

# Wildlife Tracks



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

## 2021 Issue II

Wildlife In Need Center  
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## What's Inside

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

*A Season Like No Other* Page 1

### EDUCATION

*After School Programs* Page 2

### ANIMAL CARE

*Winter Patients* Page 3

### EDUCATION

*Connecting to the Natural World* Page 4

### ANIMAL CARE

*A Sticky Situation for Wildlife* Page 5

### CHASE'S CORNER

Page 6

### VOLUNTEERS

*Thank You Volunteers!* Page 7

### CALENDAR

Page 8

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### *A Season Like No Other*

It's that time of the year when I find myself reflecting and remembering those who helped further WINC's mission, especially these past six months. Our board of directors, staff and volunteers came together to be there for our busiest time of the year with animal admissions. We also held two in-person fundraising events – our annual Fine Wine and Dine and Spaghetti Dinner. In-person also was Wildlife In The Park and Hallo-WINC with our educational ambassadors on display as well as children's games and tasty treats.

In the hospital we see animals making progress rehabilitating every day. We see orphans transition from being hand fed to self-feeding. We see injuries and broken wings heal. Wildlife with internal and external parasites, sometimes in our care for months, slowly regain weight and strength. Every animal has its own species-specific diet and enclosures. We see animals bond and help heal each other – such as the adult and

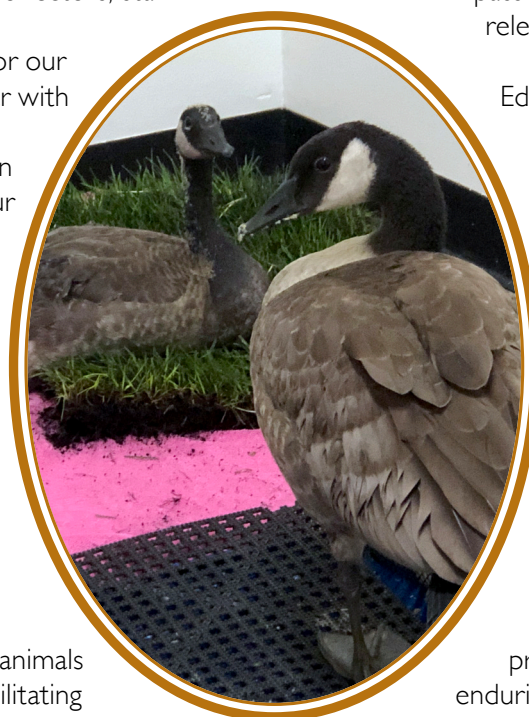
juvenile Canada Geese pictured below. The caring hands that feed, clean and care for the wild patients all share a common passion – culminating with releases back to the wild.

Education programming continues to spread wildlife wisdom along with our educational ambassadors while developing new programs to expand our reach.

Our team could not provide the essential medical care to injured, orphaned or sick wildlife, nor provide wildlife education programs without your enduring support. You each remain a special part of our community.

As I reflect at these past six months, I can only say miracles do happen. This season brought us all together to be there for the wildlife patients who need the help that only WINC can provide. This season was like no other, and nothing less than extraordinary.

Story By Kim Banach



Adult and Juvenile Canada Geese who became fast friends, helping each other heal. They were released together!

## 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.

# WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

## Wildlife In Need Center Board of Directors

Tom DeMers	President
Mike Guzniczak	Vice President
Lou Banach	Treasurer
Tom Roberts	Secretary
Bridgett Brown	Director
Lynn Wilde	Director
Heather Merewood	Director
Gottlieb John	Director
Marmet, JD	
John Rupke, JD	Director

## *After School Programs*

**Wildlife Club:** From first to twelfth grade, our new after school programs provide students with engaging education, activities, and crafts. Once a month, our educator develops in-depth programs on certain wildlife found right here in Wisconsin and bring them right to your student's school! Each program and activity are tailored to your student's comprehension at their class and age level and we adhere to the Next Generation Science Standards. Sessions last an hour long with groups of no more than 10. Our educator is skilled at helping your students have a memorable learning experience!

The Wildlife Club provides students with the knowledge to make positive, lasting change within their home, school, and community to help our local wildlife. Science comes "alive" in the classroom with our wildlife ambassadors! Each program includes furry, feathered, and/ or scaly ambassadors that come to your student's school for a unique experience that will keep your students enthralled and eager to learn more. Students will learn about a range of species from Wisconsin and how to preserve, protect and conserve their habitat.

Contact Helen at [education@helpingwildlife.org](mailto:education@helpingwildlife.org) to learn more about these after school programs and to see if your school can host the Wildlife Club!



*Students participating in one of WINC's After School Programs*

**Scout Workshop Programs:** Girl and Boy Scout badges are a great way for a child to explore their interests, learn new skills and show the world what they have accomplished! Our program can be tailored to your troop's badge needs and align with their mission to build courage, confidence, and character. Our programs are ideal for after school scout meetings. It can be a one-time program or continued throughout the scouting season.

Consider the Wildlife In Need Center for a service project! Projects may include trail work, landscaping, nest boxes or projects to help our wildlife patients and ambassadors.

*Story by Helen Holtz*

## Wildlife In Need Center Advisory Board

Dean Pipito  
Holly Schlenvogt



# WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

## Winter Patients



Top left: Orphaned juvenile red squirrel found freezing and in shock, now stable and growing in her winter coat  
Top right: Emaciated juvenile red-tailed hawk, now stable and in good body condition  
Bottom: Young adult opossum admitted with the early stages of frostbite on his toes, right ear and tail tip, warm and sleeping comfortably 48 hours after admission

Working with wildlife, things tend to slow down during the winter months. Most of the breeding seasons have ended and our patient load radically decreases. However, the patients that are admitted during the winter months are usually in bad shape. At this time of year food is scarce, temperatures are physically challenging, and so many leaves have fallen that there is less cover and fewer places for them to hide safely. Wildlife mortality rates are high and while wildlife rehabilitators see less animals, the ones we see tend to be in much worse condition.

This is also the time of year after many teenage (older juvenile) wild animals leave the care and protection of their parents and disperse to find their own territories. WINC has admitted numerous juvenile raptors, who either could not hunt well enough to survive without help from their parents, or those who hunted fine but unknowingly ate food/mice that had been exposed to rodenticides. Young raccoons will find their way into structures like barns and sheds, getting themselves into trouble, and opossums will go wandering in search of food, putting them at increased risk when crossing roads.

These are the kinds of patients we are seeing right now. We see them as reminders. Reminders that wildlife have a hard time at this time of year. Reminders to keep your barn and garage doors closed if you don't want to host wildlife. Reminders to keep your feeders filled at your home. Reminders to keep your eyes open when driving to let wildlife clear the roads. And a reminder that, if you do find a wild animal in need of help, remember that winter their most challenging time, and WINC will be here ready to do whatever we can to help them.

*Save the Date*

*Annual Spring Banquet*

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

*The Legend  
at Brandybrook*



*Above: Juvenile Snapping Turtle  
overwintering in reptile room*

*Below: Ruby-throated hummingbird  
from this past summer*





# WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

## *Connecting to the Natural World*



### **Annual Pancake Breakfast**

**Sunday, February 27th  
8:00 am-1:00 pm  
at the  
Dousman Lion's Club**



### **Who's Loves Wildlife Meet & Greet**

*If you love wildlife, don't miss our Educational Ambassadors at WINC on February 12th 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.*



*Students dissection owl pellets*

There are many benefits to connecting with the natural world, including physical, mental, emotional, and academic growth. The Wildlife In Need Center's education department helps bridge these connections of enjoying the outdoors with respecting our wildlife. With education, we have the potential to change attitudes towards nature and help people and wildlife co-exist in harmony with one another.

Our new Education Coordinator and Educator, Helen Holtz, especially loves nurturing our next generation on wildlife education: "by teaching our children to be respectful of the planet, we can ensure that our beautiful world and the wildlife that inhabit it will be preserved for future generations." Now more than ever, it is essential to teach kids about the importance of wildlife rehabilitation. Helen has worked for several environmental nonprofit organizations throughout the country and is very happy to be back in her home state of Wisconsin. She believes that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the joy of wildlife and by ensuring people of all ages and backgrounds have access to, and education in, the natural world, we can help encourage them to have positive impacts on our wildlife. The Leslie Kiehl WINC Education Program Fund helps provide funds for groups to pay for educational program fees if they are not able to afford some or all of the fees. Additional information and the application can be found on the Wildlife In Need Center's website at [www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org).

The Wildlife In Need Center's education programs bring fun and interactive wildlife presentations by using their unique Wisconsin wildlife ambassadors (Marcy the Virginia Opossum, Chase the Striped Skunk, Meadow the Bull Snake, Evie the Eastern Fox Snake, Jewel the Ornate Box Turtle, Antoinette the Western Painted Turtle) (Dakota the Great Horned Owl, Raenah the Red Tailed Hawk are currently in training). From birthday parties and baby showers to helping Scouts get their badges, the education team can be very flexible for any nature lover's event. If you or someone you know may be interested in hosting an event here at the Wildlife In Need Center or having us come to you, we encourage you to reach out to Helen Holtz at [education@helpingwildlife.org](mailto:education@helpingwildlife.org).

*Story by Helen Holtz*



# WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

## *A Sticky Situation for Wildlife*

While there are many reasons that wild animals are admitted to rehabilitation centers, sadly over 85% of our patients have been injured or orphaned as a direct result of the actions of humans. This month WINC has admitted quite a few cases where wild animals have been stuck or entangled with materials that people have used outdoors. The worst are glue traps!

These are very sticky and are designed to catch animals, holding them stuck to the glue until they die of starvation. Not only are there humane considerations with this method, but when an insect or small animal is stuck, their predator often becomes stuck as well.

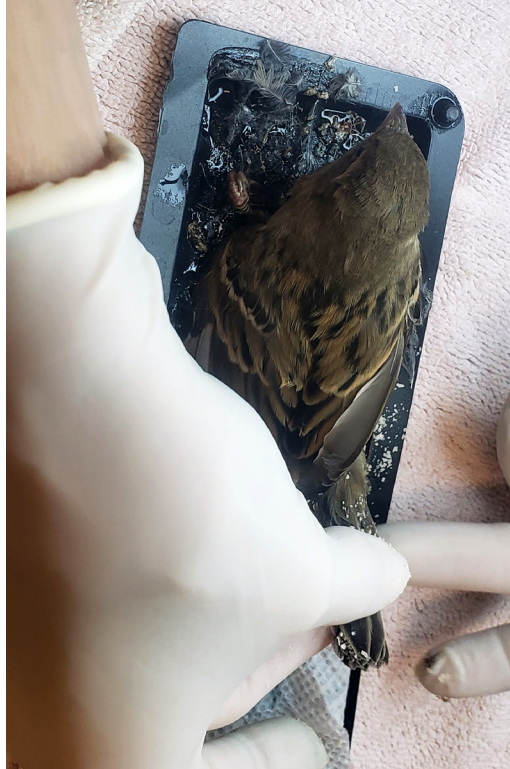
When glue victims are admitted, we do our best to remove them with minimal injury (to bones, skin, and feathers). It can take several hours to days to work through this process, using the following general protocol.

1. Cover all glue to prevent further adhesion (using a special powder)
2. Medicate animal to stabilize and maintain blood glucose levels, since most animals are in shock by the time they are admitted
3. Work powder into every spot to minimize strength of glue
4. Remove animal carefully
5. Use a nontoxic chemical to remove glue and powder
6. Use warm oil to remove chemical and remaining glue (now we have an "oiled bird" so we transition to the standard protocol used in oil spills)
7. Begin multi-step bathing, while managing their blood sugar levels so they survive the whole process

*Story By Elisa Fosco*



*Debbie Verhalen, Ally Mueller, Cherish Streit, Logan Schafer, Elisa Fosco, Jazi Manetti, Chrysta Beyer dressed as Matilda the Raccoon, Leanne Adams, Sara Imperl, Kim Banach and Nala.*



*Dusting board to prevent further damage. After removal, bird coated in glue and powder.*



*Chickadee after full process, in recovery.*





**Gifts that Give Twice**  
Turn holiday shopping into support for your cause!

ShopRaise at 1,100 stores

PETSMART Walmart Expedia  
★ macy's Cabela's

*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.



SCAN ME

## CHASE'S CORNER



Wow, what a year it has been! The nursery was full of squirrels, the outdoor enclosures were full of raccoons and the outdoor pool enclosures were filled with ducklings! There were also cottontail bunnies, chipmunks, and opossum babies. Then, just like that, they were all gone. Released—running, hopping & swimming free in the wild.

The end of October also marked the end for our seasonal staff team. They all were so dedicated and passionate about the wildlife patients. They all will be missed! I heard from Kim Banach, WINC's executive director, that they celebrated the end of the season with a Halloween Costume Party and although the educational animal ambassadors were not invited, I was honored to learn that Elisa Fosco, WINC's animal care director went in costume as a striped skunk!



The Center held two events where my fellow ambassadors and I were able to meet our fans. Hallo-WINC was held here at the Center on October 24th. The weather kept us all inside the building instead of outside on the trail, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits. In early November, we were able to enjoy the delicious aroma of homemade spaghetti at the Spaghetti Dinner. It was a good thing I had a lot of fans stopping by to visit to help keep my mind off the food.

Just when I thought things were starting to quiet down, I heard from Antoinette, the Western Painted Turtle, that there is a Coyote, three Great Horned Owls, two Red tailed Hawks and a couple of Canada Geese in the hospital area. My neighbor Marcy, the Virginia Opossum and I are happy that our rooms are on the opposite side of the patient rooms, where all the action happens, so we could enjoy some peace and quiet snuggled up in our blankets.

### How Can You Help?

- **Become a Member!**
- **Use [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) 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 \$364.30.**
- **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 \$91.97.**
- **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. 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](https://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!**
- **Join ShopRaise an innovative and simple way to turn your everyday online shopping at over 1,000 participating retailers into support for our cause. (read top left sidebar for more information)**

# VOLUNTEERS

## *Thank You Volunteers!*



Left Photo: Stephanie Brandt and Katie Kolpin caring for a Pigeon and Feather Footed Pigeon  
Right Photo: Raccoon diet with duck eggs, wild grapes, fresh produce and more



As I walk around the center, I see daily how much our volunteers do to support the mission of WINC. Maintenance and grounds volunteers have prepped WINC for winter by shutting off outside water and closing the water features. They have also made changes to outdoor caging to make it snuggier for the patients we will be overwintering. In the kitchen I see the bowls and plates of foods our animal care volunteers prepare for our patients daily/multi-daily. Some of those colorful salads look a lot better than what I brought for lunch, although I don't need a side of wiggly mealworms or a plump defrosted mouse, thank you very much for offering. Dishes and laundry generated at WINC is formidable. My bedding is not washed daily, but our patients' bedding is changed daily or even more often depending on how often it is dirtied. Waterfowl are rather foul in their bathroom habits! The gentle careful handling volunteers provide to patients who don't show appreciation and are sometimes aggressive is so heartwarming. Office volunteers aid people dropping off patients. Sometimes the public is tearful, excited, or angry at finding injured animals, but always people want to talk about their experience with the animal. Our office volunteers answer many questions and offer great advice to people in person and via phone. Our grounds volunteers tend the beautiful gardens and lawns at WINC which people and local wildlife both enjoy. Education volunteers handle ambassadors for programs and events and provide friendly interaction full of great info about the natural history and details of individual ambassadors. Volunteers even help train other volunteers! We have new volunteers who attended our September and October orientation graduating from training and in-training now to add to our dedicated group of fabulous volunteers. I always say our volunteers have helping hands and caring hearts and I see the proof every day. If you are interested in volunteering, check our website for orientation dates. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

## *What's the Hoot!*



Be sure to watch your inbox for our monthly issue of *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](mailto:dverhalen@helpingwildlife.org) to be added to the mailing list.



**Season's Greetings To All**

From  
the Wildlife In Need Center!





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## Calendar 2021 - 2022



### *December 2021*

Thursday, December 16th, 6:30 pm

Volunteer Training, WINC

### *January 2022*

Saturday, January 8th, 11:00 am

Volunteer Training, WINC

Wednesday, January 19th, 6:30 pm

Volunteer Training, WINC

### *February 2022*

Saturday, February 12th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Whoop Loves Wildlife Meet & Greet, WINC

Sunday, February 27th, 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

### *October. 2022*

Saturday, October 15th, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

10th Annual Fine Wine & Dine

Westmoor Country Club, Brookfield, 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.

