia and other respiratory ailments, including lung cancer. It cannot be entirely filtered out through ventilation systems or fans. It can take many hours for the smoke of a single cigarette to clear. And the furnace and air conditioning ducts and units are covered with these toxins, so the forced air will continue to put the toxins in the air. These need to be cleaned often, or at least when the indoor smoking terminates.

UPPER RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN BIRDS

Rhinitis and sinusitis from cigarette smoke damage the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, allowing pathogens to colonize. The eyes, including the nictitating membrane, frequently suffer inflammation, excessive tearing, redness and infection.

Smoking toxicity's effects on other systems and parts of the body. Smoke inhalation exacerbates Iron Storage Disease, and nicotine sulfate leads to severe skeletal malformation, reduced body weight, torticollis (twisting of neck to one side), edema, muscular dystrophy, and malformation of the beak, heart, and kidneys.

Effects on circulatory system and the heart. Smoke intoxication leads to poor white blood cell development, atherosclerosis, and hypertension in animals and birds. Effects on the Skin and Feathers Nicotine in cigarette smoke poses the greatest danger to birds' skin and feathers, and second-hand smoke does the most damage, causing both dermatitis and feather damage. The feathers will absorb the odor of the smoke and be discolored by it. Feather-destructive behavior has also been linked to exposure to smoke.

Smoke toxins accumulate on the feathers and skin and cause irritation leading to lesions. Staphylococcus is frequently isolated from the lesions, and, antibiotic therapy is needed. Many birds have bacterial infections or fungal folliculitis from smoke exposure, and require wound management. Smoke lands on the birds, perches, cage bars, toys and food. It is also on the smoker's hands, arms, clothes, skin, and hair. Smoker's hands transfer toxic chemicals to the bird. Birds will mutilating their legs and feet because their perches were covered with smoke residue. Some rehomed birds carry that odor even after having been bathed and will carry it until all their feathers have molted out. Some resort to feather picking to remove the tainted feathers. Many birds will resume normal preening behavior when removed from exposure to cigarette smoke.

Effects on the Feet, Legs and Face

The feet are particularly vulnerable to fungal diseases as a result of smoking toxicity. The feet and legs should have prominent scale patterns both top and bottom of the foot. Smoothing of the bottom of the foot's scale pattern can lead to severe foot and leg diseases. Nicotine contact is a common cause of foot abnormalities. Foot infections are due to handling by smokers since nicotine residue on the hands causes irritation. Macaws suffer dermatitis on the bare cheek patches following repeated contact with a smoker's hands.

SMOKING-RELATED DISEASES

Aspergillus. Aspergillus is generally found in the bird's respiratory tract, but it can invade any organ and even the skin. The fungal spores are everywhere, and birds exposed to smoke have immune systems that are weak, so they are unable to fight off the disease.

Pneumonia. With pneumonia, the lungs turn a dark pink, and the lung tissue takes on a yellow discoloration. Birds exposed to cigarette smoke generally develop black spots on the lungs. The trauma from exposure to these pollutants often causes bleeding within the lungs.

Bacterial infections. Secondary bacterial infections are common and require medical therapy.

Staphylococcus, both internal and external. Staph is found in abundant quantities in air and dust, S. aureus can remain infectious for long periods of time outside the host. It can also develop resistance to disinfectants following continuous exposure, and frequent changing of disinfectants is required.

Cancer. Exposure to cigarette smoke leads to cancer. Skin cancer is being reported by clinicians more and more frequently in pet birds. It has been diagnosed in areas such as the beak, eyes, mouth, tail base, preen gland, and skin on the body.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Take the bird to an avian veterinarian immediately if you suspect nicotine toxicity. Treatment may include medications, hospitalization for fluid therapy, and careful monitoring. Houses are also contaminated by smoking, and this contamination of air, furniture, draperies, etc. lingers for a long time. These must be cleaned often. Smoking must be done outside, and smokers should change their clothing and wash their hands and arms before handling birds. Provide good ventilation. Toxic by-products of smoking may take several hours to be eliminated from the air. Hepa filters on the furnace work best to remove particulates from the air. Provide fresh air. Keep all nicotine-containing items, including ashtrays, chewed nicotine gum, and used nicotine patches, out of the reach of pets to prevent accidental consumption. Birds and other pets may find carelessly discarded cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, and other tobacco products; these will cause significant poisoning. Clean cages and perches daily. Frequent bathing is a must for your parrot if you are a smoker. Other pets suffer significantly too. It takes very little tobacco or nicotine to be toxic to a dog or cat.

Welcome new members!

A special shout out to our new members, Tavi Karpirow, Rebecca Skinner, and Ren Wilding

March 2016 attendance:

- Georgia Fletcher
- Dick Grommet
- David Kinkade
- Sandy Newcomb
- Renee Davis
- Carole Grommet
- Christine Kinkade
- Jane Mueller
- Rick Ruderer
- Cathy Timma
- Cindy Burquin
- Scott Collier
- Dixie Danzeisen
- Janet Draper
- Ginny Feikert
- Elizabeth Guiot
- Heidi Hellmuth
- Tavi Karpirow
- Aubrey Kiener
- Linda Kraft
- Jessica Kubes
- Al Marks
- Janet Marks
- Jessica Murray
- Penny O'Grady
- Gerri Otto
- Barbara Peach
- Pat Seiler
- Rebecca Skinner
- Ren Wilding

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