



# TAMARACK

## WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 24, NO. 1

SPRING 2018

### The Mission of TWC

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 songbirds, water birds, reptiles, and non RVS mammal species at Saegertown and adult songbirds and water birds at our North East location. This is subject to change depending on case load.

For more information call 814-763-2574.

### Hours

Weekdays 10am-3pm  
by appointment

Weekends and  
evening admissions  
by appointment.



Official registration and financial information of T.W.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.

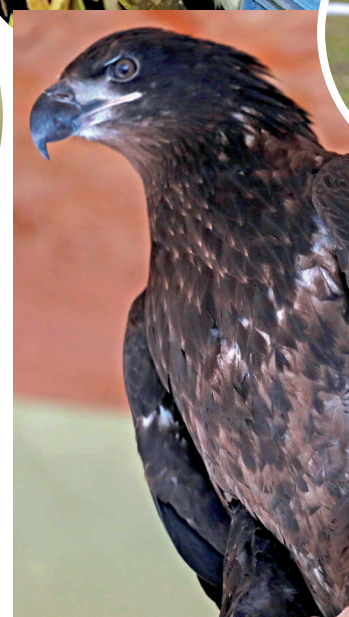
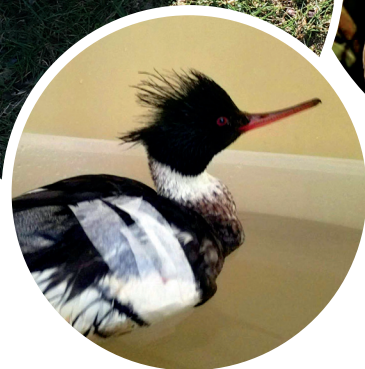
## With **YOUR** help, Spring is a season of...



**Top:** An Eastern Screech Owl is released by Carol Holmgren; **Bottom left:** A Cedar Waxwing is held by Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager Emily Garrigan moments before release; **Bottom right:** A Great Horned Owl is released by volunteer Brittany Claassen following treatment.



# GOING HOME



**A sampling of recently released or soon to be!**

*Clockwise from top left: Volunteer Linda Slomski releases a Barred Owl; Horned Grebe; Mourning Dove; Merlin; Red-tailed Hawk; Eastern Bluebird; Red-breasted Merganser; Eastern Grey Squirrel. Lower left to right: juvenile Bald Eagle; Cedar Waxwing*

**Share this newsletter!**

If you have received a printed copy, consider sharing it with a friend or leaving it at a coffee shop or doctor's office waiting room for others to enjoy!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

*Sarah Sargent, PhD, Board President*

This has been a winter that just won't quit! Waking up to fresh snow well into April is hard on us as we long for the warm and sunny spring days that we know are right around the corner. It is hard on wildlife, too, as migrations are under way and the early arrivals need to refuel after long flights from the south.

Tamarack has not only weathered the winter but is poised to grow, like a daffodil, emerging out of our small, underground confinement. Thanks to generous support from so many members, we have been able to add new staff! A new full-time Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager (read about Emily Garrigan in this issue) joined us in January, as did Jennifer Ferrick, our part-time Office Manager. Having Emily and Jennifer means we can treat more patients, and we have smoother, more efficient functioning. We are so happy to have them!

We have big plans for our facilities, too. Our new site plan is being finished up shortly, and we will be redesigning our layout so that we can have admissions and a restroom on the ground floor, and easier access down to the basement level where our intensive care area will remain. We are so fortunate to have received bequests from long-time supporters in recent months that are enabling us to reimagine our buildings to better serve our patients and audiences. Slaney Walford and Rebecca Hodges both chose to leave gifts for Tamarack commemorating their love of wildlife, and we so appreciate their thoughtfulness and generosity. Please consider adding Tamarack Wildlife Center to your will if you are able to do so. We are happy to help - email: [jennifer@tamarackwildlife.org](mailto:jennifer@tamarackwildlife.org). Thank you!

## Tamarack is Becoming Greener!

In our ongoing efforts to reduce our Center's energy use and help create a healthy environment for wildlife and humans alike, our old-style incandescent and fluorescent lights are being replaced with LED ones that consume a third less electricity. The savings from any one fixture is small but the collective impact is large! These changes both help our environment and reduce our costs.

If you'd like to help Tamarack with this effort, a \$40 gift can help us replace one fixture. A \$500 gift will allow us to replace all the lights in our education building right away! Consider making these changes in your home or work place as well!

Introducing...

*Emily!*



This spring we welcome Emily Garrigan as Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager for Tamarack, overseeing patient care and coordination of volunteers. Previously Tamarack hired a summer supervisor to focus on these duties. Emily will be with us year-round, providing better continuity and support for our center, working closely with our head rehabilitator Carol Holmgren.

A York College graduate, Emily has a passion for wildlife rehabilitation and previously managed patients and volunteers at Raven Ridge Wildlife Center in Lancaster County for three years, specializing in the treatment of mammals. With Emily's help and expertise, Tamarack is able to admit a wider selection of species this summer. Known for her organizational skills, Emily has already improved communication systems for our on-site crews, helpline volunteers, transporters and volunteer educators.

A "people person" as well as an "animal lover," before coming to Tamarack, Emily was an educator for ZooAmerica in Hershey, PA sharing 80 species of wildlife with the public. When her schedule allows, she will participate in education programs for Tamarack with the aid of our ambassador animals.

We are delighted to have Emily join the Tamarack Team!

**Tamarack's 2017 Annual Report, including a listing of our donors, is available at our website [www.tamarackwildlife.org](http://www.tamarackwildlife.org)**



## Save the date! August 14 is Erie Gives 2018

Thanks to you, Erie Gives Day has been a fantastic source of support for our center's work. Save the date for this year's Erie Gives! On Tuesday, August 14 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., supporters can visit [www.eriegives.org](http://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 to receive a reminder to donate during Erie Gives on August 14, visit [www.eriegives.org](http://www.eriegives.org).

# Creating a Safer World for Eagles

*Bald Eagle releases. The juvenile on the left and adult on the right both were treated for lead poisoning. Board member Christian Hrinda assists Carol Holmgren in the center photo.*



Last fall, Tamarack received widespread media for treating seven lead-poisoned Bald Eagles in the course of just two months. Tamarack's commitment to both preventing and treating lead poisoning continues and exciting progress is being made.

Prevention of lead poisoning in eagles is easy if people know what to do, so educating both hunters and the general public about what they can do to protect eagles is a top priority. After being informed by input from Tamarack, other wildlife centers, and the research of state veterinarian Dr. Justin Brown, the commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) decided to help educate about this issue. Tamarack is sharing images and information which will be included in educational videos now being produced by the PGC.

Additional outreach is being made as Tamarack volunteer and Allegheny College Environmental Studies professor, Dr. Ben Haywood published an article on lead poisoning of eagles and its prevention in the Jan/Feb 2018 issue of the PA Sportsmen's Club's journal "On Target," reaching a wide audience. Also this spring, Executive Director Carol Holmgren gave a presentation, "Hope for Eagles: Preventing Lead Poisoning in PA Eagles," to an appreciative group at the Rimmersburg Sportsman's Club. In September, she will share that program with the Presque Isle Audubon Society. If you are interested in having this important and inspiring presentation for your group, contact us!

Extensive research has shown eagles become poisoned most commonly by ingesting animals hunted with lead ammunition. Burying hunted animals that are left in the field or using non-lead ammunition are great ways to prevent this. Sadly, once suffering from high levels of lead toxicity, it is difficult for an eagle to recover. Only one of the seven eagles admitted last fall survived to be released. We suspect these eagles acquired the toxin from eating woodchucks or other "nuisance wildlife," since they became ill at a time when hunting seasons were not open.

Our center is ready to treat lead poisoned wildlife at any moment, to give them the best possible chance for survival. This spring a new blood lead testing unit was purchased at a cost of \$2,200 to replace our decade-old outdated one, and medications and medical supplies costing hundreds of dollars are maintained on-site in order to give eagles and other wildlife patients the best care possible at a moment's notice.

Through Tamarack's efforts in education and treatment, our state's eagles will be safer.

## MAKE YOUR OWN CONNECTIONS BY JOINING US AT A PROGRAM!

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16**  
Albion Area Library  
10:30-11:15AM

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9**  
Sparrow Pond Campground,  
Waterford  
10:30-11:30AM

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13**  
Cambridge Springs Library  
2:00-3:00PM

**TUESDAY, JUNE 26**  
Union City Public Library  
10:30-11:15AM

**SATURDAY, JULY 21**  
Oil Creek Campground,  
Titusville  
2:00PM

**SUNDAY, JULY 22**  
Waterford Days  
12:00-3:00PM

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
SEPT 8-9**  
Wild Winds  
Folk Art & Craft Fest,  
Pittsfield  
10:00AM-5:00PM

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 12**  
Albion Fair  
4:00-8:00PM

**SUNDAY, SEPT 16**  
Mercer County  
Conservation District  
11:00AM-4:00PM

**TUESDAY, SEPT 18**  
Edinboro Public Library  
5:30-6:30PM

**SATURDAY, SEPT 29**  
Erie County Public Library  
Potter Fest  
1:00-4:00PM

**SUNDAY, SEPT 30**  
**TAMARACK  
WILDLIFE CENTER  
OPEN HOUSE,**  
Saegertown  
1:00-4:00PM



## "Prudence" the Opossum Joins our Education Team

*Rick Wyman, Volunteer Education Coordinator*

Test your knowledge of Opossums with this brief true/false quiz:  
Opossums...

1. Are North America's only marsupial;
2. Have fifty teeth, the most of any mammal;
3. Together with primates, are the only mammals with opposable clawless thumbs;
4. Are resistant to venomous snakebites;
5. Are rarely found to be rabid due to their slightly lower body temperature;
6. Have a gestation period of 13 days;
7. Eat 5000-7000 ticks per season.

If you answered 'True' to each item, give yourself an 'A' as you are correct. Don't feel bad if you got a few wrong, however, as Opossums are probably one of the most misunderstood mammals native to the United States.

Helping to educate and enlighten people is Tamarack's newest education ambassa-

dor: Prudence the Opossum. Prudence was taken in by a well-meaning Samaritan last year after being orphaned, but was fed an inappropriate diet. When Prudence's health began to decline, she was brought to Tamarack and treated by our opossum specialist Janelle Harrawood. Not releasable, but with her health issues managed, permits were obtained for Prudence to be



*Above: Prudence enjoys a healthy snack.*

*Right: Dr. Consila shares a moment.*



an ambassador. Janelle and Prudence have delighted audiences at a number of our public programs already. They have enlightened people as to the Opossum's value to our environment and their harmless nature toward humans and domesticated animals.

Check out the Opossum Society of the United States ([opossumsocietyus.org](http://opossumsocietyus.org)) and Opossum Awareness and Advocacy ([www.opossumpower.org](http://www.opossumpower.org)) for more helpful and interesting information about Opossums. Welcome to Tamarack Prudence!

## Carrion My Wayward Son!

*Laryssa Rote, Volunteer Medic & Educator*

Sometimes you receive a patient that's so ugly, he's cute.

Such was the case with our young turkey vulture, Dan. He came to us with a broken wing that had healed on its own remarkably well. So well that he is even able to fly short distances, but not so well that he will ever soar or fly long distances. Being scavengers, vultures can often make out extremely well if they're injured, causing broken wings to heal on their own (though never correctly) over a period of time. But our turkey vultures are migrants and those that can't migrate won't survive our brutal winters.

We could tell Dan was a young vulture in his first year because he still had some black on his cute, bald head. This black has since brightened to their trademark red. Being social and intelligent animals, Dan has been able to bond well with volunteers and has been trained to a station for food. His favorite activities include stretching his nearly 6 foot wingspan and making confetti out of the drapes on his aviary floor. He will soon be on his way to a permanent new home in Ossining, New York as an education ambassador!

Vultures around the world provide an invaluable service: garbage disposal. Among the most threatened species in the



world, vultures clean up dead bodies containing harmful illnesses such as rabies, anthrax and botulism. In India after vultures populations dropped by 95%, the country had a rabies epidemic as feral dogs took advantage of carcasses for food. That country now has a breeding program to reintroduce valuable vultures.

Dan will have important work to do, educating people about the service vultures perform for our environment and our health. And maybe they'll see that he is cute, too!



## Winter into Spring at the Center

**Carol Holmgren**, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

Last night freezing wind and snow tore across the land, leading to the admission of several patients impacted by the severe weather. This year it has seemed that Spring will never come! Today, the winds have ceased and better weather is on its way, so several of our patients will be released: Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Horned Grebe and Eastern Screech Owl.

As the season progresses, a juvenile Bald Eagle and others will go free after completing treatment, joining the Barred and Great Horned Owls, American Robin, Eastern Grey Squirrel, Cedar Waxwing, Hairy Woodpecker, Pine Siskin, Pied-billed Grebe and other patients treated and released this winter. Each one has a story to tell and someone who found it and took the time to get it help.

This spring and summer, Tamarack is here to help wildlife in need! With Emily Garrigan joining us as Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager, we will be admitting a wider variety of species including all raptors, fledgling or adult songbirds, water birds, reptiles and non-rabies vector mammal species

at our Saegertown location; and adult songbirds and water birds at our North East location. Sadly, we are not able to treat nestling songbirds this summer but can advise about attempts to re-nest. We hope to be able to admit these precious but time-intensive patients again next year.

Our wildlife helpline specialists are here to help you identify whether an animal needs admission or assistance. They are just a phone call away: 814-763-2574. You will likely need to leave a message, and then receive a call back. Please note that while Tamarack can always treat raptors of all ages, there may be times when we have to limit admission of other species, depending on our caseload.

Want to become involved? We need regular on-site volunteers during the summer, at our Saegertown site. 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 or email [Emily@tamarackwildlife.org](mailto:Emily@tamarackwildlife.org)

### Thank you to all our members, on-site and helpline volunteers, educators, and medics for making this possible!

**Thank you to our winter and spring helpers:** Allegheny College Bonner leaders: Brittany Claassen, Nicholas Denardo, Catrina Steckler, and Jacob Walters. Allegheny College Students: George Ackerman, Arden Delphey, Alaina Duessel, Lauren Erdman, Victoria Force, Will Harrod, Graham Johnson, Chelsea Pearson. Edinboro University Students and Interns: Morgan Calahan, Chelsea Gale, Leah Reibel, and Laryssa Rote. Volunteers: Cathy Davis, Ryan Hamilton, Janelle Harrawood, Jodi Sipos, Larry Slomski, Stephanie Snyder, and Isaac Wilbur.

**Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers, coordinated by Lynne Martin are:** Patty Baldwin, Diann Bolharsky, Carol Brown, Christina Clark, Sherry Griffiths, Lynne Kasemer, Jim Fitch, Bob Hartman, Julie Hirt, Marc Johns, Nancy Kerr, Lynne Martin, Brian Pardini, Tammy Rodgers, Marcella Smith, and Sharon Wesoky. Substitutes are Cathy Davis, Rita Gannoe, Jane Levin, Denise Hudson, and Joe Goertz.

*Honorarium*

*In Honor Of*

**Waterford Elementary School Students**

- Principal Yvonne Best- Proctor

**David Moore** *In honor of David. He loved the birds so much.* - Christine Moore

**Shannan Wade** - Kevin & Toni Wade

**Tina Barnard** "For her birthday" - Misty

*In Memory Of*

**Jan Lott's Mum** *In memory of your Mom. May her spirit soar with the eagles.*  
Love, Chrissy & Mari Moffat

**Robert Oliver** *Bob loved watching all birds, while on the beach, at home & later in the Nursing Home.* - Willis & Lisa Booth

**Christine Marino's mom** *In Memory of Christine's mother.*

*May her spirit soar with the eagles.* - Marie Moffat

**Francine A Buchanan, mother of Gina Kron**

- Richard Lipchik & Ruth Waidley

**Francine Buchanan** - John D. Cox

To make a contribution in honor or memory of someone, donations can be made on line or mailed to: TWC, 21601 Stull Rd, Saegertown, PA 16433. Be sure to include: whether this is in honor or memory; name/address for TWC 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 be included in this newsletter.*

*In Memoriam*



## Spring 2018 In-Kind Contributors

- Abby Povoko
- Alan Goodman
- Animal Friends Cremation
- Charlene Young
- Chris Green
- Cinda Murry
- Daniell Martin
- Dr. Lindstrom of Animal Clinic Northview
- Drs. Consla, Stanton and Waid of Conneaut Lake Veterinary Hospital
- Dr. Ramey of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital
- Erie Zoo
- Ginny Keim
- H and H Supermarket
- Heather Weaver
- Joanne Masco
- Juniper Village
- Larry and Linda Slomski
- Linda and Bob Gleeson
- Meadville Field Archers
- Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Martin
- Renee Rice
- Ridge Road Taxidermy
- Sarah Reed Children's Home
- Susan Starr
- Wildlife Rescue Nests

*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



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

- Paper Towels
- Bleach
- Dawn Dish Detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent for High Efficiency Machines (HE)
- Trash bags, 30 gallon
- Forever Stamps
- Cohesive Bandage, 2"
- Fresh fruit/veggies/greens (call to verify what is needed)
- Nuts in the shell
- Antlers/antler pieces
- Flat Sheets (clean, used), Pillow cases
- Baby blankets
- Puppy pads
- Surgical drape (unused from hospital surgeries)
- Sterile Saline or Lactated Ringers (IV bags)
- Wood Pine or Ash shavings for bedding (not cedar)
- Gently used stuffed animals to adapt & reuse for ambassador & patient wildlife enrichment



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

**Look up Tamarack Wildlife Center's wish list on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) for more great ideas!**

## 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, Red-tailed Hawk
- ☐ Jedi, Merlin Falcon
- ☐ Vincent, Great Horned Owl

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

*Prudence,  
Virginia  
Opossum*



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

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



# TAMARACK

## WILDLIFE CENTER

(814) 763-2574  
www.TAMARACKWILDLIFE.org  
21601 Stull Road Saegertown, PA 16433



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## Spring 2018 Newsletter



## Yes! I want to help wildlife!

Become a member of TWC 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 Center**  
**21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433**

### Annual Membership:

- ☐ Individual/Chickadee.....\$20-29
- ☐ Family/Kestrel.....\$30-99
- ☐ Great Horned Owl.....\$100-499
- ☐ Peregrine.....\$500-999
- ☐ Golden Eagle.....\$1000 or more
- Other Amount.....\$\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive  
the newsletter via:

☐ Mail ☐ E-Mail

(If e-mail,  
please list below)

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

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

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

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

### All Contributions are Tax Deductible!

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

#### T.W.C.'s

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#### WEBMASTER

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