

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

VOLUME 18, NO. IX

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The Mission of TWREC

Our mission is to help Pennsylvania wildlife by

- Caring for injured, orphaned or ill wildlife in order to enable their return to the wild
- Promoting appreciation and understanding of wildlife through education.

Admissions:

At present time Tamarack is able to admit birds of prey, adult seed eating small birds, opossums and turtles. This is subject to change depending on case load. For more information, call 814-763-2574.

Hours:

September to May
By Appointment

Newsletter Now Available by Email

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically rather than get a paper copy? Contact the center by mail or phone to let us know your preference and we will add you to our electronic mailing list. This preference can also be noted on your membership form.



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Official registration and financial information of T.W.R.E.C. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within PA:

1.800.732.0999

Registration does not imply endorsement.

Introducing Willow



We are pleased to announce a new addition to our family of education birds: an adult female Eastern Screech-Owl, "Willow."

In 2010, this beautiful Eastern Screech-Owl and her family of three owlets were rescued from Gridley Park in Erie, PA when the tree limb containing their nest cavity was cut down. The owlets survived with no permanent damage, and in collaboration with the Presque Isle Audubon Society, were released on Presque Isle once grown. Their mother, however, suffered a wing injury that prevented her return to the wild. She now joins Tamarack's team of educational ambassadors.

This September, the public was invited to suggest names and the response was tremendous. Over 100 names were submitted by school classes ranging from first grade to high school, scout troops, Audubon Society members, and interested individuals. After difficult deliberation, the list was narrowed down to five finalists for the public to choose from. At the Open House, it

was announced that the name Willow received 440 votes, followed by Athena with 376, Luna with 363, Sylvia with 87 and Lilith with 56. We thank everyone for their interest and participation.

The name Willow was submitted by the sixth grade students of Maplewood Elementary School. Makenna Barickman made the initial suggestion, which was embraced by her class. They thought the owl's camouflaged feathers are similar to the colors of willow tree bark, and her ear tufts resemble fallen leaves.

Eastern Screech-Owls are a common avian predator that often lives undetected in parks and suburbs. These solitary birds, no bigger than a pint glass, are well camouflaged and are more often heard than seen. The owl's call is a mournful wail or whinny that can be heard at night when it is hunting its prey. They eat a wide variety of foods including small mammals, birds, and invertebrates. It is the smallest Pennsylvania owl having ear tufts.

For information about scheduling a program to meet Willow and Tamarack's other education birds in person, check out the center's website at tamarackwildlife.org or call 814-763-2574.



Valuable Internship Opportunities Abound



David and Pierre

Tamarack offers valuable opportunities to college students and those interested in wildlife medicine, conservation biology or environmental education.

Throughout his college career Donny Consola both worked at the Center through Allegheny College's work-study program, and volunteered in the summers. He cleaned cages, prepared meals and eventually assisted with admissions and medical treatments for patients from Mourning Doves to Bald Eagles. He feels it was "a great way to give back to wildlife and the community. Helping one helps the other. We're all tied together." Donny also assisted as a phone dispatcher, responding to public questions about wildlife. "It was great to help people know how to handle different situations." Now a veterinary student at Western University, Donny feels his experience at Tamarack was an asset in getting accepted.



Kasey and Sophia

volunteers, Jessica Russell and Andrea Vandervort are heading to veterinary school this winter.

A summer intern in 2007, Ashley Connelly, is now a full time employee at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. She

shares, "My experience with the rehabilitation side of Tamarack ... gave me invaluable knowledge about avian illness and injury." With the education birds, "I learned all my basic knowledge of traditional falconry handling techniques ...and basic avian husbandry. The ideas and experience I got with bird handling and education...helped me to build public speaking skills and grew my passion for avian conservation and education exponentially... Tamarack gave me the experience I needed to pursue a career working with birds, and inspired and impassioned me to work towards avian conservation and public education. Tamarack was an absolutely invaluable experience and without a doubt helped me to attain a career that I believe in and love."

A variety of opportunities are available. Intensive summer internships involve working on site 30 hours/week for six to eight weeks and are offered either for academic credit (through a student's home institution) or non-academic credit. Internships are non-paying, but offer valuable experience and Tamarack staff welcome writing references. During the school year, there are options to work onsite either through college federal work-study programs or internships. Some students apply to intern in December- January during their winter break. For more information, call the center at 814-763-2574.

A Tribute to Peekers



At the grand old age of 12 years, our precious Northern Saw-whet Owl education bird "Peeker" has quietly passed. We will miss her. Young and old instantly fell in love with Peeker and couldn't believe this 7" tall owl was a full adult. Injured by a cat as a fledgling she taught many about the hazards outside cats pose to wildlife. The smallest of Pennsylvania's owls, in the wild these birds rarely live past age 7. We are grateful for the many years we had with her. She lives on in our hearts.

From the President's Perch

By Sarah Sargent

So much has happened since our last newsletter! Many of our activities are described in the other articles here, so be sure to read through them.

I'm writing this with fresh memories of our annual Open House on October 21st. We had a wonderful turnout of about 160 people even though the weather was overcast. Everyone enjoyed seeing our resident birds out "on the glove", plus seeing their mews, and our admissions room. We had activities for children and a fundraising raffle for the adults. The big excitement, of course, was the final voting and then the announcement of the new name for our Screech-Owl, Willow.

Many wonderful volunteers allow us to keep our doors open, and I'd like to stress the importance of each and every one of them. We continue to develop teams of volunteers with both the know-how and the commitment to carry out various tasks that need to be done outside of our regular staff hours. In June we began a new team, the Medics, who are trained to assist with the medical treatments that are most likely to be needed outside of regular hours. The Medics plus the weekend crews (especially their leaders) and the Dispatch team have allowed us to operate successfully through the summer and into the fall, which are our heaviest months for admissions.

As always, we count on your continuing support. Please help us continue to build and grow, for the sake of injured wildlife in our region.

Spirit's Return

Our lives were all touched by a very special Bald Eagle treated at the Center six years ago. Nicknamed Freedom's Spirit, this magnificent, 3 1/2 foot tall female was admitted Jan 26, 2006 with a badly fractured wing. She was then five years old, just approaching adulthood. After surgery and months of hands-on physical therapy, followed by flight conditioning, Freedom's Spirit was released on November 6 of that year.



At her release, she perched in a tree to get her bearings and then took to the sky in long flaps: flying toward those who came to set her free, as if in farewell, before banking to the right and flying up the valley and out of sight. We never forgot her.

This spring we received a call from someone who assists the Game Commission. He told us he knew this bird. Freedom's Spirit is recognizable by her large size and leg bands. She settled near where she was released, took a mate, and established a nest in a remote area along Brokenstraw Creek. She is a good mother and has raised eaglets each year since her release.



The news brought tears to the eyes of those who worked with her. This is our hope for each patient: that after release they might continue their lives in the wild and raise future generations of their kind. In the case of Bald Eagles, they can live over 30 years in the wild. We are pleased to have given Freedom's Spirit a second chance. It is our members and volunteers that make this possible.

Members & Contributors Since Last Newsletter

GOLDEN EAGLE \$1,000+

- Bill DeArment - Meadville, PA
- Presque Isle Audubon Society - Erie, PA

ERMINE \$500+

- Dave Koloskee - Erie, PA
- Whole Foods Cooperative - Erie, PA

SILVER FOX \$100+

- Patty Almeda - McKean, PA
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- Qi & Vince Dunsworth - Waterford, PA
- Edinboro Industries - Edinboro, PA
- Edinboro Lake Watershed Association - Edinboro, PA
- Erie Zoological Society - Erie, PA
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- Diane Johnson - Meadville, PA
- Chal & Evelyn Jordan - Englewood, FL
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- Rich & Sandy Parker - Meadville, PA

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- John & Nancy Powell - Meadville, PA
- John Scheuer - McKean, PA
- Mark Skelton - Cambridge Springs, PA
- Lawson & Meredith Smart - Meadville, PA
- Janice & Terry Werneth - Meadville, PA

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- Pat Wenzel - Erie, PA
- J. Mark & Vicki Zaczuk - Erie, PA
- Barbara Zirngibl - Pittsburgh, PA

IN HONOR OF...

- "Ted Johnson" by Diane Johnson
- "In honor of her parents, Bob & Martha Sterba, for volunteer work with TWREC" by Johanna Sterba

IN MEMORY OF...

- "In memory of Prince and all who cared for him" by Barbara Zirngibl
- "In memory of Peeker" by Larry White
- "In memory of Peeker" by Barbara Alcorn
- "In loving memory of Peeker" by Carol Holmgren and the volunteers of Tamarack

Summer into Fall at the Center

Shortly after the spring newsletter went to print, we had the great pleasure of releasing two magnificent Bald Eagles: an adult treated for shoulder and wrist injury, and an immature that came to us with West Nile Virus. The adult had been with us for a full year and had required extended intensive care. It was touching to see these birds take to the air, free again. So far twelve eagles have been treated at the center this year and three are currently in our care.

This summer saw the admission of numerous patients who had suffered injuries as they were battered by intense storms. The moist weather also gave rise to an increase in West Nile Virus this fall. Happily, by late summer and into the fall many of our patients were ready for release and volunteers were gratified to see them take to the skies (for birds) or waters (for aquatic turtles) or forests (for opossums). It is a privilege to be in the presence of these amazing creatures, and to help them return to their natural lives.

Thank you to all our onsite volunteers, dispatchers and medics for your outstanding service to our wildlife.

Thank you to our summer and fall helpers: volunteers Dale Clemmer, Martha Consola, Amanda DiCola, Joe Goertz, Kim Harned and the Segue volunteers, Holly Hunter, Midge Jones, Gina Kron, Oliver Lawrence, Alex Mallory, Ryan Reynolds, David Roach, Terry Shaner, Tori and Rylie Steiner, Martha and Bob Sterba, Diane Sutton, Andrea Vandervort, Jessica Williams, Grey Whitney, and college students Emily Beyers, Sarah Durrer, Katrina Gazsi, Kasey Hinkle, Josh Sadler, Julia Schock, Jessica Schombert, Jacob Udans, Alexa Vazques, and Cassandra Zeno. We are fortunate to have the assistance of Allegheny College Davies Leader John Rooney, and Bonner Leaders David McQuillan and Mary Eddins.

Our Wildlife Emergency Dispatchers, coordinated by Bob Hartman are: Jim Emerson, Michele Franz, Joe Goertz, Meghan Golembeski, Mary Halko, Bill Herlihy, Jennifer Holcomb, Pat Howell, Denise Hudson, Marc John, Gina Kron, Barb Mitchell-Stull, Shauna Simpson, Kris Steiner, Parks Swartzfager, and Lila Sweeny.

In-Kind Contributors

Animal Friends Cremation Services • Beaver Log Home's Gift Shop • Chestnut Place • Patricia Cool • Qi Dunsworth & Zhang Lilth
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Naturally Yours Designs • Dr. Ramey and Animal Ark Pet Hospital • Ridge Road Taxidermy • Dave Roach • Earl Shriver
Linda Wasson • Dr. Sallie Welte of Tri State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. • Pam Wheeler • Kathy Williams • Jane Wilson

If we neglected to include you - please let us know! We appreciate all our supporters and do our best to remember you all.

Wish List

HE liquid laundry detergent
Frozen pure venison to feed hawks, owls and eagles
Frozen wild caught fish to feed eagles
Black Oil Sunflower Seed
Mixed Bird Seed
Thistle Seed for finches
Wood Pine Shavings for bedding
Forever Stamps
Gas Cards
Paper Towels
Bleach

Vetwrap, Coflex or similar product: 1/2" and 2" width

Digital scales for weighing patients upon admission (Call for details. \$50 item.)

Digital scales for weighing songbird patients (Call for details. \$20 item.)

Bald Eagle release photo and Goldfinch shortly before release.



Wildlife First Responders Course coming this Spring

Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency? A hawk hit by a car on a roadside? Ducklings stranded away from their mother? Back by popular demand, a Wildlife First Responder course will be held in late February to early March.

This course will teach you when to intervene and when not to, and how to capture, handle, stabilize and transport injured birds. Tamarack seeks to train additional volunteers in these techniques in order to increase our capacity and to improve the outcomes for the many injured birds in our region. We also need help with phone coverage, and this course is required for assisting with that as well. The class will meet one evening per week for two hours, and run for three weeks. Cost is \$25 and includes a workbook. Dates and location are being finalized so check the website for updates and registration information, or call the center (814-763-2574) and ask to be notified when the details are set.

SPONSORSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

You can give a sponsorship of our educational animals for \$25.00 per year. Sponsors receive a certificate of sponsorship, a 5x7 photograph and a brochure about the bird they are sponsoring. Additionally, sponsors' names are displayed by the bird's enclosure and sponsors may arrange to visit the Center for a personal encounter. Indicate which animal(s) you would like to sponsor. Send this form, along with a check for \$25 per animal per year to TWREC, 21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433.

Lady Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk _____	Sophia, Barred Owl _____
Ickabobet, Great Horned Owl _____	Spaz Bird, Cooper's Hawk _____
Pierre, Peregrine Falcon _____	Willow, Eastern Screech-Owl _____
Jedi, Merlin Falcon _____	



*Photo taken by:
Jillian Ramsay Stern*

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Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center

21601 Stull Road
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Become a member of TWREC and help wildlife. You will receive two newsletters each membership year and be invited to our annual open house. Your donations are tax deductible and you will have the satisfaction of helping our native wildlife. If your membership is not up for renewal, but you want to help further financially, your additional donation or memorial contribution is always welcomed. Send contributions to:

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Inc.
21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433

Annual Membership:

Individual - \$20.....

Family - \$30.....

Silver Fox - \$100+

Ermine - \$500+

Golden Eagle - \$1000+.....

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T.W.R.E.C.

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