

# Wildlife Tracks



Connecting People and Wildlife through Rehabilitation, Education, and Research since 1994

## 2017 Issue I

Wildlife In Need Center  
W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262-965-3090

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



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## HAVE AN UNWANTED WILDLIFE VISITOR?

### *We Can Help!*

Did you know it is actually unlawful for a wildlife rehabilitator to accept a healthy wild animal or a "nuisance" animal? As rehabbers, we are licensed to treat sick, injured or orphaned wildlife and should not admit healthy animals brought to us. Also, as a non-profit organization we have limited funds and resources, so we want to care for the animals that truly need our help.

That being said, there are many options and humane solutions to living with "nuisance" wildlife that you can do. Please give us a call at the Wildlife In Need Center and we'd be happy to go over those options with you.

Many people turn to live-trapping as a solution to a nuisance animal, but unfortunately that is often not a good solution for you or that animal and here are some reasons why:

- A trapped and relocated animal does not know where food, water and shelter are located, and they would not be aware of the dangers in the new area such as predators. It will also have to compete with others of its own kind to now establish a new territory of its own. Lastly, species

like squirrels that store food for the winter will almost certainly die without access to their food supplies.

- Trapping and removing an animal creates a "vacuum" or new space for another animal to move in. Wildlife will enter our homes, basements, attics, decks because the area is sheltered, dark, quiet...a great place for them to live! If you remove one animal you are creating a vacancy for someone new to move in. Instead of trapping, hazing techniques will get the animal to move on its own and then you can use exclusion techniques to keep new animals from moving in.

If you have any issues with a potential "nuisance" wild animal, please give us a call – we are happy to give legal, humane techniques to help you with whatever species may be in your area.

**Story By Mandy Feavel**



Flying squirrel in live trap



## 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 service.*

## Wildlife in Need Center Board of Directors

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<i>Jeff Phillips</i>	<i>Marketing &amp; Development Director</i>
<i>Mandy Feavel</i>	<i>Animal Care Manager</i>
<i>Chelsea Shapiro</i>	<i>Assistant Animal Care Manager</i>
<i>Jen Brei</i>	<i>Wildlife Rehabilitator</i>
<i>Alex Schlecht</i>	<i>Education Coordinator</i>
<i>Jenny Watton</i>	<i>Bookkeeper</i>

## WINC Advisory Board

*Mike Guzniczak*  
*Lou Banach*

# WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

## *A Springful Successful Release*

We recently released an adult, male red-tailed hawk in New Berlin on 3/28/17.

His story started in January when a concerned bystander called the New Berlin Police Department because she had seen a hawk on the I-43 overpass in New Berlin. Officer Thayer from the New Berlin Police Department rescued this hawk and subsequently posted a selfie on Facebook, with the hawk.

Upon admission, animal care staff at WINC found the hawk to be in shock, with a right eye injury and a right closed ulna fracture. The ulna is one of two bones in the outer wing. The other bone is the radius, similar to the human forearm. An ulna fracture in this part of the wing is more favorable to have, rather than a radius fracture because the radius is the bone that keeps the length of the wing intact while the bones are healing so that full flight will be still be possible. Also, as a closed fracture, the bone did not pierce the skin, so there was less chance of infection.

After his initial exam, he was started on subcutaneous (just under the skin) fluids, pain medication, eye medication, and a wing wrap to keep the fracture stabilized. The veterinarian exam confirmed a mild eye injury and X-Rays confirmed an ulna fracture. For the next two and a half weeks, his medications and wing wrap were continued, with wing wrap changes and physical therapy every 3-4 days.

Three weeks after admission, the veterinarian confirmed the fracture was healing perfectly and the eye injury had resolved itself. His wing did not require a stabilizing wrap anymore and he was upgraded to a bigger enclosure to exercise his wing.

Seven weeks after admission he was able to be moved to our flight enclosure to really stretch out his wings prior to his release.

After two and a half months of care, he was released in New Berlin at a park near where he was found. We try to release adult animals where they were originally found.

This hawk's successful rehabilitation was only made possible with the dedication and compassion of the many people involved in his care. Thank you to everyone involved with this lucky hawk's journey, from rescue to release and everything in between! Make sure you check out his video from our 3/30/17 Facebook post!

**Story By Jen Brei**



Officer Thayer rescues the Red-Tailed Hawk



Fractured Ulna



Enjoying the flight enclosure

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

Jeff Phillips, Development and Marketing Director

## WINC's Care Starts With You



Sponsor an outdoor animal enclosure

The opportunity to be a part of WINC is available to all. A sponsorship could be your way to make a dramatic difference no matter what level donation you are considering.

The work at WINC never stops. The wild animals that come through our door never know we need more sponsors. It never occurs to them that medical care is free. They don't know that everything to house, care and release them is through the generosity of individuals. WINC receives no government funding. Not a single animal realizes the wealth of caring people in the community.

Sponsorship available includes animal ambassadors, room and enclosure naming opportunities as well as special events. From a few dollars to a few hundred, your name shows you care. It is a great way to show the community you are involved. As a business, these sponsorships generate positive PR for your company by providing financial support to WINC. All donations are tax deductible.

We believe that our support should come from our local community. There are such a variety of ways to help, that room doesn't allow to be listed here. Many other opportunities to support WINC are found on our website [www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org) in the development section. Please contact me at [Jphillips@helpingwildlife.org](mailto:Jphillips@helpingwildlife.org), or stop in at the Center during the week to discuss how your stewardship can benefit all of us.



Sponsor a Meet and Greet,  
Grace with Nancy Meier



Sponsor an Education Animal Ambassador,  
Raenah the Red-Tailed Hawk



## Come Meet the Educational Ambassadors August 9, 2017

*Dakota the Great Horned Owl and friends invite you to come join us at Wildlife In Need Center from 6:00-8:00pm for our Summer Meet & Greet. Our Educational Ambassadors will be out in our classroom space with handlers. People can see them up close, ask their handlers questions, and take pictures. We only hold a couple of Meet & Greets every year so this is great chance to get to see these wild animals up close.*

*Meet and Greets are free and open to the public.*



Animal Ambassador, Chase

## Save The Date October 20, 2017

A "Journey Around the World," a five course gourmet meal paired with wines selected by the Chef at  
Westmoor Country Club

# What's the BUZZ?

## Remembering Special People

Since November 2016, donors have made gifts to WINC in honor or memory of special people in their lives.

*In Honor of Volunteer Leslie M. Smith  
Bill Hansen  
Cynthia & Timothy Makos*

*In Honor of Cheryl Matteson  
Rebecca Richards*

*In Honor of Tara Richards  
Rebecca Richards*

*In Honor of the Vernon Marsh Eagle  
Rebecca Richards*

*In Honor of Chase (WINC's  
Ambassador Skunk  
Rebecca Richards*

*In Honor of John Kramer & my  
Grandpets  
Bonnie Soto*

*In Honor of Tom & Mary Roberts  
Susan Skaros*

*In Honor of Earl & Dorothy Honeyager  
Jeanne Merz*

*In Honor of Beth Kohls for watching  
my dog when I went out of town. And,  
for the poor bird Carly & Houston  
found in her back yard.  
Denise T. Hudy*

*In Honor of Dr. Tom Roberts & Mary  
Budde-Roberts  
Syd Jones & KT Budde-Jones*

*In Honor of Sally Harthun  
Donna Herschleb*

*In Honor of Jennifer Nowak  
Ryan Nowak*

*In Honor of Ugugu. Thank you for  
keeping me grounded, oddly enough  
Valerie Bridges*

*In Honor of Monsieur  
Martha Davis*

*In Honor of Catherine Sullivan & Gerry  
Gunderson  
Tarah Harlin*

*In Honor of Sharon Wolfshon  
Linda Weed*

# WINC's MISSION: Education

## *A Tribute to Waldo, Timmy and Tommy*

In January, our education team lost 3 unforgettable ambassadors. This was definitely a tough way to bring in the New Year for staff and volunteers. Waldo, Timmy and Tommy were veteran educational ambassadors, all approaching old age for their species. Altogether, Waldo, Timmy & Tommy spent over 22 years at WINC helping to educate the surrounding communities about Wisconsin wildlife.

They are all truly missed and we will forever be grateful for their help as educational ambassadors.

### **Waldo**

Waldo the Woodchuck came to WINC in the summer of 2008 as a juvenile after being raised in an RV by a couple who found him to be orphaned. After several weeks of care from his unnatural parents at such a young age, he became imprinted on humans. As an unreleasable woodchuck, Waldo became a permanent resident at WINC and quickly captured the hearts of everyone who met him. In over 8 years at WINC, Waldo reached over 200,000 people in the community. Over the years, Waldo was the star of many Groundhog Day events, he had quite a few entertaining TV appearances and most importantly, he helped raise an appreciation for our local herbivore wildlife neighbors.

In September of 2016, WINC staff discovered that Waldo had a severe tooth infection. This



Waldo the Woodchuck

is most commonly seen in rodents of older age, much like Waldo, therefore, he was on medication to help fight the infection. In the following months, Waldo began to show more signs of his old age including arthritis, so he was also given more medication to keep him comfortable. On a scheduled veterinary checkup in January it was discovered that Waldo had developed pneumonia. We did not want Waldo to suffer with any respiratory distress, in addition to everything else he had going on at his old age.

As a staff, we made the incredibly difficult decision to say good bye to Waldo while he was home here at WINC, surrounded by those who loved and cared for him. We are so thankful to have had him as a colleague for over 8 memorable years!



Waldo at Groundhog Day Celebration



Timmy and Tommy, Eastern Tiger Salamanders

## Timmy & Tommy

Shortly after the passing of Waldo, WINC also lost Timmy and Tommy, our Eastern Tiger Salamanders. Timmy and Tommy were at one point wild salamanders. However, in 2011 they were surrendered to a local pet store after being kept in captivity for an unknown period of time. Since Eastern Tiger Salamanders are a native Wisconsin species, they were turned over to a local rehabber. Unfortunately, without knowing where Timmy and Tommy had originally come from or how much of their lives had been spent in captivity, WINC staff did not feel comfortable releasing them back into the wild. Timmy and Tommy joined our education team not long after being admitted to WINC and they continued to be a hit on every program they attended. Their perpetual smiles warmed the hearts of so many!

Staff noticed at the beginning January, during our quarterly education ambassador exams, that Timmy had lost weight, he appeared weak and

lethargic and he felt cold compared to his normal self. He was kept in a separate enclosure from Tommy for a few days, on a heating pad, while we monitored his condition but unfortunately, he did pass away on his own. One week later, Tommy also passed away from similar symptoms. Our veterinarian from Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital & Exotic Care Inc., Dr. Nicole Mueller, performed necropsies on both Timmy and Tommy to try and identify their cause of death. Unfortunately, results for Timmy were inconclusive and results for Tommy indicated the possibility of sepsis. Tommy was also found to be a female salamander! Without knowing the age of Timmy and "Tommy", old age could have been a contributing factor to their death. The two of them were such great educational ambassadors for their fellow amphibians for over 7 years here at WINC!

Story By Alex Schlecht



Timmy and Tommy with Education Volunteer, Bridget Carpenter

## What's the BUZZ?

### Remembering Special People

*In Honor of Wayne Grandy & the all great work he does*

*Amanda Funk*

*In Honor of Barbara Thomas Birthday*

*Kim Banach*

*In Memory of Sarah Woods 10th Birthday*

*Tracey Maltar  
Mary Rautmann*

*In Honor of Katie Cataldo, who helped me love animals*

*Ibrahim Vazirabad*

*In Honor of Samara Phinney  
Michael Dunham*

*In Memory of Robert Richards  
Rebecca Richards*

*In Memory of Jim Weiss (10/18/16)  
James C. Weiss*

*In Memory of Hannah Kohls  
Nancy E. Rosalie*

*In Memory of Ruth Leef  
Gina A. Peter  
Ruth Leef Memorial  
Michael Brady*

*In Memory of Barbara Richards  
Jim & Sue Machan  
Phillip & Patricia Crump*

*In Memory of Courtney Lehmann  
Russ, Teresa & Samantha  
Lehmann*

*In Memory of Margot Schmitz  
Leigh P. Fricke  
Sig & Ile Grammel  
Miki Martin Erschnig*

*In Memory of Robert "Bob" Vavra  
Alex & Marcia Romashko*

*In Memory of Bob Vavrek  
Mary Emery  
Lubar & Co. Incorporated  
Ladonna J. Glass  
Marguerite C. Martin  
Cynthia Thomas  
Sherri & Bob Mielke  
Elizabeth Baginski  
Wanda Felber*

*In Memory of Waldo  
Lonne J. Aleksandrowicz*

*In Memory of Leslie Kiehl  
Stacy Zacher*

# What's the BUZZ?

## Remembering Special People

*In Memory of Greg Petta  
Shirley & Glen Glow  
Diane Crowley  
Sherry Flynn  
Pete Schuster*

*In Memory of Muffin & Buddy  
Sherry Lewicki*

*In Memory of Arthur D. Gilbertson &  
Helen S. Gilbertson  
Karen Medeiros*

*In Memory of Karl Hatch  
Elizabeth Riemer*

*In Memory of George Hudson  
Kenneth & Laurene Hebbe*

*In Memory of Bette & Richards Cohen  
Rebecca Richards*

*In Memory of Charlie (Lauryn Banach's  
Cat)  
Kim & Lou Banach*

*In Memory of Hannah  
Beth M. Kohls*

*In Memory of the animal loving life of  
Marjorie Hall  
Desiree Erickson*

*In Memory of Maverick  
Brooke Banne*

*In Memory of Marty... my brother's  
Special friend  
Connie Omitt*

## New this fall!

### September 16th

### Educational Animal

### Ambassador Raptor

### Photo Extravaganza.

## Watch:

helpingwildlife.org and

Facebook for

ticketed event details.

# DAPHNE'S DISPATCH



## 2016 Was A Record Breaking Year!

2016 was a record year for admissions at Wildlife In Need Center. We admitted **3,179 animals! 1,416 birds** of 93 species, **237 reptiles and amphibians** of 22 species, **1,525 mammals** of 27 species, and 1 butterfly (we don't rehab insects). Some patients are just here for a few days, others may be here for months. Each day a patient is at WINC, it counts as 1 patient day. We had 66,133 patient days in 2016. Usually June is our busiest month, but May 2016 we admitted 785 patients versus 754 patients in June. Our busiest day was May 31 when we admitted 81 patients from 15 cities in 4 counties. And to take care of all those patients, our generous **volunteers volunteered 23, 262.05 hours** – that is the equivalent of 11 full time staff – and another record for 2016.

WINC also provides programming and a telephone hotline to help educate people about how to help wildlife and live in harmony with wildlife. Alex, the education animal ambassadors including yours truly, and our education volunteers presented a record **153 education programs reaching 46,070 people** (including tv appearances). I worked my tail feathers off but it was worth it to get the word out to so many people.

WINC is really a collaborative effort. Most animals admitted at WINC are brought to us by members of the public such as you. We also get animals from our local humane societies like Elmbrook Humane and Humane Animal Welfare Society, from local law enforcement and fire departments, and transferred from other rehabilitators. We admitted patients from at least 114 cities in at least 17 counties in Wisconsin (sometimes the origin of the animal from other agencies is unknown to us). People like you donate money and supplies to help care of all these animals. By working together, we all helped a record number of animals in 2016. **It's amazing! Thank you!**



Bluebird release



Juvenile Cottontail, photo by: Lauryn Banach



Common Garter Snake

## *Wildlife In Need Center Volunteers Are Extraordinary and Essential*

When you call WINC, a volunteer may answer your call. When you bring in a patient, a volunteer may help you with admission paperwork. Volunteers provide much of the daily care of patients. Volunteers help care for our Educational Ambassadors and help present education programs and staff booths. Volunteers care for the beautiful plantings around our building, repair enclosures and the building, and help build new features. Almost any area you would have an interest, we have volunteer opportunities. Our 5 full-time and 2 part-time staff could not take care of all our patients and present education programs without the unstinting assistance of our wonderful

volunteers. Volunteers can be as young as 12 and 13 years old (with an adult) to help care for and hand feed baby songbirds in summer. Adults can volunteer year round. Our website [www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org) has info on volunteer opportunities and training classes

Don't have time to volunteer weekly? Help when you can by gathering natural food materials for our patients. For our adult patients, it's comfort food. For the babies we raise its food they need to learn to enjoy and recognize in the wild. Pick dandelion leaves – cottontail rabbit babies will eat a pile as big as them twice a day. We admitted 711 cottontails in 2016. Gather native seeds, nuts or berries. Grow food materials: salad greens, sunflower heads, veggies and fruits of all types. When it rains, gather night crawlers and earthworms from the sidewalk for our bird and herp patients. If you trim any trees such as elm, oak, willow and apple or thin raspberry and blackberry thickets, call WINC to see if we can use the branches for our patients.

Please join us in helping wildlife!

**Story By Lisa Rowe**



Cindy Christensen, Animal Care Volunteer



Mark Menzel, Office and Marketing Volunteer



Dave Woerpel, Volunteer of the Year



Healthy Bedded Down Fawn

## Call Before You Kidnap

**Now that it's baby season, we want to remind everyone that you don't want to accidentally "kidnap" those vulnerable baby animals. If you find a baby that is injured, their parents cannot help them, so do call WINC. However, for uninjured babies, please call WINC before interfering unless they are in imminent danger (in a road, fell in a pool, etc). Just because you find a baby alone, does not mean the parents abandoned it. Often they are nearby watching or have gone off to find food for themselves.**

**Some animals, like Cottontail Rabbits and White-tailed Deer stay away from their babies for many hours so they do not draw the attention of predators to their babies. When you call, we will ask questions and discuss options with you for that baby animal's best chance of survival. Our website has much of this info and can be accessed any time.**

**Story By Lisa Rowe**



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**W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road**  
**Oconomowoc, WI 53066**  
**262-965-3090**

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



# CALENDAR 2017

## *July*

**Wednesday, July 26th, 6:30–8:00pm**

Adult New Volunteer Orientation  
Wildlife In Need Center

## *August*

**Wednesday, August 9th 6:00–8:00pm**

Meet and Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

**Monday, August 28th, 6:30–8:00pm**

Adult New Volunteer Orientation  
Wildlife In Need Center

## *September*

**Saturday, September 23rd, 4:00am–8:00pm**

Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Club  
235 N. Main St, Dousman, WI 53188

## *October*

**Friday, October 20th, 6:00pm–9:30pm**

Annual Fine Wine and Dine  
**A Journey Around the World**  
Westmoor Country Club  
400 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

## *November*

**Tuesday, November 28th All Day–Midnight**

Giving Tuesday, Wildlife In Need Center

## *December*

**Saturday, December 2nd 10am–12pm**

Holiday Meet and Greet, Wildlife In Need Center