

The Wildlife In Need Center is at:  
W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066



## From the Director's Den

By Executive Director Michael Guzniczak

Before I started this addition of the Director's Den, I pulled out a copy of the last edition of Wildlife Tracks, the fall 2010 issue. It dawned on me how much has happened in a relatively short time since that last correspondence with you. I looked at the picture of a cardboard sign denoting where the door to the gathering space was going to go. To think back to walking the footprint of the new facility laid out on the ground by stakes and string, when today you can actually walk into the library, and into the clinic and see the actual space; it's amazing.

As I had predicted back in the fall, overall 2010 finished as a good year. We ended the year with a slight deficit financially, but many causes affected this. Higher than expected costs with a slight decrease in revenue due to a sluggish economy were big factors. We have weathered that storm in good shape thanks to your support and I hope that you'll look forward to a great 2011 right along with us. Here's a list of some of the things we are looking forward to this year:

- The opening of our new facility this summer is the culmination of 5-years of planning. Yes, over 5 years ago the board of directors realized that we needed a new facility and have worked towards that goal ever since. First, we were going to build on our current site, then on the

University Lake School property, and finally, two years in the making, we arrived at the UW-Waukesha Field Station.

- The completion of a successful Capital Campaign. Last fall we launched the final phase of our campaign with a goal to raise \$1.3 million for a Capital and

Endowment Fund. We are closing in on that number and do expect that by June we will have reached our goal; but not without the

support of people like you who care. This fund will not only give WINC a solid footing by building a high-quality facility, but it will also establish an endowment fund that will provide support to the cause and ensure the continued upkeep of the new facility.

- Enhancing all aspects of our mission to provide wildlife rehabilitation, education and research. Enhancing our animal care capabilities with a new,



*Probably the most exciting and important focus of 2011 will be our growing collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha.*

*-Michael Guzniczak*

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Still trying to decide what to get that special someone for Valentines day?

Consider "adopting" one of our animals to show them your truly care.

Visit our website at:

[www.helpingwildlife.org/getinvolved/animaladoption.htm](http://www.helpingwildlife.org/getinvolved/animaladoption.htm)

better equipped clinic; Expanding our education programs through on-site programming and sharing the vast resources of the field station property; Giving back to the rehab community through relevant and important research targeted to benefit wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation.

- A fantastic new venue, Merrill Hills Country Club, for our annual banquet to be held on April 15th. This is a year to remember as we look back on the history of the center, and view the future with our new facility. We hope you'll be able to join us as I look forward to thanking each one of you for the support that's helped us to where we are today.
- Probably the most exciting and important focus of 2011 will be our growing collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha. This collaboration is a very exciting new step for the center. While staying an independent entity, the Wildlife in Need Center will have access to resources we would have only dreamed of in the past. In return, we look to afford the University, its students, and faculty a unique opportunity to build curriculum and programming around our expertise and available experiences. Not only are we working directly with the school to formulate programming centered on animal rehab; but we're also introducing the UWW to other community projects like Lad Lake's Community Outreach Team, and the alternative fuel initiatives going on in Jefferson County. Through our network of friends within the community we hope to continue to be the catalyst exposing all our partners to opportunities for future projects and collaborations.

## Speaking of progress, have you discovered our new blog yet?

Things are going to be changing quickly as we progress through the winter into spring and the final completion of our new facility! We invite you to watch the building come together via our new blog,:

<http://www.newwincfacility.blogspot.com>

We're posting updates as we get them, often with new pictures each week. The Wildlife In Need Center is also now on Facebook - if you are too, come "friend" us!



View from the west: The doorway leads from the garage (to be framed in the spring) into the Animal Care Wing of the new facility. The concrete frame on the left will become the outdoor flight area.

**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

John Rodell	President
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Lynn Wilde	Director
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Lisa Rowe	Director of Operations
Cheryl Diehl	Animal Care Director
Mandy Feavel	Wildlife Rehabilitator
Chelsea Matson	Wildlife Rehabilitator
Leslie Kiehl	Wildlife Education Coordinator
Sheryl Cummings	Development and Marketing Coordinator

# Our Town becomes Turtle Town

By Chelsea Matson



At the end of summer and into early fall at WINC we spend a lot of our time releasing orphaned babies (now juveniles) and rehabilitated patients into an appropriate habitat. We feel anxious, yet relieved to see them go, knowing we have done our part to give them the best chance of survival in the wild. Whether they are active or hibernate during winter, they are provided with enough time to prepare themselves for the cold months ahead. Once the temperature starts to drop, WINC feels very quiet and almost empty compared to the chaos of summer. However, there are always some patients that are not ready to be released before the cold comes and we will “over-winter” them at the center.

Currently over-wintering at WINC are some of our most time consuming patients; turtles. They consist of one Blanding’s Turtle, one 3-toed Box Turtle, and three Western Painted Turtles. Four of the five turtles are recovering from shell fractures while the other is non-releasable due to previous injuries where he was left with only one of his four feet (stay tuned- he will be making his educational debut soon!). Shell injuries are very slow-healing and this prevented the turtles from being released before winter. Once we realized we were going to have them for the next several months, we started developing a turtle area in our empty mammal nursery which we named “Turtle Town.”

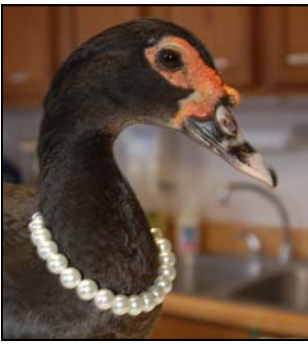
Turtle Town evolved quickly with new enclosures, heat and UVB lights, basking rocks and all of the artificial foliage you can imagine. With all of this equipment, we quickly realized how complicated turtle husbandry is. In order to keep their enclosures clean, we remove all of this equipment and bleach it as well as the entire enclosure on a daily basis to prevent bacteria build-up and infections. While we are cleaning their enclosures the turtles are placed in large swim tubs below a UVB light with a selection of meats or fish, fruits, veggies and commercial diet products. Turtles need to be provided with a variety of foods when in captivity in order to encourage them to eat. Some of the turtles will eat in about 10 minutes while others, like the Blanding’s, can take up to two hours! Each turtle seems to have developed a favorite food which we learned as we have come to know each of them individually. For example, the Blanding’s loves his smelt, while the 3-toed gobbles up his mushrooms and the Western Painted’s can’t get enough of that Sendik’s Salmon! Once they have had sufficient time to eat, they are returned to their living quarters to bask on their rocks or dive into the deep end of their enclosures.

Turtle Town seems to be a favorite spot to visit for volunteers, interns and staff. The turtles are always doing something different when you stop by, whether it’s camouflaging themselves below their greenery, swimming laps in the deep end, or stretching out and soaking up their artificial sun. These cool creatures still have a few months left until the weather warms up so we will continue to do our best to keep “Turtle Town” a healthy and happy place until then.

But wait, there’s more to the story! We couldn’t possibly fit all of the cool anecdotes and images for each story here in *Tracks*, but if you visit our website you can read more about Antwon and his cohorts living in “Turtle Town.” Plus, see all the pictures of our over-wintering residents and more in color!







## Daphne's Dispatch

News and Events at the Wildlife In Need Center

*Spring is nearly here, really, Waldo the groundhog told me.*

-Daphne the Muscovy Duck

### Upcoming Events:

**Spring Danish Kringle Sale:** Authentic Racine Danish Kringles ©, Grandma Maggie's © Gourmet Cookie Dough, and new this year, Stone Creek Coffee!

An order form can be found on the following page; You can also pick up full catalogs in our office, you can download them from our website at [www.helpingwildlife.org/newsevents/fundraisers.htm](http://www.helpingwildlife.org/newsevents/fundraisers.htm) or you can contact someone in our office to have one mailed to you.

All orders are due with payment on: **Thursday, March 31st**  
and will be available for pick-up after noon on: **Tuesday, April 19th**

**Springtime means it's time for our Pancake Breakfast and Baby Shower!**

**Sunday, March 27th from 8AM to 1PM**

**Dousman/Ottawa Lions Club**

**235 Main Street in Dousman, Wisconsin**

This annual spring event is a fun way to help us and you prepare for the busy baby season to come. You'll have an opportunity to meet our educational team, find out more about your wild neighbors and enjoy some great food too! For ticket prices and more information check our website at [www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org)

### **Because Nothing of Value Comes Without Effort...**

We have a lot to celebrate at our 17th Annual Banquet and Auction. With plans for the move to our new facility underway we want to recognize all of the efforts that made it possible including our members, volunteers and supporters. Our wild neighbors need us and we need you; thanks.

**Friday evening, April 15th at Merrill Hills Country Club**

For more information check our website at [www.helpingwildlife.org/newsevents/banquet/htm](http://www.helpingwildlife.org/newsevents/banquet/htm)

**Groundhog Day was cancelled this year for Waldo and his friends, but we found other ways to celebrate the snow day...**



**Here's to an early spring, congrats Pack!**



**Racine Danish Kringles \$8 each**

[illegible]



As I reflect on 2010, I am not sure if I want to cry, or laugh and cheer. We had a few very sad moments, but we also had many exciting successes that, for me, reinforced why we all work so hard for so many hours, even though we face many challenges from day-to-day.

Caring for animals is hard, smelly, dirty, and sometimes dangerous, and the patients never say, "Thank you." But

the reward is the feeling one gets after rehabilitating an animal that was close to death when it came in, and then releasing it back to the wild world.

This year we will have many enhancements to our procedures to plan for as well as a transition in our operations to a new facility. It will take hard work, and donations of funds and equipment to properly equip our new outdoor enclosures, bird and mammal nurseries, swim room (for waterfowl, not interns), surgery and x-ray room, admitting room, lab, aviaries, wildlife food prep kitchen, and wildlife laundry areas.

At the new facility for the first time we will have the "luxury" of having a surgery and x-ray room. We are hoping to attract more veterinarians who are willing to donate their time assisting us with delicate and surgical animal treatments. A fully furnished surgical suite, our own x-ray machine, new anesthesia unit and other surgical equipment will be necessary to do that.

We'll also need other daily care equipment like a commercial washer and dryer, upright freezers for storing animal food, and various sizes of refrigerators for foods and medications. The appliances used at WINC throughout the years, including this very day, are an interesting collection of old Harvest Gold and Avocado colored appliances, occasionally held together with duct tape. While we've greatly appreciated all of the past donations of used appliances, second-hand household washers and dryers rarely last a year here due to their constant use. To keep up with the demand for clean, fresh bedding for our patients, these machines are running all day long. For the new facility we are hoping for the donation of a very large capacity or commercial washer and dryer.

Even though our Capital Campaign is going great there is so much more needed to properly equip the new Wildlife In Need Center after it is completed. I hope you will all join us however you can in creating a facility that will allow us to take the already great care we give to our wild patients to an even higher level.

*Even though our Capital Campaign is going great there is so much more needed to properly equip the new Wildlife In Need Center after it is completed.*

*-Cheryl Diehl*

If you are interested in helping provide animal care equipment for the new Wildlife In Need facility, please contact us for a list of our needs and information on how you can help.

All of our patients are given the best care possible, within the resources that we have and we must constantly research and make enhancements to our treatment plans. I hope you'll have a chance to look at some of our interesting numbers for the year on the following page. You'll see that we admitted 128 different species in 2010, from common species like Raccoons and Mallards, to threatened and endangered species like the Peregrine Falcon, Butler's Garter Snake, and a Blanding's Turtle. I'm delighted to report that we were able to rehabilitate and release the Peregrine Falcon and the Butler's Garter Snake, and the Blanding's Turtle will be released in spring.



# 2010 Fun With Numbers

## Top 10 species Number

Virginia Opossum	43
White-footed Mouse	49
European Starling	50
House Sparrow	52
Mourning Dove	77
Mallard	125
American Robin	142
Raccoon	162
Eastern Gray Squirrel	172
Eastern Cottontail	268



## Top 10 Mammals Number

Red Squirrel	14
Eastern Chipmunk	16
Meadow Vole	17
Woodchuck	28
13-lined ground squirrel	36
Virginia Opossum	43
White-footed Mouse	49
Raccoon	162
Eastern Gray Squirrel	172
Eastern Cottontail	268



## Busiest Month June -477 admits

### Busiest Day June 3rd-35 Admissions

House Sparrow	1
Mallard	1
Wild Turkey	1
Wood Duck	1
Black-capped	2
Chickadee	2
Canada Goose	2
European Starling	3
Raccoon	6
White-footed	6
Mouse	6
Eastern Cottontail	12

**Clockwise from top right: American Robin, Barred Owl, American Mink, Mallard, Painted Turtle, Virginia Opossum**  
**To find out these stories and more visit our website**

## Top 10 Cities Admits

Delafield	76
Mukwonago	80
New Berlin	88
Watertown	88
Pewaukee	92
Dousman	94
Hartland	96
Brookfield	103
Oconomowoc	239
Waukesha	335



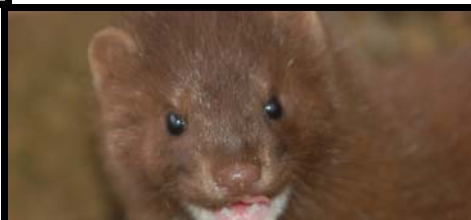
## Top 10 Herps Number

Eastern Milk Snake	2
Green Frog	2
Tiger Salamander	2
Red-bellied Snake	3
American Toad	4
Eastern Gray Treefrog	4
Midland Painted Turtle	4
Painted Turtle	4
Snapping Turtle	4
Western Painted Turtle	15



## Top 10 Counties Admits

Rock	4
Ozaukee	6
Walworth	14
Washington	16
"Unknown"	26
Racine	31
Dodge	32
Milwaukee	76
Jefferson	217
Waukesha	1490



## Top 10 Birds Number

Cedar Waxwing	28
Great Horned Owl	28
Wood Duck	30
American Goldfinch	33
Canada Goose	40
European Starling	50
House Sparrow	52
Mourning Dove	77
Mallard	125
American Robin	142

86 species of birds	1,019 patients
17species of Reptiles/Amphibians	68 patients
25 species of mammals	844 patients
Total Volunteer Hours Logged	12,200.36
Total Intern Hours Logged	5812.19
Total Patient Days (patients x days of care given)	37,714
Education Programs Presented	96
People Reached at Education Programs	5,836

# Maybe Happily Ever After Does Happen

By Lisa Rowe

After we release animals, we don't usually know what happens to them. Maybe the cardinal at the feeder is the one that flew into the window last month. Maybe that squirrel is the little one I raised with the litter from Oconomowoc and released. But most animals look alike enough to be hard to identify from a distance. And even if you see them for a few weeks, they often disappear – hopefully about their business but you always wonder. And then once in a while you know what happens down the line.

On July 14, 2008 a kind man from had known for at least 4 years. The so he could recognize her with her waterfront property. In June he noticed she seemed to be having trouble eating. was reluctant to bring her in because the lump was no smaller but her babies



Ashippun brought us a Canada Goose that he previous 3 years it had a distinctive foot injury mate when they came with babies to his a lump on her right neck below her beak and He called WINC to discuss the situation but her babies were young and needed her. By July were learning to fly so he felt better about leaving them to the male's care. He captured her and brought her in.

On exam we discovered a golf ball sized abscess which we drained. Animal care staff felt there was more going on and in fact an x-ray revealed bird shot. A pellet was the cause of the infection and on July 17 our volunteer vet Dr. Nicki Waliszewski performed surgery to remove the pellet and clean out the infection surgically. Jim called regularly to check on her progress and to report that her mate and babies were still in the area waiting for her. He brought in donations and he even brought in pictures of the family which staff and volunteers enjoyed. Ten days post-op Dr. Nicki gave the all clear after a final exam and mother goose was returned to her family by Jim. Jim let us know her prince charming rejoined her.

Late May 2009 Jim stopped into the office to show us some pictures. On Mothers Day this year the goose pair and this year's babies showed up at his place. He can recognize her by her old foot injury and now by a large scar on her neck which doesn't seem to bother her. Another year with her mate and another batch of babies. Maybe Jim should call her Cinderella - I think she lived happily ever after.



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