

Wildlife Tracks

Connecting People and Wildlife Through Rehabilitation and Education



2014 Issue I

Wildlife In Need Center

W349 SI480 S.Waterville Rd.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

VISIT US AT:

www.helpingwildlife.org

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WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

A Unique Passenger by chelsea MATSON



The Red-tailed Hawk arriving at WINC in the front seat of a truck.

On Friday, November 22, Pat, a woman with a Red-tailed Hawk riding shotgun in her truck, pulled into our parking lot. She had spied the hawk at the side of the road and immediately recognized it needed help.

Pat was able to easily scoop the raptor up because, as we later determined, it had a fractured humerus (a wing bone between the shoulder and elbow). Fortunately, being a closed fracture no bone was exposed and, therefore, there was less risk of infection.

Later that day, we took the hawk to our vet, Dr. Mueller, for x-rays and treatment suggestions. Dr. Mueller advised us that expensive surgery would be necessary to reach the goal of successfully releasing the raptor back into the wild. Even with our generous discount, the surgery would have been expensive.

That evening, when Pat called to check in on the hawk, she also offered to pay the entire cost of the surgery. Of course, we were overjoyed by her generosity and kindness.

A Unique Passenger *(continued)*



After surgery, once the fracture had been stabilized with pins.

The surgery was considerably more complicated than anticipated, lasting almost 4 hours. Eventually, the bone ends were pulled together with pins and the fracture was stabilized. The hawk was confined to strict cage rest for five weeks while the fracture calcified.

After weekly vet trips and x-rays, the pins were ready for removal on December 30th, and our patient was given a larger enclosure. Three days later he had progressed enough to place him in a larger enclosure with an outdoor view and room to truly spread his wings.

After two weeks in our indoor/outdoor enclosure, and a final round of positive x-rays, our patient was ready for our largest flight enclosure, where he will be on a daily exercise schedule. He has made amazing progress thus far and we remain hopeful for his release. **Follow this and other WINC stories on Facebook to read more about this hawk and stories of our other patients.**



Enjoying stretching his wings in our largest flight enclosure!

“Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures.”

His Holiness The Dalai Lama

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WHAT'S THE BUZZ

development

Remembering Special People

During this year, donors have made gifts to WINC in memory of special people in their lives. This issue of WILDLIFE TRACKS recognizes these very special gifts.

In honor of Dr. Tom & Mary Roberts

from Michael Adams, Lisa Draves
Mary & Tom Roberts Jr., Roberta Thode

In honor of Willow and Luna

from Barbara Bjur

In honor of Fergie

from Barbara Bjur

In honor of KT Budde-Jones

from Mary Budde-Roberts

In honor of Dakota & ALL His Friends

from Andrea Chase

In honor of Sara Eagleboy

from Peggy Connell

In honor of Madeline Camin

from Margaret Drew

In honor of Tom Salemy

from Beatrice Gallagher

In honor of Leslie Smith

from William Hansen, Tim, Cyndi, Bella
& Lily Makos

In honor of Catherine Sullivan

& Gerry Gunderson

from Tarah Harlin

In honor of the Hutchinson/Bell Family

from Elaine Hutchinson

In honor of Ali Rudnitzki

from Stuart and Penny Katz

In honor of Patrick McBride & Daphne

from Carol Ann Kay

In honor of Liesl and Emmett

from Pamela Kroening

In honor of Robb Syverson

from Janis Leech

In honor of Holly Schlenvogt

from Timothy & Tammy Leonard

In honor of Lori & Gary Edelstein

from Jack Edelstein & Sharon Lewin

In honor of Marvin Edelstein

from Jack Edelstein & Sharon Lewin

In honor of Greg Schlenvogt

from Irene & Richard Madlung

In honor of Lynn Roeber

from Donna Nerad

In honor of Angela & Jim Nirk

from Carolyn & William Nirk

In honor of Christina Schwarz

from Katherine Paulsen

In honor of Sarah Witmer

from William Prest

In honor of Susie Riordan

from Brigid Riordan

In honor of Kristi Petrie

from Adam Roth

In honor of Paul Matson

from Donna Scaffidi

In honor of Gene Braun

from David Skryja

In honor of John Kramer

from Bonnie Soto

In honor of Brian Riordan

from Sandra Strehlow

FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Joan RUDNITZKI



Dear Friends of WINC,

For those of you who have been associated with the Center since the beginning, it is probably hard to believe that this year is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Wildlife In Need Center. As a career nonprofit professional, I am continually impressed with the success that this organization has achieved in its relatively short history. The Wildlife In Need Center is truly an example of a grassroots effort that has brilliantly responded to a critical

community need. For those of you who are like me and are relatively new to the Center, here is just a bit of WINC history.

The Center's founder, Nancy Frank (of Outdoor Wisconsin fame) worked for awhile at the Wildlife ARC which later became the Wisconsin Humane Society's wildlife rehab. department. Since that organization exists to serve wildlife in Milwaukee County, Nancy recognized that there was a strong community need outside of Milwaukee, to treat injured, sick or orphaned Wisconsin wildlife. This need was especially evident in the fast-growing area of Waukesha County.

Nancy, along with a small group of volunteers including one of our current board members, Wayne Grandy, began the process of establishing the Wildlife In Need Center. WINC has made great strides since its humble beginnings in a one bedroom house to our current state of the art location in the town of Ottawa. The Center's value is clearly seen in its accomplishments:

- Admitting over 40,000 patients under the guidance of paid staff and with the support of a huge cadre of dedicated volunteers.
- Presenting an average of 120 educational programs annually
- Operating completely on private donations with no local, regional, state or federal tax dollars.
- Completing a capital campaign to build its new facility and carrying no debt.

The successful fulfillment of WINC's mission is due to the unwavering dedication of staff and volunteers, an exceptional level of philanthropic support and strong leadership from twenty years of service from various boards of directors.

Join us at Western Lakes Golf Club on May 2 for our annual spring banquet to celebrate the successes of the last twenty years. The theme for the event is *Celebrating 20 Years of Caring for Wisconsin Wildlife*. Given all that we have to celebrate and the improvements that we have incorporated over the past few years, we anticipate this to be the best banquet ever! Invitations will be in the mail in March.

Thanks for all your continued support,

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 services.

The Shadow Tells All by Leslie KIEHL

February 2nd turned out to be a delightfully sunny day with well over 100 guests anxiously awaiting 11:05 a.m., the time when our own weather predictor “Waldo the Groundhog” would emerge from his burrow. Our celebration began with a few calisthenics to warm up from the brisk air and a reading of the “The Groundhog Pledge”. Our young guests then awakened the sleeping Groundhog with a loud call of “Wake up Waldo”. A drowsy Waldo emerged to see his shadow. Although his prediction of six more weeks of winter was a disappointment, the crowd's lively spirit could not be dampened because of the fun atmosphere. Afterwards, all guests were invited into the Center to meet with ALL of WINC's educational ambassadors. This is one of the rare occasions where every WINC ambassador appears at the same event.

Knowledgeable staff and volunteers were on hand to answer questions regarding the animals.

Along with the animals, the authors of “Connecting with Wisconsin Wildlife”, Rebecca Seymour and Rebecca Mattano, were on hand to sign copies of the book.

This was the first time that the Groundhog Day event was held at the Center. Thank you to all volunteers who helped direct traffic, park cars, hand out fliers and handle ambassadors. Without our volunteers these types of events would not be possible!



Young guests anxiously wait to awaken Waldo.



Waldo predicts six more weeks of winter in front of a record attendance for this event!.

Research and Rehabilitation Committee

by mandy FEAVEL

At the Wildlife In Need Center, we strive to give our patients the best and most up-to-date care while they are with us. In order to do this, we must always continue to research new techniques for wildlife rehabilitation. As things change and new protocols become better, we need to change our own protocols to keep our care top notch. WINC has a Research and Rehabilitation Committee that consists of several people who meet during the fall, winter and spring months to help insure we have proper protocols in place. They discuss ideas for research that WINC can participate in to further the field of wildlife rehabilitation.

The committee consists of two WINC staff members, two WINC board members and two vets; Dr. Tom Gilligan from North Lake Veterinary Clinic and Dr. Kemberlie Anderson from Family Pet Clinic. The past two winters have been spent working on developing and enhancing medical care, animal husbandry and general operational protocols to fit our new building. Now that those are complete we can move our attention to research. The committee has been brainstorming possible opportunities for the center to have more involvement in research to help in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Michael Pauers, a Biological Services Lecturer at UW-Waukesha has joined the RRC and will assist with future research projects. Using our partnership with UWW, we hope to begin a small scale research project very soon. This collaboration will help UW-Waukesha students with hands on experience and further the field of wildlife rehabilitation.



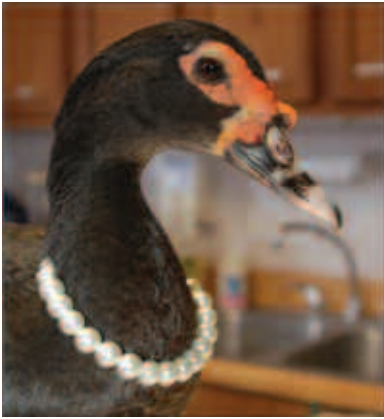
VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the Wildlife In Need Center to become a nationally recognized Wildlife Rehabilitation Center that serves as a hub for other satellite facilities and is financially stable. WINC will work in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha and the University of Wisconsin Colleges and Extensions to be identified as the number one resource in the community that promotes an ethic of care and respect for the natural world.

WINC's Animal Care Manager to speak at National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

I am also pleased to share that on Friday, March 14, I will be speaking at the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association annual symposium in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. I am speaking in the general session section with the following abstract:
In November 2011 the Wildlife In Need Center experienced a break-in and the worst part of it – our educational Great Horned Owl, Dakota, was taken. He luckily escaped from his captors but was then an imprinted owl that had to fend for himself until we can rescue and recover him. This presentation will explore what worked and what didn't work for us during his weeks of rescue. Tips on how to handle volunteer help, staff emotions, managing media and the public during a situation in which an educational animal has either escaped or been stolen.
I hope no center ever has to go through what we had to go through, but if a similar situation occurs, we want to share our struggles and successes from our experience to be able to help other centers.





Annual Banquet and Auction

Celebrating Twenty Years of Caring for Wisconsin Wildlife

Mark your Calendars for Friday, May 2nd watch for your invitation in the mail. We will be hosting our Annual Banquet & Auction, Celebrating **Twenty Years of Caring for Wisconsin Wildlife**, at Western Lakes Golf Course in Pewaukee with Saz's catering a family style dinner. Silent auction and cash bar will begin at **6:00 p.m.** this year, rather than 5:30 p.m., and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. to allow more time for lively bidding in the auction. We'd be delighted if you'd join us for this exciting 20th anniversary event!

Annual Kringle Sale

You can help the Wildlife In Need Center raise money, while you enjoy delicious Kringles. WINC will be selling Kringles, Coffee and Cookie Dough to help support WINC's mission. Order forms are tucked inside this newsletter and are due to WINC by 5:00 p.m. on April 1st. Product will be ready for pick up at WINC on April 16th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. just in time for Easter! Call the Center (262) 965-3090 for more information.

DAPHNE'S DISPATCH

A Year In Review

2013 was the Wildlife In Need Center's third busiest year ever, based on patient admissions! Staff and volunteers cared for 2,776 animals of 123 species from 104 cities: 1,181 birds of 79 species, 251 reptiles & amphibians of 20 species, and 1,344 mammals of 24 species. Each day a patient is here, it counts as 1 patient day. In 2013, WINC had 42,366 patient days. Our busiest day was June 18 when we admitted 96 animals! Below are some top 10 lists from 2013.



Top 10 Mammals	Total	Top 10 Birds	Total
Eastern Cottontail	643	American Robin	178
Raccoon	237	Mallard	117
Eastern Gray Squirrel	198	House Sparrow	105
White-footed Mouse	64	Mourning Dove	70
Virginia Opossum	48	American Goldfinch	56
13-lined Ground Squirrel	46	House finch	51
Eastern Chipmunk	17	Wood Duck	42
Woodchuck	16	Canada Goose	38
Red Squirrel	12	European Starling	37
Southern Flying Squirrel	12	Red-tailed Hawk	35

Top 10 Reptiles and Amphibians	Total	Top 10 Cities	Total
Common Snapping Turtle	165	Waukesha	483
Western Painted Turtle	39	Oconomowoc	321
Midland Painted Turtle	18	Brookfield	253
Eastern American Toad	4	Pewaukee	168
Blanding's Turtle	3	Dousman	142
Northern Red-bellied Snake	3	Hartland	112
Blue-spotted Salamander	2	Fort Atkinson	96
Brown Snake	2	Mukwonago	94
Common Garter Snake	2	Delafield	92
Eastern Milk Snake	2	Watertown	85

In addition to all the rehab, I was busy with Leslie and the educational ambassadors presenting 141 programs to 27,539 people in 2013. This year marks 20 years of wildlife rehabilitation for WINC. You can follow what's going on at WINC on our Facebook page. You don't have to be on Facebook to see the Facebook stories on our website www.helpingwildlife.org. Just go to the bottom right of the home page of our website and click on Wildlife In Need Center. We post pictures and stories of our patients and events so you can keep up with all the happenings at WINC.

VOLUNTEERS

WINC Volunteers are **WONDERFUL!**

by **lisa ROWE**

WINC could not care for our wildlife patients without our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers donated 15,904 hours in 2013. We held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on January 28 and announced our 2013 Volunteer of the Year - Angela Nirk. The person staff picks as Volunteer of the Year goes above their weekly shift by doing extra activities at WINC. Angela volunteers 2 shifts a week and comes in extra to help out when we are short handed. In addition to her animal care duties, she also volunteers in the education department and does many rescues. Angela's quick smile and cheerful attitude make her a joy to be around.

The Rising Star award goes to a volunteer that is relatively new to WINC but that immediately catches staff attention by going above and beyond. Jen Brei started out as an animal care volunteer and was so interested in rehabilitation she began exploring other rehab opportunities. Summer 2013, she became a full time intern at WINC. WINC offers internships year-round for college students, but in summer we have 6 - 7 full time interns during the busy baby season. Jen got a real dose of what it means to be a wildlife rehabilitator and she thrived. Thank you to all our fabulous volunteers!



Angela Nirk, WINC's Volunteer of the Year!



Jen Brei, WINC's Rising Star.

Volunteer Opportunities for Young Adults

Do you know someone 12 years or older who wants to volunteer? WINC's summer-only, Baby Bird Feeding Program pairs students with hungry baby songbirds at WINC. Students 12 - 13 years old need an adult to volunteer with them and 14 and older can come unaccompanied for a 4.5 hour shift per week, all summer. This is also a great opportunity for adults who are bird lovers to help raise these infant songbirds. Find more info at www.helpingwildlife.org or call (262) 965-3090 to register. Attend one of the following orientations at WINC:

Saturday, May 10

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. or

Tuesday, May 13

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. or

Sunday, May 18

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Special Easter Basket Gifts!

Help the Easter Bunny fill baskets by purchasing WINC's book, *Connecting with Wisconsin Wildlife*, or by sponsoring your favorite WINC educational animal ambassador. Sponsorship packages are available at \$25, \$50 or \$75 and include ornaments starring your favorite ambassador, Dakota note cards and tote bags with pictures of Dakota, Sova, Raenah, or Chloe. For more information or to order a sponsorship, call WINC at (262) 965-3090 or email contact@helpingwildlife.org.



Wildlife In Need Center
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 Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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CALENDAR

MARCH

29 SATURDAY

Adult Volunteer Orientation
 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Call (262) 965-3090 to register
 WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

30 SUNDAY

**WINC Annual Pancake Breakfast
 and Baby Shower**

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for our Annual Pancake Breakfast featuring the amazing pancake machine, sausage, hash, eggs, and more. Expected Educational Ambassadors subject to their situations that day include:

Grace the American Kestrel
 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Sova the Barred Owl
 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Dakota the Great Horned Owl
 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Raenah the Red-tailed Hawk
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Waldo the Woodchuck and
 Daphne the Muscovy Duck
 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Connecting with Wisconsin Wildlife

will be sold and authors will be signing books.
 Perfect for Easter or Mother's Day gifts!

10:00 - 12:00 Noon

DOUSMAN-OTTAWA LIONS CLUB

235 N. Main Street, Dousman, WI 53118

APRIL

1 TUESDAY

**Racine Danish Kringle orders due
 to WINC**

16 WEDNESDAY

**Pick up Racine Danish Kringles
 at WINC**

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

22 TUESDAY

Adult Volunteer Orientation
 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Call (262) 965-3090 to register
 WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

Save the Date

**2nd Annual
 Fine Wine and Dine**

October 3, 2014

Based on last year's success we are returning to Elm Grove Woman's Club with Lee John's Catering, Jeff's Spirits on Main, WineCru, and Action Graphics.

MAY

2 FRIDAY

WINC Annual Banquet and Auction

Celebrating 20 Years of Caring for
 Wisconsin Wildlife

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

WESTERN LAKES GOLF CLUB

W287 N1963 Oakton Rd,

Pewaukee, WI 53072

*Look for your invitation in the mail
 in March.*

10 SATURDAY

Baby Bird Feeding Orientation

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Call (262) 965-3090 to register

WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

13 TUESDAY

Baby Bird Feeding Orientation

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

18 SUNDAY

Baby Bird Feeding Orientation

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER