



TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 27 NO. 2

FALL 2021

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, mammals all ages (except rabies vector species), reptiles, amphibians, herons and adult songbirds and adult woodpeckers at our Saegertown Center. Other species including ducks, geese and gulls are admitted on a case-by-case basis. Ducklings and goslings are admitted on a case-by-case basis at our North East location. This is subject to change depending on case load.

For more information call 814-763-2574.

Hours

Daily 9am-3pm
by appointment.

Evening admissions
by appointment.



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,
a Peregrine
flies
Free!



Nike,

the Peregrine falcon,
is back in the sky where
she belongs.

Culminating two years of rehabilitation and collaboration, she was released into the wind with the raising of an arm on October 18. On swift wingbeats, she sped higher and higher until she was barely visible as a tiny dot circling on lofty air currents in the azure sky.

"Nike" hatched near Canton, Ohio, in 2019. A week after she left the nest, she suffered an injury to her head and spine. With treatment, she recovered but missed out on a critical stage of development during which she would have learned to hunt while still receiving food support from her parents. Because Peregrines hunt by diving steeply at avian prey from heights of up to 3000 feet, it is not possible to give a rehabilitated Peregrine hunting practice in an enclosure.

She was transferred from her Ohio wildlife rehabilitator, Stark Parks Wildlife Conservation Center, to Tamarack Wildlife Center, since TWC works with falconers who could give her "real world" hunting experience. In 2020, a master falconer working with TWC taught Nike to hunt. Nike was scheduled for release in the spring of 2021 when she cracked her beak. Peregrines need their feathers, feet, and beak to be in perfect condition prior to release if they are to be successful in the wild, so her release was delayed. When Nike was ready, Moraine State Park was chosen as her release site, since it is near where Nike hunted with a master falconer, and has abundant prey.

(continue on page 2)

& EDUCATION
 VOLUME NO. 2
 in our state.”
 e thrilled
 autiful

TWC rehabilitators are thrilled to have returned this beautiful Peregrine to the open skies with the help of supporters like you, and hope she contributes to the continued rise in Peregrine populations.



Clockwise from upper left: Painted Turtle fracture repair; Heather Wayne releases a Great Horned Owl; Eastern Screech Owl nestling; Barred Owl release; Green Heron fledgling; Northern Saw-whet Owl release; orphaned Mink; Box Turtle; White-breasted Nuthatch; fun at an education program; Great Blue Heron; growing Virginia Opossums; Mallard duck. **Center:** Allegheny College intern Baraka Osborne holds a Red-tailed Hawk.

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

Birds are migrating south and cooler temperatures are setting in as fall arrives; perhaps snow will have fallen by the time you read this. The cycle of the seasons continues here in northwest Pennsylvania with fewer patients being admitted now that the young of the year have had a chance to grow up a bit. We are catching our collective breath!

We were so happy to share the Center once again during our Open House on October 3rd, after missing last year. Pre-registration for different arrival times reduced crowding and allowed everyone to stay safe, while still letting people enjoy the displays and Ambassadors. Thank you to all who volunteered to help that day, and to all who came to visit! Tamarack relies on the support of so many people to even exist, and that includes you! Both Erie Gives Day and Crawford Gives Day in August were tremendously successful, giving us much needed infusions of cash in late summer when expenses are high. We were so proud to be 16th overall in number of donors out of the 438 participating organizations for Erie Gives Day!

The Board is progressing with the search for new property. By the next newsletter we hope to have some big news to share! In the meantime, Tamarack is giving in-person education programs again, so please contact us if you have a group that would enjoy learning about raptors with our live Ambassadors.

Please consider helping out local wildlife through reducing your lawn and growing more native plants (see Help Wildlife And Find Joy on page 4). Native plants support larger populations of native insects which birds need for food, so they contribute to the local food web as being part of the nation's homegrown National Park!

Thank you for all you do for wildlife and for your partnership with Tamarack Wildlife Center.

2022 Wildlife First Responders Course goes online!

Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency? A baby rabbit caught by a cat? A hawk hit on the road? Our 2022 Wildlife First Responder class will be an online class with video segments, electronic hand-outs, and live Q and A sessions via zoom and an in-person reception at the center. The online class will take place February 1-28 with optional in-person wildlife capture practice sessions for small groups of participants February 11-13 and 18-19.

The course will teach you when to intervene and when not to, as well as how to capture, stabilize and transport injured wildlife to a rehabilitator. In addition to learning how to respond when encountering wildlife in need, 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. Sign up for capture practice is on a first come, first served basis, so register early! 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 our website www.tamarackwildlife.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.

Tamarack's 2020 Annual Report, including a listing of our donors, is available at our website www.tamarackwildlife.org

Wildlife Heroes

BREAK RECORDS

on 2021 Giving Days!



Four hundred forty-five wonderful wildlife heroes participated in Erie or Crawford Gives Day, breaking previous records, including the pro-rated matches,

*Tamarack received an amazing
\$51,000!*

*These gifts bring hope, through wildlife
rehabilitation and education.*

Thank you to everyone who contributed!



TWC helps the Amazing American Kestrel



Above, male ambassador kestrel "Watson". **To the right**, release of a female kestrel. Photo by Larry Slomski.

perched on a wire or post in an area of open grassland or farm field, pumping their tail as if to maintain balance.

Despite being our most common falcon, kestrel populations have been gradually declining over the last 50 years. These pint-sized predators hunt insects, other invertebrates, small

rodents, and birds, and they rely on pre-existing cavities for their nest sites. It is thought the declines may be caused by reduced insect food supplies from pesticide use, the loss of nest sites as dead trees are cleared, or the impact of chemicals on the bird's bodies. Research is ongoing to determine the exact causes so efforts can be focused on the best ways to halt their slide in numbers.

The American Kestrel is North America's smallest and most common falcon, and it packs a lot of personality into a petite package. One of our most colorful raptors, the males feature slate blue head and wings contrasting with reddish brown back and tail, while the female sports reddish wings and body with a grey crown. Both have contrasting black slashes on their faces.

Kestrels are often seen



perched on a wire or post in an area of open grassland or farm field, pumping their tail as if to maintain balance.

Despite being our most common falcon, kestrel populations have been gradually declining over the last 50 years. These pint-sized predators hunt insects, other invertebrates, small rodents, and birds, and they rely on pre-existing cavities for their nest sites. It is thought the declines may be caused by reduced insect food supplies from pesticide use, the loss of nest sites as dead trees are cleared, or the impact of chemicals on the bird's bodies. Research is ongoing to determine the exact causes so efforts can be focused on the best ways to halt their slide in numbers.

TWC is helping kestrels through rehabilitation, supporting research, and education. So far this year, 7 kestrels have been released after treatment, including one nestling who fractured her leg in a fall but healed completely with TWC's help. Another youngster was released after damaged tail feathers were "imped," or replaced, with feathers molted from another bird using a special European product acquired to serve as the "splints" for the new feathers. Two other kestrel patients are not able to be released: An adult female that is blind in one eye will join a captive breeding program, and a young male who fractured his wing as a fledgling will become an ambassador for his species in New York.

Our center shares data and samples from our patients with the PA Game Commission, U. of Penn's Wildlife Futures Program and Hawk Mountain to support their research efforts. We supply nest boxes to people who are taking down kestrel nest sites, such as old barns, in order to provide kestrel homes for future years. In education programs, our ambassador kestrel "Watson" inspires audiences with his charismatic personality. Check out <https://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/> for more information about these fascinating birds.

Help Wildlife and Find Joy by Planting Keystone Natives

Ann Kleinschmidt, former Allegheny College Biology professor and volunteer

Saving biodiversity where you live empowers everyone. A single person can make a difference.

Tamarack supporters already make a difference in the lives of wildlife by enabling the rehabilitation and release of injured and sick animals. Once they are released, these animals also need healthy ecosystems to support them with food and shelter. While care of injured animals requires the work of skilled professionals, we can all play a role in creating and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Doug Tallamy, a University of Delaware ecologist and entomologist, suggests that with thoughtful plantings on our personal property, we all can be part of creating a healthy ecosystem and providing refuge for species threatened by habitat loss and climate change. Although the problems we face can seem overwhelming, Tallamy provides a manageable plan with which we can take simple steps to help, while finding more delight in our natural surroundings.

He encourages us to understand first that we are part of nature, and that nature is all around us. Our homes, not just special conservation areas, can provide critical ecological services such as viable food webs, carbon sequestration, diverse pollinator communities, and water management. He suggests we do nothing less than help to create the United

States' first home-grown national park by decreasing the area of our lawns by half and replacing the mown grass with native plant species.

A simple way to start this process is to plant one or two oak trees and create plant beds underneath with native species. Since oaks are a keystone native species that support over 500 varieties of insects that are critical food sources for wildlife, this simple act will increase the number and variety of birds and animals we have around us. More generally, Tallamy encourages us to replace 70% of the "exotic" species now growing in our yards with native plants including (for our area) goldenrod, native sunflowers, and perennial geranium. In just a few years, our landscapes can become home to a joyful abundance of wildlife.

To find plants that are native to your area and support the most wildlife, visit www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder. To learn more about Tallamy's call to action, visit homegrownnationalpark.org, or read *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy, 2020. Some key native plants are available for a donation at our center.

Volunteer Spotlight: DONNY CONSLA, DVM



Became involved: 2006

History with TWC:

As a student at Allegheny College, I was excited to get a work-study job at Tamarack, which led to volunteering as a medical rehabilitation assistant. These experiences were valuable prior to attending vet school. After returning from vet school, I became the center's sponsoring veterinarian and recently joined the board.

Why do you like serving on the board?

I have the opportunity to affect the next chapter for Tamarack, setting up the center to grow and "take things to the next level."

Who inspired you to care about the natural world?

My grandmother instilled an attitude of appreciating nature and wild things, while trying to have low impact. If we caught a caterpillar or firefly, we would look at it and maybe sketch it. Then she would have us carefully put it back.

What do you value about working with TWC patients?

Wildlife patients offer a unique challenge to me as a veterinarian, and I have a nerdy interest in birds. There is not a lot of medical information about wildlife, so treatment takes some ingenuity. Also by treating wildlife, returning them to the wild, and educating people, we improve our environmental impact.

What's the most important work of TWC?

Education! Educated people make better decisions. By educating those who attend our programs or who bring patients, we make people aware. Then people can consider how they can have less impact and be better stewards.

What message do you have to share?

It is easy to see that we all have a lot of differences, but if we take the time to listen to each other we find we have more in common than what sets us apart. Coming together with a spirit of love rather than with divisiveness and anger, and being willing to listen, we can make a difference for wildlife and in all aspects of our lives.

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

Thank you to our summer and fall helpers: Summer interns: Natalie Seburnia, Madison Story, Angel Vroman, and Kyra Znaczk. Allegheny College students (Bonner and work-study): Katie Brozell, Kamryn Dorsett, Rylee Kahler, Baraka Osborne, Velia Rodriguez, and Danielle Savellano. **Volunteers:** Kathy Bussiere, Rachel Cherry, Lee Coates, Jim Daley, Cathy Davis, Dawn DeCrease, Grace Diley, Linda Gleeson and family, Chris Green, Janelle Harrawood, Wendy Horning, Tim Kerr, Ann Kleinschmidt, Gina Kron, Abby Kuhn, Melyssa Macemore, Rachel Mannino, Sarah Morton, Cindy Ondish, Barbara Pagano, Jake Snyder, Leah Reibel, Megan Senovich. **Volunteer photographers:** Larry Slomski, Melanie Tepper.

Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers, coordinated by Diann Bolarsky are: Rebecca Allen, Evon Barie, Diann Bolharsky, Connie Graham, Bob Hartman, Julie Hirt, Pam Jackson, Gina Jones, Connie Kisner, Marc Johns, Lynne Kasemer, Ginny Keim, Nancy Kerr, Lynne Martin, Tammy Rodgers, Marcella Smith, and Peggy Steele. Substitutes are Cathy Davis, Jim Fitch, Rita Ganoe and Sharon Wesoky.

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
- ☐ Lady Hawk, 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: _____

News from the Center: Summer into Fall

Carol Holmgren, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

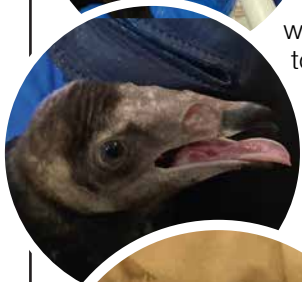
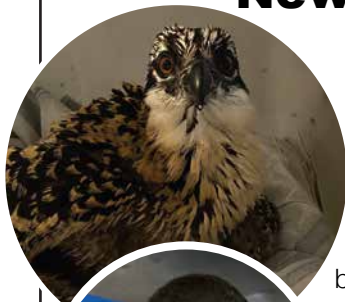
A pair of Red-tailed Hawks are circling and calling as I write. The air is crisp and leaves of gold, red and green are illuminated on this sunny fall day. Just yesterday we released the Peregrine "Nike" into a blue sky. The memory is still vivid.

By the onset of autumn, we provided professional rehabilitation to over 1000 patients while our helpline team responded to over 2,000 calls about wildlife, thanks to our supporters, volunteers and staff. Our hearts are full with the memory of so many lives touched: amazing patients, grateful caring people, and wide-eyed children at education programs.

Part of the job of a wildlife rehabilitator is to monitor for emerging wildlife diseases and inform the public about them when needed. This summer with a mystery songbird ailment

spreading across eastern United States, we played an important role identifying when the ailment reached our area, contributed to research about it through submission of samples, and informed the public about how to help minimize spread. Our informational facebook posts reached over 2 million people, and TWC staff shared 5 TV interviews as well as contributing to numerous newspaper articles.

Our summer and fall interns and volunteers have worked as a fantastic team, treating our patients while learning and gaining experience. If you or someone you know would be interested in a winter or summer internship, contact Heather (heather@tamarackwildlife.org) for more information.



2021 In-Kind Contributors

- Woodcock Animal Clinic:
- Dr. Barzak
- Jan Bemis
- Bill Bramble
- Leslie Brown
- Cynthia Burton
- Because You Care
- Crocheters for a Cause
- Allison Chess
- Susan Christif
- Hays Eagle Club
- Animal Friends Veterinary Clinic:
- Dr. Consla
- Animal Friends Cremation
- Joann Crowther
- Jill Dent
- Chris Green & Family
- Monica Haritan/Sleepy Moon Farm
- Giant Eagle
- Linda & Bob Gleason
- Janella Godden
- Garrett Hall
- Jessica Hansen
- Sheryll Hardesty
- Hanna Hauck
- Herta Henderson
- Michelle Henry
- Patricia Hurst
- Regina Johnson
- Susan Karakantas
- Robert Keller
- Mary Knierman
- Danielle Kyper
- Barb & Doug Layman
- James A. Stone Memorial Library
- Animal Clinic of Northview:
- Dr. Lindstrom
- Terry Lobdell
- Knock Design:
- Shannan & Leigh Lynes
- Nancy Marwood
- Megagrafix
- Barbara Milligan
- Stitches & Prayers Ministry
- Wildlife Rescue Nests
- Kathleen Palmer
- Brian Pardini
- Patti Pratt
- Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital:
- Dr. Ramsey
- Tammy Caton Rodgers
- Marie Rozakis
- Julie Rudich
- LuAnn Schroeder
- Tom Schruers
- Christine Showrank
- Larry & Linda Slomski
- Wendy Swanson
- Melanie Tepper
- Conneaut Lake Veterinary:
- Drs. Stanton & Wade
- Walmart
- Issac Wiber
- Wildlife In Need (WIN)
- Wingerbach Family
- Rick Wyman
- Mike Zobrest
- Erie Zoo

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

*Honorarium**In Honor Of**In Memoriam*

Ben Haywood from Eva Duggins • **Bob Hartman** from Joyce Gunter • **Briar, the Red-tailed Hawk** from Joanne Scheier
Cheryl Boots - Cheryl writes songs about animals and pets and shares them during services,
 this seemed the best way to thank her. from Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Heather Wayne - For all that she does! from Megan Marrangoni & Garrett Hall
Pam Jackson on her 65th birthday from Linda & Rick Brown

In Memory Of

Allan Harkness from Mary Erdman • **Allan R. Harkness** from Anne Gagnon • **Allan R. Harkness** from Cecelia Hannah
Allan R. Harkness from Charles Pub & Eatery • **Allan R. Harkness** from Fat Willies Winghouse Staff
Allan R. Harkness - On behalf of my brother Allan. He loved Bald Eagles & all wildlife. from Darlene Kerstetter
Allan R. Harkness from Gloria B. Vartian-Harkness • **Allan R. Harkness** from Karen Pryber • **Allan R. Harkness** from Thomas & Kim Trott
Betty Lyle - Our animal loving mom. from Linda Hanlin • **Cecelia Patton** from Bonnie Sallade
Charles Soder Jr & Sr from Hilma Beuchert • **Cecelia Patton** from Bonnie Sallade
Connie Estabrook Molchen - She was a beautiful person who will be missed very much. from Denise Bendle
Don O'Day from Stan & Elaine Fertig • **Donald O'Day** from John & Mary Ann Daum
Gene Wolski - In memory of my dad. from Laura & Kirt Zimmerman • **Harold Lewis** from Dennis Cronin • **John L. Mott** from Donna Myers
John L. Mott - He was an avid wildlife lover and enjoyed the beauty of nature too.
 May he be honored in loving memory by: **John, Heather, Ethan, Sarah, Cody, Makayla, Olivia, Hunter** from Heather Mott
John L. Mott from Mark & Deborah Teague • **John L. Mott** from Linda & Chris Lucas
John L. Mott - Condolences to Catherine & John and the rest of the family; **Nicki, Tom & Miranda Biles** from Susan Biles
John Mott - What a wonderful way to honor you, Dad! from Lorinda & Lewis McEwen • **John Mott** from Twila Miller & Sandra Neal
John Mott - He was a very kind, sweet and smart man.
 We will miss his visits for seed. He was a dear friend, too. from Larry & Beverly McCloskey
John Mott from Barbara Swartz • **John Mott** from Carol Conner • **John Mott** from The Andersons
Johnny Mott - "Uncle John" He was & still is a man who will always be in our hearts & forever a wonderful memory. from Danny G. Lively
Linda Marker - In memory of my wife. from David Marker
Osprey Chick - In memory of the osprey chick from Moraine State Park. Thank you for all you did. from Michelle Huff
Reverend James Patterson - Reverend Patterson loved eagles, He had a collection of eagles figurines, pictures, etc. from Janet L Coon
Richard H. Seburnia from Donald E. Clipson • **Richard Higley** from Nancy Justice

To make a contribution in honor or memory of someone, donations can be made online 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.

Wish List

Nestling American Kestrels, raised at the Center and released.

- Paper towels • Bleach • Kitchen scissors, heavy duty • Cohesive bandage, 2"
 - Liquid laundry detergent for high efficiency machines (he)
- Trash bags, 30 gallon • Newspaper (no glossy pages) • Forever stamps
 - Fresh fruit/veggies/greens (call to verify what is needed)
 - Nuts in the shell, including acorns and hickory nuts
 - Nuts shelled, including walnuts and almonds • Puppy pads
 - 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
- Gift cards to Tractor Supply, Home Depot, Walmart, Amazon



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

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

TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER

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



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAEGERTOWN, PA
PERMIT NO. 46

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Consider A
Year-End
Donation!**



Fall 2021 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

(If email,
please list below)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

All Contributions are Tax Deductible!

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

TWC's

Executive Director.....Carol Holmgren
Director Emerita.....Suzanne DeArment

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board President.....Sarah Sargent
Vice President.....Terrie Swanson
Treasurer.....Sarah Sargent
Secretary.....Jim Daley
Board Member.....Kelsy Astry
Board Member.....Tom Nonnemacher
Board Member.....Donald Consla, DVM
Office Manager.....Barbara Pagano

WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Carol Holmgren, Heather Wayne,
Janelle Harrawood, Gina Kron

WILDLIFE REHAB MANAGER

Heather Wayne

SPONSORING VETERINARIANS

Dr. Consla, Animal Friends Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Ramey, Animal Ark

WILDLIFE REHAB ASSISTANTS

Dawn Decrease, Sarah Sargent,
Jessica Schombert, Lisa Ketcham

WILDLIFE EDUCATORS

Cathy Davis, Linda Gleeson,
Janelle Harrawood, Stephanie Snyder

WEBMASTER

Shannan Lynes, Knock Design Inc.