



TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 26 NO. 1

SPRING 2020

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.

THROUGH TWC, YOU PROVIDE CARE IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES



Clockwise from top center: The Coffman family children prepare to release an Eastern Chipmunk "Sprinkles" they rescued; Virginia Opossums; Fox Squirrel; Eastern Screech Owl released by Cathy Torok; Painted Turtle; reptile rehabilitator Stephanie Snyder examines a Garter Snake; Eastern Screech Owl, Black and White Warbler.



A sampling of recent patients!

Clockwise from upper left:

Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, released Eastern Screech Owl nestling, Screech Owl release with intern Madison Story; Rock Pigeon; Great Horned Owl united with wild foster family by Director Carol Holmgren; Eastern Cottontails; Virginia Opossum.

Center: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Bottom left to right:

Eastern Chipmunk; Snapping Turtle release.



Perry the Peregrine

After 3 months in rehabilitation with TWC, Perry the Peregrine Falcon is soaring again in Erie! Perry's recovery is especially thrilling because Peregrines became extinct in PA in the 1960's but are now recovering in PA. Thank you to all who support TWC and all who made Perry's recovery possible!



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

How are you doing? This has been a spring like no other, and we hope that each and every one of you is faring well under the unusual conditions brought on by COVID-19. Thanks to our committed volunteers and staff, we are caring for a high caseload of patients with reduced onsite staffing and smaller volunteer teams. 449 Patients were admitted by June 1, the highest we've seen in recent years. Our helpline volunteers are currently responding to over 30 calls a day, addressing callers' questions and concerns about wildlife and arranging for admission when appropriate. Everyone is going above and beyond to treat our wildlife patients.

I want to commend Carol, our Executive Director, in particular, for her leadership in developing new protocols for everything from receiving patients to cleaning surfaces to protecting against having our key staff out sick at the same time. The loss of work-study students for the second half of the spring semester was huge, but Carol made sure the work got done. She stayed current on COVID-19 guidelines for wildlife centers, and she figured out how to safely bring on our two summer interns, who are living on site. Whew! Many centers in Pennsylvania opted to close temporarily, but Tamarack has stayed open, thanks to Carol's dedication and leadership. Thank you, Carol!

Despite losing significant income from canceling all education programs with our ambassadors during what is normally one of our busiest times of year, your generous contributions to our Spring Shower and Giving Tuesday Now, along with support from the Payroll Protection Plan, are helping us carry on. You make a difference and Tamarack remains a strong beacon in our community, thanks to your caring and your support, financial and otherwise. Thank you!

TWC Education Programs: Want to Zoom with Wildlife?



Our 2020 education programs had already reached thousands of people when we ceased in-person programs in early March, in response to COVID-19. Decisions regarding when and how to restart in-person programs will be made in the days to come. Our educational mission continues via counselling callers to our wildlife helpline, and through our regular facebook and instagram posts. As our patient case load eases, we look forward to doing programs via zoom and creating educational videos to be posted online. If you are interested in a 15 or 30 minute zoom program featuring an ambassador animal and a behind the scenes view of wildlife rehabilitation, email heather@tamarackwildlife.org or call 814-763-2574!

Tamarack's 2019 Annual Report, including a listing of our donors, is available at our website www.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: Summer interns: Allison Gould, Logan Meyer, Morgan Neville, and Madison Story. Spring interns: Rachel Cherry (Oregon State U.), Savannah Maze (Edinboro U.) and Heather MacKinnon (Institute of Medical and Business Careers). Allegheny College Bonner leaders: Brittany Claassen, Jordan Kameron, and Jacob Walters. Allegheny College Students: George Ackerman, Katie Brozell, Soren Bruno, Alaina Duessel, Will Harrod, Graham Johnson, Jared Jordan. Volunteers: Lisa Barakat-Balzer, Shari Barickman, Allison Beck, Charlotte Brower, Martha Consla, Cathy Davis, Linda Gleeson and family, Chris Green, Makenna Hague, Janelle Harrawood, Taylor Hinton, Cindy Ondish, Barbara Pagano, Larry Slomski, Stephanie Snyder, Jessica Stefano, Leah Reibel, Melanie Tepper, Marta Vandegrift, and Isaac Wilbur.

Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers, coordinated by Lynne Martin are: Rebecca Allen, Shari Barickman, Diann Bolharsky, Carol Brown, Connie Graham, Makenna Hague, Bob Hartman, Julie Hirt, Gina Jones, Marc Johns, Lynne Kasemer, Ginny Keim, Nancy Kerr, Lynne Martin, Tammy Rodgers, Marcella Smith. Substitutes are Cathy Davis, Jim Fitch, Rita Ganoie and Sharon Wesoky. We say good bye to: Patty Baldwin, Christina Clark, Debbie Flemming, Sandra Emke and Brian Pardini.

Save the date! August 11 is Erie Gives 2020

Thanks to you, Erie Gives has been a fantastic source of support for our center's work. Save the date for this year's Erie Gives! On Tuesday, August 11 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., supporters can visit www.eriegives.org to make a donation to Tamarack Wildlife Center. This year, checks to support TWC can also be mailed to Erie Community Foundation and be included. 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 11, visit **visit www.eriegives.org**.



Be Enchanted by Luna!



Luna, our new Barn Owl ambassador, has grown quickly from a gangly, tiny dinosaur owlet into a sleek, elegant adult. She comes to Tamarack from the conservation breeding program of World Bird Sanctuary in Missouri. Now 3 months old, she spends her days in the TWC office in order to ensure she is comfortable around people. Office time is never dull with Luna around. She likes to “catch” small stuffed animals and fly with them around our office. She also likes to surprise staff by landing on a shoulder, or pouncing on shoe laces! She is starting to fly to a handler on cue, which she will be able to do on programs in the future.

In the wild, Barn Owls hunt mice and other rodents found in meadows, grasslands and agricultural fields while nesting in tree cavities and barns. This makes them a friend of farmers, but also vulnerable to eating animals containing rodenticides, which sickens them in a process called secondary poisoning. You can help Barn Owls by avoiding use of toxic pesticides.

In order to expose Luna to new sights and people at a time when our education programs are postponed, she makes brief surprise appearances at various outdoor ice cream stores! She also makes zoom appearances. We hope you can meet her soon!

TWC is a leader in wildlife ambassador welfare!

TWC is on the forefront of ensuring that ambassador wildlife have an exceptionally high quality of life. Along with TWC, zoos and animal handlers across the world are raising the bar for the welfare of the animals in our care. Ambassadors have an important job to do: educating the public and inspiring people to make choices to benefit the lives of humans and wildlife alike. They deserve a high quality life in which they have choices, minimal stress, and are able to display natural behaviors.

Educating ourselves is a critical part of providing quality care. Carol, our director, is certified as a professional bird trainer by the International Avian Training Certification Board and a member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators. Heather, our rehab manager, is proficient in using positive reinforcement and even trained kangaroos in a previous position at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Most of our current raptor ambassadors have some disability and were treated in our wildlife rehabilitation facility before it was determined they could not survive in the wild. Hawks and falcons often do very well as ambassadors if they have a disability. However, owls that become ambassadors as adults are more stressed. Often, such owls will never take food from a handler, which means positive reinforcement cannot be used to build relationships and trust.

Sophia, our Barred Owl, and Willow, our Eastern Screech Owl, are our only wildlife ambassadors that will not eat food directly from us. We have measured their stress hormone (corticosterone) levels, and they are “moderate,” lower than completely wild owl patients in treatment for injuries but not as low as ambassador owls raised as ambassadors from a young

age. They still have a good life, but we want to do even better!

Though they remain active in our education programs, Sophia and Willow are getting older, and we wanted to add an owl to our program that could carry some of their load. Many of our programs are offsite, so birds need to be comfortable with perching calmly “on the glove”, traveling in a carrier, being presented in programs, and participating in husbandry. For years, we sought without success for a young injured owl that couldn't be released. Last year, we took another tack and reached out to World Bird Sanctuary, a center doing conservation breeding that also placed a few youngsters in education to support their conservation efforts, and we were thrilled when that contact brought us Luna!

We are pleased to partner with World Bird Sanctuary in Missouri to support reintroduction efforts for Barn Owls. Barn Owl populations plummeted in many areas of the US in the 1950s and 60s as the chemical DDT was being used on crops. The DDT built up in the bodies of birds, including Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Barn Owls and others, causing them to lay eggs with very thin shells that broke before the babies could develop. DDT was banned in 1975. Around that time, World Bird Sanctuary established a breeding program for endangered American Barn Owls. They have now released over 1,000 Barn Owls, and the species is no longer endangered in Missouri. The breeding program continues with a few propagated owls designated to become ambassadors and the rest slated for release once grown. This year, five owls will go to education, including Luna who has joined Tamarack, and more than twenty-five others will be released.

Volunteer/Donor Spotlight:

BOB HARTMAN

Became involved: 2009

Learned about TWC:

When Bob saw an injured wild animal by the side of the road, he knew he had to do something and brought it to Tamarack. Bob was touched by the compassionate, professional care it received.

Supports TWC by:

Providing financial support, responding to phone calls as a wildlife helpline volunteer, and transporting injured wildlife to our center. Previously, Bob served on the board for ten years, coordinated the helpline team, and served as a licensed capture-transport volunteer.

Why do you donate?

"I know the money is well spent. What is important to me is not what an organization did yesterday, but how it is looking to the future. We have a board that is looking to the future, while monitoring finances well today."



What is your favorite TWC event of the year?

"The Open House! I greet people coming in and those who know TWC are continually thanking me. For those who are new, it is amazing to look at their faces and see how excited they are to be there."

What do you value about being on phone helpline?

"When people call, they are frantic and upset. I can bring them down a few notches and help them know what to do."

What message do you have to share?

"Consider how you want to spend your days. None of us know how many we will have. Any activity I've done with TWC was time well spent. My experiences volunteering with TWC have been nothing but wonderful and satisfying."



Celebrating Harriet

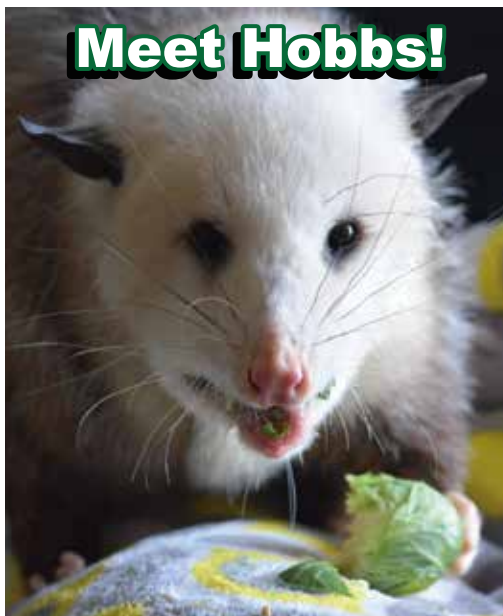
We celebrate the remarkable life of Harriet Wilson, founder of Tamarack Wildlife Center. She passed from this world on Tuesday, May 19, at the age of 88 following a period of illness.

When Harriet's son Charlie brought home an orphaned raccoon, Harriet had to help and went on from there to embrace the fledgling field of wildlife rehabilitation. She became the first licensed wildlife rehabilitator in northwestern PA and formed Tamarack Wildlife Center in 1989. The center was originally at her home by Tamarack Lake and later moved to its current location outside of Saegertown.

Harriet will be remembered for her gutsy spirit, sense of humor, and passion for all things wild—especially raccoons. Volunteering to assist her meant becoming an extended member of the family, sharing in donuts, having your lunch prepared, and sitting around the kitchen table.

Harriet will be dearly missed. Her spirit lives on in the work of our center.

Meet Hobbs!



We are pleased to share that Tamarack has a new ambassador Virginia Opossum, Hobbs! Hobbs was orphaned in May 2019 with 6 siblings. He had an injury that resulted in loss of his right arm which deemed him non-releasable. This led to his name, Hobbs, a shortened version of Hobbles. Hobbs has a sweet, curious personality which wins the heart of all who meet him. His favorite foods include broccoli, cauliflower, cheese cubes, and quail eggs. As an ambassador, he has an important job, helping people understand and appreciate his species. It is wonderful to have Hobbs join our team!



Winter into Spring at the Center

Carol Holmgren, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

Spring is here and our center is bursting with life. This week, with sunny skies and gentle breezes, we've had the thrill of seeing many recovered patients go free: Eastern Screech Owls we raised from small fluff balls; orphaned Fox, Grey and Red Squirrels admitted so small they were fed with a syringe many times a day; a Cardinal treated for concussion; numerous Eastern Cottontails and more. Earlier this spring, we released a Peregrine Falcon, Loons, Great Horned Owls, American Robins, and Purple Martins. New patients are admitted daily, keeping our facilities near capacity. Currently we are caring for a Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Barred Owlets, Screech Owls, Grey, Red and Fox Squirrels, Cottontails, Painted and Snapping Turtles, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black and White Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Virginia Opossums. Each of these patients was found by someone who cared and whose life was touched by them.

More people at home and outdoors due to COVID-19 is resulting in more human-wildlife conflicts, more injured wildlife

being found, and record numbers of patients being admitted to rehabilitation centers, including TWC. Some centers have needed to close temporarily due to COVID or to lack of space, time, or funding. At Tamarack, we are fortunate to have your generous support and the hard work of our core volunteers and staff to keep us open.

Preventing wildlife emergencies is more important than ever. You can help! Investigate trees for nests before trimming or felling. If a young animal falls from a nest, call our center. We may advise you to try to reunite! Keep cats indoors. If you can't do this year round, consider doing it in spring and early summer. Clean bird feeders and baths regularly to reduce disease, and change hummingbird nectar weekly. When driving, slow down if an animal is seen in the road. If you see a turtle or tortoise in the road, and if you can do so safely, assist it across the road in the direction it is going. Preventing a wildlife emergency increases the chance that all who need help can be admitted.



Honorarium

IN HONOR OF:

Bob Hartman - In Honor of Bob Hartman from Dawn Hartman
Peggy & Ross Bell - In Honor of Peggy & Ross Bell from Maria Silvestri c/o John & Helen Timo Foundation
Evelyn McLaughlin - In Honor of Evelyn McLaughlin from Laura & Walter Long

In Memoriam

IN MEMORY OF:

Arlene Shultz - In Memory of Arlene Shultz from Kip & Catherine Mostowy Family
Donna Holmgren - In Memory to Rick Holmgren from LITS Pelletier Library Staff @ Allegheny c/o Nancy Burno
Edward Terry Ashbaugh - In Memory of Edward Terry Ashbaugh from Julie Myler
Harriet Wilson - In Memory of Harriet Wilson from Margaret McMahon Collins
Harriet Wilson - In Memory of Harriet Wilson from Carol and Rick Holmgren
Harriet Wilson - In Memory of our dear cousin, Harriet Wilson, from Judy & Jim Pedersen
Jack Scheuer - In Memory of Jack Scheuer from Su Konieczki
Jack Scheuer - In Memory of Jack Scheuer from Thomas & Mary Lou Mattis
Jack Scheuer - In Memory of Jack Scheuer from Patricia Waisley
Jack Scheuer - In Memory of Jack Scheuer from Barbara J. Clapper
Jack Scheuer - In Memory of Jack Scheuer from Bunnie Boros
Jack Scheuer - In Memory of Jack Scheuer from Robert & Christine Carter
Jerry Ashbaugh - In Memory of Jerry Ashbaugh from Jan & Charlie Thompson & Dave Dickson
John "Jack" Scheuer - In Memory of John "Jack" Scheuer from Weslee & Don Krepps
John Scheuer - In Memory of John Scheuer from Marion A. & Carolyn C. Zur
John Scheuer - In Memory of John Scheuer (an active member of the Black Ash Sportsman Club) from Dennis & Nancy Cronin
Penelope Scott - In Memory of Penelope Scott from Robert Scott
Rachael S. Johnston - In Memory of Rachael S. Johnston to her Mom, Lynn Betoluzzi Johnston, from Christine Marino
Rachael S. Johnston - In Memory of Rachael S. Johnston to her Mom Lynn Johnston from Bunnie Boros
Richard Timothy Hartel - In Memory of Richard Timothy Hartel from Shirley Gaiser
Virginia Wolski - In Memory of Virginia Wolski from Kirt & Laura Zimmerman

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.

Spring 2020 In-Kind Contributors

- Alan Goodman
- Allan Johnson
- Animal Clinic of Northview:
Dr. Lindstrom
- Animal Friends Cremation
- Animal Kindom Pet Hospital:
Dr. Ramsey
- Because You Care
- Becci Kuligowski
- Bob Hartman
- Chris Sam and Jesse Green
- Conneaut Lake Veterinary:
Dr. Consola, Stanton & Wade
- Cory Rogers, The Niche
- Cynthia Sankey
- Diane Tracy
- Donna Meigel
- Erie Zoo
- Issac Wilbur
- Jim Daley
- Joanna Nicholson
- John & Karen Daley
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Shannan & Leigh Lynes
- Larry & Linda Slomski
- Leah Reibel
- Leigh Aiello
- Linda & Bob Gleeson
- Lisa and Dan Millard
- Lisa Lindsay
- Maplewood Elementary
Shari Barickman's Students
- Marty Bowan & Cindy Luna
- Melanie Tepper
- Monica Y. Haritan
- Nancy Markwood
- NW PA Pet Emergency Center:
Dr. Rissa & Shannon
- Patricia & Mark Snippet
- Randall & Bambi Palloto
- Regina Johnson
- Renee Rice
- Richard Wyman
- Ridge Road Taxidermy
- Tom Schruers
- Wildlife Rescue Nests
- Wildlife In Need (WIN)

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 either in the shell or shelled
- 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)
- Feather duster or feather boa (to help ducklings feel like "mom" is there)
- Dog toys such as holey roller or durable dog toys for ambassador and patient wildlife enrichment
- Fake flowers and greenery for patient housing enrichment
 - Cotton balls • Latex or Nitrile Exam Gloves, all sizes
 - Aquarium Pumps • HP Ink Cartridges • Copy Paper
 - Simple Green D
- 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>

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
- ☐ Hobbs, Virginia Opossum
- ☐ 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

WILDLIFE CENTER

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



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Spring 2020 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:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chickadee..... | \$20-29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | American Kestrel..... | \$30-99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Great Horned Owl..... | \$100-499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Peregrine..... | \$500-999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Golden Eagle..... | \$1,000 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other Amount..... | \$ _____ |

I'd like to receive
the newsletter via:

☐ Mail ☐ Email

(If email,
please list below)

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EMAIL: _____

All Contributions are Tax Deductible!

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

TWC's

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Director Emerita.....Suzanne DeArment

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Board Member.....Jim Daley
Board Member.....Sharon Wesoky
Board Member.....Delores Tavares
Board Member.....Terrie Swanson
Office Manager.....Barbara Pagano

WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

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Gina Kron

WILDLIFE REHAB MANAGER

Heather Wayne

SPONSORING VETERINARIANS

Dr. Consla, Conneaut Lake Vet. Hosp.
Dr. Ramey, Animal Ark

WILDLIFE REHAB ASSISTANTS

Dawn Decrease, Sarah Sargent,
Stephanie Snyder

WILDLIFE EDUCATORS

Cathy Davis, Linda Gleeson,
Richard Wyman, Terrie Swanson,
Janelle Harrawood, Stephanie Snyder

WEBMASTER

Shannan Lynes, Knock Design Inc.