



TAMARACK

WILDLIFE CENTER



VOLUME 25 NO. 2

FALL 2019

The Mission of TWC

Our mission is to help Pennsylvania wildlife by

- Caring for injured, orphaned or ill wildlife in order to enable their return to the wild.
- Promoting appreciation and understanding of wildlife through education.

Admissions

At present time Tamarack is able to admit birds of prey all ages, adult mammals (except rabies vector species), reptiles, amphibians, herons and adult songbirds and adult woodpeckers at our Saegertown Center. Other species including young mammals, ducks, geese and gulls are admitted on a case by case basis. This is subject to change depending on case load. Our North East location is unable to admit at this time.

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 bring
HOPE
to wildlife and our world!



Clockwise from upper left: Volunteer Allison Beck tests the endurance of a Great Horned Owl preparing for release; Kalle Eggleston says goodbye before releasing a young Eastern Screech Owl raised at TWC; Jordan Pierce releases a Painted Turtle after months of care for shell fracture; Laryssa Rote examines a Bald Eagle patient; Game Warden Schibik captures a tangled Osprey for admission; Linda Slomski releases a red phase Eastern Screech Owl.



A sampling of recent patients and programs!

Center: Bald Eagle released by Director Carol Holmgren and Game Warden Jones. Clockwise from upper left: Snapping Turtle, Great Horned Owl stamina test, George Ackerman with ambassador Red-tailed "Ruby", Bald Eagle surgery at Conneaut Lake Vet Hospital, Osprey, Painted Turtle, Virginia Opossums, Eastern Screech Owlets, checking wingspan at our Open House, craft fun at the Open House, Great Horned Owl. Bottom: Baby Fisher.



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

So much seems to happen so fast! Our 30th year of operation has flown by. Tamarack was founded in October 1989, so we are now beginning our fourth decade! We are stronger than ever and continuing to build our capacity to treat more animals and reach more people through our education programs. As reported elsewhere, we are on pace to reach close to 1000 patients for the year, our highest ever in the past decade. New staff (welcome, Heather and Barbara!), some new equipment (thank you, Rotary of Meadville!), and new ambassadors (Ruby and Watson) are all recent parts of the change that seems to be our new normal at Tamarack.

The part that doesn't change is the support we rely on, from all of you. Your support is what fuels everything we do, whether you donate money, time, expertise, supplies, or all of the above. We loved having so many of you come out for the Annual Open House on October 6th; over 600 people visited!

Please continue to help us help the animals who need us simply by renewing your membership, making a year-end donation, or attending our First Responders Class and becoming a volunteer. All of it makes a difference.

A special heart-felt thank you to Bob Hartman, who will be stepping down from the Board of Directors in December, after many years of service. He will continue as a volunteer. Thank you, Bob!

2020 Wildlife First Responders Course

Back by popular demand! Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency? A baby rabbit caught by a cat? A hawk hit by a car on a roadside? Ducklings stranded away from their mother? Our 2020 Wildlife First Responder class will be held Saturday, February 15 from 9am-4:00pm on the campus of Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. Tamarack's live ambassador raptors and opossum will be available for participants to meet during the class.

This course will teach you when to intervene and when not to, and how to capture, stabilize and transport injured wildlife to a rehabilitator. In addition to learning how to respond when encountering wildlife in need, past participants have gone on to become phone helpline volunteers, transporters and onsite volunteers.

The course cost is \$50 and includes lunch. 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 and forms are available at www.tamarackwildlife.org, or call the center at 814-763-2574. Previous participants are welcome to attend for a refresher at no cost (\$10 if having lunch), but should register. Early registration is recommended.

Tamarack's 2018 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: Allegheny College Bonner leaders: Brittany Claassen, Kalle Eggleston, Jordan Pierce, and Jacob Walters. Allegheny College Students: George Ackerman, Katie Brozell, Soren Bruno, Alaina Duessel, Will Harrod, Graham Johnson, Jared Jordan. Volunteers: Lisa Barakat-Balzer, Allison Beck, Charlotte Brower, Martha Consla, Glenn Elias, Linda Gleeson and family, Chris Green, Janelle Harrawood, Alexandra Lombard, Mary Mulligan-Haines, Cindy Ondish, Laryssa Rote, Arien Skiba, Larry Slomski, Stephanie Snyder, Jessica Stefano, Melanie Tepper, Marta Vandegrift, and Isaac Wilbur.

Our fabulous Wildlife Helpline Volunteers, coordinated by Lynne Martin are: Rebecca Allen, Patty Baldwin, Diann Bolharsky, Carol Brown, Sandra Emke, Debbie Flemming, Bob Hartman, Julie Hirt, Marc Johns, Lynne Kasemer, Nancy Kerr, Lynne Martin, Brian Pardini, Tammy Rodgers, Marcella Smith. Substitutes are Cathy Davis, Rita Gannoe, Jim Fitch and Sharon Wesoky.



2019 Giving Days Are a Huge Success!

This year's Erie and Crawford Gives Days were amazing! Thank you to each of you who contributed! Two hundred and twenty four people participated through Erie Gives Day! Including the pro-rated match, Tamarack received a wonderful \$20,760! This was one third more funds than in 2018. Through the inaugural Crawford Gives Day, thirty four people contributed an additional \$1600. These gifts support our expanding wildlife rehabilitation and education work.



Meet our Newest Ambassadors!

Heather Wayne, TWC Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager



Ruby

Watson

We are excited to introduce our two newest raptor ambassadors: a Red-tailed Hawk named Ruby and an American Kestrel named Watson! Ruby came to us after being injured this summer, shortly after learning to fly. Her right eye was damaged, so she can no longer hunt well enough to survive on her own. Red-tailed Hawks rely on keen eyesight that is 8 times as powerful as a human's, allowing them to see a mouse from 100 feet away.

Ruby can still fly and is doing incredible learning to be an ambassador. When she's not in training, Ruby likes to take baths and whistles when offered her favorite foods. Red-tailed Hawks are the largest and most common hawks in Pennsylvania, and get their name from their red tail feathers once mature. Ruby's name was suggested by a member of the public because rubies are associated with the power of life, which she is bringing to our ambassador program, and once she is an adult, she will have a beautiful dark red tail.

Watson joined the ambassador team after being raised by

a member of the public during a critical period of development for kestrels. During this period, Watson imprinted on people, which means that he views humans as "his kind". Imprinting is a permanent condition, therefore Watson cannot be released back into the wild. As part of his training, he steps onto a handler's glove for his meals and frequently bobs his head and tail, a behavior which can be seen in the wild when kestrels perch on wires, poles, or fence posts.

Watson charms all who meets him with his curious, bold personality and stunning blue-gray plumage. Kestrels display sexual dimorphism or distinct differences in size or appearance between the sexes. Males have blue-gray heads and wings and have rusty red feathers on their backs and tails, while females have reddish-brown wings and are larger.

As ambassadors, Ruby and Watson will teach people of all ages how amazing and important their species are and how humans can help create an environment that is healthy for raptors and humans alike.

The Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators of TWC!

Laryssa Rote, LWR and medic



Pictured are the Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators of TWC! Left to right (name and specialty): Laryssa Rote, raptors; Stephanie Snyder, reptile/herpetological species; Janelle Harrawood, mammals; Carol Holmgren, raptors, other avians, mammals and reptiles; and Gina Kron, songbird specialist not pictured. It has taken years including hundreds of hours delivering care, and attending trainings, followed by written and oral tests for these individuals to obtain their licenses. All but our director are volunteers! Stay tuned, our Rehabilitation Manager Heather Wayne will be testing soon. It is no small feat for a rehabilitation center to collect such a specialized set of individuals.

We are incredibly grateful to have such a talented team that pour their hearts into the care of wildlife and education of the public. Thank you all and here's to many more years of growth!



Donor Spotlight:

JUDY WIECZOREK

History with TWC:

Judy knew TWC since its beginning 30 years ago and became an avid supporter in the past 10 years.

Background:

Retired Professor of Sociology at Mercyhurst College, residing in Harborcreek on a small farm.

What inspired you to care about the natural world?

As a child growing up in Sheffield, PA, Judy's mother taught her to love and respect all animals. From worms and snakes to kittens and puppies, every creature found a way into her heart! Today Judy appreciates the beauty and joy that animals provide in our daily lives. Wildlife are beings like us, but just dressed differently.

Supports TWC by:

Providing financial support now, and Judy has arranged for planned giving that will create a positive impact for the future.

A Key Experience for Judy at TWC:

During a recent visit to our center, Judy had a profound experience with our ambassador Barred Owl, Sophia. She now wants to instill this opportunity for love in others, especially our children.

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

TWC is essential to offer today's world a chance to turn to kindness and compassion from violence and frustration. It is so important for youth to experience the beauty of wildlife first hand through TWC's educational programs. Judy wants everyone to experience the amazing resources found at Tamarack!

What message do you have to share?

What Tamarack Wildlife Center does is exquisitely beautiful: healing life and making it whole again. When I hear the name Tamarack Wildlife Center it is like turning on beautiful sunshine!

Pennsylvania Birds at Risk

Jessica Stefano, Volunteer and environmental educator

Thirty species of birds may no longer have a home in Pennsylvania by 2080 if temperatures increase by 5.4 degrees, according to a recent report by the Audubon Society. Species at risk include Scarlet Tanagers, Ruffed Grouse, Red-headed Woodpecker, and many other beloved birds.

In early October, the National Audubon Society released a study assessing the effects of climate change on North American birds. Using climate models developed and used by more than 800 experts in 80 countries paired with nearly 140 million observations made by birders and scientists, Audubon scientists studied how the ranges of North American birds will be affected by our changing climate. 64% of the 604 species studied were found to be at risk.

Audubon identified 80 Pennsylvania bird species that are "highly vulnerable" or "moderately vulnerable" to the predicted effects of climate change, losing more than half of their current range as they are forced to search for suitable habitat and climate conditions elsewhere. The decline or loss of so many species would be devastating. Birds are an important part of a healthy ecosystem – birds play critical roles in pollination, seed dispersion, insect control, forest generation, and carrion scavenging. Additionally, they are important to our economy. In 2011, birding-related industries drove \$41 billion dollars in expenditures in the United States.

While scientists have confirmed that we are on a dangerous path, we still have time and the power to soften the blow dealt to our precious bird species and our world. We can encourage and demand that legislators create policies that reduce our contributions to the changing climate. Restoring and protect-

ing our forests and watersheds, as well as pursuing and supporting policies that protect these important ecosystems, can provide valuable habitat space in our state. We can also help birds directly by creating bird-friendly native habitats in our gardens, taking steps to remove invasive plant species from our area, eliminating standing water to protect birds from mosquito-borne illnesses, and supporting organizations like Tamarack Wildlife Center who are responsible for the rehabilitation and care of so many precious birds in our area.



Larry Slomski

Scarlet Tanagers are treated at TWC. They are among those birds at risk from climate change.

To read *Survival By Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink* in its entirety, please visit www.audubon.org/climate/survival-bydegrees

Summer into Fall at the Center

Carol Holmgren, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator



Wow! At the time of this writing, we have treated over 900 patients so far this year! That exceeds last year's grand total of 885, with two months yet to go. Our patients have included 13 Bald Eagles, 21 Eastern Screech Owls, 22 Red-tailed Hawks, 17 Great Horned Owls, 216 Cottontails, 194 Virginia Opossums, 31 Mourning Doves, and many other species. Beyond the numbers, it is a privilege to treat each one and to meet the people who have cared enough to get them assistance and support our center.

We see our patients for only a portion of their lives, but each has a story. Each one has a life that was interrupted when they needed our care. This spring we treated a mated Bald Eagle who was sickened by ingesting lead, then lost a fight with another male eagle. With intensive treatment, he recovered and returned to his waiting mate. We learned from a gentleman at the release that the two birds had been together for at least 9 years.

Another Bald Eagle we treated this fall was banded as a youngster in Florida! Just think of the stories he could tell. Eagles commonly travel far distances before settling down as

adults. He was just released and our hearts soared with him as he took flight.

Other memorable patients included a tiny hummingbird stuck to a burr that was released after 24 hours of care. Once extinct in eastern US, a young Peregrine Falcon patient is currently preparing for release after recovering from a concussion.

In addition to the wildlife we treat in our Center, our helpline volunteers have assisted many more wildlife that did not need admission. So far this year, they have answered more than 2,000 calls regarding wildlife.

With so much going on, we are excited to welcome Heather Wayne as our Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager this fall. Heather was most recently an education specialist at Bald Eagle State Park. She has a passion for wildlife and experience in wildlife rehabilitation. And congratulations to our opossum specialist Jannelle Harrawood upon becoming a licensed mammal rehabilitator!

Thank you to all the people who care enough to assist wildlife and get them the help they need, and all who support the center to make this possible. Together we do amazing work!



Honorarium

In Honor Of

Laurie Hirt - In honor of Laurie's birthday on July 27th!
from Mark Christ



In Memoriam

In Memory Of

Elizabeth Bachtel - In memory of Elizabeth Bachtel from Kristine Cassano
David Moore - In memory of David Moore (sponsorship-Sophia)
from Christine Moore
Bill Gaisor - In memory of Bill Gaisor from The Cassano Family
Elsa Holbrook - In memory of Elsa Holbrook from Leech Industries, Inc.
Edith Wilson - In memory of Edith Wilson from Sherry Reed



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 2019 In-Kind Contributors

- Alan Goodman
- Animal Friends Cremation
- Because You Care
- Becci Kuligowski
- Bev Dee
- Bianca Baldwin
- Chris, Sam & Jesse Green
- Conneaut Lake Veterinary
- Crocheters for a Cause
- Dan & Lisa Millard
- Denise Mielnik
- Dr. Lindstrom of Animal Clinic Northview
- Dr. Ramey of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital
- Drs Consla, Stanton & Waid & staff of Con. Lake Vet. Hospital
- Eric Landon
- Erie Zoo
- Gary Ratay
- Ginny Keim
- H & H Supermarket
- Heather Weaver
- JNR Wolff Farms
- James Schmitt
- Jean Young
- John & Karen Daley
- Klenz Farms
- Knock Design Inc: Shannan & Leigh Lynes
- Larry & Linda Slomski
- Linda & Bob Gleeson
- Lynn Yusz
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- Marta Z. Vandegrift
- Marty's Tack & Leather Repair
- Meadville Field Archers
- MegaGrafix
- Melanie Tepper
- Michelle & Steve Curtze
- Nancy Markwood
- Randall & Bambi Palloto
- Regina Johnson
- Renee Rice
- Rick Wyman & family
- Scotland's Yard Nursery
- Teresa Dimperio Klenz
- Wildlife Rescue Nests

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 • 2" Cohesive Bandages
- Fresh fruit/veggies/greens (call to verify what is needed)
- Nuts either in the shell or shelled, including acorns
- Flat Sheets (clean, used), Pillow cases • 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



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

Look up Tamarack Wildlife Center's wish list on Smile.Amazon.com for more great ideas!

Sponsorships Make Great Gifts!

You can give a sponsorship of an ambassador for \$30.00 per year. Sponsors receive a certificate of sponsorship, a 4X6 photograph and a brochure about the ambassador they are sponsoring.

Sponsorship funds help us provide food and medical care for these special ambassadors.

Indicate which ambassador(s) you would like to sponsor and whether this is a gift.

Send this form, along with a check for \$30.00 per animal per year 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"/> Prudence, Virginia Opossum | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow, Eastern Screech Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myrtle, Box Turtle | |

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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**Consider A
Year-End
Donation!**



Fall 2019 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.

Send contributions to:

Tamarack Wildlife Center
21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433

Annual Membership:

- ☐ Individual/Chickadee.....\$20-29
- ☐ Family/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

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Director Emerita.....Suzanne DeArment

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WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Carol Holmgren, Janelle Harrawood,
Gina Kron, Laryssa Rote

WILDLIFE REHAB MANAGER

Heather Wayne

SPONSORING VETERINARIANS

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

WILDLIFE REHAB ASSISTANTS

Dawn Decrease, Sarah Sargent,
Stephanie Snyder

WILDLIFE EDUCATORS

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

WEBMASTER

Shannan Lynes, Knock Design Inc.