

# Wildlife Tracks

Connecting People and Wildlife Through Rehabilitation and Education



## 2015 Issue II

### Wildlife In Need Center

W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262.965.3090

### VISIT US AT:

[www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org)

## WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

### WINC Welcomes New Wildlife Educator



Alex, featured here with educational Great Horned Owl Dakota at WINC's 2015 Pancake Breakfast.

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Alex graduated from Carthage College in May of 2014 and has a degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Wildlife Conservation and Ecology. Alex has experience working with both domestic and wild animals. She was a volunteer during college at the Safe Harbor Humane Society and after graduating from college she worked as a veterinary assistant at Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center and at a doggy day care and kennel. She was an animal welfare intern at the Racine Zoo throughout the spring of her senior year at Carthage College. This internship gave Alex experience in daily husbandry of the exotic zoo animals and also exposed her to educational programs for children using the zoo's educational animals.

Alex started at the Wildlife In Need Center as a summer volunteer with her dad in 2011 and 2012. She then completed WINC's animal care internship throughout the summer and fall of 2014. Throughout her animal care internship, Alex worked with many injured, orphaned and sick wildlife patients which helped Alex decide that she wanted to pursue a career involving wildlife. Furthermore, during her internship, she was able to accompany myself, Mandy and Chelsea on educational programs which was where she realized how much she enjoyed wildlife education.

## WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

# WINC Welcomes New Wildlife Educator *(continued)*

When Alex was approached about becoming a Wildlife Educator at WINC, she knew that this would be a career she would love. Alex said, "I am so thrilled to be able to work with and learn about our educational ambassadors and I am honored to be representing the Wildlife In Need Center through our educational programs."

Although she has moved from an animal care intern to education staff, Alex continues to be an animal care volunteer each week and plans to continue working towards her Basic Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitator license. Alex is handling our educational ambassadors almost daily in order to develop those trusting relationships between animal and handler. She has done numerous programs already and has expressed how much she is enjoying speaking with groups of all ages about the importance of our surrounding Wisconsin wildlife. Alex said, "Wildlife education is so much fun! It allows me to share my passion with others, spend time with curious and excited kids, hear other people's stories and learn new things!"

Alex, we are so happy to have you join us!



*As an intern, Alex received an in-depth glimpse into the field of wildlife rehabilitation and regularly handled patients like this Great Horned Owl*

## Article Note:

Leslie Kiehl chose Alex and trained her to work in Education. Before Leslie passed away from cancer at the end of April 2015, she wrote this article to introduce Alex. Leslie did a wonderful job over the years to grow WINC's education programs into the wonderful community resource they have become. Leslie was very pleased with Alex's work, and had confidence that Alex would continue to expand WINC's educational outreach to all ages.

"Came the Spring with all its splendor,  
All its birds and all its blossoms,  
All its flowers, leaves and grasses"  
- Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

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<b>Danielle Fleischman</b> Development Assistant



# WHAT'S THE BUZZ

## development

### Remembering Special People

Since October of 2014, there has been a substantial outpouring of gifts from donors to WINC in honor or memory of special people in their lives. This issue recognizes these very special gifts.

#### *In Memory of Jules Hopfensperger*

Hawkins, Inc.  
5 Corners Dodge  
RJ Heating and Air Conditioning  
Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts  
Brian and Rebecca Post  
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Christine Meskimen  
John and Tina Seibold  
Bob Seroogy  
George Thiele  
Brian and Stacy Pinsker  
Image Makers Advertising  
Ronald Bayer

*(Continued on page 4)*

## WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

### Summer Wildlife Tips by chelsea SHAPIRO

With summer finally here, there's no doubt you have noticed wildlife becoming more active! There are several species of animals that are already raising litters of babies and certainly more on the way. Babies are the reason we see a huge increase in our patient numbers during spring and summer so here are a few tips to help keep babies with their parents whenever possible - Mother always knows best!

1. Cottontail Rabbits only feed their babies twice a day (typically at dawn and dusk) and are away from the nest the rest of the day. Their nests are shallow, inconspicuous holes covered with fur and grass so they blend into a lawn very easily. People are often surprised when they discover a nest and that surprise can turn into concern when they don't see a mother nearby. Chances are, these babies are not orphaned! Leave the nest alone and watch from afar for an adult.

2. When the majority of young songbirds leave their nest, they do not know how to fly and will hop around on the ground for several days. We call these birds "fledglings." They have outgrown the crowded nest and it's time for them to explore their surroundings and learn to find food for themselves. However, they are still not fully independent. Parents will fly down to the babies and feed them for the next several days to weeks and continue to raise them from afar. Babies will take cover in low branches and bushes at nightfall and continue to learn how to fly more and more with each day!

3. Please, please, please do not trap and relocate wildlife at this time of year. First, trapping an animal and driving it to a nearby "park" or "field" is illegal unless you have permission from the city or property owner to do so. Second, you could be orphaning babies by taking their mother or father away from them! There are many "humane hazing techniques" you can use to encourage wild animals to leave an area you may not want them to be. A mother will relocate her nest and babies when these techniques are used and our staff and volunteers are happy to walk you through exactly what to do - all you have to do is call!

The best tip we can offer you with any wildlife issue is to call us when you are unsure what to do before intervening. We answer over 10,000 phone calls every year and are happy to help with any questions you may have. We answer phone calls 7 days a week, 9am-5pm. Please do not be discouraged if we are unable to answer right away- sometimes all lines are busy during this time of year! Leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible! (262)965-3090. You can also visit our website at [www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org) as a first resource or after hours for helpful information about wildlife situations. Thank you for caring about wildlife!

## 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.

# WHAT'S THE BUZZ

development

## Remembering Special People

Continued.

### *In Memory of Jules Hopfensperger*

Ryan and Jennifer Franzen  
Robert Habich  
Robert and Nancy Hilgendorf  
Joan Claas  
Sandra and Michael Kamarainen  
Paul and Robin Kraemer  
Paul and Sharon Schulteis  
Steve and Sue Suminski  
Valen Analytics  
Jessica Hodorowski  
Carol Nelson  
Doug and Chris Koerner

### *In Honor of Dr. Tom Roberts*

Jeffery and Judith Wilkes

### *In Honor of Betty Baker*

Julie Ann Schneider

### *In Honor of Wayne Grandy*

Thomas Mann

### *In Memory of Charlotte M. Krygier*

Jim Krygier

### *In Memory of Lauren Bahr*

Donna Studee  
Zimbrick Hyundai West  
Acura of Brookfield  
David and Michelle Vandertie  
Craig and Karen Lampe  
Hales Corners Police Department  
Timothy and Tammy Earl  
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Brian and Diane Richson  
Ryan and Gina Maniscalco  
Richard and Jean Schroeder  
Patricia Matula  
Michael and Sheila Curtin  
William and Cheryl Millot  
Stephen and Elizabeth Noack  
Vivian Brault  
JoAnn Bahr  
June Sumnicht  
Paul and Candace Reedy  
Barbara Vandertie  
Donald and Patricia Jordan  
Robert and Alice Brandl  
Henry and Paula Hernandez  
James and Kathleen Lotz  
Zimbrick Eastsid  
Thomas Zimbrick  
Brenda and Tim O'Neill

### *In Memory of Denise Merkt*

Judy Salentine

### *In Honor of Mary Roberts*

John and Lisa Draves

### *In Honor of Sherri Mielke*

Diane Lindstrom

### *In Honor of Alanna Logemann*

Cheryl Sinitz  
Timothy Lailer  
Linda Nevermann  
Kelly Dassow

## WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

# Hibernating Herps? Not at WINC!

by jen BREI



*Our currently longest-term patient, poking her nose out of the water.*

2013, when she suffered a carapace (or top shell) fracture from being hit by a car.

Reptiles and amphibians (collectively known as herps) have very slow metabolisms, which in turn leads to extremely slow wound healing. This explains why we still have a snapping turtle from 2013. The slow metabolism of herps also allows them to hibernate in winter when they are in the wild. If a herp's wounds are not healed by fall, we overwinter them at WINC. Even though it's a natural process for them, we don't let them hibernate. If we did, their normally slow body processes would slow down even further and healing would come to a standstill. We keep them in a warm, humid environment in Turtle Town so that the healing process continues through winter. If we would have released any of these patients in fall before their wounds were completely healed, healing would have halted through winter.

Along with the snapping turtle mentioned above, we also had another snapping turtle with a carapace fracture from being hit by a car. Four Blandings turtle hatchlings and 5 painted turtles comprised our turtle patients. The Blandings turtles were found as eggs in northern Wisconsin last fall and, when they hatched, they were brought to us for care. Blandings turtles were recently taken off the endangered species list so they were a unique patient to admit! The Painted turtles arrived at our Center through a variety of circumstances; one had a fractured carapace from a vehicle hit, one was found stranded in a parking lot, and three were brought to us as unwanted pets.



*A Blandings Hatchling, which is only the size of a Post-It Note!*



## WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

### Hibernating Herps? (continued)

There was also an Eastern Gray Tree Frog in our herp room. He was also brought to us as an unwanted pet. He changes colors like a chameleon so it was fun for the staff and volunteers to see what he looked like from day to day.



*Our resident Eastern Gray Tree Frog, dressed in a minty green shade for its photo shoot.*



*Getting up close and personal with an Eastern Tiger Salamander patient.*

Four Eastern Tiger Salamanders were calling WINC home temporarily. One was found in the grass outside and three were found in a wood pile in someone's basement. Two of these little smiling cuties had minor toe injuries, which have now healed.

One Red-bellied Snake and one Common garter Snake were with us too. The Red-bellied was found in someone's garage and the Common Garter was found wrapped around a water heater in someone's basement. Smart snake to find warmth like that! Neither had any injuries; they just were found trying to escape the cold.

Wild herps are not meant to be kept in captivity as pets. They fare far better in the wild where they were meant to be and require very unique and intensive care that only licensed rehabilitators have experience in. If you find any of these little critters in or around your house from November to April, please call WINC if you are in our neck of the woods or call your local wildlife rehabilitator. To capture and transport safely, place the herp into a box (with air holes) with damp bedding on the bottom. Keep them in a quiet, dark place until you can contact a rehabilitator, preferably within 24 hours.



*Our Common Garter Snake, enjoying the bountiful heat at WINC.*

#### Want others to hear about WINC?

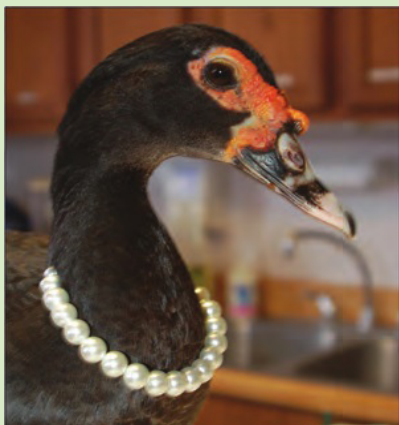
Most of the people who bring animals to WINC hear about us from either friends or family or local humane societies, police departments, or wildlife agencies. Want to help spread our mission? It's simple! All you have to do is write a quick review about how WINC has helped YOU on:

**[greatnonprofits.org](https://greatnonprofits.org)**

The more reviews we receive, the more people that can hear about WINC! (You can also reach this site by clicking on their badge on our website's homepage.)

### 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.



## Easy Ways to Help WINC

Here are some rewards programs that you can participate in to help WINC - while doing everyday errands like buying groceries and gas!

### **AmazonSmile**

Use Amazon to shop online? By using smile.amazon.com instead of simply amazon.com, Amazon will donate .5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of the customer's choice! Even better: you don't even need to make a new Amazon account to get started!

### **Kwik Rewards**

Kwik Trip, Inc. offers a Kwik Card that earns you a rebate of 3 cents per gallon on fuel PLUS a 10% rebate on all eligible in-store purchases. Instead of receiving this rebate yourself, you can donate it to WINC by participating in the Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising Program.

### **Sentry Funds for Friends**

Local Sentry stores have teamed up with WINC! If you shop at the Meadowbrook or St. Paul stores located in Waukesha, or Golf Road Store in Delafield, simply turn in your receipts to WINC and we will receive 1% of the total value!

**The receipts must be less than 6 months old for us to use them.**

### **Piggly Wiggly Rewards**

Similar to Sentry, Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly in Hartland will also donate 1% total value of receipts. **WINC can currently accept receipts dated 2014 and 2015.**

### **Good Harvest Eco-Tokens**

Bring your own bag to grocery shop? Good Harvest on Meadow Lane in Pewaukee rewards your efforts by giving you an "Eco-Token" worth 10 cents for each bag you bring. You will then select one out of six non-profits (with WINC being one of them!) to award your tokens to.

Questions? Call us at 262-965-3090 for more information!

## DAPHNE'S DISPATCH

### Upcoming WINC Events

#### 1st Annual Spaghetti Dinner

WHOOOOO wants spaghetti? Join WINC for a delicious meal and fun! If you're a fan of our Pancake Breakfast, you're sure to enjoy this fall event.

**Saturday, September 26, 2015  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

at

**Dousman/Ottawa Lions Club**  
235 North Main Street  
Dousman, WI 53118

This event will feature WINC merchandise and baked goods sales, a raffle, and appearances by our educational ambassadors. Furthermore, WINC will be raffling off a very special quilt! See below for details.

#### Leslie Kiehl Education Fund Quilt Raffle

As many of you may know, Leslie Kiehl, WINC's longtime educational coordinator and friend, passed away in April 2015 after a battle with cancer. Though she will be deeply missed, her legacy lives on in the Leslie Kiehl Education Fund, which will benefit groups who are interested in WINC educational programs but are not able to pay for the small fee that WINC asks for these programs.

Along with all of the generous donations that have been made in memory of Leslie, WINC longtime volunteer Pat Adams has started a quilt raffle to benefit this fund. Want to participate? Stop in at WINC to purchase & decorate the back of a \$1.00 quilt block - all blocks are wildlife patterned pieces donated by Pat. You can also purchase \$5.00 raffle tickets to win the quilt as well. As mentioned above, the quilt raffle will end at the Spaghetti Dinner. Don't miss a chance to leave your mark on or own this beautiful quilt!

#### 3rd Annual Fine Wine & Dine

Join the Wildlife In Need Center for an enchanting evening enjoying the wine and cuisine of France.

**Friday, October 30, 2015**

at

**The Legend at Brandybrook**  
1 Legend Way  
Wales, WI 53183

WINC's 3rd Annual Fine Wine and Dine event, following the success of "A Journey Up the Coast" in 2013 and "An Evening In Italy" in 2014 will feature a blind auction, wine raffle, and an appearance by one of WINC's educational animal ambassadors.

*Want more information on any of the events listed above? Check out our website at [helpingwildlife.org](http://helpingwildlife.org).*



## VOLUNTEERS

# Volunteer Appreciation Party Wrap-Up

by mandy FEAVEL

Each year we host a volunteer appreciation party for our volunteers to wrap up the year and have a fun relaxing night. We hold this event in January so we can include a “volunteer of the year” award for the previous year. This year our Volunteer of the Year goes to animal care volunteer Rick Nicolai. An average volunteer working one shift a week will put on a little over 200 hours annually; Rick’s volunteer hours in 2014 totaled over 450 hours – WOW! Almost every morning in the summer of 2014, Rick could be found in our animal care washroom, helping each shift with laundry and dishes. The morning is the craziest part of our day, so we were extremely thankful to have his help! When we were short volunteers on those morning shifts, Rick would without hesitation, jump in and start helping with the patient charts.



*Rick Nicolai, Volunteer of the Year*

During the polar vortex of early 2014, Rick came in and shoveled paths to all the cages...and when cage doors were frozen shut with ice he came with tools to help us “break into” frozen enclosures. Rick also took home several juveniles for release at his property in the summer of 2014, including Eastern Cottontails and American Robins, giving our animals the ultimate second chance. We want to give a HUGE thank you to Rick for all he has done for our center, you are truly appreciated!

The volunteer appreciation party also includes delicious food and a raffle that all the volunteers can participate in. Overall in 2014, our volunteers donated 15,125.5 hours helping WINC be a success in our mission.



*Good times were had by all staff and volunteers that attended the Appreciation Dinner.*

## Adult Volunteer Orientations

Even though our baby bird feeding season is underway, we are always looking for adult volunteers in our animal care, office, education, and landscaping departments. Volunteer shifts are once a week and usually last about four hours. Orientations occur monthly and all are held at the Wildlife In Need Center.

### Upcoming Dates Are:

**Tuesday, July 28th**

**6:30pm-8:00pm**

**Sunday, August 30th**

**1:00pm-2:00pm**

Call (262)965-3090 to sign up for an orientation!

## Amazon Wish List

Unable to donate your time, but still looking for a way to help out WINC? Our Center is now utilizing Amazon Wish Lists as a way to help make it easy for people to donate WINC’s most-needed items!

To find our Wish List, simply click on the “Wish List” option on the upper right-hand corner of Amazon’s homepage menu. A page will appear which allow you to search for Wildlife In Need Center. Our Wish List is updated often with the items we need most, so be sure to check back regularly.

We truly appreciate all donations of items - they are critically important to our life-saving efforts!



**Wildlife In Need Center**  
W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road, Suite B  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

## CALENDAR

### JULY

#### 22 WEDNESDAY

**Summer Meet & Greet**  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

#### 28 TUESDAY

**Adult Volunteer Orientation**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

#### 29 WEDNESDAY

**Educational Program @  
Hartland Kids Day**  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
NIXON PARK  
175 E. Park Avenue  
Hartland, WI 53029  
**Come see our Educational  
Ambassadors in action at this  
exciting event!**

### AUGUST

#### 22 SATURDAY

**Educational Program**  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
OTTAWA CAMPGROUND  
AMPHITHEATRE  
S59 W36630 Co Road Zz  
Dousman, WI 53118  
**Come learn about WINC's  
educational hawks & falcons!**

#### 30 SUNDAY

**Adult Volunteer Orientation**  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

### SEPTEMBER

#### 19 SATURDAY

**Educational Program**  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
OTTAWA CAMPGROUND  
AMPHITHEATRE  
S59 W36630 Co Road Zz  
Dousman, WI 53118  
**Come learn about WINC's  
hibernating ambassadors!**

#### 26 SATURDAY

**1st Annual Spaghetti Dinner**  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
DOUSMAN/OTTAWA LIONS CLUB  
235 North Main Street  
Dousman, WI 53118

### OCTOBER

#### 30 FRIDAY

**3rd Annual Fine Wine & Dine**  
THE LEGEND AT BRANDYBROOK  
1 Legend Way  
Wales, WI 53183

### DECEMBER

#### 5 SATURDAY

**Holiday Meet & Greet**  
WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER