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The Wildlife In Need Center is at:
W340 S2383 County Road C
Oconomowoc, WI 53066



WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER



The Director's Den

By Michael Guzniczak

It's been three years since we started talks with the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha (UW-W) regarding the relocation of the new Wildlife In Need Center facility at the UW-W Field Station. Nearly 2 1/2 years have been spent in meetings with the UW System, the town, and the county and for the last 6 months we have been working to finalize details regarding our lease and permits. All along I have been writing to you, our loyal members, that we are almost there, that we have just a few more steps to take... Well, it is with great pleasure that I can finally say we have arrived.

This September ground was actually moved on the site and we are really building our new facility. Our goal is to finish the facility in April or May.

2010 has been a very eventful year for the Center. Obviously, our biggest goal was the building, but other goals have been realized as well. We have established new protocols to enhance our operations, we have enhanced our internship program to include new areas and expand the opportunities available, and we have launched several small research endeavors that will help to expand our positive impact on the rehab community. One collaborative project conducted recently was filming for a documentary on the UV reflectivity of Chickadee feathers. It was serendipitous that we had an unusually large number of chickadee orphans thriving in our

care at the same time that videographer, Brian Standing, was looking for chickadees to film. We only have preliminary findings so far, but you can watch our website for the story, updates and final cuts of the documentary when it is complete. It has been an eventful year, but all the while our staff and volunteers have worked hard and we are proud to say that in these challenging economic times we are still on budget for the year as we come into the fourth quarter.

The support that we receive from you, our members, is and always has been, fantastic. Although we have done our best to keep our finances in check, we still need your support for patients and programs we'll see through the end of the year. The one thing I ask, as you consider your year-end giving, is that you keep in mind our efforts over the past sixteen years working to connect people and wildlife in southeastern Wisconsin as we enter into the next chapter of the Wildlife In Need Center together.



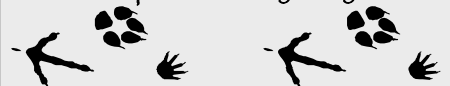
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Our 2011 Calendars will be here
November 1st!

Featuring the stars of our educational
outreach programs and more!

Pick yours up today or, for a small fee,
we can ship them to anyone you'd like.



“Fore” WINC Tees off to raise funds for wildlife

By Lisa Rowe



Who's that golf sprite? Volunteer, Bridget Carpenter, helped us “lighten” the mood of the event with her enthusiasm and “spirit”

Western Lakes welcomed back “Dafney” (Daphne) with open arms



Driving for Dakota, the Wildlife In Need Center’s annual golf outing may have been held the first day of autumn, but Mother Nature wasn’t done with summer yet. Mid-80 degrees and high humidity greeted our golfers and volunteers but that was welcome compared to the drenching rains of 2009. Waldo the Woodchuck and Daphne the Duck greeted golfers at check in. Daphne put on an amusing show during the Daphne Drop game again – Western Lakes even welcomed her back with her own sign! Our golfers (and even the Western Lakes staff) have lots of fun strategizing which square Daphne will choose but only she knows for sure! After lunch and a great day on the links the golfers joined additional guests for drinks, games, raffles, a silent

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 And a big thanks to the day’s
 Volunteers too!
Mary and Tom Roberts
Bill Lane
Pamela Wiedmeyer
Bridget Carpenter

auction and dinner catered by Saz’s. This year we also played some Wii golf thanks to the loan by volunteer, Bridget Carpenter. We had lots of fun playing and watching people hit the links electronically. Fun, but it wasn’t as easy as it looked!

WINC member Kathy Ward joins in the fun of Wii golf



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.

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“Education replaces ignorance with appreciation; Appreciation leads to conservation; Conservation leads to preservation.”

-Thomas L. Gunderson, 2008, animal trainer and filmographer

Wild animals serve important roles in our lives and communities. People who understand this rely on wildlife rehabilitators to help those in need. Wildlife rehabilitation does not attempt to turn animals into pets. Our aim is to help the animals who have been impacted from human interaction by doing things such as: repairing the broken wing of an animal who has suffered from a vehicle strike, providing quick intervention from an accidental poisoning, or making reintroduction to living in the wild possible after a wild animal has been inappropriately kept in captivity.

Respect is a key aspect in dealing with a wild species whether it is captive bred or acquired from the wild through a rehabilitation setting. Our animal ambassadors were acquired in a variety of ways. The animal could be un-releasable due to an injury, confiscated by the DNR, or donated from an outside source to name a few. When acquiring these animals we need to consider a few things. First and foremost is the animal's welfare. Secondly, will this be a comfortable fit for the animal and the handler and lastly what will be the message to the public with the help of the animal ambassador.



Volunteers and children interact with animal ambassador, Daphne, a Muscovy duck, during a spring festival and educational event.

Here at WINC we have eight educational ambassadors who assist us in our mission of public education. Because each one of them is treated as an individual with their own story to tell, our education animals make connections with the audience, and in turn, stimulate learning about wildlife and habitat in a broader scope. We can not only give a natural history lesson when we introduce each ambassador but also tell their personal story to explain the impact that humans have had on their individual lives.

Live animals produce immediate learning growth. You re-stimulate that growth each time you give an individual exposure to live animals. For example children ages 6-10 develop emotional sympathy, 10-13 year olds retain more of the facts about the animals and the high school aged children get more of an ecological lesson from the exposure. Studies have shown that kids who were exposed to live animals get more involved in environmental issues and animal clubs i.e. bird watching.

Each species of animal has its own lesson to share; for example, exposure to reptile ambassadors helps to alleviate a negative view of their species. Through the use of our animal ambassadors we can teach respect through verbal, physical, and non-verbal communication. The kindness, generosity, and compassion learned through these experiences transfers to more positive relationships in today's society.

An “Amusing” Ride

By Mandy Feavel



This summer, WINC added a wildlife water park to its grounds. “Noah’s Ark” as many people around WINC began to call it, became the home of our three orphaned American Minks that we received in late May as tiny babies. Before they were able to enjoy this playland however, they had to open their eyes. Then, once they moved outside we placed them in separate cages next to each other within a large outdoor cage so they could all see and smell one another for socialization, but without the risk of unsupervised aggressive play. Eventually they got familiar with one another and grew large enough to all move into an open cage together. Their meeting went wonderfully and they instantly began playing.

Now as far as the “Noah’s Ark” nickname, that came from the many adaptations we made to what was originally a cage designed for Eastern Gray Squirrels. Adding enrichment to their cage became a favorite pastime at the center making the cage a great playground for the mink. We added hollow logs to run through, kennel cabs to crawl in, towels to rub and scent, grass to play in, tennis balls to chew and most importantly a pool to swim in!

Surprisingly, the Minks were not so thrilled with the idea of swimming at first. Because Mink are aquatic mammals, we knew we had to somehow get them swimming. We decided to place some ribbed plastic tubing on the ground so they could run through it, have some fun and not be afraid of it. We cut several large holes throughout the tubing so they could get in and out at multiple locations. After several days of running through the tube and learning to love it, we added a similar tube only shorter --- one end on the ground and the other end leading to the swimming pool. Now this took some getting used to. The first mink to try it out was the larger male. He came running up the tube thinking it was just like the other tube, except this time he stopped abruptly as he came in contact with the water. I’m sure he was thinking “what the heck?” He started creeping further and further into the water making sure his back legs had a firm grip on the dry tubing. Before we knew it, he realized he could hold his breath and that the water felt nice and cool for a 90 degree summer day. He released his back legs and in he went. He swam like he had been doing it his whole life, twisting and turning in the water like a pro. Soon he spread the word to the other two minks and that afternoon they all tested the water. Staff added another pool and another piece of tubing connecting the two pools...and so became “Noah’s Ark!”

Before long we offered them live minnows to learn how to fish in the water and again they took to that like they had all done it before. It’s always amazing to watch how instinctive wildlife can be. Can you imagine the cameras clicking away if I would have had to get in the pool and show them how to catch a fish?

The mink were released the second week of September to a remote location with a large lake. Its no “Noah’s Ark” but I’m sure the mink enjoy fishing everyday on their own private lake!



"Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow": Release Sites Needed for Rehabilitated Animals



Releasing a rehabilitated animal is almost always bitter-sweet: we are delighted to see them go back to the wild where they belong, but we sometimes worry about them, like human parents sending their child off to college for the first time.

In most situations adult mammals and birds are released back where they came from; to their familiar home-ranges, mates and families. Young animals, especially Mallards, Gray Squirrels and Raccoons who arrived at the Center as orphans, don't have territories to return to and need to be released at staff-approved release sites offered by people like you. Releasing an animal on an ideal release site can be

as important to its survival as the care it receives in a rehabilitation hospital. We are in need of additional release sites for these species. Are you able to help?

For consideration as a release site a property must be **land under your control (you either own it or manage it)**; not a public park or someone else's land. A tract of land does not have to be huge to qualify as a release site. Small tracts may be quite usable for some species if they are adjacent to other areas of appropriate habitat, or they are attached to other suitable tracts by "corridors" such as undeveloped river ways or parkways that the animals can use to move from site to site.

Since the injured, sick, and orphaned wild animals we care for originate in Waukesha, Washington, Dodge and Jefferson Counties, we would like to find release locations for them within these counties. Very good sites in other locations may also be considered however. For logistical reasons, generally the closer the site is to WINC, the more likely we will be able to use it: some species do not travel well and cannot tolerate a long drive to a release site.

There are a number of things we have to take into consideration when choosing ideal release sites. One of the most important things is habitat. Habitat requirements vary from species to species; Mallards will require a large pond, lake or river while Gray Squirrels will require deciduous woods with nut-bearing trees.

We must also consider the populations of other animals on a proposed release site. For example, a tract with a high number of Raccoons on it already would make a poor choice for a Raccoon release site or a parcel of land heavily hunted by large owls or foxes would make a poor choice for a Cottontail release site. In order to give our released patients the best chance for long term survival, we also do not release them on or near areas that allow hunting or trapping. Conversely, we would never purposely release predatory animals near game farms, poultry farms, waterfowl refuges or breeding areas for threatened or endangered species. Close proximity to residential areas or heavily traveled roads may also make a tract unsuitable for the release of certain species.

Last but not least, it must be understood that we release WILD animals. They are not pets and attempting to capture, handle, or tame them is strongly discouraged. If you have a property you think would make an ideal release site or would like more information about the program please visit our website at:

<http://www.helpingwildlife.org/community/releasesite.htm>

What a “Swift” year it’s been

By Chelsea Matson



As many of you know, WINC over-wintered an orphaned Chimney Swift from summer of 2009. Because he was born so late in the season, he missed migration. He spent the winter in our mammal nursery which was converted into an indoor aviary for him and two swallows which were also spending the winter at WINC.

Most baby birds require hand-feeding for their first few weeks after hatching. We slowly move them from half-hour feedings to one hour, then two hours, until they are considered fledglings and mostly eating

on their own. Chimney Swifts however, are different. Swifts only eat when flying which is very difficult to replicate when they are in captivity. Therefore, they must be hand-fed every half-hour for their entire stay.

We were somewhat concerned about this Chimney Swift becoming habituated with people since he was the only one of his species and staff had to interact with him every 30 minutes everyday over the course of several months. Because of this concern we decided we would wait to release him until we had other orphaned swifts to release him with. Chimney Swifts do not have their offspring until later in the summer season, typically mid July to August, so we knew we would have to wait patiently for our swift to have some companions.

Finally, towards the end of July, we received two nestling Chimney Swifts! We introduced them to our adult swift, who we fondly nicknamed “Chim”, and his chattering helped us to get the new babies to take our hand-feeding. Within days of being introduced, they were all snuggled up next to each other on our roof aviary, chattering in unison when it was feeding time. This was a great feeling of success and relief for animal care staff and interns.

Soon after however, three swifts turned into four and four turned into five and then five turned into eight! Half hour feedings were taking up to 15 minutes each session, leaving little time to get anything else done. Just when you would think everyone had their fill of mealworms, someone would start chattering for more which set the whole group off. We quickly learned that raising eight swifts was a full time job in itself.

The birds grew quicker and before we knew it, they were all fully feathered and zooming around our roof aviary, stopping only when we came in for feedings. The youngest of the eight has recently reached our minimum requirements for release and it’s almost time for them to go out into the world. Once released we can finally look back and feel relief from this amazing experience, especially for our eldest swift, Chim, who has had the longest journey of them all. Not only did he show us what amazing birds Chimney Swifts are, we are thankful for his help in raising our seven other babies and wish them all a safe and happy future.





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- ◇ **Or consider our animal adoption program featuring your choice of one of ten native species and gifts to accompany your symbolic adoption. At a \$25 level, a \$50 level or a \$100 level.**

**Stop in our office between
9AM and 5PM any day of
the week!**

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Delectable new fundraisers from WINC...

Order your choice of products from Berres Brothers Coffee®, Suzy's Cream Cheesecakes®, and new items from Mr. Z's Perfect Presents® Catalog

Do you care about our wild neighbors? Do you need to do some holiday shopping for family and friends? These new fundraisers in support of WINC are the perfect way to share your passion! Order your gifts and desserts now and sit back and enjoy the rest of the fall!

Learn more about the winter fundraiser sale in any of these ways:

- ☆ Visit our website to view and download or print the color catalog and order forms.
<http://www.helpingwildlife.org/newsevents/fundraisers.htm>
- ☆ Call our office at 262-968-5075 to request a packet by mail.
- ☆ Stop by our office between 9AM and 5PM seven days a week to pick up a packet in person.

Orders for this sale are due in to the Wildlife In Need Center office

Thursday, November 11th, 2010

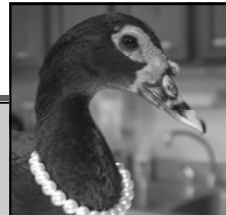
They will be delivered and ready to pick-up
at the Wildlife In Need Center on

Tuesday, December 7th

- with plenty of time to ship to your loved ones, even those ones out of state.



What's Happening at the Wildlife In Need Center



Fall and Winter Calendar of Events

Friday, November 11th

-Orders are due in for our Suzy's Cheesecakes and our new Perfect Presents fundraisers



-Orders can be picked-up anytime after noon on Tuesday, December 7th

Order them now so you can share them later! Order forms can be found on our website or picked up in our office. For more information contact us at 262-968-5075.

See page 7 for more information.

Friday, November 26th -World's Greatest Cookie Sale

It's the day after Thanksgiving and its time to prepare for the holidays! Enjoy perusing for your favorite holiday sweets complete with holiday music, festivities and even games and entertainment for the kids between noon and 4PM in the Country Springs Inn Ballroom.

Visit <http://www.countryspringshotel.com/utility/specialevents.aspx> for more information.



We also need volunteer bakers to make their most festive holiday cookies and candies. We need to have 250 dozen or more to participate in this fun annual event each year, so please contact us if you can help!



Are you reading this *Wildlife Tracks* online? You could be by visiting <http://www.helpingwildlife.org/tracks.htm>.

Even if you choose to continue to receive your issues of *Wildlife Tracks* by mail, you can still check our website for more information on the stories you've read, additional pictures, and the best part of all - they're in color!

For more information about our membership program or *Wildlife Tracks* contact Sheryl Cummings at sacummings@helpingwildlife.org or call 262-968-5075 or visit us online at <http://www.helpingwildlife.org>



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