

Wildlife Tracks



Connecting People and Wildlife through Rehabilitation, Education, and Research since 1994

2016 Issue II

Wildlife In Need Center
W349 SI480 S. Waterville Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
262-965-3090

www.helpingwildlife.org



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WINC's MISSION - Education

Bella the American Toad

Bella was brought to WINC in June of 2015 as a patient after being hit by a lawn mower and suffering a partial front leg amputation. Toads use their front limbs to hold onto their prey and to aid in mobility and balance. She was not releasable due to her injury and therefore, she has joined our education team. Bella's name means 'beautiful' in Italian. A big thank you to our staff and volunteers for choosing such a fitting name for her!

The American toad, *Bufo americanus*, is the amphibian most often seen by people in our area. They can be found in forests, meadows and gardens and are frequently active at night. A toad's diet consists of insects, spiders and worms. Full-grown adults can be 4" long and are usually chubby. Toads vary in color but are most commonly brown and olive colored with red-brick warts and brown spots. It is a myth that you catch warts from touching toads. Toads have special glands called paratoid glands which produce a foul-smelling, toxic chemical to keep predators from eating them.

Toads are commonly heard in spring when they are breeding. The females will lay thousands of eggs in shallow bodies of water. The eggs hatch after two weeks and the tadpoles become toadlets after two months. The American toad can live up to 30 years of age.

Story By Alex Schlecht



Mission Statement

To provide wildlife rehabilitation to Wisconsin wildlife with the intent to release back to the native habitat, conduct research designed to further the positive impact of rehabilitation, and provide quality community education programs and service.

Wildlife in Need Center Board of Directors

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<i>Christi Stevensen</i>	<i>Seasonal Animal Care Staff</i>

WINC Advisory Board

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WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

Getting the most from a Least Weasel

An orphaned Least Weasel made its way to the Wildlife In Need Center in the beginning of October that was found in the middle of the road and brought to us from our friends at HAWS. Not only was it a young patient to see that late in the year, it was also a rare species for us to treat. He still had his eyes and ears closed. He was so young and tipped the scales at a tiny 9 grams! Weasels do use dens as nesting sites, so it is very possible that the mother was moving her young and this one was either dropped or left for unknown reasons.



Least weasels are the smallest living carnivore and are also considered "arctic" species. Wisconsin is actually in the most southern part of their range, so down here they will actually breed year round! Young weasels have an incredible metabolism and require feeding through the night. I had the honor of taking this little one home for the first six days of care and rearranging my schedule to accommodate a young weasel, which needed to be fed every 2-3 hours! He grew quickly and began to open his eyes after the fourth day in our care. He was already being offered some solid food (aside from the formula every few hours) including soaked kitten food before he opened his eyes. Once his eyes were opened, he switched to solid food very



quickly. Since they are carnivores, we offered him a variety of meats including chopped mouse, red meat like venison and fish. He loved them all. Once he started eating solid food he was transferred to one of our wonderful foster volunteers while we reached out to find him a buddy... it is best when young wild animals are not raised alone. Unfortunately, we did not find him a buddy, but we did find him a great temporary home for him to over-winter. Another licensed wildlife rehabilitator in the Dane County area has raised weasels and has appropriate housing to care for this species long-term. Towards the end of October we transferred our little Least Weasel (who wasn't so little anymore at 35 grams) to spend his winter in great hands preparing for release in spring.

Story By Mandy Feavel

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Making WJNC's Mission Possible Grants and Foundations

It is always so gratifying when support comes in for WJNC's mission of connecting people and wildlife through rehabilitation, education and research. This year, we had a record increase in admitted animals. We received more phone calls, not only from around Wisconsin, but also out of state. Calls have come in from places such as Tennessee and Maryland, with responses like, "we just couldn't find anyplace else to help us."

We are most grateful for receiving grants from the following organizations: the Oconomowoc Area Foundation, the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation, Wisconsin Energy Foundation, Kolaga Family Charitable Trust, Emil Ewald Family Foundation, Waukesha County Community Fund, ROS Foundation, Arthur T. Anderson Family Fund, Anthony and Andrea Bryant Family Fund, Ralph Evinrude Foundation, ORBIS Corporation, Peterson Family Foundation, Non-Profit Management Fund, PPG Industries Foundation, U.S. Bank Foundation, Johnson Controls Foundation, Oconomowoc Woman's Club, Dean L. and Rosemarie Buntrock Foundation, Joseph R. Pabst Fund, Elmbrook Garden Club, Greater Delafield Foundation, and Timothy Putra and Debra Scharff Fund.



Abby Lorenz enjoying wine donated by Pieter Stofberg and SA Best Wine Company

Our need is ongoing. Gifts from organizations, as well as individuals, show you care about the environment and wildlife around us.

Story By Jeff Phillips

Fundraising for WJNC's Mission

WJNC's operating revenue comes predominantly from personal donations and our fundraising efforts. In addition to grants, generous members, sponsors, honorariums, program fees and fundraising events provide the required resources to deliver on our mission 365 days a year.

During July, WJNC hosted its second VIP donor recognition event. That evening, and for the first time, we offered a fun photo opportunity for guests whose pictures were taken with our raptor ambassadors (they were only picture cut outs, but it looks as if they are the real thing!). Our thanks are again extended to Waukesha State Bank for sponsoring this event!

Less than a month ago, WJNC hosted its fourth annual Fine Wine and Dine event. Our event theme was An Evening In South Africa, and **raised over \$28,000!** We are grateful to Emcee, Toya Washington (Channel 12 News), guests and sponsors. Event sponsors included von Briesen & Roper, s.c, Associated Bank, Winter Kloman Moter & Repp, S.C, Action Graphics and R & R Insurance. Topping the evening was a five-course

meal paired with wines of SA Best Wine Company. Gourmet food and wine delighted our guests. Please save the date for next year's Fine Wine and Dine scheduled for October 20, 2017.

Importantly, this last summer WJNC cared for its 49,000th patient, and its educational outreach programs continue to teach all ages through our amazing 18 Educational Ambassadors. Our on-site and mobile education programs are beyond extraordinary. Thank you to all backers who believe in our mission and support WJNC!

Story By Kim Banach



Sandy and Mike Harsh, VIP Guests
Photo credit Lauryn Banach



Meet Jeff Phillips

Story by Lisa Rowe

Introducing Jeffrey Phillips as our Marketing and Development Director.

Jeff joined our team spring 2016 and comes to us with 15 years experience at Discovery World in Milwaukee. He is the contact person for membership and fundraising events, so you will be seeing his name in your mailbox. His background includes facility management, education, and publishing too, so he fits well with our small staff/many hats operation. Jeff "survived" his first baby season at WJNC admirably, dealing with the controlled chaos that is wildlife rehab in summer. He enthusiastically jumped right in, even doing rescues.

Please contact him at jphillips@helpingwildlife.org.

What's the BUZZ?

Remembering Special People

During the past year, donors have made gifts to WINC in honor or memory of special people in their lives. This issue recognizes these very special gifts.

In Honor of my Daughter's Birthday
Hope Erickson

In Honor of Lisa "Ginger" Frank
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Darlene "Callie" Fritz
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Bob "Q" Nold
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Mike & Jeanette "Obi" Smith
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Gail "Petey" O'Malley
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Morgan Johnson
Diana Ahmad

In Honor of Ugugu. Thank you for keeping me grounded, oddly enough
Valerie Bridges

In Honor of Dick and Karen Bertrand's 25th Wedding anniversary
Sharyn Raabe

In Honor of Nancy "Sydney" Schoeheman
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Bobbie "Murphy" Mueller
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Barb "Peytie" Zimmer
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Mary "Jimmy" Pantlik
Andrew Runte

In Honor of Denise "Daisy" Sattler
Andrew Runte

In Honor of "Annie" Hansen
Andre Runte

In Honor of the Koss Holt Wedding
Judy & Robert Koss
Melissa Koss
Christie Schwind
Kathleen Haas

In Honor of Capt. KT Budde-Johnson's Birthday
Mary & Tom Roberts

In Honor of Volunteer Leslie M. Smith's Birthday
Bill Hansen

In Honor of Roy and Ronda Lemmer Birthdays
Roy and Patricia Lemmer

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

Leslie Kiehl WINC Education Program Fund Recipient



Students of Hoover Elementary School with "Chloe" the Owl and Alex Schlecht

The Leslie Kiehl WINC Education Program Fund helps groups pay for WINC's educational program if they are not able to afford the requested fee. The fund applicants are encouraged to include how their group will "pay it forward" to the animals and take an active part in fostering the environment.

Mrs. Hill and the 2nd & 3rd grade students at Hoover Elementary School in New Berlin were recipients of this grant and decided to give back to the surrounding environment by completing a neighborhood and school grounds trash pick up each month. This will not only help maintain a clean curb appeal, but their action will also ensure the safety and well being of the wildlife in the area. Since they were learning about animals in their classroom, their program highlighted the difference between wild animals and pets, discussed how

wild animals prepare for surviving Wisconsin winters and what the importance of each species is in their home environment. Their education program featured a variety of our ambassadors: Grace the American Kestrel, Chloe the Eastern Screech Owl, Chase the Striped Skunk, Evie the Western Foxsnake and Jewel the Ornate Box Turtle.



WINC Ambassador Chloe, Cutest Little Owl Ever

These funded educational programs embody Leslie's wish to spread a positive perception and understanding of Wisconsin wildlife. This certainly encourages children to have a passion to help and respect wildlife because in their unique experience of meeting WINC's impressive educational ambassadors!

To apply to be a recipient of this fund or to make a donation to continue Leslie's legacy, please visit our website at www.helpingwildlife.org/educate/leslie-kiehl-program-fund/.

Story By Alex Schlecht

WINC Helps Give Second Chance

Around the middle of September, we received a call from a person in Waukesha County who had been keeping two foxes as pets - one for five years and another for three years. The person decided the foxes were becoming too much to care for and we were asked to come and take them.

Several times per year, we receive calls about "pet" wildlife- typically raccoons and squirrels that were found as babies and then become too much to care for once they are older. Generally, we tell people to bring them in as soon as possible in order for them to receive the proper care and for us to evaluate the animal. While we treat several foxes every year for a variety of illness or injuries, this was a unique set of circumstances in which we needed to develop a plan as to how we would handle this situation.

We contacted our friends and fellow rehabilitators at Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Ozaukee County who specialize in raising and releasing large carnivores. Thankfully, they were willing to provide the long-term care, housing and behavioral evaluation of these foxes to assess their ability to be released.

On September 20th, our staff went to remove the foxes and the conditions were worse than what we prepared for. The two terrified foxes had spent their entire lives in 3 by 5 foot raised wire cages, not even giving them enough space to fully stand. There was a small wooden hutch they could hide in when they were not forced to walk on top of the wire. They had been fed dog food and were drinking water from



rusty coffee cans. The foxes were overweight from lack of exercise, poor muscle condition and underdeveloped back legs/gait from never being able to jump or extend their hind legs—absolutely heartbreaking.

Our staff was able to safely transfer the foxes into travel crates and transport them directly to Pine View. Upon arrival, they were able to step onto soft ground for the first time in their lives. The foxes seemed instantly relieved and more at ease with their new surroundings. The foxes will spend their winter at Pine View where they will continue to be evaluated for release. We are so grateful to their staff to take on the rehabilitation of these foxes and are hopeful for their release come spring. Please share their story to educate people that wild animals never make good pets.

Story By Chelsea Shapiro



What's the BUZZ?

Remembering Special People

*In Memory Of Bruce W. Geigner
Angelica Aldred
Mark & Marcia Smeiska
Tamara Vanstone
Mary P. Knauss
Melissa & Gabriel McGaughey
Patrick Tkach
Deb McLurn
Staff of Birthing Center-Menomonee
Falls Community Hospital
Kathleen Jendusa
Erin Poole
Mary Gravning*

*In Memory Of Leslie Kiehl WINC
Education Program Fund
Diane and Jeff Kortsch*

*In Memory Of Judith Achtor
Mary Maer Kerl*

*In Memory Of Cheryl I. Miller
Gail & Wes Krause*

*In Memory Of Greg Bennett
Diane Romboy*

*In Memory Of Jack Tanis
Dick, Debbie, and Chloe Tula*

*In Memory Of Her Late husband Tom
Jenna Denure*

*In Memory Of Hatch
James R. Greve
Sally & Ronald Greve
Cindy & Jim Draeger
Jessica Pinkos
Frank & Dolores Lorenz
Frederick & Sandra Hilton
Schan Tax Service
Christine M. Kisielewski
Staff of HAWS*

*Humane Animal Welfare Society of
Waukesha County
Barbara K. Lemke*

*In Memory Of Paul Bernicky
Carol & Robert Boeck*

*In Memory Of Jeffrey Setz
Greg & Marilyn Baker*

*In Memory Of Lynn Szymaszek
Village of Wales
Barbara K. Lemke*

*In Memory Of Paul Bernicky
Carol & Robert Boeck*

*In Memory Of Jeffrey Setz
Greg & Marilyn Baker*

*In Memory Of Lynn Szymaszek
Village of Wales*



Exciting New Improvement to Our Medical Care!

I want to share some exciting news with everyone. When we built our new building in 2011, there was a room built labeled "X-ray". We didn't have an x-ray – but we had a dream for the future. We've always taken patients to the veterinarian for x-rays. If a patient comes in with severe injuries, it can take a few days to stabilize the animals so it's safe to transport. It is also an expense to get x-rays even with discounts. When staff transport animals for x-ray, it is 1-2 hours from WINC that staff can't help other patients here. Soon we will be doing digital x-rays here at Wildlife In Need Center! We want to thank those who helped this dream become a reality:

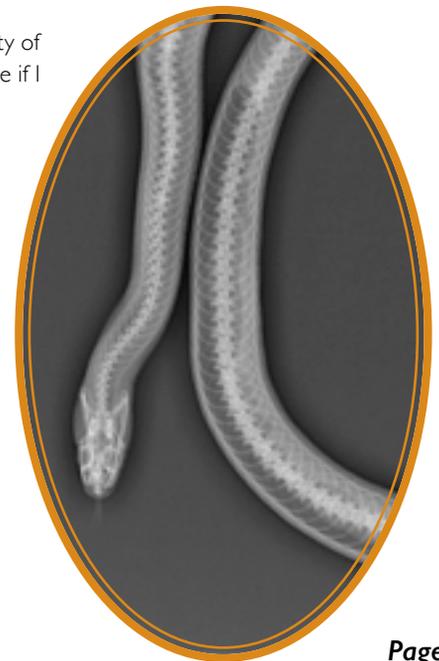
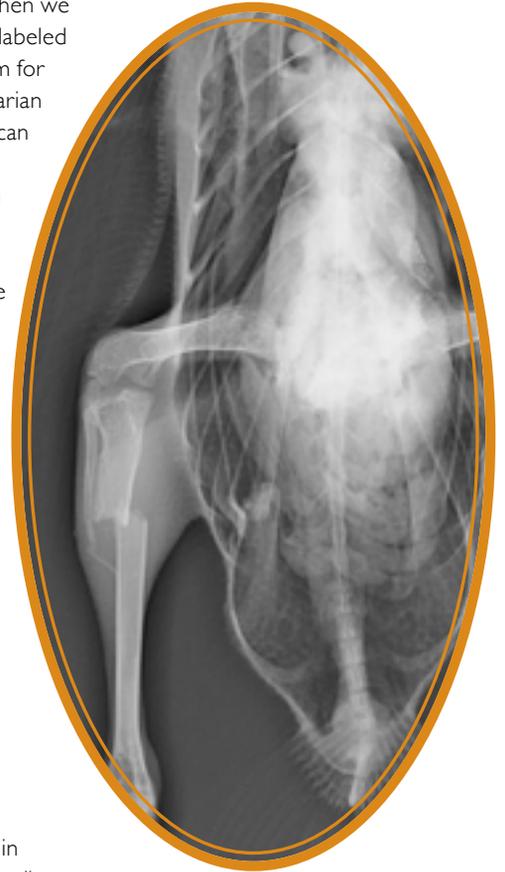
- Dr. Jennifer Bloss DVM and Dr. Denise Follett DVM, owners of Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital & Exotic Care Inc. for donating their used digital x-ray developer.
- Dr. Tom Gilligan DVM of North Lake Veterinary Clinic for donating a portable x-ray generator.
- Eli Guzniczak for the donation to cover the cost of the new computer and software for the digital developer, training, and hoist.
- Dr. Harry and Barb Muir for the donation of the protective door for the x-ray room.
- Holly Schlenvogt for donation of personal protective equipment: gowns, gloves, badges.

Having x-ray here will be a big step-up for the Center in the level of quality care we can provide. Staff can just walk patients down the hall and have the answer in minutes. Staff can email the digital x-ray to Brook-Falls or specialists for opinions. X-ray is a dream fulfilled thanks to the generosity of our friends! Now I am going to walk down the hall and see if I can find another room called "Duck Jacuzzi."

Please consider shopping at our Amazon Wishlist for many items needed for WINC. A complete list is located at our website <http://www.helpingwildlife.org/about-winc/development/donations-in-kind/>

If you wish, you can also search at Amazon.com for Wildlife in Need Center under lists. We are also a charity supported through Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). Select "Wildlife In Need Center" before you begin shopping and we will receive donations from eligible purchases.

Seasonal needs include medical supplies, food supplies, and office equipment (including postage). Thank you for supporting WINC's mission.



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers!

We are thrilled to share that WINC has over 100 year-round dedicated volunteers and over 60 summer Baby Bird Feeders who give their time and talent to help our wildlife. On average, our volunteers work passionately nearly four hours a week, but some volunteers work multiple shifts a week. Without the support of our amazing volunteers, WINC could not care for over 3,000 wild patients each year.

As we look ahead, adult volunteers remain necessary in Animal Care, Office, Maintenance, Fundraising - and our youngest volunteers ages 12 and up - in our Baby Bird Feeding Program. Our educational program volunteers remain an enthusiastic team, delivering a message about living harmoniously with our wild neighbors. If you are interested in volunteering, check-out our calendar for future orientation dates, and visit our website for baby bird feeding orientation dates.

This past October two volunteering teams made an important difference for WINC through the undertaking and completion of both maintenance and site improvement projects. Bradley Gresser, an Eagle Scout, completed an outdoor rain water drainage project. Eaton's committed team of 12, leveled one ton of rock, upgraded a well-needed outdoor enclosure roof, fixed perches and stained the Center's external cedar siding.

Every volunteer hour contributed enables WINC to deliver its broad care that our wild patients necessarily deserve, followed by expanding WINC's mission. As a "working hospital and home" to 18 live ambassadors, WINC's teams care for all wildlife in need.

Our volunteers deliver day-to-day care and a determined commitment, empowering our central mission. Please contact volunteer@helpingwildlife.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Story By Kim Banach



**Groundhog
Day Meet
& Greet
Saturday,
February 4
1:00-3:00pm**

Groundhogs are dreaming of spring now. Join us on February 4th to witness, Waldo the Woodchuck, make his annual prediction. Will it be an early spring or do we have six more weeks of winter? Dress warm for Waldo's outdoor prediction at 1:00pm. A Meet & Greet with all of WINC's educational ambassadors will follow. What a great opportunity to see our ambassadors up close and ask their handlers questions! Happy Groundhog Day!



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2017 CALENDAR

January, 2017

Tuesday, January 31st 6:00–8:00pm

Adult Orientation, Wildlife in Need Center

February, 2017

Saturday, February 4th 1:00–3:00pm

Groundhog Day Meet and Greet

Sunday, February 26th 6:30–8:00pm

Adult New Volunteer Orientation

March, 2017

Sunday, March 19th 8:00am–1:00pm

WINC Annual Pancake Breakfast

Lions Club

235 N. Main Street

Dousman, WI 53188

Thursday, March 30th, 6:30pm–8:00pm

Adult New Volunteer Orientation

April, 2017

Friday, April 28th, 6:00pm–9:00pm

23rd Annual Banquet

Western Lakes Golf Club

W287 N1963 Oakton Rd

Pewaukee, WI 53072

August, 2017

Wednesday, August 9th 6:00–8:00pm

Meet and Greet, Wildlife in Need Center



Watch Our Website for Baby Bird Feeding Orientation Dates!

September, 2017

Saturday, September 23rd 4:00–8:00pm

Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Club

235 N. Main Street

Dousman, WI 53188

October, 2017

Friday, October 20, 2017, 6:00–9:30pm

Fine Wine and Dine

Westmoor Country Club

400 S Moorland Rd

Brookfield, WI 53005

November, 2017

Friday, November 24th

World's Greatest Cookie Sale

December, 2017

Saturday, December 2nd, 10:00am–12:00pm

Holiday Meet and Greet

Meet and Greet WINC Educational Ambassadors

Free and open to the public, Wildlife in Need Center