



# Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

VOLUME 22, NO. 1

SPRING 2016

## 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

Tamarack is able to admit birds of prey (all species and ages of eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and vultures), small birds (all ages song birds, wood peckers, etc at our North East location), turtles and opossums. This is subject to change depending on case load. For more information call 814-763-2574.

## Hours

June 13-August 12:  
Weekdays 10am-3pm  
Please call before coming.

August 13-June 12:  
By appointment



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.



## Congratulations to our Newest Licensed Rehabber!

Gina Kron has had a lifelong interest in animals, with a special passion for birds. This year, she's taken that passion to a new level by becoming a state- and federally-licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Gina has volunteered with Tamarack since 2011 – as a medic, phone dispatcher, and songbird specialist sub-permittee. To augment her “on the job” experience, she has attended state and national conferences to expand her knowledge. Now licensed by Pennsylvania and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, she treats non-raptor birds at her location in North East, significantly expanding the species Tamarack is able to admit.

Gina treats small birds (passerines) of all ages, including nestlings, aerialists, insect-eaters, woodpeckers, woodcocks, and crows. Songbirds today face many hardships, including loss of habitat, climate change, window and auto strikes, insecticides, and predators (especially domestic cats). Each bird has a unique personality, as well as special dietary requirements for healthy growth. Nestlings, which grow quickly, need to be fed every 15 minutes during a 14-hour day! Gina has future plans to set up a space where volunteers can assist her with care, thereby increasing her capacity.

If you have a songbird that needs admission, secure it in a small box with air holes. If the bird is not fully feathered, make a small nest out of soft material to keep it warm. Never give a bird food or liquids, as they could be life threatening. Call Tamarack Wildlife Center at 814-763-2574 and leave a message. Your call will be forwarded to Gina. If needed, callers will be counseled in how to attempt reuniting young birds with their parents. If admission is needed, this

will be arranged for our North East location. Due to the demanding nature of these petite patients, she may be unable to admit new patients during times of high case load.

*Continue on page 4*



*Top: Licensed wildlife rehabilitator Gina Kron releases a Cardinal*

*Middle: Bluebird nestling raised and later released.*

*Below: Young Downy Woodpeckers get a meal.*





Several American Coots were treated and released this winter. Although dwelling on water, the Coot is not a duck. It has beautiful leaf-like lobbed feet.



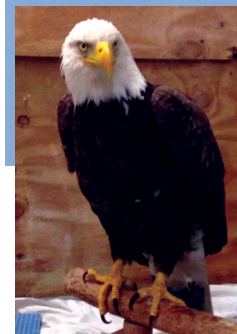
Baby Opossums are already being admitted. Spring is here! Did you know that an adult opossum can eat over 5000 ticks in one year?



Treated for wing injuries, this Red-tailed Hawk recovered fully and photos above show his release in March. Last year TWREC treated 37 Red-tailed Hawks.



Close to freedom! Following surgery for a fractured wing and intensive physical therapy, this young Bald Eagle will be released in May.



Release! After five months of treatment, the Bald Eagle (above) was released in January. Another eagle (left) is currently in treatment for lead toxicity and a fracture.



## Meet Apollo!



*Newly named Apollo is offered a piece of food by volunteer trainer Jessica Schombert.*

Our ambassador Peregrine Falcon has a name! Meet "Apollo!"

Jo-Ann Nuzzo of Conneaut Lake, an avid bird lover, suggested the name. When she got to meet the newly-named Peregrine in person, it brought tears to her eyes. She said, "It's an honor."

Apollo is the Greek god of light, healing, wisdom and manly beauty. The Peregrine "Apollo" is a handsome, masculine bird who inspires us to have the wisdom to care for all creatures and bring healing to our world.

134 wonderful names were suggested. We had submissions from elementary and middle schools, college classes, nursing homes, church youth groups, and individuals. The thoughtful reasons for many names were touching. Others were fun, like "Swooper-man" and "Sonic." The choice was difficult.

Thank you to all who suggested a name for this special bird!

## Remember Tamarack Wildlife Center during Erie Gives 2016!



As part of Erie Gives 2016, supporters can visit [www.eriegives.org](http://www.eriegives.org) on August 9 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to make a donation to Tamarack Wildlife Center. A percentage of all donations made will be matched by the Erie Community Foundation, increasing the value of every dollar donated. The more donations made to Tamarack that day, the more matching funds the center receives! Our supporters have a history of generosity on Erie Gives days, which has allowed us to treat more patients. To sign up to receive a reminder to donate during Erie Gives on August 9, visit [www.eriegives.org](http://www.eriegives.org).

## Happy Hatch Day, Lady Hawk!

Lady Hawk, our founding ambassador raptor, is 25! Through Tamarack's education programs, this stunning Red-tailed Hawk sees about 3,500 people each year. Altogether, our raptor ambassadors visit about 5,000 people each year. Lady Hawk is a clear community favorite! All who meet her are impressed with her beauty and piercing gaze.

Lady Hawk was found in 1991 by the side of the road as a hatch-year hawk with a fractured wing, probably hit by a fast-moving car as she fed on roadkill. Although damage to her wing meant she would not survive in the wild, wildlife

rehabilitator Sue DeArment bonded with the unusually calm hawk and recognized the bird could be an excellent educational ambassador for her species. Tamarack obtained the necessary permits to share Lady Hawk with the public, allowing people to learn about raptors and how to protect these special birds and our environment.

Since then, Tamarack's team of ambassador raptors has grown to include nine birds spanning seven species of hawks, falcons, and owls. Lady Hawk remains the matriarch of our education program. Much to the delight of observers, she often dramatically fluffs her feathers, called a "rouse." This is a sign that she is relaxed and comfortable. At outdoor events, she loves leaning into the wind.

In the wild, most Red-tails live no more than ten to 15 years. But in captivity they can live much longer, up to 30 years. At 25, Lady Hawk is considered geriatric and receives regular health checks and medication for arthritis in her legs. Despite her age, she is in excellent health, and eager to hop onto a handler's glove to display her beauty to an audience. We hope to celebrate many more years with this amazing bird. Happy 25th hatch day, Lady Hawk!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

*Sarah Sargent*

Spring is here! This is the time of year that our migratory birds return from their winter travels. Some have gone all the way to South America and back, an amazing feat of navigation as well as endurance! Check out <http://www.hawkmountain.org/birdtracker/> to see where Broad-winged Hawks from eastern Pennsylvania travel in the off-season. As I write this, one hawk - nicknamed Ridgena - is in Nicaragua, working her way back north from the central Amazon basin.

Here at home I would like to welcome several new members of the Board of Directors: Gina Kron (our songbird specialist from North East), Kerry Neville (a writer from Meadville), and Rick Wyman (an educator from Edinboro). These three, in addition to the rest of the Board, will be working hard on bringing Tamarack into its next phase. Look for much more on this in the year to come!

We recently sent our Spring Shower postcard to our members and supporters, and invite you to send a monetary gift to help us prepare for the upcoming busy spring and summer season.

Thank you all for your financial contributions and other support, without which we could not do what we do. Wild creatures face challenges, often due to human alterations of their habitats, and we at Tamarack do our best to get them back on their feet - or wings - to continue their lives in our shared corner of Pennsylvania.



*Continued from page 1*

Gina continues to generously donate her time as a Tamarack rehabilitator, while holding a full-time job as owner of several Tim Horton restaurants and being a mother and grandmother. Congratulations to Gina on her new licensure!



## New Home for a Vulture

We fell in love with a young Turkey Vulture admitted last October, unable to fly. Afflicted with a fractured wing that had fused incorrectly, he would not survive in the wild. But his fuzzy black head showed he was young, hatched that year, and likely to be an excellent ambassador raptor candidate. Volunteers began hand-feeding the bird as we started the search for his perfect new home. We soon became enamored by this charming, intelligent, and gentle vulture. New World vultures are social, smart, and more closely related to storks than to eagles and hawks. Eventually, our vulture would step onto his caretaker's arm to receive his meal. The new red skin color of his head told us he was becoming an adult.

An excellent home was found at Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, NY, and we transferred him in February. Upon arriving there, he explored his expansive new home (equipped with a heat source to keep this winter migrant comfortable), and that same afternoon stepped onto the arm of his new caretaker for dinner. Vultures in captivity can live up to 30 years. We wish this special Turkey Vulture a long and happy life as an ambassador for his species!

Several other non-releasable raptor patients have recently been placed with education facilities. A Red-tailed Hawk is at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and Screech Owls have been placed at The Wild Center in the Adirondacks of New York and at Animal Rescue League Wildlife Center in Verona, PA.

## Onsite Blood Testing Now At Tamarack



Thanks to a generous donation by Lynne and Bob Martin, Tamarack now can perform basic blood tests on wildlife patients and have results in minutes. A hematocrit centrifuge allows us to measure Packed Cell Volume (PCV) and our new refractometer reads Total Solids (TS). A grant from the Northern

Allegheny Conservation Association covered purchase of test strips needed to continue testing blood lead levels onsite. Assessing these blood values onsite improves the care we give our wildlife patients!



## At the Center: Winter Turns to Spring

*Carol Holmgren*

Warm breezes are blowing, and wildlife and humans alike are feeling the seasons change. Spring is a time of new birth and a busy season for wildlife rehabilitators. We are excited to welcome songbird specialist Gina Kron as a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator in North East. Gina brings a wealth of experience she gained during five years as a sub-permittee under Tamarack's license.

The Center continues to treat a high number of Bald Eagles, a sign of their increasing population. Of the five we have treated so far this year, two were admitted in 2015 and are continuing treatment, and three were admitted in 2016. Unfortunately, two did not survive their injuries. But we also have a reason to celebrate: on a blue-sky winter day in January, after five months of treatment for a severe concussion, an adult Bald Eagle was released. A juvenile eagle is scheduled for release in May. Another adult eagle is recovering from lead toxicity and a coracoid fracture.

Interesting patients this winter included a stunning Loon admitted with a dislocated elbow. After stabilizing her wing, we transferred her to a center with a large aquatic facility where, wearing a waterproof bandage, she could swim and dive for fish several times each day. While she was with us, this Loon mesmerized us with her eerie call. Happily, after just a few weeks of treatment, the bird was released.

Several American Coots were also admitted, unable to take off from icy roads they mistook for water. These chicken-like water birds have fascinating lobed feet, and frequent marshy areas where they dive for vegetative roots and insects. Once hydrated and well-fed, these birds were released in areas with plenty of open water.



As we move into spring and summer, please think of wildlife as you tend your home. Consider adding plants to your landscape that can serve as food or shelter for wildlife. Plan to trim trees in the fall, after birds and squirrels have raised their families. If you hang bird feeders, avoid disease by cleaning them monthly with a 9:1 bleach solution. Eliminate or minimize use of chemical pesticides, which can be toxic to wildlife. If you do use these products, follow instructions carefully. Insulating your home and keeping your vehicle well-tuned can save you money in excess fuel costs, and also help minimize climate change, which causes problems for wildlife and humans alike.

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

*Thank you to our winter and spring helpers: Allegheny College Bonner leaders Drew Hodgkiss, Bryce Howe, Meric Islam and Lee Streshenkoff; volunteers Martha Consola, Cathy Davis, Amanda DiCola, Chris Green, Mary Haines, Janelle Harrawood, Stephanie Krahe, Melanie McClearn, Daniele Moffat, Laryssa Rote, Jodi Sipos, Larry and Linda Slomski, Olivia Wyman and Allegheny College students Arden Delphey, Ethan Glover-Bailey, Abby Hileman, Blake Johnson, Allysa Nelson, Jessica Schombert, Dan Swann, and Danielle Thiemann. For the 2016 summer we welcome Meric Islam as summer supervisor; Caley Ritts and Catrina Steckler will be interns.*

*Our fabulous Wildlife Emergency Dispatchers, coordinated by Bob Hartman, are:*

*Carol Brown, Joe Goertz, Jim Fitch, Emily Flowers, Mary Halko, Julie Hirt, Denise Hudson, Marc John, Lynne Martin, Daniele Moffat, Roberta McCall, Grace Ossa, Allie Sheppeck, Marcella Smith, and Sharon Wesoky. Barb Mitchell-Stull has retired after five years as a dedicated dispatcher.*

## Help Wildlife When You Shop or Search Online: Amazon Smile and iGive

***Did you know that something you already do several times a week can raise funds to help wildlife? Search and shop for a cause in two ways:***

**1.** Shop at **Amazonsmile.com**, selecting Tamarack as the organization you wish to support. Amazon will automatically donate a percentage of what you spend to Tamarack. It's that easy! You can also view an Amazon wish list of items we need at the center, if you wish to make an additional purchase for the wildlife.

**2.** Register at **iGive.com** and select Tamarack as the cause you would like to support. Through iGive

you can shop at 889 major online companies and a portion of your purchases will be donated to Tamarack. Even better: every time you search the web through the iGive site, one cent is donated to Tamarack per search, even if you don't make a purchase. Use iGive it at work, at home, when making hotel and plane reservations...you name it!

These are effortless sources of income for us to help wildlife, and are free for you! It's a win-win!

***All members and contributors (except those desiring to be anonymous) will be listed in an annual report and will therefore not be included in the newsletter.***  
**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE CENTER!**



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## IN HONOR OF:

**Glen and Grace Black** *from Nathan P. Black*

## IN MEMORY OF:

**Charles Chatfield** *from Carol and Rick Holmgren*

**Dr. Donna Guenther** *from John and Linda Guenther*

**John Fox** *from Susan Fenton*

**Tom and Hertha Herron** *from Kathleen Herron*

**Neil Wilson** *from Carol Wilson*



To make a contribution in honor or memory of someone, donations can be made online or mailed to TWREC, 21601 Stull Rd, Saegertown PA 16433.

Be sure to include: whether this is in honor or memory; name/address for TWREC to send acknowledgement; your (donor) name/address.



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## CCCC Donation

Thank you to the staff of Crawford County Care Center for raising funds to support Tamarack! Activities Director Sherry Barzak and Admissions & Marketing Director Jennifer Musone present Carol Holmgren, Tamarack Director /Wildlife Rehabilitator, Cathy Davis, Educator, and raptor ambassador Sophia with a check for \$228, a donation that was earned as part of the "12 Months of Gratitude Challenge" at the Care Center.

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## Equipment Donated by Field and Stream

Our avian patients must be in peak physical condition before they can be released. This means that, once healed, the work of regaining physical strength must begin. Some raptors do not self-exercise adequately in a flight building. Several times a week, we give conditioning to those birds by flying them on a

line (called "creance"). However, smaller raptors can't pull the heavy creance rope. Thank you to Field and Stream of Erie for donating an ice fishing rod, reel, and braided line, which gives us the ability to creance even our smallest raptors!

## Spring 2016 In-Kind Contributors

- Alan Johnson
- Animal Friends Cremation
- Bob & Diane Voegle
- Chris, Sam & Jesse Green
- Christian's Critter Kids
- Dan Johnson
- Daniele and Randy Moffat
- Drs. Cheropovich & Helgert  
of Crawford Co. Humane Society  
Veterinary Hospital
- Dr. Consla  
of Conneaut Lake Veterinary Hospital
- Dr. Lindstrom  
of Animal Clinic Northview
- Drs. Ramey & Radford  
of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital
- Edgar Roberts
- Emily Flowers
- Greener Pastures  
Veterinary Clinic
- Hare Today Gone Tomorrow
- Janelle Harrawood
- Larry & Linda Slomski
- Linda & Bob Gleeson
- Lynne Martin & friends
- Ms. Charlene Young
- Peggy & Ross Bell

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

**Go to AmazonSmile.com and look up  
Tamarack Wildlife Center's wish list for more great ideas!**  
**Wish List**



*American Robin  
raised from  
nestling and  
released*

- Paper Towels
- Dawn Dish Detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent for High Efficiency Machines (HE)
- Trash bags, 30 gallon
- Mixed Bird Seed
- Black Oil Sunflower Seed
- Forever Stamps
- Cohesive Bandage, 2"
- Pillow Cases, Flat Sheets (clean, used)
- Surgical drape (unused from hospital surgeries)
- Sterile Saline or Lactated Ringers (up to 2.5 dextrose) IV bags
- Frozen wild caught fish or venison to  
supplement diet for eagles and hawks
- Wood Pine or Ash shavings for bedding (not cedar)



*Bluebird raised from  
nestling by Tamarack's  
songbird specialist,  
Gina Kron*

## Sponsorships Make Great Gifts

You can give a sponsorship of our ambassador raptors 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
- ☐ Willow, Eastern Screech Owl
- ☐ Spirit Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk
- ☐ Jedi, Merlin Falcon
- ☐ Vincent, Great Horned Owl

- ☐ Sophia, Barred Owl
- ☐ Jasper, Eastern Screech Owl
- ☐ Alice, Cooper's Hawk
- ☐ Apollo, Peregrine Falcon

*Apollo,  
Peregrine  
Falcon*



Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Recipient's Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**Tamarack Wildlife**  
**Rehabilitation & Education Center**  
 21601 Stull Road  
 Saegertown, PA 16433  
 Phone: 814-763-2574

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## Spring 2016 Newsletter



### Yes! I want to help wildlife!

Become a member of TWREC and help wildlife. Members receive two newsletters per year and are invited to our annual open house. Your donations are tax deductible and give you the satisfaction of helping our native wildlife. If your membership is not up for renewal but you wish to provide extra financial support, your additional donation or memorial contribution is always welcome.

Send contributions to:

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

#### Annual Membership:

- ☐ Individual/Chickadee.....\$20
- ☐ Family/Kestrel.....\$30
- ☐ Great Horned Owl.....\$100
- ☐ Peregrine.....\$500
- ☐ Golden Eagle.....\$1000
- Other Amount.....\$\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive  
the newsletter via:

☐ Mail ☐ E-Mail

(If e-mail,  
please list below)

#### **All Contributions are Tax Deductible!**

*If your address label is  
incorrect,  
please let us know.*

#### **T.W.R.E.C.'s**

Executive Director.....Carol Holmgren  
 Director Emeritus..Suzanne DeArment

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 Vice President.....Susan A. Smith  
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 Board Member.....Delores Tavares  
 Board Member.....Richard Wyman  
 Board Member.....Kerry Neville  
 Board Member.....Gina Kron

Corresponding Secretaries.....

Tiffany Hrach & Anita Sundean

#### **SPONSORING VETERINARIAN**

Dr. Ramey,

Animal Ark Pet Hospital

#### **WILDLIFE REHAB ASSISTANTS**

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#### **WILDLIFE EDUCATORS**

Cathy Davis, Linda Gleeson,  
 Carol Holmgren, Kris Steiner,  
 Richard Wyman

#### **WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS**

Carol Holmgren, Gina Kron,  
 Kris Steiner

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_