

Wildlife Tracks



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

2021 Issue I

Wildlife In Need Center
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WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

Welcome Elisa Fosco,

Wildlife In Need Center's New Director of Animal Care!

We are so excited to have Elisa join our team. Elisa has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for over 30 years working with herps, birds, and mammals. She came to us from Tennessee where she was Director of Animal Care at Walden's Puddle. Before that she was Rehabilitation Manager at Toronto Wildlife Center in Canada, Director of Animal Care at Ohio Wildlife Center, Field Biologist and Head Vet Tech at the Peregrine Fund Condor Project in Arizona, and Director of Animal Care at WildCare in California. She has such a wide range of experience with so many species to bring to our mission. Elisa is also bringing strong experience as a teacher as she has taught classes and workshops on wildlife medicine and rehabilitation in 14 countries and 5 continents at local, national, and international conferences and was an International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council instructor for 14 years. I have heard Elisa speak at several conferences on a variety of topics from volunteer management, intern



Elisa Fosco caring for a Badger at a prior wildlife rehab facility

development, answering wildlife phone calls, and a variety of animal care topics and always learned so much. Elisa said in her resume "My life's goal has been to help animals to the best of my ability, hoping to make a real difference and to have an impact on their true quality of care and more importantly, their quality of life." A special interest in release statistics and measuring how changes in rehab impact release rates have already led to changes in the way we treat some patients. It has been so enlightening to have her experience of so many other centers and her animal-eye-view at WINC. She loves to share what she knows, and staff and volunteers learn new things to help make our patients lives better every day. And you should hear the animal stories she can share from her many adventures. Elisa is a dream Animal Care Director for any rehab center. I can't tell you how excited we are that she came to WINC.

Story By Lisa Rowe

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

Tom DeMers	President
Mike Guzniczak	Vice President
Tom Roberts	Secretary
Lou Banach	Treasurer
Holly Schlenvogt	Past President
Bridgett Brown	Director
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John Rupke, JD	Director

Wildlife In Need Center Staff

Kim Banach	Executive Director
Lisa Rowe	Director of Operations & Wildlife Rehabilitator
Elisa Fosco	Director of Animal Care & Wildlife Rehabilitator
Debbie Verhalen	Administrative & Marketing Manager
Erin Toohey	Wildlife Educator
Logan Schafer	Animal Care Staff
Cherish Streit	Animal Care Staff
Judy Dollhopf	Clerical Assistant
Helen Holtz	Education Assistant & Scheduler

Wildlife In Need Center Advisory Board

Dean Pipito

WINC's MISSION: DAKOTA SOCIETY

In Loving Memory of Patricia Turner

In April 2019, the Wildlife In Need Center (WINC) and Wisconsin wildlife lost a dear friend, Patricia Ann Turner.

Patricia had rescued many animals over the years and brought them to WINC for rehabilitation. The first patient she brought into WINC was a Red-tailed Hawk, and she generously offered to fund its wing repair

surgery. Pat and her close friend Lucy were regulars at many WINC fundraising events. Patricia was a passionate animal lover that devoted her life to Schutzhund dog training. While she was known for rehabilitating problem dogs, Patricia cared about all life. "Patricia had a calming effect on all animals" as remembered by her dear friend, Lucy.

Patricia left a bequest to WINC and the fact that she remembered us in a legacy gift is so treasured. Patricia's bequest was received during the difficult year of 2020, and because of the pandemic, a critical time for our organization.'

Patricia died far too young, but because of her gift WINC was able to carry on as usual in this our 27th

year of service in a very unusual time in history—and sustain our mission. Patricia's gift will benefit to literally thousands of animals, and her lasting legacy will not be forgotten.

In her memory, WINC has named the Animal Care staff area after Patricia. We miss you Patricia Turner, but we know that all the animals in heaven have gained a loving and comforting friend.

Story by Kim Banach



Patricia Turner devoted her life to Schutzhund Dog Training



This Red-tailed hawk was the very first patient Patricia ever brought to WINC

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kim Banach, Executive Director

Grand Re-Opening and Summer Baby Shower



Left photo: Board members & Executive Director, Tom and Tatum Demers, Kim Banach, John Rupke, Holly Schlenvoght, and Tom Roberts at the Grand Re-Opening
Right photo: Alli Mueller, Evie the Eastern Fox Snake and guests at the Grand Re-Opening

The Wildlife in Need Center (WINC) celebrated its Grand Reopening & Summer Baby Shower on July 24, 2021! This event replaced our standard Spring Banquet fundraiser and was our first **in-person** event since the pandemic. WINC started accepting wildlife patients on May 16th since closing in mid-winter. WINC staff began enthusiastically planning this event soon after the WINC initiated accepting wildlife patients.

What a truly heartwarming and welcoming event that included our Educational Ambassadors on display for our guests to meet, children's games, a cupcake celebration, and behind-the-scenes tours. About 250 people attended, and it was such a joy to see everyone again – and especially the smiling faces!

While the decision to close in February was an extremely difficult, our staff and board immediately began to explore wildlife patient care options for both the short-term and the future re-opening. To help as many animals as possible Tom Roberts, a board member, spearheaded a foster program to help orphaned squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and cottontails.

During this idle time, lending a helping hand were both staff and volunteers who helped to deep clean the hospital and put a fresh coat of paint throughout in preparation for re-opening. On May 1, we welcomed a robust animal care team with three full time staff and five seasonal staff members. Office staff and volunteers remain back on-site too, answering dozens of wildlife emergency phone consultations daily while accepting patients only through appointments. Erin Toohey, our Education Coordinator resumed in-person Education Programs in June!

Elisa Fosco, our new and accomplished Director of Animal Care, completed animal care staff training during May and, after relocating to Milwaukee, was on-site full time on July 30th. Sadly, we canceled the Baby Bird Feeding (BBF) program for a second year in a row due to COVID. Without the additional support from the BBF program in the avian nursery, we are unable to accept orphan songbirds this spring and summer. We are hopeful to resume the BBF program in 2022.

Presently, WINC's animal hospital is full of Eastern Gray Squirrels, Flying Squirrels, Chipmunks, White Footed Mice, Cottontails, adult Songbirds, Raptors, a juvenile Coyote, Virginia Opossums, Waterfowl, Raccoons (and we are admitting late baby raccoons), Turtles and many more. We are so thankful and pay tribute to our entire staff team and volunteers for their enduring commitment, logging very long hours during our 2021 busy season - and for making WINC's Grand Reopening a reality.

Save the Date

Wildlife In Need Center's
9th Annual Fine Wine and
Dine Event

Saturday, October 16th, 2021
at 6:00 pm
Westmoor Country Club
Brookfield, WI

Stay tuned to our website and
Facebook page for details!



Cupcake Celebration with Guests at Grand Re-Opening



WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

Miracle Babies... Set Free!

On May 24th three Hooded Merganser hatchlings were following their mother to water and unfortunately, they were orphaned, when mom did not make it across the busy road. Despite their rough beginning, these three came in bright eyed and very hungry. Mergansers are one of the



Welcome Logan!

Logan Schafer graduated from UW Stevens Point in 2019 with a biology degree hoping to pursue a career in wildlife rehabilitation. Logan was an intern at WINC during the summer of 2019 and we are thrilled to have her join our animal care staff. She enjoys the outdoors, especially going on runs with her dog. Logan keeps her mind and body fit by working out and reading.



Three Orphaned Hooded Mergansers epic release!

species that can be difficult to raise in captivity, so animal care staff kept a close watch on them throughout their care. They also need a LOT of calories, and as they kept growing so did their appetite. For three birds, they ate an enormous amount of food. Their diet began with small insects, greens, and grain (their least favorite) and over their time here they worked their way up to larger insects and worms, grain, berries, fresh greens and live minnows.

When they were young, the Mergansers had scheduled swim time in a small tub, which helps to develop and maintain their waterproofing as well as learning their swimming and diving skills. Once they were old enough, they were moved up to a room with a built-in pool where they could dive after live prey, they ate up to 135 minnows a day! Staff made frequent visits to the minnow store to purchase minnows which cost about \$600.00. After a few weeks, their feathers grew in including their 'fun hairdo' and they soon graduated to an outside enclosure to acclimate to the weather and prepare for release. After a few weeks outside they were flighted and finally ready to go.

On the morning of July 26th, after two months in care, they were released from a boat and set free in their natural habitat, open water! All three birds flew off beautifully together!

Story by Cherish Streit



Welcome Cherish!

Cherish Streit graduated from Iowa State University in spring 2021 with a B.S. in Animal Ecology and Environmental Studies. She grew up on a farm in Minnesota and has been interested in working with animals since she was young. Wildlife rehabilitation has been an interest of hers for a while. Cherish began working in the wildlife rehabilitation field in 2017.

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

The Evolution of Our Education Department

If you've been following us over the last year, you know we've had a continuing saga of adapting our wildlife education programs to the virtual world. We were very happy to continue to offer our educational resources virtually and had a lot of fun with the virtual programs we presented!

In June we resumed giving our programs in person. We really missed being able to give people these in-person experiences to learn about Wisconsin wildlife and how you can help.

Since it may have been a while since you've thought about in-person programs,



Left photo: Erin Toohey and Chase the Striped Skunk



Right photo: Kestrel Merewood and Nancy Meier with Antoinette the Western Painted Turtle

our programs talk about who we are, what we do and ways you can help wildlife. You'll also get the chance to meet some of our live educational ambassadors and learn about them, their species and why they are important to our Wisconsin ecosystem.

Our wildlife education programs can be tailored to many types of groups and organizations. We present programs to schools, scout troops, libraries, corporations, nature clubs and senior centers all over Waukesha County, as well as our neighboring counties. We also do public booth displays for events like street fairs and farmer's markets.

We have also resumed in-person programs on-site at WINC! We offer our wildlife program on site as well. We offer a couple other types of programs on site as well. We offer private meet and greets with your favorite ambassador. WINC can also co-host a birthday party with you, where you rent out our classroom space for three hours and can choose two activities for a WINC educator to lead with you and your guests.

The best part, though, is that we will still be offering virtual programs! If you live too far away for you or us to make the journey, you can still schedule a wildlife program for you and your group over Zoom! Our virtual programs are still interactive and give you a very up close and personal look at our educational ambassadors!

Although the past year was unique and challenging, our Education, our Education Department has adapted and evolved and we hope to see you all again soon, whether it's in person or virtually!



Welcome Helen!

Helen Holtz grew up just a few miles away as the crow flies from the Wildlife In Need Center on her family's farm in Mukwonago. For the past 10 years she has worked across the country for environmental nonprofits and several State and National Parks. Helen and her dog, Dobby, recently just finished hiking in every continental state together and are happy to finally have a permanent spot right here in Wisconsin with her husband Ryan.



Grand Re-Opening Guests





ShopRaise for Wildlife In Need Center

ShopRaise provides a simple way to Shop and Raise for your charity at almost everywhere you shop with almost everything you buy.

ShopRaise, an innovative and simple way to turn your everyday online shopping at over 1,000 participating retailers into support for our cause. From groceries and apparel to technology and travel – a percentage of almost everything you buy goes to support our cause. The best thing is the program is free, you do not pay any more for the items you buy, and you get access to all the best coupons and deals.

Please help us support and promote our program by doing these 3 simple things:

1. Copy and paste the link below into your browser bar to get the ShopRaise app. <https://ShopRaise.com/for/helpingwildlife>
2. Use tools in the mobile app to share it with family and friends.
3. Shop online to support and help us reach our fundraising goals.

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 directed to our "Remembering Special People" web page.



CHASE'S CORNER



The past year was a difficult year for animal ambassadors. We lost a few of our fellow animal ambassadors— Chloe, the cutest little Eastern Screech Owl and Bella, our great American Toad and Daphne, our beloved Muscovy Duck, and former author of Daphne's Dispatch.

In honor of Daphne, we decided to take a vote on which animal ambassador should continue to keep all of you informed on the ins and outs at the Center. I was elected, not only for my handsomeness, but for my amazing ability to dig up the dirt!

The year started out slow and quiet which meant that I got extra exercise time with Erin. By mid-May the place was hopping with new faces in the hospital and lots & lots of ducklings. Soon after came the masked bandits, you know the ones I am talking about. They make such a commotion when they arrive, it is impossible to not know when new admits arrive. The baby squirrels and

bunnies are so quiet, you would not even know they were here if you did not see them in the mammal nursery.

At the end of June, I was introduced to this wonderful new staff member, Elisa Fosco. She said that she is the new Director of Animal Care and I heard from my neighbor Marcy, the Virginia Opossum, that Elisa has something like 25 plus years of experience. That seems hard to believe, she looks too young to me!

The most exciting news that I need to share is about our wonderful new animal care staff, Cherish, Logan, who both started in May, and our terrific seasonal staff. They all have been working so hard to care for all the wildlife patients and ambassadors! The second most exciting news that I have to share is the return of our office staff to the Center and seeing all of our amazing volunteers!

I am also thrilled to be back in action, working in-person education programs and events. Meeting all of you is the highlight of my weekly routine!!

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. 2021 year to date, we have received \$493.00.**
- **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. 2021 year to date, we have received \$284.30.**
- **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. 2021 year to date, we have received \$317.57.**
- **Get a Kwik Trip Rewards Card and have your and have your rebate go to WINC. Kwik Trip donates an additional 1% too. 2021 year to date, we have received \$52.40.**
- **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. <http://www.helpingwildlife.org/rehabilitate/wildlife-release-program>**
- **We use them in outdoor caging to provide perches, shelter, and wind-breaks.**
- **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!**
- **Join ShopRaise (Information on sidebar)**

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are Special and Exceptional!



Left Photo: Volunteers Judith Neal and Pat Adams
Right Photo: Volunteer Jeannie Merz



Volunteers have always been a huge part of Wildlife In Need Center. There is no way our small staff could care for the over 3,000 patients we admit most years without the help of our volunteers. Many people volunteer in Animal Care providing hands-on care for patients. Animal Care volunteers prepare foods, clean enclosures, and handle patients for staff to do therapies or medications. They might arrange branches in an outdoor enclosure for gray squirrels to climb or provide frozen fruit and ice blocks to young raccoons on a hot summer day. Animal Care volunteers also provide care for some of our education ambassadors. Office volunteers help by admitting patients, answering phones, greeting visitors and helping with office projects like data entry and mailings. Animal Care and Office volunteers usually volunteer for a 4.5 hour shift a week, although some people do volunteer for multiple shifts. We have morning, afternoon, and evening shifts May through September and morning and afternoon shifts the rest of the year, seven days a week for Animal Care volunteers. Office volunteers help 9am-1pm, and 1pm-5pm every day. But if you cannot commit to a regular schedule, we also need volunteers to help with maintenance tasks, gardening, and events on a less regular schedule.

We have a strong need for new adult volunteers 18 years and older. We will be holding New Volunteer Orientations in August and October. This is a chance to come hear about our mission and our various volunteer opportunities to see if volunteering at WINC is a good fit for you. Please visit our website helpingwildlife.org or our Facebook page to see dates and times for orientations. Volunteering at WINC is a rewarding way to see and help our local wildlife neighbors. We hope to see you soon.

Story By Lisa Rowe

What's the Hoot!



Be sure to watch your inbox for our monthly issue of the *What's the Hoot!* newsletter where you will see interesting wildlife patient stories, learn about upcoming events and important news! If you are not receiving the *What's the Hoot!* newsletter, contact dverhalen@helpingwildlife.org to be added to the mailing list.

Volunteer Lynda Rafel





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Calendar 2021 - 2022



September, 2021

Saturday, September 11th, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wildlife In The Park, Cory Municipal Park
Dousman, WI

October, 2021

Saturday, October 16th, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

9th Annual Fine Wine and Dine, Westmoor Country Club,
400 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

Saturday, October 24th, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hallo-WINC, Wildlife In Need Center

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

December 2021

Saturday, December 4th, 10:00 am - Noon

Holiday Meet & Greet, WINC

March, 2022

Sunday, March 6th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

April, 2022

Friday, April 8th, 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

28th Annual Spring Banquet
The Legend of Brandybrook, Wales, WI

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.

