

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

VOLUME 18, NO. X

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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
- Promotion 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

June 11 - August 16:
Weekdays 10am - 3pm
Please call before coming.
August 17 - June 10
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.

Aiding Exceedingly Early Owlets



Baby season started extra early this year with a call February 22. Three grey, fuzzy owlets were on the ground at Allegheny College. We weren't surprised, as Great Horned Owls routinely have the audacity to raise young in the bitter weather of February. But upon admission, we were stunned to see, not Great Horneds, but three petite Screech Owlets of fledgling age. These young birds were over three months earlier than typical!

As fledglings, owlets leave their nest to practice flight. They perch on branches, flutter to the ground and then climb up to try it all again. They don't become adept at flying for several weeks.

Physical examination showed that these little owlets were quite healthy, despite the odd time of year for them to have hatched, and the location of their parent's was known, so after being fed a hearty meal, it was decided to attempt reuniting them with their parents. With the consent of Allegheny's Director of Physical Plant and the assistance of several students and Jim Teliho, at dusk, the owlets were placed in a tree and recordings of owl food beg calls were played while still, silent spotters watched for the parents to return. As

the sun set, temperatures dropped but patience was rewarded when spotters caught sight of flying adult screech owls coming to investigate and their "whinny-like" calls were heard. Success!

In subsequent weeks, the owlets were seen with their parents at various locations on Allegheny Campus, practicing flight and attempting to whinny like an adult screech owl.

Our next baby call came March 26 when two nestling Screech owlets, one grey and one red, were found in the middle of the road in downtown Erie following a wind storm. Screech owls come in different colors and can be grey, brown or red. Owls of different colors can be found in the same nest, as these were. The grey owlet was bigger and older than the red. Screech owls lay their eggs two days apart, but incubate their eggs immediately as they are laid, so the eggs hatch at different times and owlets in the same nest will be slightly different ages.

Although admitted a month later than the Allegheny owlets, these were still very early season babies and an age when they should still be in the nest.

(Aiding Exceedingly Early Owlets continued)

Our first choice is always for wildlife to be raised by their parents, but this time it was not possible to reunite the family due to hazards in the area. The second best option is for the owlets to be placed with another wild family of owls with similarly aged young, but a suitable wild nest was not found.

The third option is being pursued, which is to raise them in captivity, housed with a non-releasable adult Screech Owl and minimal human contact, until they have learned their hunting skills and are ready for release. Willow, the injured mother owl rescued in Erie in 2010 is taking these owlets under her wing. The two owlets are now fledglings. Growing quickly, they have doubled their weight since admitted and are the size of an adult. Like gangly teenagers, they leap into the air from a high perch, drift inelegantly to the ground, then scamper to climb or fly from branch to branch to get up high again. The grey owlet likes to perch next to Willow while the red is more independent and often perches on her own. In just a couple of months, they will fly as adeptly as an adult and will be ready for life on their own.

Your support of Tamarack makes it possible for these youngsters to get help.



Sue's Legacy



Suzanne DeArment is a living legend whose tireless passion for wildlife is widely known. She has dedicated the last 21 years to rehabilitating sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in northwestern Pennsylvania and to educating local citizens about issues related to wild animals and their habitat. Over this time, she has treated over 10,000 wildlife patients including 60 patients from endangered species, and through education programs has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people.

Sue began this journey as a student under Harriet Wilson, the founder of the TWREC. Sue was entranced when she saw Harriet treating a baby Barred Owl, and birds of prey quickly became her specialty. An osprey was the first raptor Sue treated and captured her heart, leading her on the path to becoming an expert wildlife rehabilitator. For many years, she maintained the permits to treat almost any animal whether it was squirrel, raccoon, fox, cardinal or eagle. She was a founding member and the first president of the Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators and a member of the Crawford County State Animal Rescue Team. She developed the Center's wildlife first responder course and educated many college students and volunteers about treating wildlife.

Sue founded the Center's education program, acquiring the necessary permits to allow her to use non-releasable live birds of prey in the education and changed the Center's name to reflect the added educational mission. The Center currently has seven educational ambassador birds of prey, including the very first education raptor, the Red-tailed Hawk "Lady Hawk." Each year, these birds give thousands of people an "up close and personal" appreciation for wildlife.

After working full time for seven years to build this wonderful community wildlife rehabilitation and education resource, Sue was faced with the realization that the Center might have to close its doors due to financial issues. In response, Sue made the difficult decision to work full-time outside of the Center and use her evenings and weekends to volunteer her services to the rehabilitation of raptors, turtles, and a few other species. Scaling back to focus admissions on these species allowed her passion for tending to the animals and educating the public to continue.

In 2008, Sue received the prestigious Western PA Environmental Award, which pays tribute to those who "have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence, leadership, and accomplishment in their respective fields"! It is clear that throughout the past 21 years, Sue has touched the lives of many, both with two and four legs!

As planned, Sue is now moving into a well-deserved retirement. Because of her commitment to training others in rehabilitation skills, building a membership base for continued financial support, and creating a network of active volunteers who value supporting wildlife, Tamarack is in a strong position to continue delivering top notch rehabilitation and education. Sue's passion and commitment live on.

From the President's Perch

By Sarah Sargent

The permits are done! The permits are done!

It has been a long year of transition for us, as Sue DeArment has been trying to retire from active rehabilitation work since last May. This meant we needed to get our assistant wildlife rehabilitators, Carol Holmgren and Kris Steiner, to be fully licensed for all the groups we work with (raptors, songbirds, and mammals) at first the Novice level, then the General level, and then also the Endangered Species level. They had to take written tests in Franklin and verbal examination on these subjects in Harrisburg, and show they had attended conferences and received training in specific topics. And that was just for the State permits! We had to update our federal rehabilitation permits as well! We now have a Federal site permit, rather than individual permits for the rehabilitators, which should make things easier. Of course, handling the education birds requires another type of permit, at both the state and federal level. Then we have to have additional permits to use dead bird material in education programs.

So you can understand the excitement of having all of that behind us at last!

Yes, Sue has retired from Tamarack, although we are still renting our facilities from her, and she visits with her longtime friends Sophia, Pierre and the rest of our permanent residents frequently. We plan to honor her long dedication to Tamarack with a fund at the Crawford Heritage Community Foundation named after her that will benefit the ongoing work the center. Look for more information on that soon.

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.

Exciting Raptor Educators!



Welcome to Bob and Martha Sterba, our newest raptor education specialists. Both are expert at handling our education raptors and have a wealth of information and passion to share. Bob and Martha became involved with Tamarack 1 ½ years ago when they attended a Wildlife First Responders course taught by Sue DeArment and shortly thereafter began training to handle the education birds and teach programs.

Bob is a geologist, retired from his work with PA Department of Environmental Protection and an accomplished naturalist. His knowledge of all the back roads in northwestern Pennsylvania are an asset when driving to a new education program. He's better than any GPS system!

Martha is an educator through and through. She has a passion for sharing birds with people both young and old. A retired music teacher, Martha is sensitive to the learning stages of different ages, and presents material in a way that is both challenging and accessible to each age.

Bob and Martha have combined Bob's skill in wood working and Martha's passion for active learning to create new interactive educational tools for use in Tamarack's programs.

Together Bob and Martha are an outstanding educational team. We are pleased to welcome them.



For more information about Tamarack's education programs, check out the website www.tamarackwildlife.org or call the center.

New Members and Contributors

GOLDEN EAGLE \$1000

- Dr. John B. Lane- Cambridge Springs, PA
- Bill & Linda DeArment – Meadville, PA

ERMINE \$500

- Carol Buetikofer – Fairview, PA
- Shirley Norcross – Guys Mills, PA

SILVER FOX \$100

- Patty Almeda - McKean, PA
- Dave & Jane Anderson – Meadville, PA
- Dr. Gertrude A. Barber National Institute, Employee Service Fund – Erie, PA
- Linda Beige – Meadville, PA
- Brenda Biedrzycki – Corry, PA
- John & Pam Boderocco – Johnstown, PA
- Sherri-Jo Christ – Erie, PA
- Edinboro Industries – Edinboro, PA
- Erie Cage Bird Club – Erie, PA
- Erie Zoo – Erie, PA
- Abe Finton – Meadville, PA
- Frank & Marti Germick – Meadville, PA
- Mary & Bill Haines – Saegertown, PA
- Mary Halko – Erie, PA
- Jerry & Cheryl Hazlett – Sharpsville, PA
- Faith & William Heath – Erie, PA
- Lawrence & Gail Howanitz – Fairview, PA
- Chal & Evelyn Jordan – Englewood, FL
- Marilyn Karns - Oil City, PA
- Jim & Karla Koenig - North East, PA
- Christine (Kit) Lang – Meadville, PA
- Harry & Karen Leshner - Union City, PA
- Linesville Rotary Club - Linesville, PA
- Shirley Morgan – Thermopolis, WY
- Tom & Billie Moser – Murrysburg, PA
- Cathy Mostoway – Murrysburg, PA
- Nancy Norman - Cambridge Springs, PA

- Donald & Sherry O'Day – Saegertown, PA
- Rich & Sandy Parker – Meadville, PA
- Sandra Parker – Meadville, PA
- Karen Reichel – Erie, PA
- Beth and John Rekas – Meadville, PA
- Ridge Road Taxidermy – Meadville, PA
- Dave & Cyndi Sample – Corry, PA
- Patty & Rick Sherbondy – Warren, PA
- Denny & Sandy Sly – East Hickory, PA
- Susan Smith – Erie, PA
- Leroy Sproul – Hermitage, PA
- Robert & Martha Sterba – Meadville, PA
- Lisa & William Stevens – Fairview, PA
- Bonnie & Carl Terry – Saegertown, PA
- Thomas & Tammara Trubic - Sugar Grove, PA
- Ed Walsh & Kirsten Peterson – Meadville, PA
- Louis & Mary Wagner – Meadville, PA
- Janice & Terry Werneth – Meadville, PA
- Jeff and Deb Williams – Kinsman, OH
- Paul and Cynthia Wilson – Mendon, MA
- Scott Wright & Carla Picardo – Erie, PA
- Jane Woods – Fairview, PA
- Glen Wurst – Meadville, PA
- Imogene Yetman – Meadville, PA

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- Jane Anderson – Meadville, PA
- Jeane Beach – Cortland, OH
- Julie Caldwell – Erie, PA
- Dominic Corsini – Edinboro, PA
- Anette Gerber – Youngsville, PA
- Kevin Hartley – Fairview, PA
- Jerry & Cheryl Hazlett – Sharpsville, PA
- Bonnie Heiges – Erie, PA
- Robin Herald – Girard, PA
- Kim Hinkle – Pittsburgh, PA

- Rhonda Hinrichs – Vienna, OH
- Phyllis Kelly
- Karla Kerlin – Glendale, CA
- Jim & Karla Koenig – North East, PA
- Pam Kranz – Cranesville, PA
- Doris & Frank Kroto – McKean, PA
- Raymond & Patti Massing – Erie, PA
- Tom Mogush – Edinboro, PA
- Sara Parana - St. Marys, PA
- George & Barbara Peterson – Centerville, PA
- Diane Potocki-Leggett – Erie, PA
- Lissa Potter – Baltimore, MD
- Cynthia Rebar – Fairview, PA
- Ben Schlosser – McKean, PA
- Denise Semrad - Conneaut Lake, PA
- Lisa & William Stevens
- Nina Thumser & Rodney Crouse
- Janice & Terry Werneth – Meadville, PA
- Judith Wiczorek – Erie, PA
- Alice Wuenschel – Erie, PA
- Yiran Zhang – Waterford, PA

MEMORIALS

- "In memory of Peeker" from Beverly Hill
- "In memory of Peeker" from Carol Holmgren
- "In honor of Dina, Jackie, Kirsten, Lee, Ann, Sally, Toni, Vicki and Sir Eli of Northeast Dental Arts, with gratitude" from Judith Wiczorek
- "In honor of Denise Hudson & Joe Goertz, and in memory of Denise's father, Robert Donovan" from Diane Potocki-Leggett
- "In honor of Arthur Michael Zinz, Jr." from Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Weber
- "In memory of Marilyn J. Grady" from Mr. & Mrs. Michael Koricich

In-Kind Contributors:

Bill Behmke • Darry and Ginny Buttrey • Jim Emerson • Greener Pastures Veterinary Clinic • Mary and Bill Haines
 Bob Hartman • Jamestown Elementary Outdoor Club • Drs. Lindstrom and Grzenda of Animal Clinic Northview
 Danuta Majchrowicz • Dr. Erica Miller DVM • Dr. Muth DVM Dr. Polumbo of Glenwood Pet Hospital
 Dave Potoker • Dr. Ramey of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital • Earl Shriver • Mr. Simrod • Alan Sweet • Pam Wheeler
 Woodcock Animal Hospital

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

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:
Jilliam Ramsay Stern

Name of Sponsor: _____ Gift Recipient's Name: _____
 Address of Sponsor: _____ Gift Recipient's Address: _____

Wish List

Paper Towels

Bleach

HE Liquid Laundry Detergent

Black Oil Sunflower Seeds

Mixed Bird Seed

Thistle Seed for finches

Tools (used ok): hammer, screwdrivers, drill & bits, handsaw

Forever Stamps

Gas Cards

Old Pillow Cases, Flat Sheets, Towels

Cardboard Boxes (esp. computer printer size) for temporary housing birds

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

Frozen archery hunted pure venison to feed hawks, owls and eagles

Frozen wild caught fish to feed eagles and osprey

Laptop Computer and Computer Projector

Snuggle Safe Microwave Pet Beds

Bald Eagle release photo and Goldfinch shortly before release.



Winter into Spring at the Center: All Creatures Great and Small



"All Creatures Great and Small" seems to be the theme for this spring. We have cared for magnificent Bald Eagles and a tiny 2" Box Turtle; an elegant Osprey and infant Opossums, fierce Great Horned Owls and timid nestling Mourning Doves; prehistoric Snapping Turtles and fluffy Cottontails. Your support makes it possible for them to get help. Many animals were helped without ever being admitted: baby rabbits reunited with their mother through the coaching of dispatchers; a loon rescued and released onto a lake by Center volunteers; owlets reunited with their parents by rehabilitators. With spring weather we are very busy admitting and caring for patients. And special thanks to Bob Hartman and Bill Behmke for the donation of a new washing machine!

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

Thank you to our winter and spring helpers: volunteer weekend supervisors GreyWhitney and Amanda DiCola; volunteers Ginny and Darry Buttrey, Martha Consla, Joe Goertz, David Roach, Martha and Bob Sterba, Jessica Williams, and college students Sarah Durrer, Katrina Gaszi, Kasey Hinkle, Josh Sadler, Julia Schock, Jessica Schombert, Kathleen Macie, Shannon Wade. We are fortunate to have the assistance of Allegheny College Davies Leader John Rooney and Bonner Leader Josh Sadler.

Thank you to our wildlife medics: Katrina Gaszi, Joe Goertz, Dave Roach, Sarah Sargent, Jessica Schombert, and Jessica Williams.

Our Wildlife Emergency Dispatchers, coordinated by Bob Hartman are: Jean Beach, Joe Goertz, Mary Halko, Bill Herlihy, Rhonda Hinrichs, Julie Hirt, Denise Hudson, Marc John, Gina Kron, Jane Levin, Roberta McCall, Barb Mitchell-Stull, Parks Swartzfager, and Lila Sweeny.



**Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation
and Education Center**

21601 Stull Road
Saegertown, PA 16433
Phone: 814.763.2574

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Spring 2013 Newsletter



Join us on Facebook!

Yes! I want to help wildlife!

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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Executive Director Carol Holmgren
Assistant Director Kris Steiner

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Carol Holmgren
Kris Steiner

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Carol Holmgren, Kris Steiner,
Martha and Bob Sterbad