

2024 Issue II

Wildlife In Need Center
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WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

An Owlet's Second Chance At Life

This Great Horned Owlet on the left was admitted after she was found on the ground alone. She was dehydrated and weak but had a more dangerous injury, not visible to the naked eye. She was suffering from rodenticide poisoning; this owlet is one of many wild birds who unknowingly ate a poisoned rodent.

While poison is typically used to kill species that are considered pests, they frequently have unintended secondary victims like this owlet. Rodenticide makes the animal unable to clot, resulting in a slow and painful death from internal bleeding. Because the rodents that ingest the poison die slowly, they are an easy target to be caught for a meal by other animals, who then also consume the poison. We recommend using humane pest control options and avoiding lethal chemicals, especially outdoors where they can harm native wildlife, like this owlet.

This owlet would have died a slow



painful death without our help. Our staff worked quickly to provide emergency critical and supportive care and were relieved to see that she made it through the night. For the next few weeks, she required extensive medical care to counteract the damage done by the rodenticide. Once she was stable, she was housed with three other orphaned owlets. While we typically can renest Great Horned owlets, the other three were not able to be reunited due to being malnourished and weak.

The owlets were housed with an adult owl who was recovering from an eye injury after being hit by a car. The adult owl was an excellent role model, teaching the owlets the appropriate behaviors and the skills needed to survive in the wild. After seven months in care, they were released back to the wild where they belong. While they were in care, they ate \$4,000 worth of rodents!

Story By Cherish Streit

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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|-----------------------------|----------------|
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WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

Turtle Hatchling Program Success

This past summer has been another busy season caring for many turtles. We admitted a less- common species that we don't typically see often at WINC – a Northern Map Turtle! This beautiful female was brought to us after she was hit by a vehicle, likely while crossing the road to lay her eggs. She had road-rash on her legs and abrasions on the bottom of her shell (plastron).

Once she had fully recovered from her injuries, we were excited to release her back into the wild, but first she would need to lay her eggs in care. We knew that if we sent her back out to the wild full of eggs, she would have to make another dangerous journey across roadways to lay her eggs. Instead, we induced her with a combination of medications in order for her to lay her eggs safely in care. Luckily, it worked! After she laid her eggs, she was released back home, and her eggs became part of our turtle hatchling program. A couple months later, we were so thrilled that 3 of her eggs hatched! These 3 little hatchlings were in great condition and were released in mom's home territory.



Routine Care of Eggs during Incubation



Snapping Turtle in the process of hatching

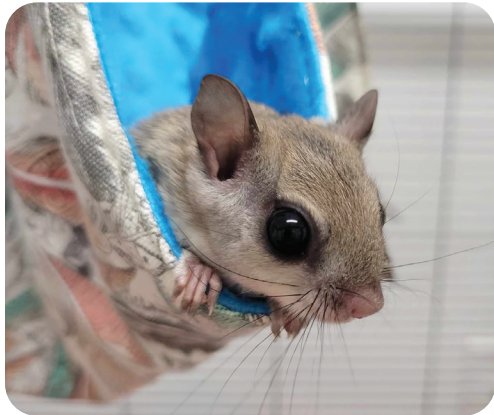
This season we got a brand-new turtle egg incubator to help with our turtle hatchling program. We incubated 267 eggs from a variety of species including, Midland Painted Turtles, Western Painted Turtles, Common Snapping Turtles, and the Northern Map Turtle. These eggs required very specialized and cautious care, and we were very pleased with our success rate.

A large number of these eggs came from mother turtles who did not survive their injuries after being hit by a vehicle. While their injuries were too severe to survive, we were at least able to save their eggs. We also hatched some that were laid by mom turtles that recovered in our care. The turtles that successfully hatched early enough were released in their mom's home territory, but some did not hatch in time to be released before the colder temperatures. They will be staying the winter in our care until they can safely be released in the spring. Turtle populations are in decline, so we are happy to be able to help these populations one little life at a time!

Story by Sara Imperl

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

Welcome Home, Acorn & Aspen!



Acorn (top left photo) was admitted in spring of 2023 as a single orphan. She was weak and very thin, with her eyes just opening. She did well in care and soon she was stable, strong and thriving. Because flying squirrels are a highly social species, it is never ideal for them to grow up without siblings (or other flying squirrels). Unfortunately, she arrived early in spring and no other rehabilitators in Wisconsin had any baby flyers yet so despite our best efforts, we were not able to find her a friend. While she is very healthy, she never developed the appropriate behaviors to survive in the wild, so she found her forever home here with us!

Months later, in September of 2023, Aspen (bottom left photo) was admitted. Several weeks earlier he was found on a sidewalk next to two of his (deceased) siblings. He was raised by a member of the public, and although there were good intentions, he developed nutritional deficiencies and was already habituated to humans (and therefore non-releasable). Once he was back in good health, he was introduced to Acorn.

Flying squirrels cannot truly "fly". They have a patagium, which is the furred membrane connecting their front and rear legs. This enables them to leap and glide downward from high in the trees. Because of this, we built Acorn and Aspen their very own custom habitat, providing them with the space needed to glide and to mimic their natural behaviors. They are now bonded and thriving together in their new forever home!

Looking for more ways to help the Wildlife In Need Center? Check out our Amazon wish list to help support WINC's mission.

Scan the QR Code below to be taken to WINC's Amazon Wish list.



31st Annual Spring Banquet

Friday, April 25th, 2025
from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Legend at Brandybrook



Annual Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025
from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dousman Ottawa Lions Club

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

You can make a difference saving wild lives by joining our special group of monthly donors, "Wildlife Animal Champions" – are so incredibly important to the work we do at the Wildlife In Need Center.

For more information visit <https://www.helpingwildlife.org/monthly-donor-wildlife-animal-champions-member/>

or scan the QR Code below.



SCAN ME

Honoring Meadow: Eleven Years of Education & Enrichment



Celebrating Meadow's Life As An Ambassador

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the loss of one of our ambassadors, our beloved Bullsnake "Meadow".

Meadow was part of our education team for 11 years. She joined our team at the Wildlife in Need Center in the fall of 2013. While Bullsnakes get their name from their reputation for having 'bullish' personalities, Meadow was a very calm and relaxed snake. She was always comfortable being held and loved exploring new things, especially things with new and exciting smells. She also really enjoyed enrichment, one of her favorites was her custom-made snake maze. Sometimes she would weave herself in the maze and refuse to come out until she was done playing. She was always active, ate well and excelled at her important job as an educator without any issues.

Then one day, with no warning, she did not look OK. Elisa, our Animal Care Director, immediately rushed her to our vet Dr. Bloss, at Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital & Exotic Care. By the time Meadow arrived, she was no longer conscious and despite our best efforts her condition deteriorated. Prior to this, Meadow did not show any visible signs that anything was wrong, she had just completed a shed and was looking extra shiny and had eaten three days earlier. Her passing came as a major shock to the entire staff.

Unfortunately, her necropsy (autopsy) confirmed that we lost our beloved Meadow to cancer. It likely began in her oviducts (very similar to ovarian cancer in humans) but then metastasized to her heart, liver, lungs and kidneys. Given this diagnosis, we are very thankful that she seemed to be feeling well. She had completely normal behavior and appetite until her last day (even playing with her enrichment as normal).

During her time with us at WINC, Meadow did nearly 400 programs. Meadow was a crowd favorite. She helped educate approximately 34,000 people about her species, teaching people about snakes and encouraging people to respect rather than fear these important animals that share our local environment.

She was an amazing girl, and she will be greatly missed.

Story by Elisa Fosco



13th Annual Fine Wine & Dine

*Saturday, October 18th, 2025
from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm*

Westmoor Country Club

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Celebrating 30 Years of Compassion and Community

As the 30th anniversary year comes to a close, we reflect on three decades of dedication, resilience, and unwavering support from our incredible community. This milestone is not just a celebration of our achievements in wildlife rehabilitation and conservation, but a tribute to each and every one of you who has been part of our journey.

From the volunteers who give their time and energy, to the donors whose generosity sustains our mission, and those who bring the wildlife in need to us—our success is deeply intertwined with your commitment and passion. Together, we have rescued, rehabilitated, and released countless wildlife back into their native habitats.

Your belief and support in our mission has empowered us to grow. Our wildlife education programs reach thousands and foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for wildlife. These programs are vital in nurturing the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts.

We are especially grateful to Partners 4 Wildlife for their generous funding of Phase 2 of our Avian Nursery expansion, which includes five new fledgling enclosures. This expansion has significantly enhanced our capacity to care for young birds and ensure they have the best possible start before being released back into the wild.



*Cupcake Celebration
30th Anniversary Meet and Greet*



Mary with Chloe and Dr. Tom Roberts



*Kim, Mary and presenter Lynn
from Modern Woodman*

Thank you to all who attended or donated to the Banquet and Fine Wine and Dine events- together these events raised \$69,000. Everyone had fun at the 30th anniversary summer meet and greet which included a cupcake celebration, book signings, tours, kids' activities, a bird walk and more. Modern Woodmen of America presented our Hometown Hero Award to Dr. Tom Roberts. His wife, Mary, accepted the award on his behalf. Sadly, Tom, our dear friend of 29 years, passed away in November. Tom's fingerprints are everywhere and everlasting – he was a board member, donor, volunteer AND a true animal lover as is Mary. Tom and Mary were home rehabilitators – though raccoons are their favorite. We will cherish our memories of Tom.

As we look to the future, we are filled with hope and determination, knowing that with your continued support, we can soar to greater heights. Here's to 30 years of making a difference, and to many more years of working together as we embrace our enduring mission!

With heartfelt gratitude, Kim Banach

Story by Kim Banach, Executive Director



Dakota
SOCIETY

The Dakota Society consists of individuals who have included WINC in their estate planning. For more information contact Kim at kbanach@helpingwildlife.org

A quote from one beautiful Dakota Society member: "The work you do is so important and necessary. You are always there to help our precious wildlife for generations to come. You have our deepest gratitude and enduring support."

**Partners 4
WILDLIFE**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Partners 4 Wildlife for their generous funding of Phase 2 of our Avian Nursery expansion! Thanks to this grant, we were able to construct five new fledgling enclosures!





CHASE'S CORNER



I heard staff talking about the holidays and I love holidays because I get presents! Staff will put gifts for me and the other ambassadors on WINC's Amazon wish list – but these items can also be purchased locally and dropped off at WINC. There are items on the wish list for our patients and to help make the work of staff and volunteers easier and safer at WINC. Lisa tells me that sometimes people give items or money to WINC instead of giving gifts to people who already have lots of stuff. We can send them a card letting them know someone gave a gift in their honor. I like stuff and can't imagine having too much.



I like to roll it back to me with my front legs, keep backing up until I get to my sleeping nest, and then pull it in my nest. My nest is snuggly with blankets and plush toys. If you need gifts, you can shop in WINC's giftshop too 9 am - 4 pm. Nuts are a big thing around here because so many animals eat them and nuts store well. Baking nuts go on sale for the holidays and after Christmas, pecans, almonds, and walnuts in-the-shell go on sale too. Lisa says we can never have too many nuts, and gives me a special smile. Sometimes she says I act like a nut. I think she is hanging around the squirrels too much and getting a little squirrely herself. Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays and I will see you at an education event next year!

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.



How Can You Help?

- **Don't forget your local wildlife during the winter.** Sometimes water is hard to find. Consider putting out a heated birdbath or a shallow pan of water in the sun during the day. You will enjoy watching your visitors!
- **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.
- **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. <https://www.helpingwildlife.org/rehabilitate/wildlife-release-program/>
- **Become a member or Join our Wildlife Animal Champion monthly donor members!**
- **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.

VOLUNTEERS

WJNC Has Never Looked Better!



This year our landscaping and gardening have had major upgrades with the help of some dynamic volunteers. The front of our building, our prairie, the back area around cages, and the rest of our property, have never looked better! These volunteers, many of whom are certified Master Gardeners, helped us become a certified community garden. They have spent many hours weeding our gardens, removing many invasive plant species, arranging free mulch deliveries and spreading mulch in numerous areas. They have been busy pruning bushes and trees. Unwanted brush has been cleaned up, the lawn is being cut regularly, and some pathways opened up. Our compost area has been organized and is being taken care of.

Additionally, these hard-working volunteers are planning a number of improvements for next year. Among their many ideas, we're hoping to get donations of a lawn mower, more mulch, 3 arborvitaes, some natural grasses and plants for areas in front and in the back of our center.

We greatly appreciate all the work and efforts our many volunteers put in! Thank you so much for helping the Wildlife In Need Center be its best!

If you are interested in volunteering with us, we have many different positions available: Animal Care, Education, Office, Maintenance, Gardening/Landscaping, and more! Please sign up for one of our New Volunteer Orientations by calling our main line at (262) 965 - 3090 and leaving a message or you can email our Volunteer Coordinator, Lynn, at volunteer@helpingwildlife.org.

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 Development@helpingwildlife.org to be added to the mailing list.



We want to thank Lynn Wilde, Wildlife In Need Center's Board Director & owner of Friends Of Nature in Menomonee Falls & Slinger, as well as Landmark Feed and Seed Supply in Cedarburg. Lynn donates \$1,000's of food for our wildlife patients & other necessary supplies every year.



Wildlife In Need Center
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Calendar 2024 - 2025

February 2025

Saturday, February 1st, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Whoop Loves Wildlife
Wildlife In Need Center

March 2025

Sunday, March 23rd, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pancake Breakfast
Dousman Ottawa Lions Club, Dousman, WI

April 2025

Friday, April 25th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
31st Annual Spring Banquet
The Legend at Brandybrook, Wales, WI

October 2025

Saturday, October 18th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
13th Annual Fine Wine & Dine
Westmoor Country, Brookfield, WI

December 2025

Tuesday, December 2nd, All Day
Giving Tuesday
Wildlife In Need Center

Exciting News & Events at Can Be Found on WINC's Website
Scan the QR Code below to be taken to our website



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