

Welcome to INSTINCTS

Jan 2014

Vol 4:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2013 in Review

When the year comes to an end, it's time for the almost endless pile of annual reports to the State & Feds. It's a good time to give a report to our supporters, too. That would be the person reading these words, YOU! As we expected our 2013 patient load was greater than our 2012 which was more than our 2011. We weren't sure how much it would increase and were a little surprised by that.

We still have enclosures to get up after just three years and will have enclosure construction in future years. Hopefully, this year the weather will cooperate much better than last.

We admitted 606 patients of 97 different species from 27 different counties in 2013. For a complete listing of the breakdown, see the last page of this newsletter.

We keep track of some fun statistics, too. For instance, the first orphan of 2013 was a gray squirrel admitted on 4/15. In 2011 it was a gray squirrel on 3/24. The year 2012 was unusual with the 1/11 admission of two eyes-closed bear cubs.

As much as rehab follows patterns, there are exceptions and surprises. A surprise this winter is the mind-boggling number of patients we are overwintering. Generally, we may have to keep one or two patients over the winter until they can be released in the spring. We usually have maybe half a dozen patients at a time in Dec or Jan. Right now we have 34!!! Thirty of them are staying with us the entire winter until ice is gone and insects are hatched!!

We're THREE!

On Jan 25th, 2011, Wild Instincts was incorporated. On Jan 28th, 2011, 17 acres was purchased to house the new wildlife rehabilitation center and we were off and running helping The Wild Things Heal. The only reason we can still be here is thanks to great supporters like you! You deserve a pat on the back (or three!). We could not do any of this without you so enjoy a piece of birthday cake because you deserve it!



Young bobcat admitted from Four Lakes Wildlife Center.

Working Together

In early December, we got a call from another rehab center near Madison, WI. They had a bobcat that had been hit by a car.

Bobcats are uncommon in their area and their facility isn't set up for caring for a bobcat with a shoulder injury. They contacted the person in charge for the State and were told Mark has the most experience with bobcats in the state. Dane County Humane Society's Four Lakes Wildlife Center called us and she was transferred to Wild Instincts on 12/13 for care. She will be transferred back to [Four Lakes Wildlife Center](#) for release where she came from.

Wildlife rehab is a special vocation. While it is treated by some as a business, it really is a community. Reputable facilities work together for what is best for the animal in question. Egos have no place in rehab where animals' lives are at stake.



She's healing nicely from her fractured shoulder blade.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

~In memory of [Mona Kupferschmidt](#)

~In honor of [Kathy & Joel Furda](#)

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Click on the box to see for yourself.

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American Goldfinch. Please be very careful with bird baths in the extreme cold temperatures!

Winter Bird Bath Cautions

In this brutally cold weather, many people are enjoying feeding the birds. Some even have chosen to add a bird bath so the birds save energy by not having to convert snow to water. If you choose to do this, please be extremely careful. We recently admitted an American Goldfinch that had been frozen to a metal pole supporting a bird feeder. It had first visited a bird bath before perching on that pole. Cover all metal in your yard and area if you have open water accessible to our wild friends.

Putting out extra amounts of high calorie foods such as suet or mealworms will help during the bitter cold snaps, too.

In Their Own Words

Volunteers Tim & Cheryl B tell us about their Wild Instincts volunteer experiences.

"We learned about Wild Instincts in January of 2012. The day we drove up to meet Mark and Sharon, they were in the process of building their new facility.

Mark gave us a wonderful tour of the building and talked to us about their dream of having their own wildlife rehab center and their dedication to helping and caring for injured and orphaned animals.

As luck would have it, we arrived at the feeding time of two recently admitted, eyes-

715-490-2727(cell)

closed bear cubs and were allowed to observe. What an unforgettable day. The work needed at the new center was overwhelming. Tim and I were impressed. Because of Wild Instincts sincerity about animal care and our love of animals, we decided to become volunteers.

In our spare time, we tried helping with the construction and completion of the building, which eventually led to building cages and enclosure and ultimately to feeding and caring for patients.

We also became Rescue Drivers. This past summer we had the honor of locating and rescuing an orphaned fawn and locating and rescuing an injured bald eagle...our first such experiences. Experiences we will never forget.

We are animal lovers and because of that, our desire to help is fulfilled each time we are there.

Mark and Sharon are great people, people we now consider our friends. They are dedicated to what they are doing-day in and day out. The Rhinelander area is extremely lucky to have them here!

There are many days when Tim and I leave Wild Instincts a bit overwhelmed. We wonder how they can do all the work that is needed, with just a handful of interns during several months of each year, and then by themselves the remaining time. The need for volunteers is enormous-people who are devoted to animals and who would love to have a small part in returning them back to the wild.

The experiences are *so* rewarding and UNFORGETTABLE!"

Introducing Amelia

In October, we admitted a young peregrine falcon from Madeline Island. She had most likely been hit by a car. Peregrines migrate along the lake shore of Lake Superior. She had a bad fracture in her left wing with permanent debilitating nerve damage. This injury makes her unable to be released.

We were impressed with how calm and curious she is, so we decided to add her to the Wild Instincts family.

Peregrine actually means "wanderer" in its Latin roots. The name Amelia in honor of a famous female wandering aviator seemed to be a perfect fit.

Ruby, our red-tailed hawk, will now have some company giving educational programs.



Amelia, our new education Peregrine Falcon, sits on the fist for the first time.

WISH LIST and AMAZON

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling.

We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~Venison
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)
- ~Paper Towels
- ~Bunk Beds for Intern Quarters
- ~White Noise Machines, 2-3 (to give the interns some privacy in their rooms; see our Amazon Wish List)
- ~Liquid Hand Soap
- ~Dish Soap

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping ☺

Expanding Volunteer Program

Volunteers are a huge part of Wild Instincts and we couldn't operate without them.

In 2014, volunteers logged in over 406 hours of service. Whether it's helping with animal care, construction of enclosures, fundraising, transporting or mopping the floor it is ALL important!

In 2014, our animal ambulance people logged in over 14,157 miles compared to just over 6,726 in 2013.

We answer questions from people wanting to become a volunteer at Wild Instincts almost weekly. To help us operate more efficiently, we will be offering some formal volunteer informational meetings and training sessions.

If you are interested in becoming one of these dedicated volunteers, attend one of the upcoming sessions.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a general volunteer, two identical volunteer informational meetings will be held at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th. One will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The other will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Having two identical sessions will allow you to attend the one that fits better into your schedule.

We will provide detailed information about what opportunities Wild Instincts has for those interested in volunteering, what is expected of volunteers as well as what is not allowed.

Rescue and Transport Drivers are a huge link in getting injured animals to the care they need. We are one of the few centers in the state permitted to treat all animals so our patients come from a wide geographic region. In 2012, we admitted patients from 28 different counties; in 2013 from 27 different counties.

If you're interested in more information on joining our team of drivers, attend one of the two identical driver trainer sessions at Wild Instincts. One will be held on Mon, March 17 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The other will be Saturday, March 22 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please attend whichever session best fits your schedule.

Events Calendar

Volunteer Informational Meeting at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th @ 10:30 a.m.

Volunteer Informational Meeting at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

Rescue & Transport Driver Training at Wild Instincts on Mon, March 17th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Rescue & Transport Driver Training at Wild Instincts on Sat, March 22nd from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Walk in the Wild at North Lakeland Discovery Center on Sat Sept 13th

Species	1/1-12/31/13		
American Badger	1	Northern Harrier	2
American Crow	5	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
American Goldfinch	4	Osprey	2
American Kestrel	11	Peregrine Falcon	1
American Robin	26	Pileated Woodpecker	4
Bald Eagle	17	Pine Grosbeak	1
Barred Owl	2	Pine Siskin	4
Belted Kingfisher	6	Porcupine	3
Big Brown Bat	9	Purple Finch	4
Black Bear	7	Raccoon	26
Black Duck	1	Red Fox	4
Blue Jay	3	Red Squirrel	10
Bobcat	5	Red-eyed Vireo	1
Broad-winged Hawk	8	Red-tailed Hawk	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Canada Goose	8	Ring-billed Gull	3
Cedar Waxwing	5	River Otter	2
Chipping Sparrow	6	Rock Dove	5
Common Grackle	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4
Common Loon	14	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9
Common Nighthawk	1	Ruffed Grouse	1
Common Raven	2	Sandhill Crane	1
Common Redpoll	17	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	Short-eared Owl	1
Coyote	1	Short-tailed Weasel	4
Deer Mouse	18	Snapping Turtle	29
Downy Woodpecker	2	Snowshoe Hare	1
Eastern Bluebird	4	Spruce Grouse	1
Eastern Chipmunk	4	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	2
Eastern Cottontail	89	Tree Swallow	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	23	Turkey Vulture	5
Eastern Phoebe	4	Virginia Opossum	7
European Starling	5	Western Fox Snake	2
Evening Grosbeak	1	Western Painted Turtle	16
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Gray Fox	3	White-tailed Deer	21
Great Blue Heron	1	White-winged Crossbill	1
Great Horned Owl	5	Wild Turkey	3
Hairy Woodpecker	7	Wilson's Snipe	1
Hooded Merganser	1	Wood Duck	4
House Finch	7	Wood Turtle	1
House Sparrow	2	Yellow Warbler	1
Indigo Bunting	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Killdeer	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Little Brown Bat	3		606
Long-eared Owl	1		
Mallard Duck	11		
Meadow Vole	3		
Merlin	6		
Mourning Dove	23		
Muskrat	1		
Northern Long-eared Bat	1		
Northern Flicker	2		

**Thank You for Helping
Us Help Them!**