

Wildlife Tracks



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

2019 Issue II

Wildlife In Need Center
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WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

An Eagle's Fight for Freedom

Early July, WINC admitted a Bald Eagle that was brought to us by a DNR wildlife biologist who followed up on a report about an eagle who was hit alongside highway 60. When the eagle arrived, at WINC, trained staff completed an initial exam and noticed, almost immediately, that it was not standing nor using its feet appropriately.

Upon further examination, the following issues were discovered: he was very thin, had minor abrasions along his beak and wings, and x-rays revealed a large bone in his digestive system from a large prey item. After a quick trip to the vet, our treatment plan included x-rays every other day to monitor the digestion of the bone, anti-inflammatories to help with inflammation and pain, and gavage or hand feedings to increase body weight.



Bald Eagle in tree after release

The bone was digested quickly but his motor skills in his legs and feet were not improving as quickly as we hoped. After two weeks in a small enclosure, including hand-feedings up to three times a day, staff decided it was time to move him into something bigger.

The eagle indeed thrived in a larger space! Not only did he start eating on his own but he also started using his lower extremities more appropriately. He was moved to our large flight enclosure where he fine-tuned his motor skills by practicing hunting with live fish, and continued re-conditioning for flight. After weeks of practice, he was ready to return to his home. On October 25th, he was released back to the same location he was found, where he will continue his legacy in the wild!

Story By Alexa Cushman



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.

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Jen Watton	Bookkeeper

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WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

Meet Marcy!

We are excited to share the news about our newest educational ambassador to join our education team: Marcy, the Virginia Opossum!

Marcy came to the Wildlife in Need Center as a patient on July 25th, 2019 with a right eye injury and severe head trauma. She was found on the side of the road in Nashotah, Wisconsin (she's a local girl). Unfortunately, Marcy was most likely hit by a car herself or her mother was hit and she suffered secondary injuries. Born in the spring of 2019, Marcy is a first-year Virginia Opossum and is non-releasable due to permanent eye damage, leaving her blind in her right eye.

WINC's Education Department has been hoping to add an additional mammal to the team for some time, so our staff and volunteers are thrilled to have Marcy! As a Virginia Opossum, this species is our only marsupial in North America, which is why we chose the name Marcy. This mammal is so often misunderstood and overlooked in the wild but unbeknownst to many people, opossums are miniature superheroes.

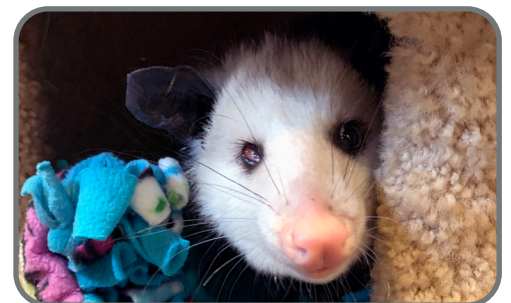
Here are a few incredibly interesting opossum facts:

- Researchers have said that a single opossum can kill and eat some 5,000 ticks in one season, which can drastically reduce the spread of tick-borne illnesses.
- Opossums frequently eat pests like cockroaches, rats, and mice that can also be carriers of infectious disease.
- The Virginia opossum is resistant to snake venom, making these venomous animals a good source of food.
- The Virginia opossum has one of the lowest risks for developing and spreading rabies because their low body temperature (94° to 97° F) makes it difficult for the rabies virus to replicate within the opossum's body.

We have been working with Marcy on a daily basis to help in her socialization process, preparing her new enclosure at WINC, introducing her to all of our volunteers and making sure she is education-program ready. She made her first educational debut at WINC's first annual Hallo-WINC event, where she was quite the hit!

We're looking forward to Marcy's future as an educational ambassador! Welcome Marcy!

Story by Alex Schlecht



FROM THE DIRECTORS

Kim Banach, Executive Director

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary Year



Wayne Grandy, Mike Guzniczak, Holly and Greg Schlenvogt at our spring banquet



Kim Banach and Pamela Roeming at our 25th Anniversary Celebration at WINC

For those of you who are associated with WINC for any of the past 25 years, we are kindred spirits.

Early last year, WINC's volunteers and staff began planning our 25th anniversary 2019 celebration. Now that this year is almost over, I can't believe how fast it went and how supportive you all have been – through the decades.

Captured below are some highlights. Earlier this year, both our board and staff agreed on a training program for our raptor ambassadors, utilizing operant training which you will learn about on pg 5. This year in March, WINC invited expert Mike Billington from The Raptor Center in Minnesota, to train our staff during an informative four day seminar. Progress has commenced with ambassador training since then.

Our annual spring Banquet held at the Legend at Brandybrook featured a look back at the first 25 years. It was fun to see past and present supporters unite as well as our Hero's. A big thanks to Nancy Meier for being our banquet chair and to our sponsor, the We Energies Foundation.

July 20th was an all-day 25th anniversary celebratory event held at WINC featuring something for all ages with a picture on the pg 6 sidebar. Cheers to our staff and amazing 25th anniversary committee for making this day a success. We were fortunate to have a special visit from Founder Nancy Frank and Founding Board Member now President, Wayne Grandy! Thanks to our VIP sponsor, Waukesha State Bank a constant supporter of our mission.

In October the 7th Fine Wine and Dine was held at Westmoor Country Club, which was emceed by Toya Washington, and provided important funding for WINC's mission. Thank you to our elite sponsors von Briesen & Roper s.c. and Associated Bank.

During our busiest days this past summer, our WINC team cared for 720 patients in our wildlife hospital. Notably, our busiest day in 2019 was June 17 when we admitted 128 patients. Delivering the medical care required and the best animal welfare is possible through our incredible volunteers and professional staff – funded by YOUR donations. Our mobile wildlife education team delivers 160 programs each year, and this year combined with media presentations we have reached over 118,000 people.

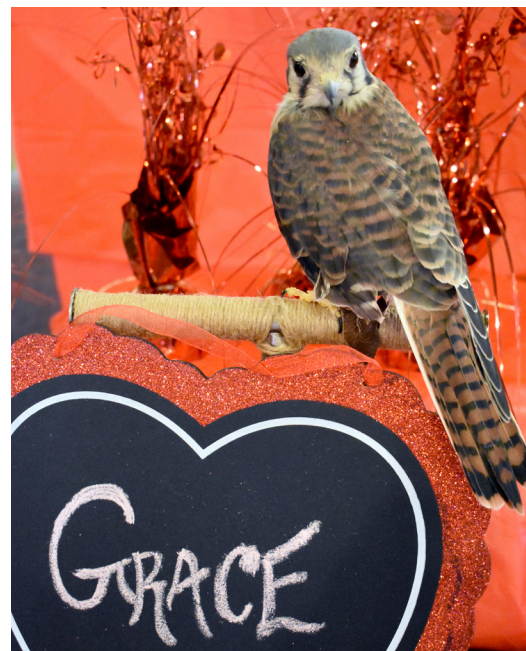
As we think about the next 25 years, I'd like to ask each of you how will we each make a difference for WINC? Our community and our wild neighbors thank all friends of WINC. We could not do it without YOU!

Story By Kim Banach



Whoos Loves Wildlife?

If you love wildlife, don't miss out meeting Chloe the Eastern Screech Owl and fellow Educational Ambassadors at WINC on February 8th from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Guests can see the 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 up close.





Welcome Kim and Alexa!

This year we welcomed two new and a returning staff member!

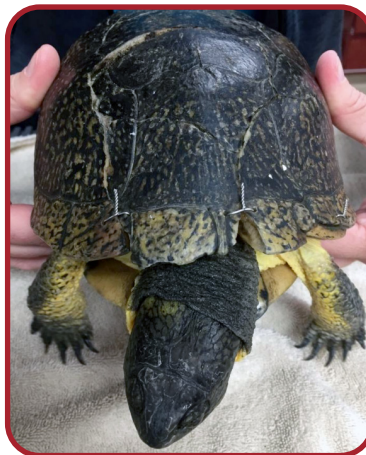
Kim Banach (pictured above) is a familiar face at WINC serving on the board since 2013 and as board president for the last 5 years. Kim became a volunteer in 2009 with her son Jared, as a baby bird feeder and continued as an Animal Care volunteer.

Alexa Cushman (pictured below) started as a full-time Animal Care Staff member in March of 2019. She has a degree in Wildlife Ecology and minors in both Biology and Captive Wildlife Management. She has worked in zoos, nature centers, along with multiple fellowships and internships doing wildlife rehabilitation. More recently, Alexa has been in charge of the avian rehabilitation program at The Abilene Zoo in Abilene, TX before starting her position here at WINC.



WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

1,248 Days. WINC's Longest Patient



Top left: Cerclage wire drilling into the carapace to secure the shell pieces
Bottom left: WINC's longest patient sunning herself (caption?)



Top right: Dental epoxy used to stabilize the plastron fracture
Bottom right: Removal and reattachment of epoxy to monitor healing

On October fourth of 2019, we released our longest term patient to date. A three year residency made this adult Blanding's Turtle a constant focus for our Rehabilitation team and we learned a lot along the way!

The Blanding's Turtle was admitted on May fourth of 2016 after being struck by a vehicle while crossing the highway in the town of Erin. Our initial exam revealed a carapace (the back shell) fracture and a skull fracture. Due to the severity of the shell fracture, we immediately knew we were going to call in our veterinarian, Dr. Nicki Mueller, to help us repair the visible damage. Knowing that Blanding's Turtles are labeled as a species of special concern in Wisconsin by the DNR, we were prepared to pull out all the stops.

The first visits to the vet went smoothly, with cerclage wire drilling into the carapace to secure the shell pieces. It was on the third visit, a routine recheck, that we received an unwelcome surprise. Missed on her initial exam and two previous visits to the vet, was a plastron fracture (bottom shell)! Initially concealed by intact scutes (the bony external plates of the turtle's shell) and made visible with time, this fracture was of great concern. Blanding's Turtles are a "semi-box" species.

That means that their plastron contains a hinge that allows the shell to move. This hinge makes stabilizing fractures challenging. Our first attempts to stabilize the fracture failed and the shell was beginning to show signs of necrosis. It was time to get creative!

Dr. Mueller teamed-up with her father, a dentist, and combined their skills to develop a novel technique to stabilize the plastron fracture using a dental epoxy. This epoxy is designed to maintain its strength in a wet environment, like a human mouth, making it an ideal solution for a turtle's plastron which will be constantly submerged.

Over the course of over a dozen trips to the veterinarian, multiple removals and reattachment of the epoxy to monitor the healing beneath, daily medications- all spanning 1,248 days- the Blanding's Turtle is now healed and home! With the help of the Wisconsin DNR, a professor at UW Madison, and the owners of an amazing release site, the Blanding's Turtle has a radio transmitter affixed to her shell. Now our staff can continue to monitor the Blanding's Turtle post-release to ensure she successfully re-acclimates to the wild.

Story by Mitch Ruiz

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

Raptor Training Initiative

It is with great pleasure that I am writing about WINC's newest raptor program initiative with our educational raptor ambassadors. As some of you may know, most of our educational raptor ambassadors (Dakota, Sova, Raenah and Grace) have taken a break, for the time being, from their educational outreach to focus on their training.

What type of training you may ask? Operant conditioning training is a type of learning that increases or decreases the probability of a behavior recurring based on the subsequent consequences. Positive reinforcement is an example of operant conditioning most commonly used with raptors; this same type of training is used when you call your dog and positively reinforce them with a treat for coming when called.



Top left: Grace trained for daily weigh-ins
Bottom left: Alex Schlecht target training with Raenah



Right: Daily weights is crucial in operant training
Kim Banach with Raenah

Why do raptors need this type of training? In order for our educational raptor ambassadors to accompany our Wildlife Educators on education programs, they need to be properly glove trained. This means that the bird will willingly, safely and comfortably perch on our gloved hand while helping us educate the public about their species. Operant conditioning helps the trainers develop a special relationship based on trust and respect with our fellow raptor educators and it allows the bird to make a choice based on positive past experiences and improves their overall quality of life.

Our staff at the Wildlife in Need Center have gone through professional training themselves regarding operant conditioning training and we feel that this new initiative will only enhance our education programs and most importantly, the livelihood of our beloved educational raptor ambassadors.

As WINC's Raptor Training Specialist, my focus will be on overseeing the training of our educational raptor ambassadors, as well as implementing and executing the training plans that our staff develop. I am thrilled to be back on staff at WINC in this new role!

Story By Alex Schlecht



Welcome back Alex!

Alex began volunteering at WINC in 2010. She was an animal care intern in 2014, then hired as a part-time Wildlife Educator. In 2015, Alex became WINC's Education Coordinator and held this position until the spring of 2018. It was then that a new job for her husband relocated them for just over a year but after coming back home to Wisconsin, she returned to WINC as our Raptor Training Specialist and Wildlife Educator in the summer of 2019. Alex has degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Conservation and Ecology.

Save the Date Annual Banquet

Saturday, April 25th, 2020
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

The Legend
1 Legend Way
Wales, WI 53183



Tom Roberts, Nancy Frank, and Wayne Grandy at WINC's 25th Anniversary Celebration

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.

Scan the QR Code below with your smart phone camera to be taken to our "Remembering Special People" webpage.



*A big thank you
to the Kenneth
A. Scott
Charitable Trust!*



**KENNETH A. SCOTT
CHARITABLE TRUST**

*In April 2019, WINC
received a grant of
\$7,500 for its
education program!*



DAPHNE'S DISPATCH

From April thru September we admitted 3,009 patients. Animal Care staff and volunteers were so busy this summer sometimes it interfered with my nap schedule. Those days I would go back by Mandy's desk for some quiet space. Some admission numbers from summer: 505 Eastern Cottontail rabbits, 321 Common Snapping Turtle eggs (harvested from deceased females, laid here by patients, or dug up at construction sites), 231 Eastern Gray Squirrels, 184 American Robins, 163 mallards (kind of cute guys even if they are not Muscovy), and 117 Virginia Opossum. We are always looking for release sites for wildlife. While adult animals usually go back where they came from, the babies we raise would be finding their own territories. If you have property or know someone who does, we have release site forms on our website and in the office.



Check out WINC's gift shop this holiday season!

I strolled out to the gift shop the other day when a volunteer propped the door open to mop and we have a new shipment of clothing. The last order of 25th anniversary clothing is here, a new order of our regular logo of warm sweatshirts and fleece too. We have some new plush animals and a new line of jewelry for sale. Think of WINC for your holiday shopping. Check out our Donation Station - from \$1 to feed an amphibian patient for a week to \$500 surgery to repair a fractured wing on a bird of prey - we have forms you can give that describe what your donation of a variety of monetary levels can do for wildlife at WINC. We also have Adoption packages - your adoption donation will provide the monetary support for the medical supplies, food, shelter and trained staff among other things, to help one more of our real wild patients return to the wild. \$25 per adoption includes personalized certificate and 8x10 photo. Adoptions are also available on our website.

How Can You Help?

Become a member!

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.

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, 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.

You can bring your used Christmas trees to WINC. Just take all the decorations off and no tinsel. We use them in outdoor caging to provide perches, shelter, and windbreaks

And don't forget your local wildlife. Water is hard to find in winter. Consider a heated bird bath or water bowl or just put out a shallow container of water on warm days for your local wildlife. Your wild neighbors will appreciate it!

VOLUNTEERS

Non-traditional Volunteer Opportunities at WINC



*Sign up to be a release site for Grey Squirrels, song birds, or other wildlife!
Left photo credit: Shadow Dog Photography*

While many of our volunteers come every week to WINC, we have opportunities for volunteers who can't commit to a regular shift. Gardeners, we have beautiful gardens around WINC that need maintenance. Or you could plant a row for wildlife in your garden. Whether its spring or summer we, cannot get enough salad greens for all the waterfowl and cottontail patients. We also need berries for all the young songbirds we raise. Just about any excess produce you have, WINC's patients would eat year round. We need people to pick up donations of foods and items for transport to WINC. We have various events throughout the year and we need help before, during, and after these events. We have bake sales at some of our events and would love bakers to make their favorite goodies. For our Holiday Meet & Greet on December 7th and the Spaghetti Dinner January 18th we need setup volunteers and bakers. Does cleaning make your day? We need volunteers to help with non-animal cleaning – washing windows, cleaning the people-food kitchen, office, gift shop, and classroom. Do you knit or crochet? We have plans for nest liners for rehab baby birds and some darling patterns for animal hats and gloves that are popular winter items in the gift shop. Are you a crafter or artist? We are always looking for donations to sell at fundraisers or in our gift shop. If you love to shop and wonder what to do with your plunder? We are always looking for auction item donations – items do not have to be wildlife related. Finally, we do fundraising mailings a couple times a year and need help folding letters, stuffing and sealing envelopes, and labeling envelopes for mailing. Are you a professional who would be willing to donate your service occasionally? Do you enjoy watching wildlife but don't have the time to volunteer? You can volunteer your property as a release site. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these ways, please call or email WINC. We can all work together to help wildlife!

Story By Lisa Rowe



Holiday Meet and Greet

Join us for a Holiday themed wildlife meet & greet event on December 7, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm – have the opportunity to see our educational ambassadors. Also– Holiday Shopping, Bake Sale, Bargain Art Sale, Hot Apple Cider and Hot Chocolate. Plus, check out our gift shop with unique wildlife themed gifts!





Wildlife In Need Center
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Calendar 2019 - 2020



December, 2019

Tuesday, December 3rd, All Day - Midnight
Giving Tuesday, Wildlife In Need Center

Saturday, December 7th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Holiday Meet & Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

January, 2020

Saturday, January 18th 4:00 pm - 7:30pm
Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Dousman Lions Club
235 N. Main St., Dousman WI

February, 2020

Saturday, February 8th, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Whoo Loves Wildlife Meet & Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

Saturday, February 15th, 10:30 am - Noon
Adult Volunteer Orientation, Wildlife In Need Center

March, 2020

Sunday, March 15th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Pancake Breakfast, Dousman Lions Club,
235 N. Main St, Dousman, WI 53118

April, 2020

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

September, 2020

Saturday, September 12th, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Wildlife In The Park, Cory Municipal Park
Dousman, WI

October, 2020

Friday, October 2nd 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm
8th Annual Fine Wine & Dine, Westmoor County Club,
400 S Moorland Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005

Saturday, October 17th, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Hallo-WINC, Wildlife In Need Center

November, 2020

Saturday, November 7th 4:00 - 7:30 pm
Spaghetti Dinner, Dousman Lions Club
235 N. Main St., Dousman, WI

December, 2020

Tuesday, December 1st All day - midnight
Giving Tuesday, Wildlife In Need Center

Saturday, December 5th 10:00 am - Noon
Holiday Meet & Greet, Wildlife In Need Center

Exciting news and events at WINC can be found on our website. Scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone camera to be taken to our website.



Friend us on WINC's Facebook! Scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone camera to be taken to our Facebook page.

