



TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 26 NO. 2

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

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.

MORE THAN EVER, YOU HELP WILDLIFE THROUGH TWC!



Over 1100 patients have been treated so far this year! Top photo: Grey Squirrels ready for release. Clockwise from upper left: Virginia Opossum; Intern Madison Story releases a Screech Owl; Green Heron; Eastern Cottontail; Snapping Turtle; Heather Wayne and Apollo the Peregrine; Flying Squirrel; Intern Allison Gould releases an owl; Carol Holmgren examines a Bald Eagle.

Admission of a nestling Barn Owl in July led to the discovery of the first documented nest of Barn Owls in northwestern Pennsylvania in thirty years! Wow!

Upon admission "Copper" was weak and lethargic after falling from her nest site high in an old barn. Once healthy and strong, Tamarack collaborated with Game Commission biologists and landowners to return "Copper" to her family which included three siblings. The youngster was banded and a nest box erected near the current nest site in hopes the owl family will use it in future years.

Barn Owl populations have been declining in recent years. If you think you have a resident Barn Owl, please report it to our center or to the Game Commission!

Admission Leads to Discovery of Barn Owl Family!



Tamarack's Promise Takes Flight



On September 29 a Bald Eagle named "Promise" took flight after recovering from lead poisoning. She was nicknamed "Promise" because TWC staff promised to give her the best care possible, and

promised to keep educating people about how to prevent this problem.

Promise is the 6th eagle to test positive for lead poisoning out of 15 admitted this year, and the only one to survive the condition. Two vultures have also tested positive, one of which is currently in treatment. TWC actively engages in education to help make the world safer for eagles and other avian scavengers such as vultures, hawks and owls. These birds most commonly get lead poisoning from ingesting animals that have been dispatched with ammunition containing lead. A fragment the size of a grain of rice is enough to be fatally toxic to an eagle due their acidic stomach and muscular, grinding gizzard. To prevent this tragedy, dispatched animals can be buried or non-toxic ammunition can be used.

Our spirits soar with Promise!



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

Greetings to all! I sincerely hope that you and yours are well. We at Tamarack have been very busy through the summer, with record admissions, over 1,100 so far this year, and some "firsts" for us. We treated our first Barn Owl nestling! This species has been absent from Northwest Pennsylvania for some decades, but it has now reappeared. Please keep an eye open for them if you live in a rural setting, especially if you have old barns or similar structures.

Our operations continue to be managed a bit differently than in past years as a result of the pandemic. On-site protocols are being kept up to date as new guidance is issued, thanks to Carol. Also, we now offer education programs online as well as in person. Consider scheduling a virtual visit if you have an event where live raptors could enliven your online offerings! Or perhaps a private live program for your family or "pod." Thanks especially to Heather Wayne, our Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager, for developing these. Speaking of Heather, she recently passed all her testing to become a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator in Pennsylvania. Congratulations, Heather!

Our Board is continuing to work on future planning for TWC. Thank you to everyone who participated in our feasibility study which was completed in August. The study showed strong support and excitement for TWC. The board is now discerning how best to proceed and evaluating whether a different location would better serve our community into the future. Specifically we are imagining a new location close to I-79's Saegertown or Meadville exit, if we are able to identify some suitable land, which is central to the region we serve, more easily accessible for patient admission and education, and has potential to expand in the years to come.

We are grateful to each of you. You make a difference for wildlife and our community through your support of TWC. Thank you so much for your generosity during Erie Gives and Crawford Gives Days in August! Please consider a year end donation and don't forget to include TWC in your estate planning, leaving a legacy to support what you value. Thank you!

2021 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 2021 Wildlife First Responder class will be an online class with video segments, electronic handouts, and live Q and A sessions via zoom. The online class will take place February 8-11 with optional in-person wildlife capture practice sessions for small groups of participants Feb 12-14. This will make the class safely accessible to all.

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 prior to the start date of February 8. 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 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 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 summer and fall helpers: Summer interns: Allison Gould, Logan Meyer, and Madison Story. Summer and Fall volunteers: George Ackerman, Mark Ames, Shari Barickman, Allison Beck, Greg Bricker, Katie Brozell, Kathy Bussiere, Lee Coates, Martha Consla, Brooke Daeschner, Jim Daley, Cathy Davis, Linda Gleeson and family, Chris Green, Makenna Hague, Janelle Harrawood, Will Harrod, Hanna Hauck, Tim Kerr, Gina Kron, Abby Kuhn, Savannah Maze, Cindy Ondish, Barbara Pagano, Larry Slomski, Jake Snyder, Stephanie Snyder, Leah Reibel, George Roland, Melanie Tepper, Daniel Wilson, Emma Yesko. *We miss our Allegheny College work study students and look forward to when they can return!*

Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers, coordinated by Diann Bolarsky 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, Peggy Steele. Substitutes are Cathy Davis, Jim Fitch, Rita Ganoe and Sharon Wesoky.



Wildlife Heros responded on 2020 Giving Days!

This year's Erie and Crawford Gives Days were amazing! Two hundred and seventy one wildlife heros participated through Erie Gives Day. Including the pro-rated match, Tamarack received a wonderful \$25,649! During the second annual Crawford Gives Day, one hundred and three wildlife heros contributed \$6,638.84 including the match, which is three times both donors and contributions in 2019! These gifts bring hope in challenging times, through wildlife rehabilitation and education. Thank you to each person who contributed!



Hurray for Heather!

Congratulations to our Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager, Heather Wayne, for becoming a licensed wildlife rehabilitator (LWR) in Pennsylvania! After extensive experience, study, and passing both written and oral examinations in July, Heather completed licensing to rehabilitate mammals, avian species including raptors, reptiles and amphibians in our state!

Heather joined our team last September and has a passion for both rehabilitation and education. Previously Heather was an Environmental Education Specialist for Bald Eagle, Moraine, and McConnells Mills State Parks. She has a BS in Zoology and MS in Environmental Science and Management. Early on she did internships with the Pittsburgh Zoo and Humane Animal Rescue's Wildlife Center.

In her position at TWC, Heather oversees patient care, offers education programs, and recruits and trains volunteers. Three aspects of her position are highlights for Heather. 1. She loves releasing patients she has seen "at their worst" upon admission. Seeing them go free after helping them recover is deeply rewarding. 2. Heather has a passion for inspiring young children through programs that feature our ambassador raptors. 3. It is gratifying for her to give our college student volunteers a strong foundation and the tools

they need to reach their goals and succeed in a future career, such as wildlife conservation, education, or an animal care field.

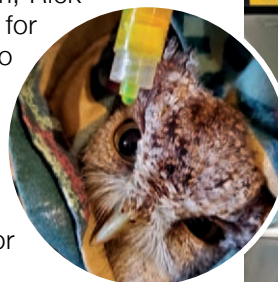
Heather joins a long list of people TWC has mentored to become licensed. Some continue to assist our center, including Janelle Harrawood, our opossum specialist; Gina Kron, who treats ducks and geese in North East; Stephanie Snyder, who is licensed for herpetological species, and of course, Carol Holmgren, TWC's executive director. Others continue to rehabilitate in locations across the country, remaining in touch with TWC as colleagues and friends. Lee Ann Hill (formerly Streshenkoff) assisted at TWC through her college career and was our summer supervisor in 2017. She is now a LWR for Humane Animal Rescue's Wildlife Center in Verona, PA. Emily Garrigan, TWC's rehab manager in 2018, has opened her own center, West Shore Wildlife Center, in Goldsboro, PA. Laryssa Rote our long time volunteer and rehab manager in 2019 is now working with Montana WILD's wildlife rehab center in Helena, MT.

Kudos to Heather on this accomplishment. It is fantastic to have Heather on the TWC team!



Improving Care

We are excited to share recent improvements in the treatments we provide our patients! Through gifts from Jim, Rick and Danielle Lang, we have a new incubator for our infant mammals and a set of raptor hoods to fit our full range of patient sizes. The hoods will help our raptor patients stay calm during treatments. Also new this fall, we are now equipped to test our patients for corneal abrasions by performing eye stains, which reduces the cost and time of going to a veterinarian for testing!



Intern Spotlight:

MADISON STORY



Interned: Summer of 2020

Background:

Madison is a junior studying Zoo Science at West Liberty University. She grew up near Pittsburgh in Imperial, PA.

What surprised you about your internship?

I did not expect to learn so many different skills or work with so many different species. I gained

practical skills, from tube feeding infant cottontails to applying a tail guard to a Bald Eagle.

What was a highlight of your internship?

Two highlights stand out! One was working with the ambassador birds and doing an in-person program (with masks on). Another was assisting with treating lead poisoned eagles. I'd heard of the problem, but learned more details and worked first hand with patients.

What is unique about TWC?

Tamarack's location leads to a wide variety of patients. The center is along a migratory path for many birds and near habitats that support different species: open fields, forests, marshes, Presque Isle, Lake Erie and other lakes.

What do you think is TWC's most important work?

Tamarack's work regarding lead poisoning is impressive. TWC is making an impact through treatment of lead poisoned patients. Beyond that, Tamarack is a role model and mentor to other centers, and educates our community about prevention.

What did you gain from your internship?

I learned so much! I learned specific wildlife rehabilitation practices, the laws and regulations governing rehabilitators, and about many species of native wildlife. I got to be involved "hands on" with many species. Talking with friends who completed other internships, I felt I got a lot more from being at TWC than they did. I highly recommend this internship and would love to come back!



Clockwise from upper left: Canada Goose release; Turkey Vulture; Virginia Opossums; orphaned American Kestrel; Barred Owl release; Great Horned Owl patient; Painted Turtle; juvenile Turkey Vulture; orphaned Grey Squirrel; Red-tailed Hawk; Grey Squirrel; Double-crested Cormorant.

News from the Center: Summer into Fall

Carol Holmgren, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator



Today, as I write, it is a glorious fall day with sunlight streaming through brilliantly colored leaves. My heart is filled with gratitude for the supporters, volunteers and TWC staff who have made it possible for record numbers of patients to be treated during these challenging times.

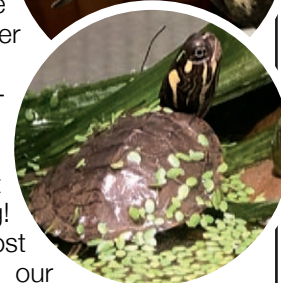
Over 1,100 patients have been admitted so far, which is over 25% more than this time last year. Wow! Our admissions are higher for almost every species. So far in 2020, we have treated 15 Bald Eagles, 36 Red-tailed Hawks, 27 Eastern Screech Owls, 16 Barred Owls, 55 squirrels of various species, 20 Eastern Chipmunks, 201 Virginia Opossums, 375 Eastern Cottontails, and 20 turtles, among others. In recent days we have released a Bald Eagle recovered from lead poisoning, Red-tailed Hawks, Grey and Red Squirrels, Mourning Dove, and more. It seems that with more people home, more injured wildlife are being found. With your help, TWC is filling a critical need for our community!

This summer, an amazing team of interns and volunteers added their support to our efforts, while gaining valuable experience, and allowing our center to function safely. Providing a rich learning environment for our interns is

an important part of our educational efforts, and we have a few openings for interns this winter and spring, as well as for next summer. For more information, contact Heather Wayne (heather@tamarackwildlife.org).

At TWC, we are committed to creating a world that is healthy for wildlife and humans alike. Toward that end, our staff is reading Ibram Kendal's *How To Be An Anti-racist* and is committed to evaluating the decisions we make to reduce inequities and foster positive change.

We continue to offer intimate, inspiring educational programs featuring live ambassadors through small in-person programs or online. For the latest details, check out tamarackwildlife.org! We know we all need an emotional boost during these challenging times, and our educational posts on social media reach up to 80,000 people per month and single posts regularly reach 5-9,000 people. These posts not only help people learn more about wildlife and the challenges they face, they provide readers uplifting stories to help carry them through their days. As one Facebook reader commented, "your posts are an amazing emotional boost!"



Honorarium

In Honor Of:

In Memoriam

Screech Owl found by Gayle Arent from Betty Lynn Slodowick

Hilary Copp and Rob von Thaden from Christopher Snyder • Laurel Hirt's birthday from Mark Christ

Jill Monico for being a great physical trainer and life coach from Peggy & Timothy McKain

Danielle Goodwill's birthday from Gary & Deborah Stevens

Laine Ashker, professional horsewoman who competes at the highest levels of Eventing and Dressage from Jennifer Rautine

In Memory Of:

Frank G. Leonheart from Joan B. Leonheart • Jesse, our beautiful Scarlet MacCaw from Mazco, Cathy Knox Judas, Laine Ashker's rescued Starling from Jennifer Rautine • Rocky, the baby Robin from Nancy Fuchs Harriet Wilson from Aundra & David Zack • My son, Kevin McCartney, on his birthday from Sharon Oakes Jack Scheuer, my big brother from Suzanne Scheuer Leone • Beverly Wells from Patricia Baldwin

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.

Fall 2020 In-Kind Contributors

- Allan Johnson
- Animal Clinic of Northview:
Dr. Lindstrom
- Animal Friends Cremation
- Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital:
Dr. Ramsey
- Because You Care
- Betsy Schruers
- Bill Bramble
- Charlotte Manison
- Chris Green and family
- Christine Showrank
- Conneaut Lake Veterinary:
Drs. Consla, Stanton & Wade
- Dave Marino:
Dahlkemper Landscape Architects
- Dave Thomas
- Erie Zoo
- Issac Wilber
- Janet Bemis
- Juston Flick
- Kathleen Palmer
- Knock Design:
Shannan & Leigh Lynes
- Larissa Cassano-Hamilton
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- Leslie Brown
- Linda & Bob Gleeson
- Lynne Martin and grandchildren
- Madison Story
- Mary Knierman
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- Nancy Frambes & Ron Cole
- Nancy Markwood
- Orphan Angels Cat Sanctuary
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- Patti Almeda
- Patty & Jim Schoening
- Philip and Kerri Bailey
- Poff's Place
- Raegan Higgins
- Regina Johnson
- Rick Wyman
- Ridge Road Taxidermy
- Sherry Cole
- Stephen Petrus
- Tammy Caton Rodgers
- Tom Schruers
- Wildlife Rescue Nests
- Wildlife In Need (WIN)
- William Lamont
- Woodcock Animal Clinic:
Dr Barzak

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



*Infant opossums treated
by Tamarack's
opossum specialist,
Janelle Harrawood*

- Paper Towels • Bleach • Dawn Dish Detergent
- Kitchen Scissors, heavy duty
- 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, including acorns
- 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 holey roller or durable dog toys for ambassador and patient wildlife enrichment
- Fake flowers and greenery for patient housing enrichment
- Latex or Nitrile Exam Gloves, all sizes • 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.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby, Red-tailed Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Watson, American Kestrel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Apollo, Peregrine Falcon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sophia, Barred Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> Romeo, Great Horned Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbs, Virginia Opossum | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow, Eastern Screech Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myrtle, Box Turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> Luna, Barn Owl |

*Apollo,
Peregrine
Falcon*



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

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

TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER

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**Consider A
Year-End
Donation!**



Fall 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:

- ☐ 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.*

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Director Emerita.....Suzanne DeArment

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Stephanie Snyder

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Shannan Lynes, Knock Design Inc.