



A Short-Eared Tale

By Mandy Feavel

On a Monday evening in early April, the Wildlife In Need Center received a male Short-Eared Owl that was found sitting under a tree near a lake, unable to fly. When he arrived at the center he was in complete shock, very lethargic and unable to stand. We were unsure if he was going to make it through the night so he received a quick dose of pain medication and was put in a safe mew to rest for the night.

The next morning, we were relieved to find the owl standing in the back of the enclosure. He even "clacked" back at us in defense. After a complete exam it was discovered that the owl had an open fracture on his humerus (wing bone). Even though the injury was not fresh we decided to call one of our volunteer veterinarians to see if we could get him in for an x-ray to evaluate the severity of the fracture.

His X-rays showed that the humerus was broken in two places with one piece of the humerus just floating around in the wing tissue. Thankfully, volunteer vet, Holly Pollard, was willing to do surgery that week to try to repair his humerus. On April 8th our Short-Eared Owl had surgery to get his humerus pinned back into place and fill in the missing piece of his humerus in order to repair the bone completely.

On Thursday May 6th he went in for surgery again, this time to get his pins taken out.



The wrapped wing of the Short-eared Owl while he still had pins through his humerus

A sigh of relief was felt when he came out of surgery with all pins successfully removed and the humerus intact!

He is currently still in recovery at the center. His prognosis is still guarded however, because sometimes recovery can be the most difficult part of the process. In addition to the after-effects of the surgery, keeping the wounds and scar tissue under control and keeping the animal in good physical health can be trying on both rehabilitators as well as patients. Currently, staff and volunteers are helping him daily through a strict physical therapy regiment in the hope that he may regain full range of motion back into his wing sometime soon.

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A special thank you to those individuals whose donation to our year-end campaign was not recognized in our spring issue:

Bobbi and James Pfefferlee

David Leef

Not Just An Animal Charity

By Lisa Rowe



John Rodell, President of our Board of Directors, recently said at a meeting that, when discussing the organization he's involved with, sometimes people tell him they only make donations to "people charities." While we generally think of the Wildlife In Need Center as an "animal charity" - for obvious reasons - we are a "people charity" as well.

Every animal that comes to us for care has a person behind it. That person cares about and wants to help that animal but probably doesn't have the training and resources to do so themselves. We help that person by being here.

We also get many calls from people with wildlife questions. We are a resource for them whether it's an animal that's been orphaned, one that might be injured, or just one that's in conflict with its neighbors.

Individuals who want to volunteer for the betterment of their community and for their own enrichment who also care about animals have an outlet here at WINC. We couldn't care for the 2,000-3,000 animals a year we admit without the helping hands of so many caring volunteers. Many young people want to volunteer in their community and if they are over 12 then our summer baby bird feeding program gives them a place to volunteer too. For individuals who want to gain the skills to help wildlife on their own we are here with our internship program providing guidance and hands-on experience.



Schools, scout groups and civic and private organizations want education programming for their members and WINC's educational team fulfills that need.

We educate over 8,000 people through our outreach programs, many more through our telephone counseling and even more through our website each year. Every animal that comes through our doors has a person carrying it. And I



haven't received one phone call from an animal yet, although I am ever hopeful.

So, you see, we are a "people charity" as well as an "animal charity" and we are very thankful for the many people who help us help our wild neighbors.

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

VISION STATEMENT - It is the vision of the Wildlife In Need Center as an established and valued asset to the community to rehabilitate the ever increasing numbers of injured, ill and orphaned wildlife native to Southeastern Wisconsin. We will continue to provide prevention and educational programs to promote the idea of "Connecting people and wildlife through education and rehabilitation". The Wildlife In Need Center will enhance its status as a respected member of the community at large and the other related organizations it serves.

Board of Directors

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The Director's Den

From the desk of Michael Guzniczak



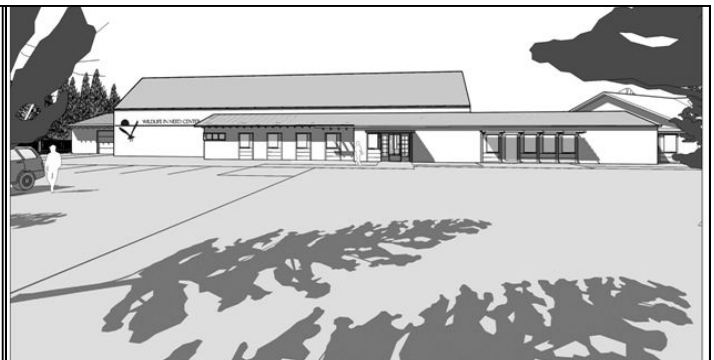
On Monday, May 17th the Wildlife in Need Center, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin - Waukesha, held its formal groundbreaking ceremony at the UW-Waukesha Field Station. After two long years we finally have started, at least ceremonially. The actual construction is planned to start this June. With this start date the new facility should be completed sometime by the end of this year. Yes, you heard right, our new facility should be completed before the start of 2011. The groundbreaking event brought two-plus years of discussions, meetings, drafting of documents and obtaining approvals to a close. But in the end all of these steps will have paid off as it will place the Center in a position to expand on a number of different levels. The new facility will not only become an enhanced community asset, but it will also allow us to expand our educational programming, provide a safer more volunteer friendly facility and of course, continue to provide and improve upon the best care possible for our wildlife patients. After fifteen years in the old farmhouse, moving to a facility that exists within the same building, with wading pools for ducks instead of using the bathtub and many other advancements that will greatly improve our quality of care; needless to say we are all excited about the project. As things progress we will continue to keep you updated on our progress via our website, our blog, newsletter and correspondence.

I don't want to forget to thank those of you who attended our annual banquet on April 30th. The event was again a success with over 200 people attending. If you missed it, we hope to regain your interest again next year. Additionally, our board president John Rodell announced the launch of our capital campaign that evening. Our goal is to raise \$1.2 million dollars for the building and it's operation. It may seem like a lot, and it is, but we are well on our way after having raised over half of our goal to date. While it's great news, we still need your support to help in furnishing the clinic with equipment, as well as to establish an endowment to help pay for the care of the facility on an ongoing basis. And while this is all very exciting, our daily functions must continue and your support is the fuel that makes the care we give possible. I want to thank all of our members and volunteers for their ongoing support as we move forward and if you are interested in helping us with our campaign, I would love to hear from you personally.

With all the excitement going on regarding our spring fundraisers and the new building it seems we almost failed to recognize that spring has begun to pass us and the summer season will soon be here. We have already seen the first of each of our most common baby mammals and we even had an orphaned badger, who was subsequently transferred to another rehabber up north who has other infant badgers. We have started feeding baby birds and can't wait for our baby bird feeders to start helping out with the program. The majority of our interns have begun their work for the summer. The new facility is a testament to the dedication and passion of all of our volunteers and supporters. I hope you have a wonderful summer, I know we will, and we can't wait to show off our new building next spring.

Thanks,
Mike Guzniczak

Right: A rendering of the new facility viewed from the front where the new parking areas will be paved with environmentally-sound permeable pavers. The front entrance will provide access to our reception desk, gift shop and educational gathering area with the clinic spaces protected by secured doors. Image courtesy and copyright of The Kubala Washatko Architects out of Cedarburg, Wisconsin



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One sure sign of spring is a Robin digging in the finally softened ground to get his favorite meal; a big juicy earthworm. Both people and animals alike are emerging out of their homes or nests as the thermometer gradually climbs. We see the evidence of this here at WINC as our patient numbers always increase exponentially with the temperature. As we share our outdoor space with our wild neighbors, most of us attempt to stay out of each other's way. However, it is not uncommon that we have some accidental interaction.

Early this spring, we received an adult American Robin who was unable to fly because he was covered in a sticky substance. The person who brought him to WINC had not seen the Robin near anything that could have made him sticky but did mention that there was a construction site nearby where he could have gotten into something. After an initial exam, animal care staff determined that his only issue was his very sticky feathers.

Based on the Robin's otherwise healthy appearance, we decided that he had come into contact with the sticky substance shortly before he came to us. We knew this because birds have what we call waterproofing. When water comes into contact with their feathers it should bead up and drip off of them, keeping them dry. The stickiness on this Robin's feathers had damaged his waterproofing. If he had been without waterproofing for a longer time, he would have had a much harder time surviving. For example, if it had recently rained and he had gotten too wet, he would be unable to fly due to his feathers being saturated with water. He would have been stuck on the ground making it difficult for him to seek shelter to stay warm and safe from predators.

The next step for the Robin was attempting to get the stickiness off him. When trying to get something off feathers you cannot cut them because they will not grow back like hair does. The feathers must be plucked out of the skin in order for it to properly grow back in. Since most of his primary and down feathers were what was sticky, plucking was not an option. If we had known what exactly was on his feathers, we could have researched the product to find an appropriate remover for the substance. In this case we did not know what was on him, so we plucked a single feather to use as our test feather. We tested several different removers on it before finding that rubbing alcohol seemed to work the best for removing the mystery substance.

Everyday we soaked a few cotton balls in alcohol and gently went down his feathers with them, trying to take some of the stick off. Songbirds become highly stressed when being handled, so we were only able to do a little bit at a time before we had to put him back to let him rest.

After several days of this treatment, we had most of the of the stickiness off of him but he still needed a bath using dawn dishwashing soap to restore his waterproofing. Dawn baths are also highly stressful for birds and also very time consuming. You must be properly trained on the entire process because if it is done wrong it can be harmful to the animal. It took two dawn baths for the Robin's waterproofing to be restored.

After this extremely long and stressful process for the Robin, his feathers are finally smooth, fluffy, and most importantly waterproof, just like they should be. After a little exercise in our aviary, he was successfully released back into the wild. Our Robin's story is a good reminder to keep potentially hazardous materials, especially those used for outdoor projects, covered or brought inside when they are not being used. This

Education's Impact

By Leslie Kiehl

As the animal care clinic begins to overflow with infant mammals and baby birds, the education department's busy time is coming to a close. Every April and May is filled with education programming from schools and scout groups trying to squeeze their requests in before the end of the school year. Within these two months we get approximately 25% of our yearly education programs.

Making an impact on how children think about animals is so rewarding. To see that light bulb flash on when Waldo comes out and a child realizes it was not a hedgehog they saw in their back yard but a groundhog. Seeing a fear of snakes disappear when a child gets to touch Slither and discovers that she is not slimy or mean warms your heart.

The kids are always so delighted when they have had the opportunity to meet the animals up close and personal. It's an opportunity they will have few other times in their lives. After this spring's rush of programming I have received a number of heartwarming thank you letters from the kids and I just wanted to share some of them with you.



For those of you who don't know, our education programs are our single largest source for in-kind donations. Many groups cannot afford to give us a monetary donation in exchange for one of our programs, so instead they will gather items from our wish list and donate them for the care of the animals here at the Center. Summer is slower because students are out of school and scouts are on vacation, so there are many more dates available if you are interested in booking a program yet this year. Because we are doing fewer programs in summer, we also aren't receiving as many in-kind donations when we need them the most. If you would like to speak to Leslie Kiehl, our education coordinator, about a program or would like more information about the in-kind donations our patients need, please check our website at:

www.helpingwildlife.org/community/education.htm And kids, thank you for caring about wildlife!



Daphne's Dispatch

News and Events at the Wildlife In Need Center

Aquatica Pond Tour

- Saturday, August 7th

Dousman Area Rummage Sale

- Saturday, August 28th

Annual Golf Outing

- Tuesday, September 21st

Mark your calendars so you can be there to help us "Drive for Dakota" (oh, and I'll probably be there too)

The weather is warm and outdoor activities are bringing us into the natural world where interactions with our wild neighbors become more likely. Did you know that there are a number of special days recognizing the role they play in our lives including:

*June 5 is World Environment Day
June 20 is American Eagle Day
July is Wild about Wildlife month
September 4 is National Wildlife Day
October is Squirrel month
October 4 is World Habitat Day
October 17-23 is Wildlife Week
October 24-30 is World Rainforest Week*

These days remind us to take the time to care about our wild neighbors, but you can help us care for wildlife each and every day by becoming a member or a volunteer. Thank you for caring!

Did you know you can also celebrate wildlife everyday by visiting us online? Our website has a wide variety of information including our educational programs, what to do in an animal emergency, and coming soon, videos! You can also check out our blog with new stories and helpful answers each week. And, did you know we can accept online donations now???

Volunteers of the Year



In January we recognized some of our outstanding volunteers for their hard work and dedication in 2009 at our Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet. Our Volunteer of the year award went to John and Sharon Lotz who have been with the Center for over 5 years and our "Rising Star" award was given to Bridget Carpenter. To find out more about these amazing individuals visit our volunteer page on our website at:

www.helpingwildlife.org/volunteer.htm

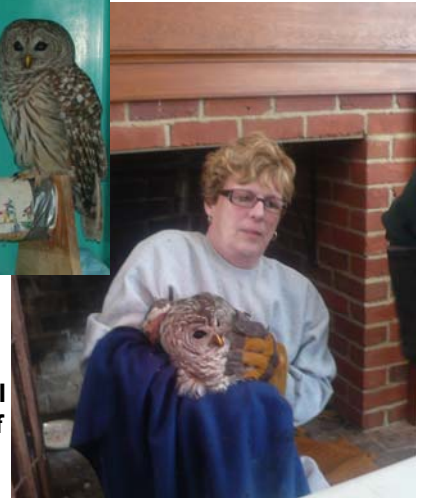


What an exciting year it has already been!

RIGHT: Romeo and Juliet were the names we gave the pair of barred owls that were rescued by Mary and Tom Roberts (seen at right) from a chimney on Valentines Day - read their whole story by visiting our blog.



LEFT: Spurred by the UWM study on badgers in Wisconsin, we were contacted when a mother badger and one of her young were seen hit on a rural road near Jefferson. Lisa, our Director of Operations, staked out the burrow and rescued the remaining sibling.



RIGHT: Waldo successfully predicted an early spring, and with the temperatures we saw in March and April the rest of our wild neighbors agreed with him!

BELOW: Thanks to hard work from over twenty volunteers and Karen, our Volunteer Coordinator (also known as the "Crazy Bird Lady") we successfully hosted our first Annual Wild Bird Festival at the University of Wisconsin Waukesha Field Station - the site of our new building - with over sixty attendees! Read more on pg 10.



ABOVE: Rose Knapp and the Lad Lake team have been working hard since before the snow melted! Helping, as always with cleaning, maintenance and preparing for our busy season! Mike Luterbach also lent a hand by bringing the tractor by to dig the trench above.

RIGHT: On Monday, May 17th, 2010 we broke ground on our new facility. Supporters from UW-Waukesha helped us celebrate as well as students from Nature Hill Middle School. A number of individuals spoke kind and inspiring words including recanting the long journey the Center has been on to reach this point.



You Can't Put A Price On Wildlife; Thank you for helping us celebrate 16 years of caring.

Mealworms and wax worms

\$8,458.55

Medications

\$3,494.97

Food and Formula (beyond what is generously donated)

\$11,198.77

Electricity

\$6,729.20

Releasing an animal back to its natural habitat

Priceless

For everything else there's Wildlife In Need

And for everything we've needed this past year you've been there; whether you've given:

Your time and energy each week to fill food dishes, clean cages and help us monitor patients

14,855 volunteer hours

An annual donation to our membership campaign that helps us pay for food, medical supplies and care staff

830 renewing members

A special contribution of needed supplies or the funds to purchase a special item or two

5,000 individual wish list items donated

Permission to release a healthy rehabilitated patient on your property and the willingness to "keep an eye on them" for us

More than 100 release sites used

Helping us prove that you really can't put a price on helping wildlife in need...

Priceless

Our 16th Annual Banquet and Auction was a bigger success than we could have hoped for and we can't begin to express our gratitude to each and everyone who helped make that happen. We received donations from over 85 local (and not so local) businesses (which you can see on the following page) in addition to both monetary and auction item donations from over 60 individuals.

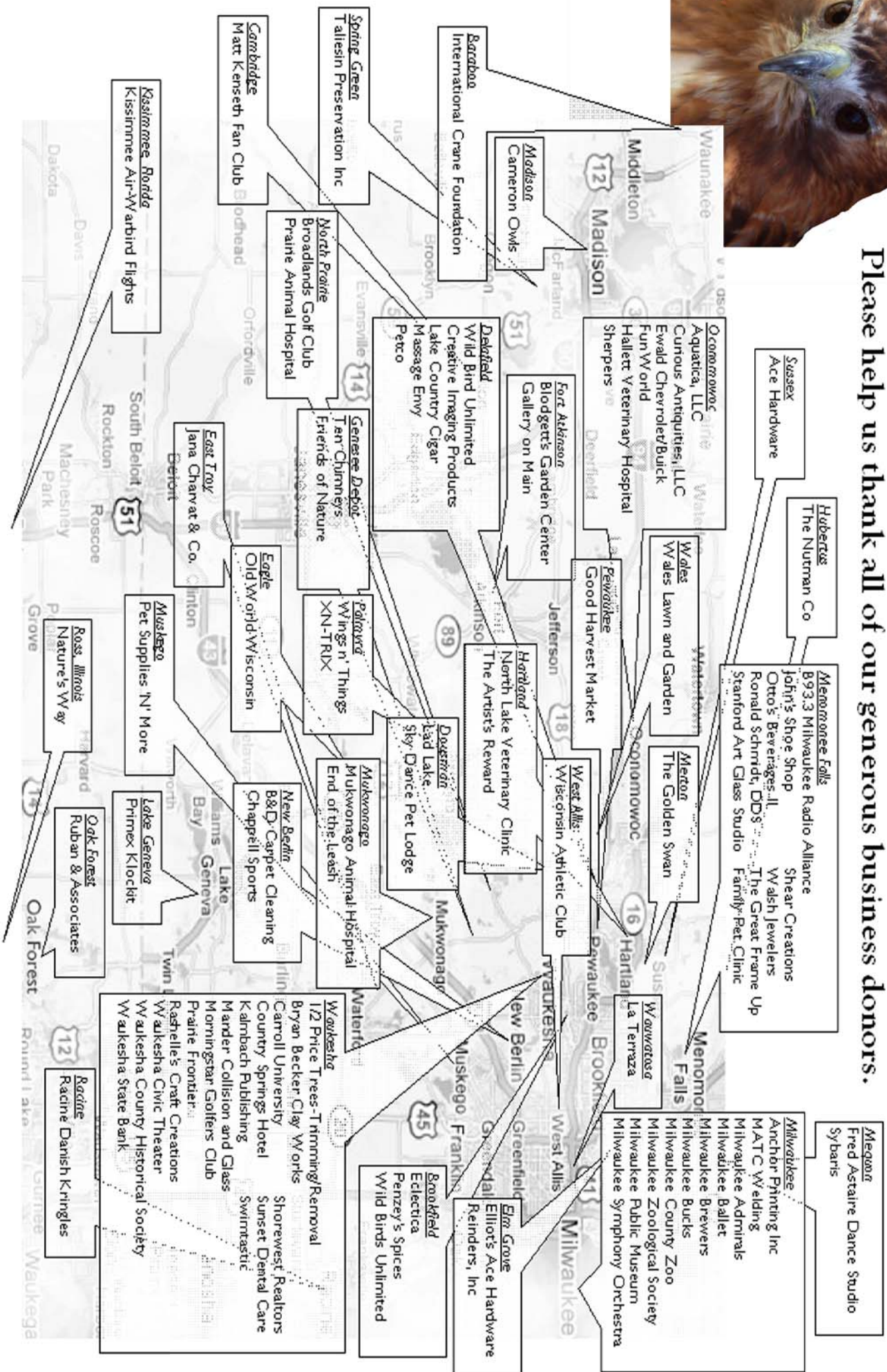
Our vocal auction featured some unique items including one-thousand tulips and a crew to plant them from one of our board members, a hand-made federal desk from another and an original watercolor by our office staff member, Sheryl Cummings. For those of you who weren't able to join us, we also had an exciting announcement and if you've already read Mike's Directors Den then you know what it is: we have officially launched our capital campaign to raise funds for our new facility.

We were also treated to a touching video made by a supporter of WINC. Technical difficulties prevented everyone from experiencing it as it was meant to be experienced; however we have posted a link both on our website and via our blog for everyone to see. Special warning, bring Kleenex with you to the computer. Visit our blog at www.wisconsinwildlifeneighbors.blogspot.com/ (choose the post titled *Thank you for helping us celebrate 16 years of caring*, or visit the banquet page of our website at www.helpingwildlife.org/newsevents/banquet.htm (you can also check this page periodically throughout the year for updates on next year's event and photos of this year's amazing auction items and the fun had by all).

And thanks again for caring.



Please help us thank all of our generous business donors.



A First Annual Event Success Story

By Karen Freitag



Perhaps it was because she knew we were honoring some of her most fascinating creatures, but even though the forecast said rain, on Saturday, May 1st Mother Nature blessed our first annual Wild Bird Festival with blue skies, sunshine and a perfect temperature of 72 degrees.

A dozen aspiring young bird watchers were up early for the 8AM bird watching hike. They joined area bird watching experts; Anne Moretti of the B.F. Goss Bird Club, Jeff Bahl's - president of the Horicon Bird Club, Jill Bedford – Land Use Specialist, Marlin Johnson – Biologist for the University of Wisconsin - Waukesha and also curator for the Field Station, in addition to WINC's own Animal Care Volunteer, Becca Richards. A total of thirty species of birds were spotted, as well as several amphibians and reptiles.

After the hike, children were assisted by UPS of Wisconsin volunteers in the building of birdhouses and bird feeders. Additional families and adults stopped by the festival to enjoy other activities, such as hike/talks on how to create natural landscapes and wildlife habitats in your backyard, presented by Marlin Johnson and Jill Bedford. Also, several WINC volunteers demonstrated their creative skills, as they helped children decorate their newly constructed birdhouses and feeders. On hand for extra advice about bird seed, feeders, houses, and reference materials was Debbi Triplett of Wild Birds Unlimited – Delafield. After lunch,

Jeff Bahl's provided a lecture on backyard birding, followed by WINC's Volunteer Coordinator and "Crazy Bird Lady" Karen Freitag's talk on our Baby Bird Feeding and Junior Volunteer program. The day finished with a meet and greet with WINC's feathered wildlife ambassadors Dakota the Great Horned Owl, Indigo the American Kestrel and Daphne the Muscovy Duck. Roughly sixty people attended the festival for what turned out to be a fun filled day enjoying nature and of course, birds!



Many thanks to: All of the WINC volunteers who helped with a multitude of pre-festival preparations. Our business donors, who provided materials, cash donations, gift cards, certificates and bird related goodies for the children's booty bags. And finally, a much appreciated thank you to volunteers Pam Weidmeyer for her help with donations and Sherry Christian for connecting us with the UPS volunteers whose support made the event possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

Join the Wildlife In Need Center

Did you know that in addition to admitting and caring for 2,000 or more orphaned and injured animals, the Wildlife In Need Center also does over 100 educational programs and counsels thousands of people over the phone each year? By supporting our mission through your donations, your volunteer time, or your sponsorship during critical fundraising events, you play an important role in not only helping wildlife in need, but also educating the public on issues facing Wisconsin wildlife. We receive no government funding, so whether you support us through becoming a donating member or a volunteer, making a pledge to the center each month to help with costs, just giving when you can, or a combination of all four, your donations are fully tax-deductible and make all the difference in helping the wildlife of southeastern Wisconsin stay wild.

Become a Member

Name:
Address:
Daytime Phone:
Evening Phone:
Email:

- ◇ \$35 (Our minimum membership donation)
- ◇ \$50
- ◇ \$100
- ◇ \$250
- ◇ \$500
- ◇ \$1000
- ◇ Other _____ (any amount helps!)

◇ My gift is in honor / memory of (please circle one)

◇ Please send a notification to _____

You can also find out more about membership benefits and gifts of membership on our website

Method of payment

☐ My Check is Enclosed, Payable to the Wildlife In Need Center

Please charge my ☐ Visa -or- ☐ Master card

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Become a Volunteer

Name:
Address:
Daytime Phone:
Evening Phone:
Email:
Date:

How would you like to help?

_____ Baby Bird Care
_____ Animal Care
_____ Transport
_____ Office and
_____ Phone Assistance*
_____ Maintenance and
_____ Grounds*
_____ Fundraising and
_____ Marketing*

*Requires no animal handling

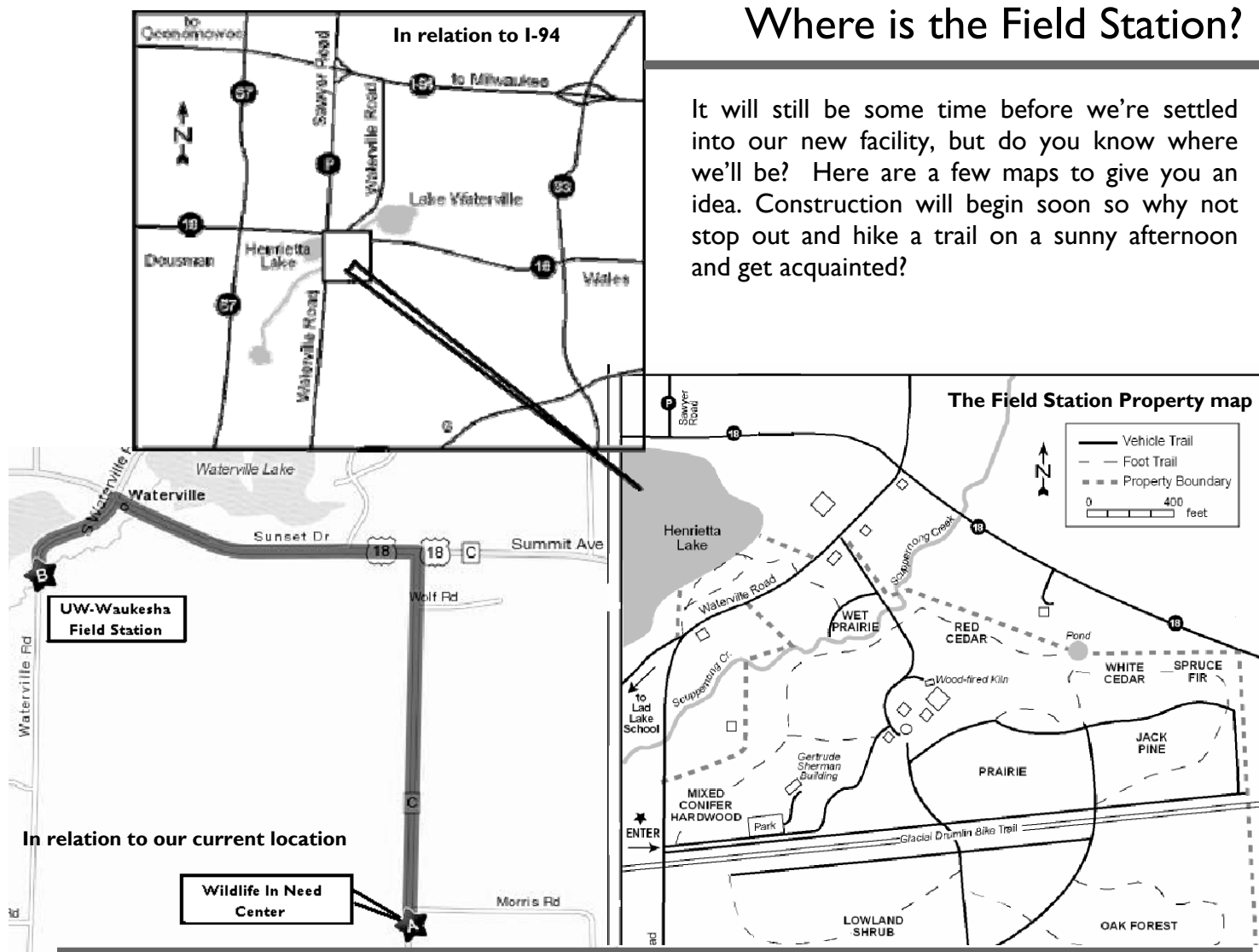
When can you help?

Morning _____
Afternoons _____
Evenings _____
Weekends _____

Are you over 18? Y _____ N _____

Where is the Field Station?

It will still be some time before we're settled into our new facility, but do you know where we'll be? Here are a few maps to give you an idea. Construction will begin soon so why not stop out and hike a trail on a sunny afternoon and get acquainted?



Wildlife In Need Center
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