

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS

Sept 2012

Vol 2:4

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

## **Baby Season 2012**

Wildlife rehabilitators refer to Baby Season as that busy time of year when orphan wildlife is found and in need of help. Here at Wild Instincts, that generally runs from April through August. What an unusual and busy baby season we've had here this year! It started January 11th(!) with orphan bear cubs we were able to place with a foster mom on March 9<sup>th</sup>, have a 17 day break from babies until the next orphan bear admittance on March 26<sup>th</sup> and it's continuing with the Aug 8<sup>th</sup> admittance of a few-day old bobcat kitten.

People ask if this is late for baby bobcats. Bobcats breed throughout the year, much like domestic felines, so we do get some young ones late into the year.

This one was orphaned after some unintentional human disturbance caused mom to leave the den. She came back for two of her kits, but left this one.

Because this girl won't be ready to be on her own until late fall or early winter when even with a mom to show her the ropes the hunting would be tough, she'll be overwintered here at Wild Instincts until spring when the prey base emerges.



Mark feeds the newly admitted days old bobcat kit a special rehydration solution.



Trish Fisher (c)

She is growing like a weed. To see her videos of her progress or any of our other patients, check out our YouTube channel: [Wild Instincts Rehab](#)

With her late admittance and the early bear orphans, so much for April through August Baby Season this year!

During Baby Season, we start our day at 7:30 a.m. and end after the 8:00 p.m. feedings are done which can be as late as 9:30 p.m. unless we have early orphaned

bear cubs—they get fed every few hours around the clock. If we have an emergency or a rescue, the day could go even later or start even earlier. That's 7 days of the week, including the holidays. The days are long, but the rewards can be priceless—like releasing 4 gray fox kits you helped provide care to for over 10 weeks—74 days to be exact.



A gray fox raised at Wild Instincts gets its first taste of freedom on release day! ©Trish Fisher

### **SHOUTING THANKS**

The following businesses have donated to Wild Instincts. Special thanks to them for helping us help them.

Remember that when you're out shopping so you can help them help us help them.

In Rhineland:

~ CCL Gardens

[www.cclgardens.com](http://www.cclgardens.com)

~Dinky Diner

~ Flyin Finn Resort

[www.flyinfinnpubandresort.com](http://www.flyinfinnpubandresort.com)

~Team Wireless Rhineland

~The Bait Shoppe

[www.thebaitshoppe.net](http://www.thebaitshoppe.net)

~Wisconsin River Outfitters

[www.wisconsinriveroutfitters.com](http://www.wisconsinriveroutfitters.com)

In Minocqua:

~Trig's of Minocqua

<http://minocqua.trigs.com>

### **Wisconsin River Outfitters Fundraiser**

August 25<sup>th</sup> was a fun day to be on the Wisconsin River. That's the day Wisconsin River Outfitters (see above) organized a fundraising canoe/kayak ride down the Wisconsin River.

Participants saw eagles, osprey, mink, songbirds, shorebirds all while helping fund the care of such wildlife.

Over \$200 was raised. We send a big THANK YOU to Ed Hammer of Wisconsin River Outfitters.

There is another fundraising canoe/kayak trip in the planning for early spring. We'll get you the date as soon as we have it.

### **Don't Forget the Fun!**

Speaking of fun, we certainly worked our summer interns really hard this year however we do have fun as well.

They managed to get some rubber-band fights and assaults on Mark. Becky's infamous shot even parted Mark's hair during a rubber-band dual!

There may have been some practical jokes involving the kitchen sink sprayer among others as well.

Working hard doesn't mean you can't have fun! Laughter is a great medicine. In a field as intense as wildlife rehab where life and death decisions, intentional and unintentional, are made daily we couldn't function without it.

### **More Enclosure Construction**

Around here there's baby season and construction season. More often than we'd like, they overlap.

Some enclosures are done and being put to the test, but there are a bunch more to build. Currently we are working on the raptor flight enclosures.

We need a total of 9 raptor flight enclosures: three 50x12x12, three 30x10x12, and three 20x10x10. These are meant for smaller raptors like hawks and owls and larger birds like crows and ravens to be able to test their wings so we can

evaluate their flight and therefore their ability to be released. Some of the utility poles left over from the eagle flight enclosure have been erected to form some of the upright framework for two of the 30x10's. Michigan Tech University has donated 25 more utility poles so we should get upright framework erected for seven of the nine.

An anonymous donor donated the amount for the lumber for two enclosures. Another person donated the amount for the special materials for the roofing of one.

We should be able to be complete at least one raptor flight this fall.

Until they are finished, any raptor other than an eagle needing a flight cage is transferred to REGI in Antigo or Bay Beach in Green Bay.

With more donations, we can ensure more birds get the needed care without the undue stress of being transferred.

If you're interested in donating either materials or the cost of materials for these enclosures or any others, please contact us at 715-362-WILD (9453) or [info@wildinstinctsrehab.com](mailto:info@wildinstinctsrehab.com)

### **Aysegul**

Aysegul Karaahmetoglu is not a new species to be added to our species admitted list.

She's a wildlife veterinarian from Kars, Turkey who we were fortunate enough to have stay and volunteer here at Wild Instincts for three weeks this summer.

She came to America to spend time at Raptor Education Group in Antigo to learn, gain experience and take her IWRC Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator test.

She will be starting a new wildlife rehab facility in conjunction with Kafkas University in Kars so the exchange of knowledge was very important as wildlife rehabilitation is just in its infancy in Turkey.



Aysegul & Mark immobilize a fracture on a fawn's leg

We've already had an e-mail exchange with her about a Roe Deer in Turkey less than a week after her return home. We're looking forward to a long, multi-cultural wildlife rehab relationship.

### **Intern Program & Scholarships**

A generous donor stepped forward and funded this year's Internship Program. We were 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...like discovering the incredible difficulties of cleaning eagle poop off anything. Well, maybe holding their first eagle, feeding fawns or touching a bear are priceless experiences, too.

They are immersed in wildlife rehab. They work alongside us often substituting as our eyes/ears when we're not available.

Patient care depends on them.

They work incredibly long hours and are often put in situations outside their comfort zone.

They are not the same people when they leave as they are when they come. It is always rewarding to see them grow during their time with us. While we see the changes readily, often they do not see their own growth.

With our patient load practically doubling this year, we certainly could use more

interns to help provide even better quality animal care. (More power, Scotty) We will hire as many interns as funding allows. We would like to have at least three spring, five summer and two fall interns for 2013. The more trained & skilled eyes and hands on animal care, the better the quality of care.

At this time funding for 2013 interns is uncertain.

If you would like to sponsor an intern or interns for 2013, please contact us. We cannot work without these incredible, eager and energetic young people.

### **In Their Own Words** Interns recap their summer



Kristina

Jacie

Becky

Kristina from Minnesota:

"The summer is fast approaching its end. It is hard to believe that I started my summer internship at Wild Instincts only three months ago. The time here has flown by so quickly that I cannot wait to recap on what others and I have accomplished this summer.

To thrill our readers and possibly entice new interns or volunteers, I will share some of my summer with you.

When I first arrived in late May, I had only basic experience with caring for wild animals. The previous summer I helped Mark and Sharon feed baby squirrels, bunnies, birds and fawns. Though this was only within a two-week period, it enticed me to come back for more. I found myself starting my internship submerged with caring for mammals, birds and reptiles alike. Keeping on top of charts and figuring out formulas and dosages was challenging at first, but it became a daily routine improved on each day. I will now never forget how to calculate dosages (weight (kg) x dose/ concentration). Being that Wild Instincts is the only rehabilitation center in Northern Wisconsin licensed to care for all wild animals, I learned about all sort of critters. I learned to hold eagles and not be a nervous wreck, how to huff like a male bear to scare the cubs off when feeding them, how to patch a broken turtle shell and countless other.

In addition to working with our wild friends, this internship turned me into a "jack of all trades". When not feeding animals or cleaning cages, I call us professional green pickers. With bunnies coming in at the beginning of the summer and now again towards the end, I have picked endless buckets of dandelions, plantain and clover. It is amazing how much vegetation these small animals can consume. I think I now have a new appreciation for every dandelion I see. No longer is it a pain-staking weed you pull out of your lawn, but rather a treasure you mine for. However, this year's dry summer in the Northwood's hasn't been very helpful in our operation.

While not every animal can eat dandelions, I spent many hours in the kitchen preparing other delicious meals. If you didn't know how to use a knife before, you'll sure learn quickly here. I even perfected my own dicing skills preparing gallons of fruits and veggies even after working in food services for many years. You'll also find that a finger makes an excellent stirring utensil

when mixing endless batches of squirrel formula. The animals don't seem to mind as long as they are fed. Bear food is a completely different story. It is quite like preparing an all you can eat buffet. The combination of wet and dry dog food, fish, ground meat, fruit, veggies and crayfish sounds un-appetizing, but our bears seem not to mind.

When not preparing meals, I sharpened up my hammering skills. Being a part of cage building is another reward. Wildlife rehabilitation is not all about feeding proper formulas and cleaning cages, but creating those enclosures that these animals call their homes during their recoveries. I was fortunate enough to help build a raccoon, eagle and pond enclosure as part of my internship project. By the end of it, we all simply gritted our teeth when stapling predator proofing and laughed when hitting a finger with the hammer. I don't think I will forget the sound of Becky tapping a nail in compared to Marks three pounds.

Working these long days would not have been possible if I didn't learn more about time management, responsibility, independence and leadership. There were times when phones would be ringing and someone had to take initiative to answer it. Phone calls were nerve-wracking at first when we didn't always know how to deal with a situation or what questions to ask. Nevertheless, learning on the spot is what most jobs are about and now a days, learning to communicate with the public is a must. All these skills were enhanced on days when Mark had to be off-site. We were then responsible for holding the cell phone and examining patients on our own. The hardest thing to get use to was time management. I always wear a watch, but I have never used it as much as I did this summer. I now constantly am looking at the time making sure that birds are fed every hour and that we are ready for the next round of feedings. I am sure I will continue this habit as I go back to school.

However, now the summer is over. As I pack my bags, I realize how much I will miss Wild Instincts. I have met so many great people – those who I work with on a daily basis and those who volunteer each week or help us rescue an animal. I can't forget the animals either. They have been great as well especially the little bobcat. I think I'll have my souvenir scratches for a while. Feeding the squirrels will always be my favorite and bottle-feeding the fawns are a second best. I will miss looking like a tree while hauling in deer branches or our races to pick up the most acorns. Releasing animals back to the wild has been a great treat for all the hard work. It leaves you with great satisfaction and hope for those to come.

I can't wait for a free weekend during school to come back as a volunteer. Big thanks to Mark and Sharon for providing me with this opportunity. "

Jacie from Iowa:

"One of my favorite parts about interning at Wild Instincts is that no day is exactly the same. One day we can in 20 or more patients, another day we get 1200 pounds of bananas donated, and the next day no patients come in and we have time to work on outdoor enclosures. I loved that I not only learned about animal care, but also how to construct enclosures specific to certain species needs. I was able to see all aspects of owning and building your own wildlife rehabilitation center, which is something that I wouldn't have gotten experience with at another internship.

All the patients were very interesting and fun to work with, but I especially enjoyed learning about the loons, bears, and porcupines. I had never seen any of these species in the wild before and it was amazing to me how many minnows the loons could eat and how many pounds of food the bears were fed each day. One thing I will miss about my internship is feeding the bears in the morning and

watching them play from a distance. Feeding squirrels and fawns would also brighten my day; each one has its own unique personality.

I've learned so much valuable information over the course of this internship. Not only have I learned about proper care for certain species, but also about important aspects of constructing cages, dosing medications in the field, problem solving, and to always expect the unexpected. I've had the opportunity to meet and work with great people, get experience with a wide variety of wildlife, and see all aspects of wildlife rehabilitation first hand. I am really looking forward to the next couple of months and watching all of our hard work pay off when the injured and orphaned animals can be released back into their natural habitat."

Becky from Wisconsin:

"I have enjoyed every minute of my internship and am going to miss it so much. I like being able to help save the lives of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife and see them released back into the wild. Watching them grow and make slight improvements each day is so rewarding. Seeing the animals being released back into the wild makes all the hard work and long days worthwhile.

It's great getting to meet so many other people that have the same passion for wildlife as I do. Working with the volunteers is always fun and they are such a big help. They may not realize how much they are helping while doing the dishes or making bear, raccoon, or fawn food, but they are a tremendous help and cannot be thanked enough. I have enjoyed getting to know the other interns and working with them. We had a lot of fun together after work or on our days off including fishing, taking out the row boat, Hodag hunting, having a movie night, and going to Culver's for the Flavor of the Day!

I have learned so much this summer including how to perform an exam, tube feeding, handling techniques, how to dose an animal, how to give fluids, basic anatomy, and so much more. Mark and Sharon are both great to work for and were very patient with us while we were trying to learn everything. Mark is a very knowledgeable person and is great at teaching others about wildlife. This has by far been one of my best summers ever. I cannot wait to come back to Wild Instincts to help release some of the animals and to volunteer."

Megan, our spring intern, has returned from Indiana for a fall internship so we couldn't have scared her too much or worked her too hard this spring! We'll hear from her in the next newsletter.

### **In Honor of/In Memory of**

Donations have been received

- ~In memory of Lonny Crass
- ~In memory of Rascal, beloved dog of Cassie Kottke
- ~In honor of Dorothy Furda's birthday
- ~In honor of Dougal Hammer, an awesome black lab
- ~In honor of Maribeth Kolarchek

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





### **Eagle Naming Results**

Last newsletter we told you about our new permanent resident, a male bald eagle we are using as a foster parent to show eaglets we admit every year how to grow up to be eagles.

He was originally found at the fish hatchery on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. We asked the kids from the Abinoojiiyag Center (youth center) there to come up with a few possible names so our Facebook Fans could vote for what they liked best. The winner was Zhishay, an Ojibwe word meaning uncle. Thanks to everyone who participated.

## **Renewals & E-Mails**

We contact you when your membership is due for renewal. If you've changed your e-mail address, please let us know. You are missing your newsletter and any other correspondence from us.

### **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)

### **WISH LIST**

For a complete wish list, please visit our website's wish list by clicking [HERE](#)

Chain link fencing  
1 1/2" steel pipe \*  
Fence poles\*  
Good Used Pick-up Truck\*  
Steam Cleaner  
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  
Treated 2x4 and 2x6

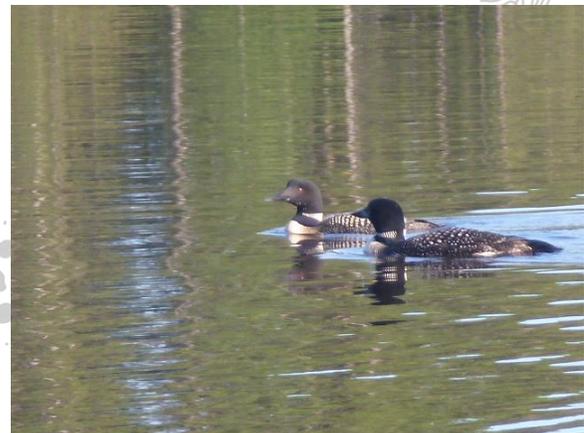
\*there is a pressing need for these items!

Those who have been following our Wish List closely may notice the walk-in freezer is no longer on it. The freezer is finally no longer a wish, but a reality thanks in part to a generous donation from Carol Hartman.

**Species Admitted 1/1-8/31/12**

American Crow	1
American Goldfinch	9
American Robin	31
American Woodcock	3
Bald Eagle	10
Baltimore Oriole	2
Barred Owl	3
Belted Kingfisher	2
Big Brown Bat	1
Black Bear	16
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8
Blue Jay	7
Bobcat	4
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Brown Thrasher	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	7
Cedar Waxwing	4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Chipping Sparrow	4
Cliff Swallow	1
Common Grackle	6
Common Loon	7
Common Merganser	2
Common Nighthawk	1
Common Raven	3
Common Redpoll	2
Deer Mouse	8
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Bluebird	1
Eastern Chipmunk	1
Eastern Cottontail	64
Eastern Garter Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	44
Eastern Painted Turtle	2
Eastern Phoebe	6
European Starling	3
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	1
Gray Fox	4
Great Blue Heron	3
Great Horned Owl	3
Green-backed Heron	1
Hairy Woodpecker	5
Hooded Merganser	3
House Sparrow	7
House Wren	2
Killdeer	1
Little Brown Bat	4
Mallard Duck	11
Merlin	1
Mink	1

Mourning Dove	9
Northern Flicker	9
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Ovenbird	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Pine Siskin	2
Porcupine	3
Purple Finch	3
Raccoon	31
Red Fox	1
Red Squirrel	4
Red-eyed Vireo	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-tailed Hawk	7
Ring-billed Gull	1
Rock Dove	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Ruffed Grouse	3
Sandhill Crane	4
Snapping Turtle	2
Song Sparrow	4
Western Painted Turtle	3
White-tailed Deer	27
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wood Turtle	2
Woodchuck	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>



Learn the story behind this photo by clicking  
[HERE](#)



## Thank You for Helping Us Help Them!

From climbing the front of an enclosure to climbing to freedom on Release Day, we raised and released 13 raccoons this year.



Gray fox kits hunker down after just being moved into their outside enclosure.



Same gray fox kits leap back into the wild on release day.