

2020 Issue II

Wildlife In Need Center
W349 SI480 S. Waterville Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
262-965-3090

www.helpingwildlife.org



What's Inside

ANIMAL CARE

*What Do Reptiles and Amphibians
Do in the Winter?* Page 1

EDUCATION

*Virtual Wildlife Education:
A Continuing Saga* Page 2

FROM THE DIRECTORS

*Tis the Season to be Grateful for
WINC's Wildlife Heroes!* Page 3

ANIMAL CARE

Lead Toxicity in Wildlife Page 4

EDUCATION

*COVID-19 and Its Impacts
on Wildlife Rehabilitation
in Wisconsin* Page 5

DAPHNE'S DISPATCH Page 6

VOLUNTEERS

*2020 Volunteering
Has Been Different at
Wildlife in Need Center* Page 7

CALENDAR Page 8

WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

What Do Reptiles and Amphibians Do in the Winter?

Reptiles do not actually hibernate, but they do become less active during cold weather. The term for this is "brumation."

Brumation is an extreme slowing down of their metabolism. They are awake, but just very lethargic so you don't see them moving around. During this time, they will find a structure beneath the ground freezing level. This structure is called a Hibernaculum which in Latin means "tent for winter quarters." These structures can be naturally forming or manmade.

When it's starting to cool down in the fall reptiles will move back to the previous year's hibernaculum. Unfortunately, if a sudden cold snap catches them before they get there, they may die if not fortunate enough to find a suitable secondary den.



*Snakes emerging from
a Hibernaculum*

A number of species may share the same hibernaculum. For example, black rat snakes, timber rattlesnakes and copperheads commonly den together. Sometimes there can be over 100 snakes brumating in one hibernaculum.

Other terrestrial reptiles, such as turtles, frogs, and toads, are also remarkably adaptable in dealing with the winter's challenges.

Turtles and toads brumate too by digging their way down beneath the leaf litter, under logs, or by making dens and burrows keeping them below the frost level.

They, too, slow their metabolism to conserve energy, which is the key to survival during harsh winter for these ectotherms.

Story By Kori Cotteleer

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

Wayne Grandy	President
Thomas DeMers	Vice President
Shane Roeber, JD	Secretary
Lou Banach	Treasurer
Holly Schlenvogt	Past President
Dean Pipito	Director
Lynn Wilde	Director
Sara Ellenberger, DVM	Director
Bridgett Brown	Director
Gottlieb John Marmet, JD	Director
Annette Wallace	Director
Rick Nicolai	Director
Barbara Muir	Director
Heather Merewood	Director
John Rupke, JD	Director

Wildlife In Need Center Staff

Kim Banach	Executive Director
Lisa Rowe	Director of Operations & Wildlife Rehabilitator
Debbie Verhalen	Marketing and Administrative Assistant
Alexa Cushman	Mammal Nursery Manager & Intern Coordinator
Kori Cotteleer	Animal Care Staff
Erin Toohey	Wildlife Educator
Rylann Williams	Education Assistant & Scheduler
Judy Dollhopf	Clerical Assistant
Jen Watton	Bookkeeper

Wildlife In Need Center Advisory Board

Mike Guzniczak
Harry Muir, PhD

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

Virtual Wildlife Education: A Continuing Saga

In our last issue, we discussed the birth of our virtual programming lineup. Since then, our virtual programs have taken its first steps, grown and developed into something we are very proud of here at the Wildlife in Need Center. Virtual Programs have played a key role in continuing the education part of our mission to people, both near and far.

Some of the virtual programs we offer include:

Virtual School Field Trips: Our virtual school field trips are a fun, interactive experience and a great way to keep students connected! Our virtual field trips incorporate many of the core ideas of the Life Science discipline of the Next Generation Science Standards, and we are also happy to work with teachers on tailoring a program to focus on a particular area of study. Students will get a chance to meet our live educational ambassadors, learn about their species and talk about ways everyone can be a hero to wildlife! Programs are most suitable for students ages 7 and older.

Scout Programs: Even virtually, we offer programs for both Girl and Boy Scouts. For Girl Scouts, we offer many programs that tailor to specific badges. Our general program is also a fun and includes informative activity you could present at your next Boy Scout meeting. Our program can be tailored to your needs and could be used as an introduction to some of the environmental merit badges.

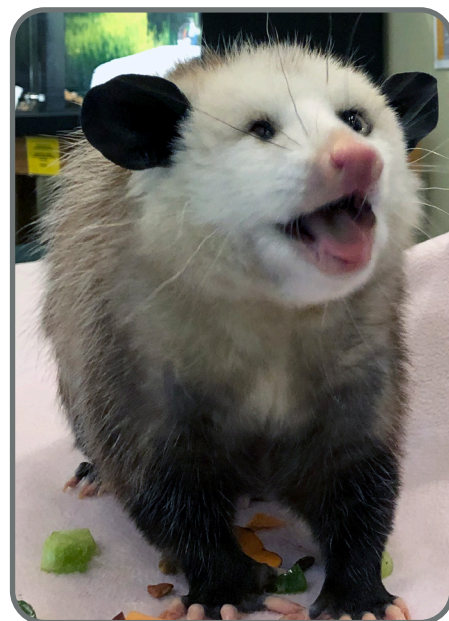
Wildlife at Work: Invite one of our ambassadors to join your next virtual staff meeting! We will quickly introduce you to the Wildlife In Need Center and our mission, and then we'll spend the remaining time focusing on the ambassador, their story and why their species is important! Questions, of course, are highly encouraged!

Special Occasions: We can join your next virtual family get-together, birthday party or happy hour with friends! We'll briefly discuss our mission at the Wildlife In Need Center, then we'll focus on our ambassador. We'll discuss their story and natural history, and answer any questions you may have!

Public Events: We have hosted many of our public events virtually, including our Spring Banquet, Fine Wine and Dine and our first ever HalloWINC Family Trivia. Keep an eye on our Facebook page or website for more public events coming soon!

For more information on our virtual education opportunities, visit our website at www.helpingwildlife.org and click on the "Educate" tab.

Story by Erin Toohey



Marcy the Marsupial, one of WINC's Educational Animal Ambassadors you can see on a Virtual Program

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Kim Banach, Executive Director

’Tis the Season to be Grateful for WINC’s Wildlife Heroes!



*Fine Wine & Dine Gala Boxes being delivered by Debbie Verhalen, Kim Banach, and Judy Dollhoff.
A close-up of the Fine Wine & Dine Gala Boxes pictured to the right*

When the cadence of our daily life is normal, we unconsciously dismiss the amazing acts of generosity and courage that occur routinely in our families, communities and at WINC. Normalcy blinds us from amazing!

Courage, altruism and generosity are certainly more than mere characterizations. Each represents an action, a love for others which brings out the best in humanity, friends and colleagues – each and every day.

It’s in these unprecedented times of COVID-19 that we are in search of heroes. As 1980s pop rock star and animal advocate, Bonnie Tyler’s song bares: “I need a hero, I’m holding out for a hero.”

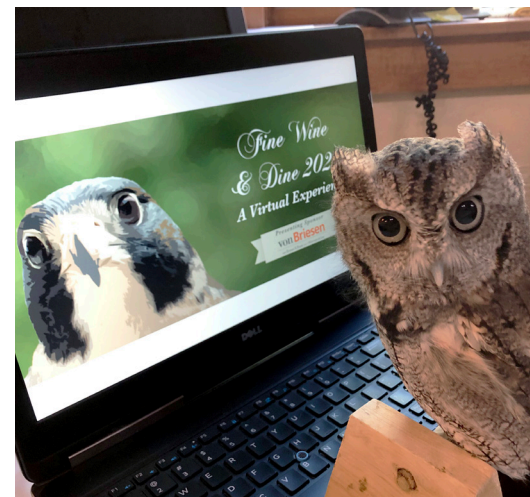
With the ongoing effects of the Pandemic during 2020, and all across our great cities and organizations, we have witnessed heroes. Courage and compassion are present in these human based organizations. So too is it present in our non-for-profit organizations, especially a wildlife rehabilitation and education organization such as WINC. Our entire team, including the Board of Directors, staff, interns, and volunteers - all who come together to serve WINC’s mission - are heroes. All of you who have rescued the wildlife that need help and bring them to WINC for care are heroes. All of our individual donors, foundations, charitable funds and those who donate to support WINC’s mission are heroes.

We need to look no further than to WINC to answer Bonnie Tyler’s lyrics in search of a hero. WINC doesn’t need to look beyond its altruistic team to recognize heroes. They are indeed strong, committed and our treasure - during these abnormal times. One more time - Thank you to our heroes!

Story By Kim Banach

WINC’s Virtual Fine Wine & Dine

Thank you to all who attended and donated to our Virtual Fine Wine & Dine. With all your support, we raised \$30,000 to carry on our mission!



Chloe the Eastern Screech Owl getting excited for the Virtual Fine Wine and Dine!

WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE



Welcome Kori!

We want to introduce you to our newest staff member, Kori Cotteleer! Kori started as an Animal Care Staff member mid-August. She graduated from Iowa State University in 2015 with a degree in Animal Ecology; pre-veterinary and wildlife care AND just graduated from Penn Foster College with an associates degree in Veterinary Technology! Kori has done Wildlife Rehab in a variety of settings and she has spent her last 3 years working in veterinary clinics. She is excited to use her vet tech skill set as she jumps back into Wildlife Rehabilitation at WINC. Welcome to the team Kori!

Northern Saw-whet Owl re-nested



Lead Toxicity in Wildlife

Every year WINC admits patients suffering from lead toxicity. Currently, in Wisconsin the use of lead shot is illegal when hunting waterfowl and dove on public lands; however, lead shot is still legal for use hunting upland game birds and deer. Despite a decline in use of lead shot, a significant amount of "historic" lead remains in the environment today and has a detrimental effect on Wisconsin's wildlife.

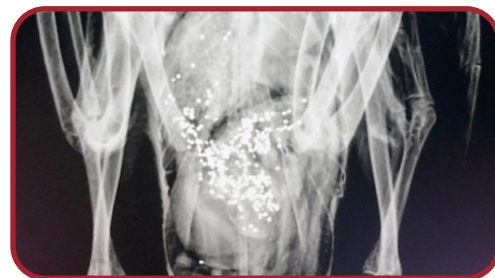
Wildlife can present with lead toxicity in two ways: acute versus chronic. Acute lead toxicity is caused when an animal ingests lead from a food source but no heavy metal is visible in the digestive tract on radiograph. Acute toxicity typically occurs in Eagles and other scavenger species like Turkey Vultures and Virginia Opossums. On the other hand, chronic lead poisoning is most common in Canada Geese and the lead shot or particle sits in the gastrointestinal tract where the metal can be identified on radiograph.

Lead toxicity is the result of lead breakdown in the digestive tract followed by absorption into the bloodstream. Once lead is absorbed into the bloodstream, symptoms develop. Wildlife affected by lead toxicity typically present with neurological issues, green feces, cropstasis (inability of food to move through the crop), facial swelling, neck swelling, and in chronic cases, emaciation. If an animal presents with any of these symptoms, or if metal is found on radiograph, staff at WINC draw blood and perform a lead test to confirm toxicity.

When lead toxicity is confirmed, staff initiate supportive care immediately. If the patient has lead present in their digestive tract, the lead must be removed by surgical extraction or lavage to prevent further absorption into the patient's bloodstream.

Following physical removal of the lead particle, chelation therapy is started to ensure the heavy metal is extracted fully.

For many patients suffering from lead toxicity, the first 48 hours are critical. Despite poor prognosis in some cases of lead toxicity, WINC is able to release recovered patients back into the wild every year. Staff at WINC always do their best to right the harm caused to wildlife by human activity. Hopefully, through WINC's educational efforts, more Wisconsinites will be informed about the adverse effects of lead in the environment on Wisconsin's native wildlife.



X-Ray of a Goose showing lead in its G.I. Tract



Eagle being tube-fed critical care diet



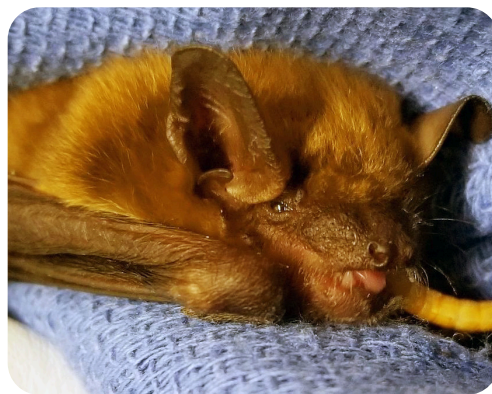
Turkey Vulture recovering from a blood draw for lead testing

WINC's Mission: EDUCATION

COVID-19 and Its Impacts on Wildlife Rehabilitation in Wisconsin

The past year has had a huge impact on everyone. Many businesses and services have had to change the way they operate. The world of wildlife rehabilitation has also had to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many wildlife rehabilitation centers had to make changes to the way they operate. Some centers, like us, have had to cut back on the number of volunteers they could allow in the building. These volunteers are heavily relied on at many facilities to help with the care of their patients. Limited resources this past season have forced centers to make difficult adjustments to the way they operate.



Staff have been making more attempts to reunite healthy young patients, and this baby Big Brown Bat, shown on the left, was one of those patients! On the right, is an adult Big Brown Bat that was a former patient at WINC.

Many centers adjusted its admissions process. This could include anything from limiting numbers, limiting contact between members of the public and staff, and limiting species. The Wildlife In Need Center created "winter admission hours" from 10:00am-2:00pm. Members of the public would make an appointment over the phone, give the staff or volunteer all the pertinent information and then come to our center. Staff may briefly speak with them through the window, but then they would place their patient in an outdoor steel cage and staff would come out to get it after they left.

Other changes organizations might have made is limiting the counties they accept patients from. WINC made the difficult decision and is currently only accepting patients from Waukesha, Dodge, Jefferson and Washington County.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also made adjustments to species rehabilitators are able to accept. There haven't been extensive studies on how COVID-19 affects wildlife, or on the transmission of the virus from people to animals. As a result of this lack of knowledge and to provide extra protection to Wisconsin wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources has restricted the rehabilitation of some species, including wild felids, bats, weasels, badgers and otters, among other species. This also restricts the release of patients that may have already been in the facility's care before this restriction was in place.

Even though it has been a difficult season, wildlife rehabilitators in Wisconsin have shown their passion and resiliency by continuing to give Wisconsin's sick, injured and orphaned wildlife the best care possible.



Welcome Judy!

I started at WINC as an animal care volunteer in February 2020; however, a month later the pandemic hit and limited volunteers. In August 2020 I was lucky enough to find this amazing opportunity to help the Marketing Team as an assistant. I have a passion for helping animals and feel blessed I am able to contribute to this amazing team. I was born and raised in Wisconsin and currently live in Pewaukee with my husband. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in Finance from UW-Milwaukee and worked in the financial institution industry for over 20 years. I have volunteered for Dog Rescues in the past and have three beautiful rescue mutts that I adore. I am also a full time Realtor, I love to run and truly enjoy the great outdoors!

Save the Date Annual Banquet



Save the date for the Wildlife In Need Center's Annual Banquet on Saturday April 10th, 2021. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for details.



One of WINC's symbolic adoption packages that are available for purchase at www.helpingwildlife.org/get-involved/adopt-an-animal/



Limited edition Daphne T-shirt available for purchase

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" web page.



DAPHNE'S DISPATCH

This time of year is a great time to start thinking about your holiday shopping! WINC offers symbolic adoption packages that make great gifts! (Pictured on the top left of the sidebar)

You can also make a donation to WINC in honor of that special someone and they will receive a beautiful holiday card letting them know about your gift & how your gift will provide the medical supplies, food and shelter for our wildlife patients.

One last thing before I forget...

I was surfing the web last month and saw a post on Facebook about some limited edition WINC apparel, I must say that I was impressed with the selection of tees and sweatshirts, but how does that Great Horned Owl, Dakota get all the notoriety? This Muscovy Duck is so much better looking, if I don't say so myself, and I would look **FABULOUS** on the front of those tees and sweatshirts (Pictured on the bottom left of the sidebar)! I heard the sales were very good but I bet I could do even better! Don't you agree?

It must be getting close to that time of year when everything outside turns white and cold since as I wander the halls there are fewer friends around to hand out my favorite treats...meal worms. The patient rooms seem quieter too!

Early this year it was really hopping! The volunteers, interns and staff were so busy, that I had to wander into the kitchen to remind them when it was my treat time! From January through mid-October, we admitted 2573 wildlife patients! Almost half of those patients were my kind of folks, birds, 1071 birds to be exact. The species we admitted ranged from Hummingbirds, Songbirds, and Chimney Swifts to Wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes and Raptors. Then there were the 1347 furry mammals—216 Squirrels including Eastern Gray & Fox Squirrels, Red Squirrels and Southern Flying Squirrels, 428 Eastern Cottontails, 11 Red Fox and 138 Virginia Opossums, just to name a few. There were also 148 assorted turtles, snakes, frogs and toads.

How Can You Help?

Become a Member

Use smile.amazon.com when shopping. Designate the Wildlife In Need Center as your charity of choice, and we will receive a portion of your purchases. *2020 year to date, we have received \$954.99.*

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. *Last year we received \$835.95.*

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. *2020 year to date, we received \$639.41*

Get a Kwik Trip Rewards Card and have your rebate go to WINC. Kwik Trip donates an additional 1% too. *2020 year to date, we have received \$72.31*

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

All adult wildlife patients are released back home (the area where they were rescued) but the babies do not have established homes yet. We are always looking for new properties for release sites. If you or someone you know would like to be a property release site, we have release site forms on our website. www.helpingwildlife.org/rehabilitate/wildlife-release-program

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

2020 Volunteering Has Been Different at Wildlife in Need Center



Left Photo: Animal Care Volunteers doing food prep in the kitchen
Right Photo: Alexa Cushman Mammal Nursery Manager and Produce volunteer, Doug Schutz



Volunteer Tracy Johnson painted Halloween rocks and holiday rocks for the Wildlife In Need Center



During May through September 2020 Wildlife In Need Center normally has 4-8 adult Animal Care volunteers per shift, for 3 shifts a day. Normally we have 4-6 students and adults volunteering in the Avian Nursery. But 2020 has not been a normal year. WINC canceled its Baby Bird Feeding program this year. Some volunteers decided not to volunteer once the pandemic started and we respect that decision. Everyone in the building has been wearing masks and socially distancing as much as possible. We disinfect regularly since we are an animal hospital, but we have increased our disinfection to keep people safe.

With rising COVID-19 rates, during the holidays and people trying to be with family, with reduced patient admissions, we made the difficult decision to ask most of our volunteers to not come to WINC until at least end of January. It's the safest thing for our staff and volunteers, and limiting people in the building helps staff stay well and continue to provide our mission of wildlife rehabilitation. We are planning virtual continuing education and fun Zoom meetings to stay in touch with our Animal Care volunteers.

Our volunteers continue to help WINC in other ways than Animal Care. Pat Adams, Leslie Smith, and Judith Neal have been helping office staff and the public by returning phone calls remotely to offer wildlife advice and to arrange admissions of patients. Doug and Kathy Schutz, Betty Baker, Barb Muir and Pamela Pickleman help with pick-ups of produce donated every week from local businesses. Rick Nicolai, Tom Mills, Tom Roberts, and Dan Schlenvogt have been undertaking the many maintenance tasks needed at WINC. Tracy Eckes-Johnson has been expressing her artistic talents painting rocks with summer themes, Halloween looks, and even melting snowmen for winter – and selling them and donating the money to WINC.

We miss seeing all our volunteers in person but we are eagerly waiting for the time it's safe for us all to be together again!

Story By Lisa Rowe

What's the Hoot!



In September, Debbie Verhalen launched our monthly electronic newsletter, *What's the Hoot!* We are excited to feature patient stories, wildlife education, and what's new at WINC. Stay tuned to your email for monthly happenings!



Wildlife In Need Center
W349 SI480 S. Waterville Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
262-965-3090

www.helpingwildlife.org

Calendar 2021



March, 2021

Sunday, March 14th, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Pancake Breakfast, Dousman Lions Club,
235 N. Main St, Dousman, WI 53118

April, 2021

Saturday, April 10th, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Annual Spring Banquet, The Legend,
1 Legend Way, Wales, WI 53183

May, 2021

Saturday, May 15th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

May Meet & Greet Baby Shower Event
Wildlife In Need Center

October, 2021

Saturday, October 16th 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Fine Wine and Dine, Westmoor Country Club,
400 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

November, 2021

Saturday, November 6th, 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Spaghetti Dinner, Dousman Lion's Club
235 N Main St, Dousman, WI 53118

Tuesday, November 30th, Midnight – All Day

Giving Tuesday, Wildlife In Need Center

Stay tuned to your email, WINC's Facebook, and
WINC's Website for Event Updates

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



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

