

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

### **2018** Issue I

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

www.helpingwildlife.org









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# WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

Welcome Mitch!

We would like to welcome a new animal care staff member, Mitch Ruiz, to the Wildlife In Need Center team!

Mitch started at WINC as a full-time animal care intern during the summer of 2014. He has also been a seasonal staff member here at WINC for two summers: 2015 and 2017. He was hired as a full-time animal care staff member in January and has settled in just in time for our crazy busy summer season. Mitch earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology and Psychology; Biochemistry Minor, with an emphasis in animal behavior from Carroll University. He is excited to be a part of the WINC team and be involved in the Wisconsin wildlife rehabilitation community. Mitch is eager to work towards getting his Wisconsin wildlife rehabilitation license and help WINC continue to enhance our care to our wild patients! He has a special interest in research and learning new techniques of critical care. He will be leading our avian nursery and baby bird feeding program which offers unique volunteering opportunities to younger aged volunteers.

We are thrilled to have Mitch join our team here at WINC as a full-time animal care staff member and so grateful for the hard work and long hours he has already dedicated to saving Wisconsin wildlife - Welcome Mitch!

Bringing Mitch to our Animal Care staff brings us back to three full-time AC staff which we have not had since 2014. We know having more full-time professional trained staff helps us continue to enhance the rehabilitation care we can give to Wisconsin wildlife. It allows us to give even more attention and critical care to cases that are brought to our wildlife hospital. Over the last few years our non-profit has continued to see an increase in patient admissions, we want to continue to offer high quality care to those thousands of wild patients, having more trained staff will help us keep our high standards. Thank you to our Animal Care staff who work endless hours and our community who support our mission and our staff.





caring for an orphaned Blue Jay

#### **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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Stephen Schmid, PhD Honorary Director, UW-

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**Operations** 

Mandy Feavel **Director of Animal** 

Wildlife len Brei

Rehabilitator

Mitch Ruiz **Animal Care Staff** 

Madilyn **Education** 

Williams Coordinator

Wildlife Educator Angela Nirk

Jenny Watton Bookeeper

Melisa Conrardy Marketing and

> Administrative Assistant

#### **WINC Advisory Board**

Mike Guzniczak Lou Banach

# WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

## Snakes: Love 'em? Ille Should!

As a Wildlife Educator, one of the animals I'll often bring along for a program is a snake. We are fortunate to have two actively working Animal Ambassador snakes (and one who is now retired): Evie, our Eastern Fox Snake, and Meadow, our Bull Snake. After bringing one of them out, oftentimes the reaction from people in the audience will be mixed: either wow, that is the coolest animal ever, or whoa, please do not come near me! Either way, it opens the door to talk about these amazing creatures, and how utterly beneficial they are to our environment. And at the end of the talk, it's not unusual for the people who were initially a bit wary of them to acknowledge how snakes should be respected, not feared, even if it is at a healthy distance.



Snakes are actually shy, timid creatures. Most often, if someone stumbles upon one it will be complete surprise to both parties - not only do snakes camouflage well, making them hard to see, but snakes view humans as predators and if they knew you were coming they would have gone the other direction! But if you accidentally get too close, a snake might go into a defensive mode in an effort to protect itself. This might include coiling up and raising its head to make itself look large, hissing, or striking out to let you know it means business. As a last resort, the snake can and will bite if the person gets too close, but would much rather prefer to be given space so everyone can go their separate ways.

The heavier-bodied snakes that are native to Wisconsin have a diet that includes eating a lot of mice and rats. Farmers, in particular,

absolutely love having these snakes patrolling their lands, as each snake will save a farmer quite a bit of money annually in natural pest control methods – and these snakes ask for nothing in return other than to be left alone to quietly go about their business.

So next time you are out and about and see a snake in the wild, remember to give it a respectable space. And, as you are softly backing away, maybe whisper "thank you," to quietly acknowledge all the great things they do for us and our environment.

Story By Angela Nirk



Meadow the Bullsnake, thoroughly enjoying her new enclosure especially digging!

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

Kim Banach, Board President

# Our Passion, Saving Wild Lives

As we approach our 25th anniversary in 2019, WINC's legacy remains an accomplishment we all should be proud of. Our rehabilitating wildlife mission continues to grow in complexity and our wildlife

education program not only educates about living with our wild neighbors, but also enriches the lives of those who meet and learn about WINC's 14 Educational Animal Ambassadors.

Sharing their stories and natural history creates a lasting impact every day. Dakota, our Great Horned Owl Animal Ambassador - now 18, continues to embrace and impress people of all ages.

Thank you to Board Treasurer, Dean Pipito of Aquatica, for donating a "WINC Mobile!"

This enables transportation to the vet and servicing education programs a little easier (and exciting!) for staff.

We are proud to also share that in March the Wildlife Animal Champion membership commenced,

> a monthly donation campaign. We warmly welcome our new members - and humbly cherish our continuing members. Saving Wild Lives matters to everyone involved with WINC and to our community.

In preparation for our 25th celebrations, we are asking if you could share personal stories and photos of WINC. Please email 25@helpingwildlife.org by 11/01/2018.

Story By Kim Banach



WINC staff and Dean Pipito

## 2018 WINC Strategic Plan

The Wildlife In Need Center recently completed its final draft of the 2018 WINC Strategic Plan. The WINC Board approved this final version at its May 2018 Board meeting. Our planning process extended over a year and included input from community focus groups, board members, staff, volunteers and research conducted relating to strategic plans from similar organizations.

By securing a grant from the Non Profit Management Fund, WINC was able to hire a planning consultant who guided the process. A new vision statement was developed as well as four major initiatives:

Human Talent Pool
 Sustainability

# 3) Awareness/Education4) Animal Care.

There are also implications for facilities, technology, human resources and capacity with the completion of the strategic plan.

It should also be noted that a significant commitment was made to move the organization forward during the next three years. Thirty-one actionable items with early and final deadline dates were identified to accomplish the four major initiatives. Each action also identifies an "owner" who has pledged to lead the activities necessary to achieve the stated objective.

A copy of WINC's Strategic Plan can be found on the WINC website: <a href="https://www.helpingwildlife.org">www.helpingwildlife.org</a>

Story by Henry Muir, PhD



# Save the Date Summer Meet and Greet

August 15th, 2018 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Chloe, The Eastern Screech Owl and friends invite you to come join us at Wildlife In Need Center from 6:00-8:00pm for our Summer Meet & Greet.

It's a rare opportunity to see the Educational Animal Ambassadors 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!

# Save the Date "A Journey Along the Oregon Trail"

October 26th, 2018 6:00 pm

WINC's sixth annual fine wine and dine featuring an elegant five-course dinner prepared and wines selected by the chef at the Westmoor Country Club.



#### What's the BUZZ?

#### Remembering Special People

This year 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 Honor of Tom & Mary Roberts
Sue Skaros

In Honor of her Grandpets & John Kramer Bonnie Soto

In honor of Warren & Mary Popa Jeff & Kathy

In honor of Jim & Hope Erickson William Donkin

In Honor of Leslie Smith William Hansen

In Honor of Angela Nirk & Jim Siegel William & Carolyn Nirk

In Honor of Cheri Ciardo Nancy Lovelace

In Honor of Brad Johansen Jenny Lara

In Honor of Becca & Mitch Edwards
Bridget McMahon

In Honor of Thomas Roberts, MD Dennis Pollard

In Honor of Gary Baldi Donna Fredericks

In Honor of Ed Sarna Mary E. Stevenson

In Honor of Shannon Jackson Arnold Michael Arnold

In Honor of the B & S R Family Linda Olson

In Honor of Eli & Bradley Julia Johnson

In Honor of David Maclean Sherley Maclean

In Honor of Warren & Mary Popa Jeff & Kathy Amann

In Honor of Ginger Jason and Sarah Froehner

In Honor of Denise Thomas Christopher Knuteson

In Honor of Ugugu Valerie Bridges

In Honor of Ginger Rafkind Nkem Chineme

In Memory of Kellie Sanders & Jenni Kapanen Birthday Emily Hipp

In Honor Robert Andre on his christening day Susan Derby

Merry Christmas Paul & Gloria Mayer Lisa Gerondale

# WINC's Mission: ANIMAL CARE

# "Griller" A Shocking Story of Survival

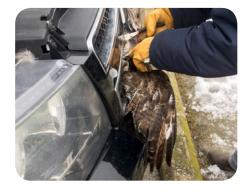
On February 20th 2018 WINC received a call from staff at Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) that they had helped to rescue an adult Red-tailed Hawk that was stuck in the grille of a vehicle. You can see by the pictures included in this article that they weren't kidding. Someone was driving down highway 16 near I-94 going 70/mph when they struck the hawk (for safety reasons, there was no way they could have avoided the collision). They continued their drive to work (a 20 minute drive) only to have a coworker realize after they parked that there was a hawk stuck in their grille! When that kind of blunt force trauma happens, our staff does not expect to have good news after completing our initial exam.

When the hawk arrived our trained staff did a full exam and radiographs do determine the extent of its injuries. We were all shocked by the results. The hawk had not major fractures on his wings or legs. His radiographs showed internal trauma with swelling around his intestines and he had a laceration near the base of his tail...that was it! With those surprising results, staff was cautiously optimistic that we were going to be able to rehab this hawk to release.

His treatment plan included pain medications,



Rescue photos taken by the finders







Above: Less internal swelling on February 26th Below: "Griller" perching



anti-inflammatory meds, and wound treatments to his laceration.

We were pleased when after only 3 days in care, "Griller" was eating on his own and perching – both great signs that he was on the mend. On the fourth day in care we re-took radiographs to monitor his intern trauma, we were pleased to see swelling was going down. After 10 days in care he was able to move to a small outdoor enclosure after final radiographs confirmed all swelling had healed. In the small enclosure we continued to help him reach a healthy weight and completed treatments on his wound near his tail.

After a week in the small outdoor enclosure and nearly three weeks of total care, "Griller" moved to our large flight enclosure to prepare for release. He conditioned for one week allowing him to gain flight muscle strength. Nearly one month after admission we arranged for "Griller's" release back to the wild. WINC staff, volunteers, HAWS staff and news crews all attending his release and it was perfect. He flew out and perched on a tree for a few minutes, before taking off to the sky and soaring off to freedom. These moments are what all the hard work is all about!

Story by Mandy Feavel

# WINC'S MISSION: EDUCATION

# Farewell to Alex, Hello Madilyn

In late February, our Education Coordinator for the past three years, Alex Schlecht, shared some bittersweet news with the WINC team: she would be stepping down from her position at the end of April, as her husband was unexpectedly offered his dream job out of state. Although she was not ready to leave WINC, her husband had been so supportive of her career for many years and this was an opportunity for their family they were not able to turn down. We were very excited for her, her husband, and this new adventure, but sad to see her leave.

Alex had been a part of our organization for many years, holding a variety of positions. However, she had absolutely excelled as our Education Coordinator, and worked tirelessly to continue to improve and expand our education department. Enhancing our programming and care and enrichment to our ambassadors had been her focus, and she has been an inspiration through her dedication to educate our community about Wisconsin wildlife. Her perpetual smile and incredibly kind heart made her an amazing team member, coworker and friend, and we wish her the very best as she starts a new chapter in her life!





Maddi Williams, our new Education Coordinator two of our Educational Ambassadors, Chloe (left) and Chase (right)

Finding a new Education Coordinator to step in was no easy feat, but after an exhaustive search we would like to enthusiastically welcome and introduce Madilyn Williams (shown in picture above)! Madilyn, or Maddi, as she also likes to be called, recently graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Forest and Wildlife Ecology. She also earned certificates in Education and Educational Services and Environmental Studies. During her college career, she added to her impressive resume working as a Development Intern at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, and as a Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern at the Dane County Humane Society Wildlife Center. She is excited to apply much of what she learned there to her new professional career as our Education Coordinator.

In her spare time, Maddi loves to enjoy time outdoors, and will never pass up an opportunity to spend time by the water. She has always had a love for animals (both household pets and wildlife alike), and it is no wonder her education interests and path in life have led her to this position. We would like to welcome Maddi aboard and look forward to her continued development of our Education Department!

Story By Angela Nirk

#### What's the BUZZ?

#### Remembering Special People

In Honor of Nola Tylke, Happy Birthday! Ryan McGuire

In Honor of Kellie Sanders & Jenni Kapanen, Our Generous Friends Emily Hipp

In Honor of Baby Krause (Kate Krause's Baby) Mary Jo Tietz

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In Honor of Robby & Eliana Lezama Richard & Nancy Coon

In Honor of my sister, Sally Harthun, one of your volunteers

Donna Herschleb

In Honor of Jennifer Lamb Jessica Masik

In Honor of Alvin Sellers Robin Bolin

In Honor of Elsie & Lucas Bridget McMahon

In Honor of Johnny Shapiro's 2nd Birthday

Cassandra Sajkowski Mary Jo Shapiro Paul Matson Colleen Topel

Supports the lifelong passion of my beautiful daughter Rachel Batcher Jeffery Batcher

In Honor of Kylene McVicar Tammy Chatman

In Honor of Tom Roberts for Father's Day Lisa & John Draves

In Memory of Claudia A. Curry Glenda Dolphin

In Memory of our daughter & sister,
Courtney Lehmann

Russ & Teresa Lehmann Samantha Gast

In Memory of Joe Boeck Carol Boeck

In Memory of Hannah Kohls Joan Grunewald

In Memory of Wendy Drefahl David & Gayle Manore Barbara Lusky Alexandra Goddard

In Memory of Angie Robert & Sandra Perkins

In Memory of Robert O. & Marion Schlytter Robert B. Schlytter - The ROS

Foundation Susan L. Riordan - The ROS Foundation

#### What's the BUZZ?

#### Remembering Special People

In Memory of Audrey Keller Denise Higgins

In Memory of Louise Ott Van Antwerpen Lisa & Thomas Read

In Memory of Jeff Suhr Stanley & Carla Laasch Robert & Kimberly Suhr John Meyer

In Memory of Debby Kettner Dale & Lynn Oldenburg

In Memory of Missy Lester & Carol Schuett

In Memory of Judith Ann Propp Leonard & Ruth Schacht

In Memory of Shirley J. Thomsen Sandra & Lawrence Russell

In Memory of John M Kinierski The Members of Staff of Laborers Local No. 113 Dave Weber Shelly Anderson Laura Timmers Kimberly Putz

Dousman Masonic Lodge 315

In Memory of Benoni Sweet Mary M. Milbrath

In Memory of my father Barbara Gutmann

In Memory of Sam - a good dog lean Kranendonk

In Memory of Mazzie, our canine companion for 18 years Ronald Day

In Memory of Barb & Bob Richards Cheryl Matteson



Save the Date Feathers in Focus: A Raptor Photography **Experience** 

October 6th, 2018 9:00 pm - 11:00 am

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to photograph our 5 Raptor Ambassadors in a natural environment. Watch our website and Facebook for updates!

## DAPHNE'S DISPATCH

# "Exciting Partnerships to Help Waukesha County Animals"

44% of the 100,000 people who did not evacuate Hurricane Katrina stayed because they didn't want to leave their pets behind, according to a report by the Fritz Institute quoted on CNN. 63% of U.S. households own a pet according to the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA). Agency Recognizing these facts and their consequences, 2006 Congress 3858, H.R. passed the Pets Evacuation Transportation and Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act). The PETS Act authorizes FEMA to provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals, and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency. In turn FEMA oversees state, county, and municipalities meeting these needs. Waukesha County Emergency Management wanted to add an animal component to their existing human emergency sheltering plan. In early 2017, Wildlife In Need Center, Elmbrook Humane Society, and Humane Animal Welfare Society began meeting with Waukesha County Emergency Management to come up with a plan to help domestic animals and wildlife in a declared emergency situation. In research we did not find many examples of plans

> governments use Incident Command System (ICS) integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications within operating organizational common structure. So we worked

> > within these guidelines to

create a plan to care for

animals in Waukesha County.

It has been a big task to try

like this. County, state, and federal

to consider all the circumstances and how we would deal with them. Daphne, The Muscovy Nearing completion of our plan, we hope that we never have to utilize our plan. Animals are a part of our families and our environment. I want to applaud Waukesha County for undertaking this project to care for animals in our

communities



WINC

#### **How Can You Help?**

Become a member!

Become an Wildlife Animal Champion, monthly donor member.

Think of WINC in your estate planning, and become a member of the Dakota Society.

Good Harvest Market in Pewaukee gives an EcoToken to shoppers who bring a reusable bag. Shoppers donate those tokens to local nonprofits at the store. WINC receives 10 cents per token.

Bring us your grocery receipts from Albrecht's Sentry in Delafield, BKT Sentry in Waukesha, and Piggly Wiggly in Hartland and Oconomowoc. We turn them in for a portion of the totals.

Get a Kwik Trip Rewards Card and have your rebate go to WINC. Kwik Trip donates an additional 1% too.

Use www.smile.amazon when shopping. It's all your benefits at Amazon, designate the Wildlife In Need Center as your charity of choice, and we will receive a portion of your purchases.

Check with your employer to see if they match charitable donations.

And don't forget your local wildlife. Freshwater is important in the summer. Be sure to put out fresh clean water daily.

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# **VOLUNTEERS**

#### Behind the Scenes Heroes



Sherri Meilke, Animal Care Volunteer feeding an Eastern Grey Squirrel

The behind the scenes heroes who do so much of the work here at WINC are our wonderful Animal Care Volunteers. These volunteers prepare foods and feed patients, clean and reset cages, handle patients for staff to do wound care, physical therapy, or medications, do the mountains of dirty laundry and dishes our patients create, and hand-feed babies. Most volunteers come for one 4.5 hour shift a week. We train people 18 years and older how to care for wildlife. After an orientation, people who want to work hands-on with the animals then do four shadow shifts training with one of our experienced mentor volunteers. They work through a training checklist showing how to read the animal care charts, where things are, and how to handle animals for their safety and the animals' safety. Each patient has a chart with detailed instructions on what foods and quantities they should have, what types of food and water bowls, what sort of cage furnishings (bedding, nest supports, hammocks, hide boxes, enrichment perches, materials), what time(s) patient should be fed, and any medications, medical treatments, or physical therapies the animal needs. Volunteers chart whether foods were eaten or not, whether animals

passed urine or feces and consistency. Poop tells us a lot about the health of an animal and scatological discussions occur regularly at WINC. If volunteers see any signs of problems with patients, they tell Animal Care staff who will check the patient. Animal Care staff review charts and re-examine animals on a scheduled basis, and update the charts based on these evaluations. Animal Care volunteers help prepare outdoor prerelease caging for the patients getting ready to go outdoors. It's so fun to put patients in outdoor pre-release caging. Babies explore their new environment. Adult patients stretch and become more active, building up their strength after their hospital stay to prepare for release. Then release! Getting those animals back to the wild is the awesome reward for all the hard work we do in their care. Watching juvenile gray squirrels or raccoons climb a tree looking for the roof of the cage, only to discover with excitement there is no roof! Watching an adult raptor return to the skies, maybe see a mate rise up to meet her in the air! Watch a turtle slip into the cool deep water of their lake after months, maybe more than a year of care for a broken shell! These are the dreams our Animal Care volunteers make come true every day. If you want to see and help wildlife, come to our next adult volunteer orientation.

#### Story By Lisa Rowe



Amy Shepstone feeding goslings



# Welcome Misy Conrady!

Misy joined the WINC team in March 2018 as Marketing and Administrative Assistant. She graduated from the University of Milwaukee with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Geography. Her nonprofit includes working experience with adults with special needs and increasing food security within the inner city. Misy enthusiastically jumped in answering phones providing wildlife consultations. She likes to take walks through nature and watch the squirrels at the bird feeder outside her window.

If you have questions about membership or fundraising events, email mconrardy@ helpingwildlife.org.

In 2019 the Wildlife In Need Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary!

Watch our website and your mailbox for celebration information.





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

www.helpingwildlife.org



# **CALENDAR 2018-2019**

### August, 2018

Tuesday, August 7th 6:30–8:00pm Adult Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

Wednesday, August 15th 6:00–8:00pm Meet and Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

#### September, 2018

Wednesday, September 12th 6:30-8:00pm Adult Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

Saturday September 29th 4:00 pm-8:00pm Spaghetti Dinner Lions Club, 235 N. Main St. Dousman, WI 53118

### October, 2018

Saturday, October 6th, 9:00 am—11:00 am
Feathers in Focus: A Raptor Photography Experience
Wildlife In Need Center

Friday, October 26th, 6:00–9:30pm Annual Fine Wine and Dine A Journey Along The Oregon Trail Westmoor Country Club 400 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

#### November 2018

Tuesday, November 27th, All day—Midnight Giving Tuesday, Wildlife In Need Center

#### December 2018

Saturday, December 1st, 10:00 am –12:00pm Holiday Meet and Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

## February 2019

Saturday, February 9th, 1:00pm-3:00pm Whoo Loves Wildlife, Meet and Greet Wildlife In Need Center

#### March, 2019

Sunday, March 24th, 8:00 am–1:00 pm
Pancake Breakfast
Lions Club, 235 N. Main St
Dousman, WI 53118

## April, 2019

Saturday, April 6th, 5:30 pm-9:00 pm 25th Annual Banquet The Legend, I Legend Way Wales, WI 53183