



TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 28 NO. 2

FALL 2022

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 of 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. Due to bird flu, some birds may be admitted at an off-site location for examination and quarantine.

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.

Your support
makes possible

Rosie's

RELEASE!



Each patient admitted to Tamarack Wildlife Center leaves an impression on the staff and volunteers, but it's rare for a patient to capture the attention of thousands of people around the world. A juvenile Bald Eagle, Rosie, was able to do just that. Rosie gained fame as a member of an eagle family nesting along the Monongahela River that was showcased on the popular U. S. Steel Eagle Cam.

Before fledging, Rosie suffered a fall and broke the primary flight feathers on one wing, leaving her unable to get airborne. True to this unique eagle, her rescue story was one for the books. Camera monitors witnessed her fall, and soon after, TWC's director assessed footage that confirmed she needed help. PGC Warden Schellhammer and U. S. Steel Irvin Works Plant Manager Don German scaled a steep ravine to capture her. Perhaps the most important team member was Rosie's sibling that remained

(Continued on Page 2)





perched in a tree right above her guiding her rescuers. Without the Eagle Cam and her sibling, Rosie would not have survived.

Rosie was stabilized by colleagues at Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh and then transferred to TWC on July 3rd, due to our specialty in treatment of eagles. During treatment Rosie underwent a process that replaces lost or damaged feathers called "imping." Donor feathers were carefully implanted into the existing feather shafts on her wing, like a hair extension. This procedure was successful and replaced 12 feathers.

After the procedure, Rosie immediately tested her new feathers with a short flight up to a low perch. After that first taste of flight, Rosie wasted no time challenging herself to fly farther and higher. The next day she was flying to her highest perches.

Rosie soon surpassed all expectations in terms of her flight skills. The ever curious Rosie continued to gain strength and stamina, and she demonstrated excellent aerial maneuverability with 180 degree turns. What's more impressive is that Rosie perfected these skills without full use of her tail which serves as both a rudder and brakes when birds fly. Rosie had sustained damage to her tail feathers when her wing was damaged, and she could not safely be released until they regrew. Rosie once again rose to the challenge and regrew all but one of her tail feathers sooner than expected.

With Rosie's quick progress, Carol Holmgren, Executive Director and Lead Wildlife Rehabilitator at TWC, conferred with colleagues at other raptor centers and all agreed that Rosie was ready to go. Rosie was released near Pymatuning on October 20th, in collaboration with Pennsylvania Game Commission. For the big moment, her carrier was opened by Don German of U. S. Steel and Carol with PGC Warden Wingenbach looking on. Rosie immediately took off for her first flight ever in open skies. She delighted all those present by circling three times overhead before eventually perching in a nearby stand of trees.

Rosie's rescue, rehabilitation and release was a team effort. We are grateful to all involved, including TWC supporters that allow us to be here for amazing patients like Rosie. Our hearts take flight with her, as she takes to open skies.

-Melissa Goodwill, Outreach and Education Manager



TWC celebrates the construction of a new raptor ambassador aviary which was generously funded by a local family foundation. The aviary houses three of the center's 8 raptor ambassadors, on a rotating basis. The featured birds are available for public viewing daily 8am-4pm.

From The PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Sarah Sargent, PhD, Board President



Fall is turning to winter and nature all around us prepares to rest as the days grow shorter. Tamarack has had a very busy summer season again this year, with over a thousand wildlife patients as well as many more opportunities to meet with people in person as pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Our Open House was well-attended in September, and we are conducting many in-person education programs both on and off site. This is in part because we have a whole new staff position dedicated to education! Be sure to read about Melissa, our Outreach and Education Manager, in this newsletter.

Our patient care capacity is also about to shoot up to a whole new level as we are acquiring our very own x-ray machine, a dream we have had for a very long time! And if you attended our Open House you got to see our new outdoor aviary for our Education Ambassadors, another long-time dream that came true this year.

None of these wonderful improvements at TWC would happen without your ongoing support. We are so thankful for all who care about wildlife in northwest Pennsylvania. May we all have a restful season, perhaps strengthening our underlying roots, so that we are ready to burst forth in spring to bloom even stronger next year.

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!

2023 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 2023 Wildlife First Responders class will be an on-line course with video segments, electronic handouts, and live Q and A sessions via zoom and an in person reception at the center. The on-line class will be open February 1-28 with optional in-person wildlife capture practice sessions for small groups of participants. Taught by licensed rehabilitators, the course will cover:

- 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

In addition, participants develop some of the skills necessary to become TWC phone helpline volunteers, transporters, and on-site 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 on-line course at no cost but need to register to be given access to class materials.

Wildlife Wishlist

Check out www.tamarackwildlife.org/wishlist or our Amazon wishlist at <https://tinyurl.com/tamarackwild>



Wildlife Heroes Shine Bright During 2022 Giving Days!

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

Including the pro-rated matches,

**Tamarack received an amazing
\$49,934.07!**

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Melissa joins the team!

by *Nancy Wisgirda, volunteer*



The looks on the faces of the people in the audience are skeptical. The woman at the front of the room invites them all to stand, which they do, reluctantly, amid the sound of shuffling chairs. She is talking about raptors, and how they might exhibit signs of becoming relaxed. No one in the room has ever associated the word relaxed with a bird of prey.

Undaunted by the doubtful looks, she invites everyone to stretch out an arm to one side, mimicking a wing, then a leg. A murmur of laughter ripples the room. Then the woman hunches up her shoulders and puffs her arms out at her sides with a little shimmy shake, shimmy shake, and the whole room erupts with delight as they all fluff out their imaginary feathers. Raptors do, indeed, relax! Who knew?

The future of education at Tamarack is bright with the addition of Melissa Goodwill who recently joined us in the newly created position of Outreach and Education Manager. Melissa took our Wildlife First Responder class ten years ago and has 13 years of experience in the field of environmental education. She has been a long-time capture and transport volunteer for Tamarack, collecting patients from the Erie area and bringing them down at the end of her workday.

She brings to this position a life-long love of wildlife and a passion to help connect members of the public to the natural world around them. Melissa will be designing and delivering education programs, assisting with social media and outreach, and helping as needed with the care of wildlife patients and ambassadors. She has tackled learning computer programs and tools to design and share updates about the work of the center. She is also doing a great job and having fun sharing in person education programs for TWC, accompanied by our ambassador wildlife.

And as for those laid-back humanoid hawks and eagles and falcons? They can be assured of many opportunities to learn about the many traits we share with our feathered friends in the sky—some surprising, some not so much. One thing is for certain: Melissa will open our eyes and hearts to all of them, one shimmy-shake at a time.



Top left clockwise: Intern Ellie Warner releases an American Kestrel; talons of a Bald Eagle patient; Jazmin Smith assists with Bald Eagle x-ray; volunteer Madison Story with Ruby the ambassador Red-tailed Hawk; Peregrine Falcon patient; WRM Jessica Schombert releases a Broad-winged Hawk after a year in rehab; TWC shares our ambassador raptors with colleagues at the Foundation for Sustainable Forests annual dinner (FSF contributed photo); double Barred Owl release with Martha Dale; PGC colleagues erect a platform to re-nest young Osprey; juvenile Virginia Opossum patient.

Summer Intern 2022 Spotlight:



Victoria Kaufman



Background:

Victoria is a Junior studying Environmental Biology at PennWest Edinboro, with a concentration in Wildlife Biology. She grew up in Zelienople, PA.

How did you learn about TWC?

I was doing a research project on lead poisoning in Bald Eagles, and my professor told me about the work of TWC with eagles.

Do you have a favorite patient?

A Barred Owl was admitted the first day of my internship and I was able to be part of his whole rehab journey. I got to see him admitted, cared for him during his stay and ultimately released him when he was ready.

What surprised you in your internship?

Learning how few rehabilitation centers there are in Pennsylvania. TWC does very important work for our region.

What is the most important work of TWC?

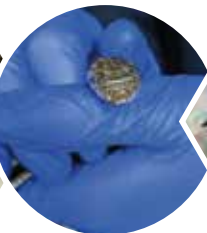
TWC helps wild animals return to their homes, where they have a role in maintaining the balance of nature. Tamarack also does a lot of education so that people can learn how to prevent problems for wildlife as well as how to respond to a wildlife emergency.

What was a highlight of your internship?

Holding an eagle for treatment is amazing. Even better, I was able to help when Rosie, the Bald Eagle, had her feathers impeded. It is an incredible procedure.

Would you recommend this internship to others?

Yes! I learned so much and everyone at TWC is amazing from the volunteers, to the interns to the staff. It is a very good and supportive environment to be in. You are taught correct techniques, there is good teamwork and communication, and you get to make connections with other professionals.



TWC partners to support Bird Safe Erie: Lights Out and Collision Monitoring During Migration

Did you know that millions of birds migrate over northwest Pennsylvania each year and that the majority of those fly at night? Generations of these nocturnal migrants have crossed our skies every spring and fall, but birds today experience challenges that their ancestors did not. Artificial lighting now fills the nighttime sky and can be very disorienting to birds, which may die from colliding with or circling lit buildings until exhausted. You can read more about this issue at <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>.

Erie sees large numbers of migrating birds because birds prefer not to migrate over large expanses of open water which lack food and places to rest. Thus, many of them are funneled along the lakeshore.

Tamarack Wildlife Center is proud to support Bird Safe Erie which is a new initiative to help make Erie more bird friendly. This initiative encourages people to reduce

unnecessary lighting around buildings and homes, and to treat glass windows to make them less reflective. To help birds, shield all necessary outdoor lighting so that it only shines downward, and install motion sensors which only illuminate lights when needed. In tall buildings, turn off interior lights after dark or draw the shades.

Erie joins 46 other cities already participating in the nationwide Lights Out program. Erie Bird Observatory is coordinating a collision monitoring study which involves daily patrolling of the ground around selected buildings in Erie to search for collision victims. Any live victims will be brought to TWC for treatment. If you live in Erie and may be interested in helping with monitoring, please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/yRmQas347LU4DGXv7> or send an email to volunteer@eriebirds.org stating your interest in volunteering. By working together, we can all help more birds migrate safely.

Summer into Fall at the Center

Carol Holmgren, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

We are always striving to improve the quality of care we provide patients, and this fall a longtime dream was realized with the acquisition of on-site x-ray equipment. Thanks to generous support from Kenneth A.

Scott Charitable Trust, a Keybank Trust; Erie County Community Foundation; and Crawford Heritage Community Foundation, we purchased x-ray equipment that will be ready for use this winter. Many patients we treat have experienced collisions or other trauma that can cause internal injuries that are hard to identify without x-rays. It isn't possible to take every patient to a veterinarian for x-rays, so we are excited that on-site equipment will make this critical diagnostic available to every patient that might benefit from it.

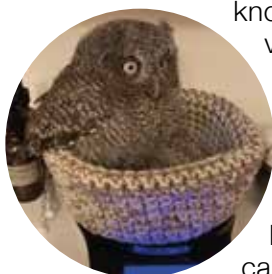
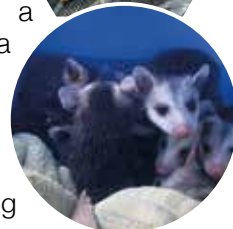
We also have recently improved treatment of owls with eye injuries through collaboration with Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh (HARP). Since owls rely heavily on hearing to hunt, they can thrive with vision in one eye. However, a blinded eye must be surgically removed to prevent infection, and few veterinarians

know how to do this. HARP's staff veterinarian wanted to learn how, and this summer she partnered with TWC's rehabilitation assistant Dawn DeCrease, who gave tips on avian anesthesia, to remove a blind eye from an Eastern Screech Owl in TWC's care. The surgery was successful,

and the owl was released after demonstrating good hunting skills, paving the way for other owls to have this procedure in western PA.

Already this year we've treated over 1,000 patients and responded to 2,000 calls at TWC, continuing an upward trend in patients that started in 2020. Each patient is a wild creature in trouble found by someone who cares, and it is a privilege to give them professional care. Recently, we have released a Bald Eagle nicknamed Rosie, a Swainson's Thrush, a Northern Cardinal, Virginia Opossums, a Grey Squirrel, Mourning Doves, Great Horned Owls, Eastern Screech Owls, and more. Patients continuing in care include a Peregrine Falcon, Painted and Snapping Turtles, two Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and more.

Volunteers and interns provide essential support and patient care, and we are grateful for their contributions. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteer or internship opportunities, contact Jessica (jess@tamarackwildlife.org) for more information.



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

Thank you to our amazing summer & fall helpers: Summer Interns: Vicky Kaufman, Christie Sawin, Hollin Williams, Ellie Warner; Allegheny College students (Bonner & work-study): Macy Hesler, Baraka Osborne, Velia Rodriguez, and Inayah Toussaint. Volunteers: Rachel Cherry, Lee Coates, Brooke Daeschner, John Dale, Martha Dale, Jim Daley, Cathy Davis, Dawn DeCrease, Linda Gleeson and family, Tim Kerr, Ann Kleinschmidt, Dorothy Krupa, Rachel Mannino, Cindy Ondish, Barbara Pagano, Leah Reibel, Jesse Russell, Natalie Sebnia, Megan Senovich, Nik Simone, Madison Story, and Melanie Tepper. 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, Connie Kisner, Lynne Kasemer, Ginny Keim, Nancy Kerr, Lynne Martin, Brianne McClellan, Tammy Rodgers, and Peggy Steele. **Substitutes are:** Cathy Davis, Connie Graham, Pam Jackson and Marcella Smith.



Top left clockwise: Red-tailed Hawk release; Bald Eagle patient "Regal"; Carol and Ruby the Red-tailed at Juniper Village; TWC hosts training day for 70 PA Game Commission land management staff; released Barred Owl; release of Red-tailed Hawk with Carol and rescuers Lee and Teri Ackerman; "Myrtle" the Box Turtle; Turkey Vulture; 3 year old Bald Eagle patient "Nora"; infant Red Bat.

Honorarium

In Honor Of

Carol Beisel - In honor of a special person who generously gives of her time and expertise to help others.

from Jane Jablonski

In Memory Of

Jim McDermott from MaryAnn Scotelis & Wes Wabel • **John Eshenbaugh** from Regina Johnson

Evelyn Anderson from Tom Wailewski • **Don Rybar** from Tom Wasilewski • **Kurt Decker** from Robert & Kathleen Bruno

Kurt Decker from W. James and Denise Scott • **Kurt Decker** from Adair Decker • **Karen Meister** from ESCO Federal Credit Union

Frank Carilli from Marc Carilli • **Dr. Lynn Simko** from Marie Moffat

Diamond - Beloved dog of Jeffrey Threfall from Carol Holmgren • **Norman Cronin** from Dennis Cronin

Lady Hawk from Charity Vest • **Lady Hawk** from Kara Fischer • **Lady Hawk** from Patricia & Coney Hurst

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.

In Memorium

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

*Apollo,
Peregrine
Falcon*



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

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

TAMARACK

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www.TAMARACKWILDLIFE.org
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**Consider A
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Fall 2022 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.....\$ _____

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All Contributions are Tax Deductible!

*If your address label is incorrect,
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