

Joe Barkowski has been the Curator of Birds at Wichita's Sedgwick County Zoo since 1999. He admits to watching too many 'Wild Kingdom' episodes as a child growing up in New York that led to a BS in Zoology and an AS in Zoo Technology. He attended school and worked in New York and Florida before moving to Texas for eight years in the Houston Zoo's bird department. Joe works to manage one of the largest avian collections in North America in addition to his involvement in multiple conservation programs.

From the documentary "March of the Penguins" to the diabolical cartoon penguins in "Madagascar", we are constantly exposed to these flightless birds. Currently however, penguins run a gauntlet of environmental challenges, from climate change, commercial fishing, pollution and tourism.

Of the 17 penguin species, more than half are listed as endangered or vulnerable. They are sentinels of the marine environment, and by observing and studying them, researchers can learn about the rate and nature of changes occurring in the southern oceans. Penguins are among those species that demonstrate we are making fundamental changes to our world.

Sedgwick County Zoo's Curator of Birds – Joe Barkowski will discuss the status of the world's penguins as well as his own experiences working with them. This includes his part in a rescue mission to help manage 20,000 African penguins caught in an oil spill.

MENU

**Smoked Pork Loin
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Green Beans with Bacon
Tossed Salad
Dinner Roll
Brownies**

**We are committed to paying for all reservations, so payment is required in advance.
We will be unable to refund your payment if you are
unable to attend.**