



Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center



VOLUME 23, NO. 1

SPRING 2017

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 (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, rabbits and opossums. This is subject to change depending on case load.

For more information call
814-763-2574.

Hours

June 13-August 11:
Weekdays 10am-3pm
Please call before coming.

August 12-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.

Thanks to You,

Tamarack Patients are RETURNING HOME!



Pictured are Abby Povoko of Albion, releasing a Barred Owl she had arranged to have treated at Tamarack (left) and volunteers Danielle Theiman (top) and Laryssa Rote each releasing a Red-tailed Hawk after the birds completed treatment for injuries.

RETURNING HOME



Recently released patients:
Great Horned Owl (top left),
clockwise:
Barred Owl,
Lesser Scaup,
Red-tailed Hawks,
grey phase
Eastern Screech
Owls.
Center top:
red phase Eastern
Screech Owl and
center bottom:
Carol Holmgren
releases a
Northern Goshawk.

Sweet Reunion!

Sometimes when we release a patient, there is family waiting! After months of treatment, a Red-tailed Hawk nicknamed "Goldie" was released in her home territory near Union City. As she took flight, she was immediately greeted by her mate. The two hawks soared close together, circling in the blue sky, then landed side by side in a tree before taking off to soar together again.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Sarah Sargent

Spring is here, and birds are migrating through as I write this. Baby opossums and rabbits are being admitted, and we already have reports of owls fledging! What an exciting time of year! We are so eager to get back outdoors, to our gardens and other favorite places. We will reacquaint ourselves with trails, woods, ponds and views where we have not been spending much time during the cold winter months. And the wildlife will be there. They, of course, don't spend the winter months cooped up like we do. Some of them have braved the winter, enduring the cold and snow. Some birds will have flown many miles southward and back again. Spring is a time to welcome home the migrants and new life!

Tamarack now has a permanent home. After all this time (we were founded in 1989), we now own the property where we operate our main center! We sincerely thank the donors who have contributed to our capital campaign who have made this possible. Already we are making improvements and changing the way we use the spaces we have, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter. There are more changes to come, too. We envision a center that is welcoming and educational, making it easy for people to connect with wildlife and understand how important they are in our lives and to the ecosystems upon which we all depend. They are one of the most visible indicators of healthy ecosystems; where they thrive, so do we.

Thanks so much to all of you, our supporters, as we move forward with this exciting new phase of our organizational life; owning our facility, and shaping it to best support our rehabilitation and education work.



President Sarah Sargent sizes the band for a Northern Goshawk prior to release.

Tamarack's 2016 Annual Report, including a listing of our donors, is available at our website www.tamarackwildlife.org



We are committed to providing our patients with the best possible care and continuing education is key! Four from our center participated in the week-long National Wildlife Rehabilitation Symposium in March: volunteers Cathy Davis and Laryssa Rote, and licensed wildlife rehabilitators Gina Kron and Carol Holmgren. Our volunteers were supported with scholarship funds and paid the remainder themselves. They participated in workshops, lectures and networked with other wildlife rehabilitation professionals in order to stay abreast of current best practices and be ready for the coming busy season!

A new aviary for Tamarack North East!

Improvements are taking place at Tamarack North East as well! A new aviary is nearly complete, allowing licensed wildlife rehabber Gina Kron to condition her patients for release without transferring them back to our Saegertown location. Designs for this aviary were obtained from Diane Winn, a nationally recognized rehabilitator from Avian Haven in Maine. Thanks to Gina's husband Dave for construction. The 12x16' structure can be divided into two pre-release cages for smaller birds, or one larger space.



Save the date! August 8 is Erie Gives 2017

Thanks to you, Erie Gives Day has been a fantastic source of support for our center's work in recent years. Save the date! On Tuesday, August 8 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. supporters can visit www.eriegives.org 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! To sign up receive a reminder to donate during Erie Gives on August 8, visit www.eriegives.org.



to

a home for TAMARACK!

We are excited to have a home for our main wildlife center in Saegertown after renting our space for 25 years. Already change is afoot! Read about it below! Look for more changes in the coming years as we more fully make this site our home and make refinements to better serve our patients and community.



Hosting education programs onsite!

We now have a beautiful Event Room where we can host education programs for groups with up to 30 participants, hold meetings and volunteer events. Already in this space we have hosted our Wildlife First Responder class, a homeschool group, high school students, and girl scouts, with more scheduled!

We have purchased tables for use in the Event Room, and now need to acquire chairs to accommodate groups of these sizes (currently we are borrowing chairs from another non-profit). If you are interested in helping fund this, let us know!

Cleaning up!

The ramshackle storage shed that previously stood next to our parking area has been dismantled, creating a more attractive entrance to Tamarack. We are now using a stall of the garage for storage while we evaluate whether to build a new storage shed or continue using the garage for that purpose.

Going Greener!

Tamarack Wildlife Center is committed to stewarding earth's resources responsibly. In order to reduce the center's energy use, high efficiency heat exchangers have been installed. Previously the main building was heated with electric baseboard units. Those will remain in case of severe cold. The addition of heat exchangers are estimated to reduce energy use to 1/3 of what it was previously. This reduces our carbon footprint and saves money.

Office Improvements!

The office has been moved and combined with our admissions space to create a welcoming space for patients to be admitted, and better functioning for our office volunteers. The exam room is now in a separate space so our wildlife patients can be treated in privacy, which reduces their stress. When funds allow, we plan to create a ground level office and admissions room, with a handicapped access bathroom. In the interim, this move is an exciting improvement!



Making Connections – With Raptors!

Richard Wyman, Volunteer Educator

Education program audiences connect to our raptor ambassadors in a variety of ways. For older audiences, it might be through direct experience: "I saw a Cooper's Hawk eyeing some songbirds at our bird feeder." Younger students commonly connect through vicarious experience: "I read about Peregrine Falcons and DDT in science class." Our youngest audience members, however, often connect on a far more basic level - through the raptor's names.

While I have never met a child named Apollo, Lady, or Spirit, I have met a Sophia, Willow, and Alice. At a recent program for the McKean Elementary School Science Fair, I was holding and talking about our rufous Eastern Screech Owl. A woman carrying a young boy made her way through the crowd and came to stand right in front of me. A huge smile broke across the boy's face as he pointed his finger at the bird on my glove and said, "My name is Jasper, too!" While not sophisticated or complex, the connection Jasper the boy made with Jasper the Screech Owl was a delight to witness. Studies have even shown that people remember more from a presentation with live raptors when the birds have names.

MAKE YOUR OWN CONNECTIONS BY JOINING US AT A PROGRAM!

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Clarion University Earth Day Celebration, 6-7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Raptor Fest (booth), TREC, Erie, 1-4 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Oil Creek State Park,
Oil City, 2-3 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Vendor & Craft Show (small booth), Erie, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 3

Warren July Fourth Celebration (booth),
Betts Park, time TBA

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Raptors at Arundel (booth), Arundel Cellars,
North East, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

Mercer County Conservation District,
Mercer, time TBA

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9-10

Wild Winds Folk Art and Craft Fest (booth),
Pittsfield, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Albion Fair (booth), Albion, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

TAMARACK WILDLIFE CENTER OPEN HOUSE,
Saegertown, 1-4 p.m.

The Elusive Goshawk

Laryssa Rote, Volunteer Medic & Educator

Goshawks are rarely seen in Pennsylvania. So, when a huge accipiter crashed into James Hill's window, he guessed it to be a massive Cooper's Hawk, a common species in the area. Upon admission to Tamarack, however, it became clear that this accipiter was too large to be



The stunning immature Northern Goshawk treated this winter, prior to release.

even the largest of the Cooper's. After consulting with Scott Stoleson, Research Wildlife Biologist for the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, and his assistant Don Watts, we confirmed that what we had in hand was an immature male Northern Goshawk. Though the young bird's feathering was a rich brown with a narrowly banded tail, as an adult, he will sport distinctive blood red eyes, a white eyebrow

stripe, and grey feathers.

The bird had sustained a bad concussion and was in need of treatment and TLC. But we had a dilemma: once he had recovered, where should we release him? He had been found near Waterford, which isn't typical Goshawk habitat. Goshawks prefer to live in intact mature forests,

where older trees provide protective cover and prey is plentiful for a family, such as is found in Allegheny National Forest.

We also had to contend with the Goshawk's high-strung nature, which is a hallmark of all accipiters. This makes them difficult patients at best and a danger to themselves at worst. One priority was protecting the tail of this young Goshawk. A destroyed tail from bashing would lead to a prolonged stay or a stressful imping session. To prevent damage, we put a lightweight tailguard on the bird, which protected his tail without hindering his flight or speed. Once recovered, we would often see him performing amazing acrobatic maneuvers, careening towards a wall only to veer away at the last second, avoiding all but the barest wing-tip contact with the surface. We could easily imagine his prowess in the wild, catching birds mid-flight through the forest canopy.

The Northern Goshawk is a fierce predator and protector of its nest. Goshawks have been known to attack intruders such as humans, and will pursue prey so tenaciously that they have stalked on foot if they couldn't reach it on wing.

With Scott and Don's expert knowledge of Goshawk nesting habitats, we were able to find a suitable area for release. Tenacious, elusive, and stunning are words that can only begin to describe the Northern Goshawk. It's a creature that is impossible to describe in words alone. We were honored to have this young bird in our care, and thrilled that we could release him back into the wild where he belongs.

Winter into Spring at the Center

Carol Holmgren

The sun rose with a warm glow this morning, as mist cloaked the fields and forest in mystery. Birds filled the fresh air with song. It is a time of new beginnings.

We have been relishing the release of our winter patients: Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Lesser Scaup, Chickadee, and Dark-eyed Junco are some of the species that have been released after completing treatment at the center. A Bald Eagle was recently admitted with traumatic injuries. We are hopeful he will go free again after intensive treatment.

As spring and summer come, Tamarack is here to treat young Raptors, Cottontail Rabbits, Opossums, and others needing assistance. Gina Kron, at our North East Songbird Healing Center, treats baby Songbirds. However, we want to avoid accidental "kidnappings." Call the center if you need help identifying whether a bird or other animal should be admitted. Sometimes we can be fooled.

For example, healthy Cottontail Rabbits are independent when they are the size of a softball (4-5" long) and have their eyes open. They may let you approach and pick them up, as they rely on camouflage to evade predators but are not yet adept at running and don't have a strong scent. Unless injured, they do not need to be admitted. Sometimes wildlife can be assisted without being admitted. For example, a baby bird that has fallen from a nest can be warmed and placed back in its nest. Our helpline volunteers can give much more detailed advice if you need it. Please also note that, while Tamarack can always treat raptors of all ages, there may be times when we have to limit admissions of other species, depending on our caseload.

Want to become involved? We need regular onsite volunteers during the summer, at both the North East and Saegertown sites. Shifts are typically four hours. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and dependable. College internships are available. For more information and to apply, call the center at 814-763-2574.

Thank you to all our members, on-site and helpline volunteers, educators, and medics for your outstanding service to wildlife!

Thank you to our winter and spring helpers: Allegheny College Bonner leaders Bryce Howe, Brittany Claassen, Gabi Ramos, Catrina Steckler, and Lee Streshenkoff; Edinboro interns Allison Beck, Morgan Callahan, and Bethany Obernesser; volunteers Martha Consla, Cathy Davis, Chris Green, Janelle Harrawood, Melanie McClearn, Daniele Moffat, Mary Mulligan-Haines, Laryssa Rote, Jodi Sipos, Vetta Stepanyan, and Deborah Thompson; and Allegheny College students Emilie Bell, Arden Delphey, Lauren Erdman, Graham Johnson, Allysa Neslon, Rebecca Porter, and Danielle Thieman. We welcome Lee Streshenkoff as summer supervisor and interns Brittany Claassen and Gabi Ramos.

Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers (formerly called Wildlife Emergency Dispatchers), coordinated by Lynne Martin are: Diann Bolharsky, Carol Brown, Joe Goertz, Jim Fitch, Bob Hartman, Julie Hirt, Denise Hudson, Marc Johns, Nancy Kerr, Lynne Martin, Tammy Rodgers, Marcella Smith, and Sharon Wesoky. Substitutes are Rita Gannoe, Jane Levin, and Susan Scholz. Thank you especially to Bob Hartman, our fantastic Helpline Coordinator for the past five years. We are grateful he will continue serving on the team! Thanks also to Grace Ossa, Mary Halko, and Daniele Moffat, who are retiring after years as dedicated dispatchers.

Honorarium

In Honor Of



Gary & Tina Honkus from *Celestial Brides & Prom*
Michael Nick from *Leslie Nick* • **Glen Black** from *Nathan P. Black*
Imogene Yetman from *Capt. William R. Yetman, USN (Ret.)*
Rev. Bob & Mrs. Julie Klingler from *Robert & Sandra Laycock*
Pastor Denny & Mrs. Rae Lynn Belknap from *Robert & Sandra Laycock*
Jess Schombert from *Linda Schombert*

In Memoriam

In Memory Of



Frank G Leonheart from *Joan Leonheart* • **Adam Hecei** from *Donald Watts*
John Mock from *Sue Gallagher* • **Michele Landau** from *Mr. & Mrs. Leopold Albertin*
Barbara Benko from *Tom & Kim Trott* • **Louis Wagner**, from *Sandra Cupper*
Jane Peiffer, mother of *Dee Peiffer Kaufman* from *Susan Smith*
Louis Wagner from *Jean-Kely & Maryvonne Paulhan Paris*
Louis Wagner, a light in our community & supporter of wildlife, from *Carol & Rick Holmgren*
White Pelican "Commodore Perry", from *Cindy Snyder*
Louis Wagner, from *Kelly Levis* • **Louis Wagner**, from *Milosh Mamula*

To make a contribution in honor or memory of someone, donations can be made on line 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 acknowledgment; your (donor) name/address.

All members and contributors (except those desiring to be anonymous) will be listed in an annual report and are therefore not included in this newsletter.

Spring 2017 In-Kind Contributors

- Animal Friends Cremation
- Barb Novakowski
- Blue Heron Inn
- Brownie Troop 36650
- Chris, Sam and Jesse Green
- Cindy Lou Snyder
- Ellen Pfadt
- Erie Zoo
- Daniele and Randy Moffat
- Dave Koloskee
- David Anderson
- Dean Zeller
- Dr. Cheropovich of
Crawford Co. Humane Society Veterinary Hospital
- Dr. Consola of Conneaut Lake Veterinary Hospital
- Dr. Lindstrom of Animal Clinic Northview
- Dr. Ramey of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital
- Greener Pastures Veterinary Clinic
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- Lynne Martin
- Patti Larson
- Paul Gold
- Ridge Road Taxidermy
- Sallie Fulton
- Unique Cakes
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wyman Family

*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

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



*Nestling American
Kestrels, raised at
the Center and
released.*

- Paper Towels
- Dawn Dish Detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent for High Efficiency Machines (HE)
- Trash bags, 30 gallon
- 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
- Wood Pine or Ash shavings for bedding (not cedar)
- Gently used stuffed animals to adapt and reuse for
ambassador raptor enrichment
- Sturdy storage shelving 24" deep



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

Sponsorships Make Great Gifts

You can give a sponsorship of an ambassador raptor for \$25.00 per year. Sponsors receive a certificate of sponsorship, a 5x7 photograph and a brochure about the bird they are sponsoring.

Sponsorship funds help us provide food and medical care for these special ambassadors.

Indicate which ambassador(s) you would like to sponsor and whether this is a gift.

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Spring 2017
 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.

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 Director Emerita..Suzanne DeArment

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