

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

June 2011

Vol 1:2

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

So much has happened in the last month we thought we'd update you in another newsletter.

Building Progress

Like typical building projects, things are progressing, but not as fast as we'd have liked. Construction on the building has been interrupted by animal care and animal care construction!

The deer enclosure has been completed - just in time for the five fawn patients we currently have.



Center of photo shows fawn grazing in new fawn enclosure

Work is feverishly underway to finish the 30 X 40 bear enclosure. We have a bear cub that would like to be moved into a larger enclosure soon. Plans will be to expand this enclosure this fall after bears are released.

The songbird enclosure is also finished and has already seen birds come...and go as they get released!

Even though construction focus shifted to animal enclosures, there are stud walls being completed in the building, along with

plumbing and electrical. The heating/cooling is mostly done.



Heather, Mark and Kristina erect a wall on the dedicated cleaning room.

The donated mobile home arrived on site on June 14 - about 3 weeks after it was supposed to!

We have 2 volunteers helping who have been great sports about camping out on airbeds at a nearby dog training facility. One will be leaving before ever getting to stay in the actual housing we've planned for students and volunteers.



The mobile home for intern quarters/office is finally in place on site.

In Their Own Words

Speaking of students and volunteers, we've been fortunate to have a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student here volunteering. Kristina Borgstrom had a couple weeks between class obligations this summer and decided to donate her time, sweat and muscle to Wild Instincts! We're not sure how we didn't scare her off that first evening because literally within the first two hours of her arrival she fed birds, squirrel, and fawns! Why don't we just let her tell about it in her own words:

"I first met Mark during Wild Instinct's workday on May 1st 2011, while I volunteered with the organization Women in Natural Resources from Stevens Point University. As an organization, we helped them with the much-needed brush clearing for the new facility. While clearing brush, Mark had told us girls the goals of his new project in getting the facility up and running for animals in need. After learning that he was not able to take on paid interns for a while, I asked him if he would be willing to take on a volunteer for a few weeks during the summer. I have a major in Wildlife Ecology – Research and Management and a minor in Captive Wildlife. I figured that when it came to animal husbandry, Mark would be one of the best to learn from. He right away said yes, and before I knew it, I was working with him to take care of the animals.

My adventure started when I arrived at Wild Instincts during the evening of June 3rd. Shortly after my tour of the facility in progress, I was given a syringe and pipette and was shown how to feed two young robins and a baby black squirrel. The night didn't end there. I also learned how to prepare formula and feed three fawns that were already out in the smaller deeryard. During my first week here, I have learned so much – helping to admit patients, filling out charts, feeding squirrels, birds, fawns,

rabbits and more. Each day brings a new adventure as the phone rings asking for advice and if we would take in a new patient. Besides caring for the animals, which has always come first, I have had the opportunity to lend a hand with construction.

Together we tackled the larger deeryard putting up protective screening and removing undesirable bracken fern by the handful. Before long, we had made enough progress to move on to constructing the wet walls in the new building. From there I have dug and filled trenches, trimmed brush, collected materials, and helped select a spot for the new bear cage – all while caring for our hungry patients.

My experience here has inspired me to continue working hard. Not knowing what to expect when I first arrived, I soon came to admire Wild Instincts' passion to care for animals and educate the public in what is natural for these organisms. People should embrace the opportunity to help these injured and orphaned animals by either volunteering their time where help is needed or simply making a donation. Although the animals may not be able to speak for themselves, I am sure they appreciate the help and Wild Instincts does too."

We sure *do* appreciate it! We also appreciate the fact Kristina has been "camping out" without complaining a bit along with working crazy, long hours.

Our second resident volunteer, Heather Berry, showed up on June 8th. Heather worked as an intern with Mark previously and wants to give being rehab assistant a try. She will be donating her entire summer to Wild Instincts. You'll be hearing from her in the next newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities

Rescue Drivers
Transport Drivers
Construction Volunteers
Animal Care Volunteers
Office Volunteers
Newsletter Volunteers
Fundraising Volunteers

Contact us if you are interested in volunteering in any way: 715-490-2727 or info@wildinstinctsrehab.com

Become a Member

Our tax-exempt status is currently being processed by the IRS. For now we are operating on donations with no tax write off. When the tax-exempt status is granted, it's generally retroactive to the date filed, but we technically don't even know if we'll be granted tax exemption.

Still, we could use whatever support you are willing to give. As long as you understand currently you cannot get a tax write-off with your donation.

The animals still need helping and we still need funding to help them.

We are offering memberships at the following levels to start:

Wild Neighbor	\$35
Family	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Silver	\$250
Gold	\$500
Platinum	\$1000

Of course you are always welcome to donate in amounts different from these levels.

WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

Chain link fencing
Fence poles
Whole fish
Frozen venison
Dry dog food
Canned dog food
Unsalted walnuts & unsalted pecans
Paper towels
Dish soap
Hand soap
Newspapers
Sheets/blankets/towels
Good used pick-up truck
Gas cards
Cash donations

A Few Wildlife Tales

~ On May 22, Wild Instincts admitted the first fawn of the year.

People come across a fawn in their yard, on the road or in the woods and can't believe how something so small and vulnerable can be okay on its own. Unbelievably, 99% of the time, they are. People can't help themselves, though, and often time interfere when they shouldn't. Currently, we have five fawns. Four of them should've been left alone to be cared for by mom.



Two week old white-tailed deer orphan.

Species Admitted

Here's a little idea of what we've admitted in the first half of 2011*:

Species	1/1-6/9/11
American Crow	1
American Robin	4
Bald Eagle	6
Barred Owl	2
Black Bear	3
Canada Goose	1
Common Grackle	1
Common Raven	1
Eastern Cottontail	15
Eastern Gray Squirrel	14
European Starling	4
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	3
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Hermit Thrush	1
House Finch	1
Mallard Duck	3
Mourning Dove	2
Pine Grosbeak	1
Porcupine	1
Raccoon	1
Red Fox	3
Red Squirrel	7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2
Virginia Opossum	1
Whippoorwill	1
White-tailed Deer	9
Wild Turkey	1
Total to date	92

*this outdates sometimes on an hourly basis this time of year!

~ On March 24, the season's first babies arrived - three baby gray squirrels. On May 26, all three were released.



Eastern Gray Squirrel on 3/27/11, three days after admission



Taken 5/19/11, about a week before release

~ On 5/28/11, Wild Instincts admitted an orphan black bear cub whose mom and sibling were illegal shot by someone not wanting them around their house. He'll be raised at here at Wild Instincts until his fall release.

Thank you for helping us help the wildlife!

Coming next issue: More volunteer spotlights, the costs of rehab and more patient updates

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