

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS

May 2012

Vol 2:3

*"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."*

## Construction Update

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Wild Instincts had a work day with a wonderful bunch of people cutting and hauling brush preparing the site for the septic and for the mobile home to be moved in and used for intern quarters.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, all operations are from the new main building that is currently housing over 2 dozen patients.

To complete the building three plumbing fixtures still need to be hooked up, but considering last year at this time we were hauling water and had a porta-potty in the parking lot, walking into the nursery to do dishes or kneeling on the floor in front of the shower to clean cages is a blessing rather than an inconvenience!

Last year another rehab center, Wildlife In Need, in southern Wisconsin was renovated and moved to a new location. They donated an integrated 3-basin sink-8' stainless steel countertop we incorporated into our kitchen design.



The kitchen island is finally finished. Now we just have to install the kitchen sink!

As most things repurposed in rehab, though, it needed some tweaking. It originally had a couple other pieces to it and had to have some stainless steel welding and fabrication done to remove sharp edges and finish it.

With special thanks to Brett McKinney of Airdale Sportplane and Supply ([www.airdale.com](http://www.airdale.com)) for donating and completing the specialty work on the sink, it's ready to be installed today!

The plumber is due in the next couple days to hook up the kitchen sink, dishwasher and our fabulous stainless steel cleaning tub where the majority of the really gross dish and cage cleaning will take place.

His visit should end the *building* construction updates.

Cage-building construction is a whole other story! You will probably be hearing animal enclosure updates for several years to come!

Speaking of which, we've been working fast and furious on the bear enclosure expansion. Currently, Wild Instincts holds the only black bear rehab permit in the state of Wisconsin so we admit lots of bears which need lots of space.

May 5<sup>th</sup>, the McNaughton Correctional Center's volunteer crew came for a big workday on the bear cage. A couple dedicated Wild Instincts volunteers rounded out the group. Despite sprinkles and clouds, we managed to complete about 95% of the bear enclosure expansion. A couple more days of good weather to finish the rest and cubs will be moved into their new 115' x 40' "home" until their October release.

We'd also like to thank family and friends of Virginia Ronish for the generous donations in her memory that allowed the completion of this expansion.



This is taken from the door of the current bear cage to show the expansion. Mark & volunteer Tim are working on preparing the wall between old enclosure and the new expansion.



This is taken from the corner of the expansion looking towards Mark & Tim working on the wall between the old bear enclosure & the expansion.

Because we've just expanded the present bear enclosure by adding on to it and cutting a door in the wall, we like to think our bears will have two "rooms" to their enclosure- a great room (85' x 40') and the original enclosure (30' x 40') will remain the dining room.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, Wisconsin Public Service will have a crew of volunteers out to erect our 100'x21'x20' eagle flight cage. With that, the major enclosure construction will be put on hold until animal care slows down in the fall.

We cannot thank enough the many people who have stepped forward with their time, skill or monetary contributions! We could not do any of this without you all to help us help them.

### **First Official WII Interns**

A generous donor stepped forward and funded this year's Internship Program. We are fortunate to be able to fund two spring interns, three summer interns and a fall intern. These young people spend long, hard hours working their tails off for very little monetary returns but priceless experience.

Our spring interns started April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be with us until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Here are some thoughts on their internship experience so far:

Sherryl is from Racine, Wisconsin.

"I decide to take this internship to enhance my experience and knowledge. I knew it would offer me a whole new look at animal care and provide me with great experiences. A few things I have learned are how to eye-dropper and tube feed baby bunnies, take care of bear cubs, clean and release certain bird species and learn how to create cages whether for indoor or outdoor purposes. Some challenges I have faced during the course of this internship were learning new techniques caring for these animals and knowing some animals won't make it due to their injuries. Overall, through this whole experience I truly do enjoy working with all types of animals, meeting great volunteers and drivers who help out and most of all getting experience working with animals that in a normal setting you won't be able to."

{Editor's note: another thing Sherryl learned from her internship is she has severe allergies to wildlife forcing her internship to end early. Thanks for all your help and take care of yourself, Sherryl!}



Sherryl holds her first eagle for an examination.

~~~~~

Megan is from Fishers, Indiana. "I chose to take this internship because I felt it would be an amazing opportunity to gain experience working with animals I would not normally be able to see in my day-to-day life. Back home it's strictly cats and dogs that I work with so I thought Wisconsin wildlife would be an exciting new challenge for me. During the course of this internship, I have been able to learn so much about wildlife care and have been undertaking different duties in the care of the animals in the facility. Feeding baby animals has been one of the more challenging yet rewarding tasks that I have encountered so far. Feeding baby bunnies, squirrels and raccoons can be both vexing and satisfying at the same time. As Marks says, "It's all in the hold." Another difficult aspect of this internship that I have encountered has been, of course, the animals that are not able to

recover from their injuries. It's on situation that is unavoidable in this line of work, as much as I hate to admit it. Though we can never save every single animal that is hurt, all we can do is focus our attention on the ones that have a chance to survive until they can be released back into the wild. After a month of working with the Wild Instincts Team, I can definitely say that choosing to be a part of this internship has proven to be a very good decision. I have met some amazing people that are both knowledgeable and passionate about helping animals and I'm learning so much about wildlife care from them. I'm gaining some valuable hands on experience and am excited to see what will come next as I enter the latter half of this internship."



Megan feeds her first squirrel.

Follow us on  for up-to-date photos and stories.

## In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

- ~ In honor of Bailey Nebgen's birthday
- ~ In memory of Virginia Ronish
- ~ In memory of Ardis Picard

## WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: [www.wildinstinctsrehab.com](http://www.wildinstinctsrehab.com)

Chain link fencing  
1 1/2" steel pipe \*  
Fence poles\*  
Good Used Pick-up Truck\*  
Walk-in Freezer\*  
Whole fish  
Frozen venison  
Dry dog food  
Canned dog food  
Paper towels\*  
Dish soap  
Hand soap  
Newspapers  
Sheets/blankets/towels  
Unsalted Walnuts  
Unsalted Pecans  
Cash Donations  
Gas Cards

\*there is a pressing need for these items!

## Another Way to Donate

Wild Instincts is able to receive donations of high-yield stocks for liquidation for funding projects and operations.

This is how the 2012 internship program was funded.

If you would like the tax benefit of donating stock instead of donating cash, please contact us at 715-362-9453 (WILD) or [sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com](mailto:sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com)



To see this gosling get reunited with a foster family, follow this link: <http://youtu.be/mR2inF9EstY>

### Species 2012

1/1/12-4/30/12

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| American Robin                                  | 2  |
| Bald Eagle                                      | 4  |
| Black Bear                                      | 8  |
| Bobcat                                          | 1  |
| Canada Goose                                    | 2  |
| Common Loon                                     | 1  |
| Common Redpoll                                  | 2  |
| Eastern Chipmunk                                | 1  |
| Eastern Cottontail                              | 10 |
| Eastern Garter Snake                            | 1  |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel                           | 10 |
| Flying Squirrel<br>(northern/southern combined) | 1  |
| Great Horned Owl                                | 1  |
| Mourning Dove                                   | 1  |
| Pine Siskin                                     | 2  |
| Purple Finch                                    | 1  |
| Raccoon                                         | 3  |
| Red-tailed Hawk                                 | 2  |
| Rock Dove                                       | 1  |
| Rough-legged Hawk                               | 1  |
| White-tailed Deer                               | 2  |
| Total                                           | 57 |



Thank You for  
Helping Us Help  
Them!

