



TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 29 NO. 2

FALL 2023

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 all ages, adult songbirds, adult woodpeckers, mammals all ages (except rabies vector species), reptiles, and amphibians. This is subject to change depending on case load.

For more information and admission instructions call 814-763-2574.

Hours

Daily 8am-4pm by appointment.

Evening admissions by appointment.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!

Official registration and financial information of TWC 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 they are HOME for the HOLIDAYS



Top: Release of Bald Eagle "Athena" by Warden Aikey and Carol Holmgren*. Middle left to right: Eastern Screech Owl release with volunteer Heather Wayne*; American Kestrel release with volunteer Dawn DeCrease*. Bottom clockwise from upper left: non-releasable Great Horned Owllet "Minerva" now an ambassador for Raptor Hallow in Ohio; Grey Catbird; infant Mink; Eastern Screech Owl; Ruddy Turnstone; Red-shouldered Hawk release with Katy Hefferin*; Virginia Rail; Bluejay. *Photos courtesy of Melanie Tepper

An EXCEPTIONAL Season for Eagles

This summer, a record seven Bald Eagles were in treatment simultaneously at TWC, nearly double the previous record of four eagles in concurrent care. Due to our location in prime eagle habitat and our reputation for excellent care, Tamarack treats more eagles than any other rehabilitation center in the state.

This group of eagle patients is unusual, as only two were admitted with lead toxicity, and none appeared to have injuries from vehicle impact. Typically, a third of the Bald Eagles admitted to Tamarack Wildlife Center have injuries from vehicle impacts, a third are suffering from lead poisoning, and the remaining third suffer from a variety of other injuries or illness.

This influx is in part a reflection of a larger population of Bald Eagles in western Pennsylvania after nearly going extinct in our state during the 1960's, and in part due to more frequent severe storms in our region. Four eagle patients have been released, while the remaining three are still in treatment.

Release photos courtesy of Karen Bukowski



Maggie

Maggie

Maggie was admitted in July with large necrotic wounds along her legs after she was found near Oil City. Weeks of intensive wound care led to her recovery. By mid-October, the young eagle fully recovered. She was released in a location with abundant food where juvenile eagles congregate.



Fairview Nestling

After falling 70 feet from a high nest during a storm in May, an examination showed this

young male eaglet was uninjured. Thanks to a team of Game Commission tree climbers, he was returned to his nest and reunited with his family.



Ares

Two-and-a-half year old Ares received treatment for a fractured wing and a gunshot wound. TWC had the opportunity to

work with authorities and provide evidence in the investigation. While in treatment, Hercules and Ares became buddies with matching wing splints and helped one another heal. Ares refused to eat unassisted until he was housed with Hercules, and Hercules became more confident when he was housed with Ares. In August, Ares took to the skies at Erie Bluffs and flew out of sight, back home in the sky.

Athena

Like the eagle Rosie of 2022, Athena broke many of her flight feathers in an accident while fledging. TWC's rehabilitation team implanted donor feathers, giving her the gift of flight. She was released near Pymatuning in September.



Hercules

An older nestling, Hercules was found near Linesville with a fractured wing at the end of May. Hands-on physical

therapy was key to his successful recovery. Hercules is now flying adeptly and we hope will be released once a separate issue with his beak is resolved.



Cato

From day one, this Cochranon eaglet was full of spunk, and she has an assertive personality even when housed with older

eagles. Cato has recovered from a broken wing and is receiving flight conditioning in our eagle aviary. We hope to see her flying free soon.



Hera

Originally treated for lead toxicity and concussion at another center, two-and-a-half year old Hera was transferred to TWC for intensive treatment to resolve an infected foot. Her treatment included pressure relieving bandages, frequent wound care, and surgery. We hope this powerful, confident, and inquisitive eagle will be ready for release soon.





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Terrie L. Swanson, Board President

As the turning foliage paints a beautiful vista and we approach the end-of-year holiday season, I'm hopeful everyone had an enjoyable summer and early fall, which certainly afforded us a vast opportunity to explore the beauty of our local wildlife, flora, and fauna.

I am pleased to announce the addition of two new board members: Paul Behnken (North East) and Bill Powers (Greater Pittsburgh). Paul brings extensive leadership, finance, and strategic planning experience from both the profit and non-profit sectors. Bill is an entrepreneur and is the founder & CEO of companies offering technology to support remote camera streaming (i.e., those used for wildlife nest cams). Like Paul, Bill also has extensive experience in the non-profit sector. I am excited to work alongside Paul and Bill as the board develops a strategic plan to guide Tamarack on a successful path forward.

Looking back over 2023, I'm happy to report that

Tamarack continues to grow in many areas while strengthening existing and developing new relationships with like-minded individuals and organizations. Our success relies on such long-lasting relationships that support our financial needs. Tamarack was fortunate to see continued success with our major fundraising events — Spring Shower, Erie Gives, Crawford Gives — affording us the opportunity to add new equipment and make facility improvements to advance our level of wildlife care and education. Likewise, our October Open House was spectacular with several new features and enjoyed by a near record number of guests.

Follow us on Facebook for Board Member spotlights, upcoming events, patient care, and success stories. Visit our webpage for sponsorships and other ways to contribute. As you find yourself inspired reading this newsletter, consider registering for our First Responders course or providing financial support during our year end drive. Thank you to each of you who support Tamarack!



Introducing Tammy!

Tamarack is thrilled to welcome our newest Ambassador animal, Tammy the Virginia Opossum! Tammy was admitted as a patient in summer of 2023, and received her nickname in honor of our center's name. Tammy is not able to be released, due to her missing a large part of her tail. Opossums need their tails to gather and carry nesting materials to stay warm, and for balance when they climb. Tammy instantly charms new human friends with her inquisitive personality and her sweet pink nose! When she isn't on education programs she enjoys exercising in her large running wheel and eating as many apples and carrots as she's allowed to have! Welcome to the team, Tammy!



Wildlife Heroes Shine Bright During 2023 Giving Days!

Four hundred seventy-one wonderful wildlife heroes participated in Erie and Crawford Gives Day.

Including the pro-rated matches,

Tamarack received an amazing \$53,898!

These gifts spread healing and hope through wildlife rehabilitation and education.

Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Tamarack Educates about Eagles in Upcoming Film



Tamarack prioritizes spreading the word about the impact of lead poisoning on eagles. Eagles contract lead by ingesting the toxic metal. This can be prevented through use of non-toxic fishing tackle and non-toxic ammunition, or by burying any hunted animal remains left in the field. A piece of lead the size of a grain of rice is enough to be fatal to an eagle.

We are pleased to partner with Wild Excellence Films (WEF) to highlight this issue, through their film "No Safe Exposure: Lead Poisoning in America's Eagles," which will premier in 2024. The film will feature footage of TWC's treatment of these special patients. Wild Excellence Films is an award-winning film production company that specializes in telling compelling natural history stories that promote conservation and science, educating audiences while immersing them in the beauty of the natural world. They produced the film "Golden Eagles: Witnesses to a Changing West" which premiered in 2022 and is now available on PBS.

Summer into Fall at the Center

Carol Holmgren, Executive Director & Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

The sun is down and the air is crisp. As I write, one of the owls I hear calling into the night is a Great Horned Owl patient who has been cleared for release after six weeks of treatment for West Nile Virus. Transportation has been arranged for him to return to his home. These owls are monogamous, so he will be released where he can reunite with his mate and reestablish their territory with his evening hooting. I smile thinking that he will be home for the holidays.

Thanks to our supporters, volunteers and staff, so far this year, we have provided professional rehabilitation to over 1,000 patients and our wildlife helpline team has responded to over 2,300 calls regarding wildlife. Each wild patient has a story to tell and was found by someone who cared. Together we give them a second chance.

Given the late summer rains, this fall we treated more patients with West Nile Virus and Pox infections, since those are often spread by mosquitoes. Thankfully bird flu was not prominent in our area this year and nationwide reports are lower than last year. We were excited to partner with

BirdSafe Erie for the fall migration season, helping birds that have collided with windows during their fall migration - a project run through our colleagues at Erie Bird Observatory. Ten birds were brought to the center to receive a second chance.

Recently we have released Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, Grey and Red Squirrels, Mourning Doves, a Red Bat and more. Patients continuing in care include eagles, hawks, owls, Grey, Red and Flying Squirrels, Grey Catbird, Blue Jay, Virginia Opossum, Eastern Box Turtle and a tiny hatchling Map Turtle.

Volunteers and interns provide essential support and patient care, and receive valuable skills and exciting experiences. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or interning, contact Jessica (jess@tamarackwildlife.org) for more information.





Donor Spotlight

Raymond L. Ferry And, Eloise, the cat.

Background:

I grew up in the Saegertown area.

I am legally blind, unable to verbally communicate and wheelchair bound.

I have been like this since I was struck by lightning in 1978.

Surviving being hit by lightning isn't as rare as people think. I am just lucky it didn't scramble my thought process. I see myself as a writer and enjoy writing community service notes to the editor.

How do you communicate?

I share my thoughts to my attendant, letter for letter. The attendant scans the letters of the alphabet until he/she reaches the letter I want, then I turn my head to the left to select the letter. Yes, it can take a long time to get a sentence out. Usually, once I have worked with an attendant for a while, after the first few letters they know what word I am spelling.

Who inspired you to care about the natural world?

My grandfather was an outdoorsman.

How did you learn about TWC?

I searched online for raptors.

What do you think is the most important work of TWC?

Education

How do you support TWC?

Through donating what is on TWC's Amazon wish list or on the website's wish list, and through planned giving.

Why do you donate?

Because I can! I knew a lot of outdoorsmen as a lad and this is the only way that I can physically give back to Mother Nature.

What message do you have to share?

Don't let your limitations stop you.



Melissa Goodwill, Outreach and Education Manager

When I was young, I remember visiting my local nature center and getting to see an Eastern Box Turtle up close for the first time. Although I spent countless hours outside growing up, the likelihood of me seeing this type of turtle in the wild where I lived was low. I recall how fascinated I was getting to see their shell and scale patterns in real life and how that experience has stuck with me over the years.

Wildlife have the power to captivate and inspire, which is why providing educational programming to audiences of all ages is a key component of Tamarack Wildlife Centers mission.

Over 80 programs have been presented to children and adults in 2023 with the goal of providing education and connection to the natural world we share.

Research has shown that individuals are more likely to conserve and protect what they care about, and they care about what they've been positively exposed to. Seeing the joy on children's faces when they see an owl or a hawk up close is not only rewarding in the moment, but it also gives me hope as an environmental educator that the experience is helping the individual to develop a stronger environmental ethic and is likely to value conservation in the future.

We are currently booking programs for 2024 for youth groups, churches, senior centers, scout groups, schools, and more. If you're affiliated with a group that you believe would enjoy programming with live wildlife, please reach out to me at melissa@tamarackwildlife.org.

2024 Wildlife First Responders Class

Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency like a baby rabbit caught by a cat or a hawk hit on the road? Our virtual 2024 Wildlife First Responders class, taught by licensed rehabilitators, will use video segments, electronic handouts, live Q and A sessions via zoom and more to teach participants:

- When to intervene and when not to
- How to capture, stabilize and transport injured wildlife to a rehabilitator
- Understanding the natural histories of common local wildlife

The class will be open February 1-28 with optional in-person wildlife capture practice sessions for small groups of participants. Participants develop some of the skills necessary to become TWC phone helpline volunteers, transporters, and onsite volunteers. The class material can be used toward state licensure as a capture/transport permittee as well.

Course cost is \$40. Registration must be received by



January 31st. Those wishing to volunteer answering phone calls on our helpline will receive a rebate of \$20 when they begin volunteering in that capacity following the course.

Registration information is available at www.tamarack-wildlife.org, or by calling the center at 814-763-2574. Previous participants are welcome to attend this online course at no cost but need to register to be given access to class materials.

Wish List

For more great ideas, look up Tamarack Wildlife Center's Amazon wish list at <http://tinyurl.com/tamarackwild>



Nestling American Kestrels, raised at the Center and released.

- Bleach • Kitchen scissors, heavy duty
- Liquid laundry detergent for high efficiency machines (he)
- Trash bags, 30 gallon • Newspaper (no glossy pages) • Forever stamps
- Nuts in the shell, including hickory nuts
- Nuts shelled, including walnuts and almonds • Puppy pads
- Soft sided dog or cat carriers for ICU patient housing
- Surgical drape (unused from hospital surgeries)
- Sterile saline or lactated ringers (IV bags)
- Wood pine or ash shavings for bedding (not cedar)
- Dog toys such as HOL-ee Roller or durable dog toys for ambassador & patient wildlife enrichment
- Fake flowers and greenery for patient housing enrichment
- Latex or nitrile exam gloves, all sizes • Food service disposable gloves
- HP Ink Cartridges HP 952XL black and HP 952 color
- Simple Green D Pro 5 cleaner/disinfectant
- REScue Veterinary Disinfectant Wipes



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

- Gift cards to Tractor Supply, Home Depot, Walmart, Amazon, Davidson's Falconry or Mike's Falconry

For more great ideas, look up Tamarack Wildlife Center's Amazon Smile wish list at <https://tinyurl.com/tamarackwild>

Thank you to all our members, onsite and helpline volunteers, educators, and medics for making this possible!

Thank you to our amazing onsite helpers: Summer Interns: Emily Falcone, Kat Farrell, Ava Watkins and Dylan Young; Allegheny College students (Bonner and work-study): Gracie Belfiore, Macy Hesler, Skye-Lee Lyons, Velia Rodriguez. Volunteers: Diann Bolharsky, Karen Bukowski, Rachel Cherry, Lee Coates, John Dale, Martha Dale, Jim Daley, Cathy Davis, Dawn DeCrease, Lyndsay Denny, Maikayla Fisher, Mark Fisher, Sarah Hammerman, Linda Gleeson and family, Patrick Holter, Gina Jones, Vicky Kaufman, Ginny Keim, Tim Kerr, Ann Kleinschmidt, Dorothy Krupa, Rachel Mannino, Dolly Neely, Cindy Ondish, Barbara Pagano, Leah Reibel, Natalie Seburnia, Megan Senovich, Nik Simone, Madison Story, Melanie Tepper, Don Weyel, and Dylan Young. Thanks also to Wildlife In Need colleagues for assistance with capture and transport.

Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers, coordinated by Diann Bolharsky are: Rebecca Allen, Evon Barie, Diann Bolharsky, Rebecca Hart, Bob Hartman, Jessica Helsley, Julie Hirt, Gina Jones, Lynne Kasemer, Ginny Keim, Nancy Kerr, Linda and Ken Langford, Tina and Dale Langton, Lynne Martin, Brianne McClellan, Tammy Rodgers, and Peggy Steele. Substitutes are Cathy Davis, Connie Graham, Pam Jackson and Marcella Smith.



Top left clockwise: Red Bat; Eastern Screech Owl release; Belted Kingfisher; Eastern Box Turtle; Song Sparrow; Eastern Garter Snake; ambassador Eastern Screech Owl "Willow" with foster owlet; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; release of Bald Eagle "Maggie" with Jessica Schombert; House Finch; Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Honorarium

In Memoriam

In Honor Of

Ava Watkins - In honor of Ava Watkins internship! Love her and the work of TWC! from Brenda Costa

In Memory Of

Cherie Nelson from Kristine Nelson • **Cliff Gucks** from Sandra Guckes

Daniele Moffat - Our deepest sympathies are with you during this difficult time from Jennifer Pfeffer

Daniele Moffat from Linda Caldwell • **Daniele Moffat** from Michael & Mary Schleicher • **Daniele Moffat** from Michelle Magee

Daniele Moffat from Laura Hultberg & Nancy Lyle • **David Moore** - In memory of my late husband from Christine Moore

Deanna from Darlene & Richard Kane • **Eugenio Corchado** from Denise & Jim Scott • **Jeff Barnard** from Dale & Karen Barnard

Lois Dehls Alenson from Our Lady of the Lake Parish • **Vivian Deshner** from Sandra & John Hurban

Vivian Deshner from Doneva & Kenneth • **Vivian Deshner** from Mary Lynne Peters

Vivian Deshner from Thomas & Luann Kirkpatrick • **Vivian Deshner** from Peggy & Dan Fox

Vivian Deshner from David Wagner • **Vivian Deshner** from Pat & Jeff Deardorff

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 our annual report.

Sponsorships Make Great Gifts!

You can give a sponsorship of an ambassador for \$30 per year! Sponsors receive a certificate of sponsorship, a 4x6 photograph, and a brochure about their ambassador. Sponsorship funds help provide food and medical care.

You can sponsor on our website (TamarackWildlife.org) or fill out the form below, indicating whether this is for a gift, and send the form long with a check to

TWC, 21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433.

Ruby, Red-tailed Hawk

Sophia, Barred Owl

Myrtle, Box Turtle

Watson, American Kestrel

Apollo, Peregrine Falcon

Romeo, Great Horned Owl

Willow, Eastern Screech Owl

Luna, Barn Owl

Tammy, Virginia Opossum

Apollo,
Peregrine
Falcon



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

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

TAMARACK WILDLIFE CENTER

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Fall 2023 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. Donate on our website (TamarackWildlife.org) or send contributions to:

Tamarack Wildlife Center
21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433

Annual Membership:

- Chickadee.....\$20-29
- American Kestrel.....\$30-99
- Great Horned Owl.....\$100-499
- Peregrine.....\$500-999
- Golden Eagle.....\$1,000 or more
- Other Amount.....\$ _____

I'd like to receive
the newsletter via:
 Mail Email
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please list below)*

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