

March, 2008 

WildLifeLine

The Volunteer Newsletter of the Wildlife In Need Center



Annual Volunteer Recognition

Saturday, January 26th was a night of festivities, as approximately thirty-five volunteers, staff and board members gathered for hors d'oeuvres and beverages. The annual Volunteer Recognition party is held to honor all of the dedicated WINC volunteers and to recognize those with outstanding service. The 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award went to **Katie Pfaff**. Katie volunteers in animal care on Saturday afternoons and has been with WINC since 2006. Katie is always cheerful, upbeat, quick to laugh and willing to go the extra mile for the animals and the Center. She has participated in many rescues and releases, and helped with events like the Pancake Breakfast, the Annual Banquet, and the World's Greatest Cookie Sale. If there is ever a holiday shift in need of volunteers, you'll most likely see Katie's name on the sign-up sheet. It's dedicated volunteers that keep the Center operating and we're glad that Katie is a part of our team!

In addition, five year service pins were given out to the following individuals: **Lisa Beck, Mike Cull, Debbie Guenther, Ginger Hartman, Lisa Hausman, Bill Lane, John & Sharon Lotz, Michelle Ortiz, Laura Schroeder, Mike & Vickie Schumacher, Leslie Smith, Kim Weikert, Casey & Mike Wieczorek.**

These sixteen people continue to be a part of an ever growing group of volunteers with multiple years of service. We greatly appreciate their help and look forward to working with them for many more years at the Wildlife in Need Center.

WINC Executive Director Mike **Guzniczak** announced and presented the new "**Dakota Award.**" For more about the Dakota Award, turn to page 2.

As the evening came to a close, everyone had a taste (or two) of Rose Knapp's delicious homemade cake. And of course, the traditional White Elephant gift swap (finally a way to get rid of that holiday fruitcake)! Partygoer's also left with a generous bag of premium bird seed, compliments of our good friend Debbi Triplett at Wild Birds Unlimited – Delafield.

Thanks again to all of our volunteers who made 2007 a success. We couldn't have done it without you!



The Dakota Award



This being our 14th year, we decided that in addition to our Volunteer of the Year Award (see front page) it was time to add a second annual award to recognize those volunteers, staff, and members who have greatly contributed to the success of this organization in their own special ways. In January, we awarded the first annual “**Dakota Award**”, to recognize those individuals who have consistently donated their time, effort and/or money to the Center, for an extended period of time. We named this recognition after the Center’s Great Horned Owl ambassador - Dakota. Dakota himself has been serving the Center for many years, so it was only natural to name the award after him. The first annual award went to our Administrative Director - Lisa Rowe. Lisa started at the Center in 1994 as a volunteer in animal care. She has been a part of the Center since and has witnessed both good and bad times over the years. Even after accepting a full time office position with the Center, Lisa continues to donate her time every season raising baby squirrels, woodchucks, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, and even chipmunks. The overwhelming amount of time spent organizing our annual banquet, in addition to her regular duties, makes Lisa an invaluable asset to the organization. For all these reasons, we couldn’t imagine a more deserving person to be recognized with our first annual Dakota Award.

WINC’s Volunteer Veterinarians

Did you know that WINC has three veterinarians that volunteer their time to help the animals? Depending on the situation, they may perform medical procedures on site, or at their clinics.

Dr. Holly Pollard-Wright is our volunteer Medical Director and has been helping WINC’s animals since January of 2007. She works at VCA Associates in Pet Care in Waukesha. She also volunteers to help the wildlife at the Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Milwaukee. Dr. Pollard’s specialty is orthopedic surgery, which is just what we need for animals with broken bones. She has done numerous surgeries on Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Cooper’s Hawks, Great Horned Owls, Blue and Green Herons, Opossums, Raccoons, squirrels, and many others.

Dr. Nicki Waliszewski started volunteering her services in the early fall of 2007. She currently works at the Mukwonago Animal Hospital. She has done internships, externships and training at Tufts University Wildlife Clinic, the Wildlife Center of Virginia, Northwoods Wildlife Center, Milwaukee County Zoo and Lincoln Park Zoo. She has also assisted with field work on Black Bear, White-tailed Deer and Bison. Some of Nicki’s patients at WINC have included: Red-tailed Hawks, a Cooper’s Hawk, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, a Northern Shrike, a Gray Squirrel and an Opossum.

Dr. Paul Gibbons has just started his volunteering experience with WINC. He currently works at the Animal Emergency Center in Milwaukee as their Exotic Animal Specialist. He is the only board certified avian veterinarian in Wisconsin. At the emergency clinic, he specializes in not only birds, but reptiles, amphibians, rabbits, rodents and other exotic animal pets. He is currently serving as a consultant for our Center and the other volunteer veterinarians, as well as participating in monthly veterinary rounds to evaluate all of our patients.

Thank you all, so much!!

WHOOO'S New at WINC?

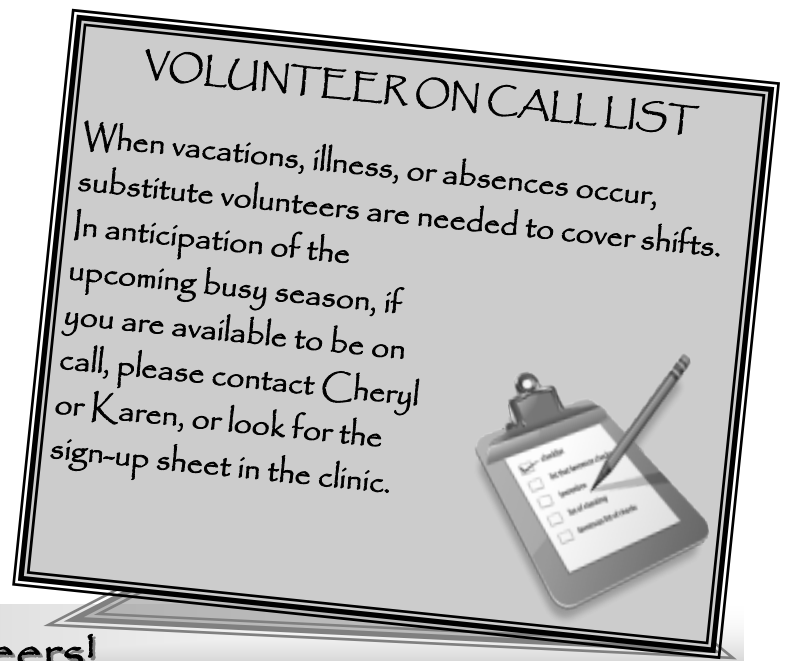
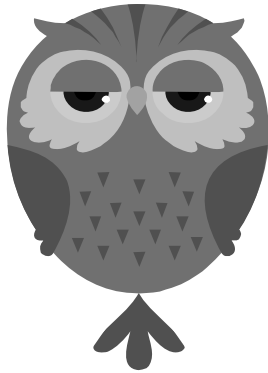
Please welcome the following
new volunteers:

Karen D'Amore

Jen Anderson

Rebecca Anderson

Jaime Wagner



Now Recruiting...New Volunteers!

Do you know of someone who would be interested in volunteering at the Center? Then let's make a deal. Here's how it works. You'll recruit a new animal care volunteer, they stay on with us for ninety days and **we'll reward you with a WINC t-shirt**. OK? PS – New volunteer orientations are right around the corner (see event calendar), so now is the time to act! **Please contact Karen Freitag – Volunteer**

Location, Location, Location

The Volunteer Corner is almost complete. The Corner has a new look, as well as two new bulletin boards above the countertop. The board on the left is for volunteer information and announcements, with clipboards for sign-up sheets. The board on the right is for the volunteer trainers. Training schedules for new volunteers will be posted there, in addition to notes and information for the trainers. Be sure to continue to check the big green bulletin board by the clinic entrance for upcoming WINC events, sign-up sheets, animal care information, field trips, and classified ads.

New Dishwashing Protocol

There's a new dishwashing protocol in effect. Colorful step-by-step directions hang above the kitchen sink, and a detailed version is posted on the cabinet door to the right of the sink. If you haven't had a chance to familiarize yourself with the new protocol, please do. The animal's dishes need to be as clean (if not cleaner) as ours at home. So please change the dish water frequently and follow the proper rinsing and bleaching procedures.



We still have Suzy's Cheesecakes left! They freeze beautifully and are still delicious! Inquire in the office and be the hit at your next family gathering!

Every Volunteer Should Know:

- **You have to be eighteen years of age** or older to volunteer in Animal Care.
- **Baby Bird Feeders must be fourteen years of age or older.** Twelve and thirteen year olds must be with a parent or guardian.
- **Visitors to the Center must be approved by a member of staff** before they arrive at the facility. If you are interested in showing a member of your family, or a friend what it is that you do at the Center, just check with staff beforehand. All visitors (including your family and friends, the public,, ex-volunteers and ex-staff), must stop at the office before proceeding to the clinic. All visitors must be escorted by a member of staff, or the volunteer who has received approval for their visitor. If you are unclear about our visitor policy, please ask a member of the staff.
- **Volunteers should check out with staff** before leaving for the day. Why? There are many times that a special project needs to be completed, or maybe the office could use help with a mailing, or due to the day being so busy, it's not until the end of the shift that staff is able to share important information with you and your group.
- **Vacation/Time Off/Shift Change request slips** are found in the sleeve on the side of the red bird-house, located on the volunteer table. Please complete the slip and drop it off in the birdhouse if you will be requesting time off.



WANTED: Housing for Interns!

Summer Interns are essential to WINC! They help us care for the hundreds of animals we admit in our busy season. We could not properly care for so many animals if it were not for their assistance. They also help with the mountains of dirty dishes, laundry and facility cleaning that is so hard to keep up with during the summer.

WINC is in need of housing for the summer interns coming from out-of-state!



If you are able to help by housing an intern for six to twelve weeks this summer, please notify Cheryl at WINC at (262)968-5075 or, cdiehl@helpingwildlife.org

Can You Sew?

Do you like to sew? **We need hammocks for our baby raccoons in the Nursery.** We have easy, detailed directions to follow. Please see/contact Cheryl or Beka if you are interested.

Upcoming Training Sessions

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Train the Trainer Review

If you are involved in training volunteers, please sign-up for one of the review clinics. The dates are **Wednesday, March 19th** and **Wednesday, April 9th**, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Center. The Trainer's Review will cover topics related to new volunteer training, protocol/procedure updates and MORE!

New Volunteer Orientation

People interested in becoming a volunteer at WINC, as well as recently trained volunteers, or an existing volunteer that has not attended a new volunteer orientation, should mark their calendar for one of two classes offered at the Brandybrook Community Center. The dates are: **Saturday, April 5th**, from 12-2 p.m., or **Tuesday, April the 8th**, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is posted at the Volunteer Corner.

WILDLIFE RESCUE CLASS

Are you interested in learning how to rescue a sick or injured animal? Have you ever wondered what type of gear is needed to do so? How do I transport an animal from one place to another? All of these questions and more will be covered as we explore basic wildlife rescue/transport on:

Saturday, April 5th,

from 10-11:30 a.m.

at the Brandybrook Community Center.

Baby Bird Feeding Orientation



Baby Bird University, home of the Fluttering Fledgling, is admitting new students for the Class of 2008. Our orientation is **Saturday, May 3rd** from 1-3 p.m. at the Brandybrook Community Center. We'll be covering food preparation, feeding techniques, cage cleaning, charting and more! In addition, we'll be offering for sale, our popular BBU t-shirts. Feeding baby birds is a great way for junior volunteers to learn about birds and nature, as well as a great bonding experience for parents and children.

Home Care Volunteers Needed!

Every summer the Wildlife In Need Center admits many orphaned cottontails, squirrels, opossums, and raccoons. All of these babies benefit from the more individualized care they receive in Home Care. Home Care helps to reduce stress for the animals by providing only one caretaker, and allows us to help more animals than we would be capable of at our own facility.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Home Care Volunteer, including: training needed, time commitment, costs, and space and cages needed, we will be having an informational meeting for all volunteers on **Saturday, March 22nd** from 1-2:30 p.m. This is not a How-to Class, but a meeting to find out if Home Care will work for you. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet posted at the Volunteer Corner. If you are interested and can't make it to the meeting, talk to Cheryl.



SEE YOU THEN! The babies are counting on you!

Volunteer Advisory Committee...

We have established an important new committee: the Volunteer Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is:

- ✦ To facilitate and encourage communication between WINC volunteers and staff.
- ✦ Provide volunteer perspective and constructive feedback on new policies and procedures.
- ✦ Support and promote buy-in regarding Center decisions and direction.
- ✦ Assist staff in effectively communicating information about new policies and procedures.
- ✦ Provide ideas and resources for new volunteer recruitment.
- ✦ Assist staff in recruiting volunteers for upcoming Center events, projects and other committees.
- ✦ Review suggestions submitted to the staff by other volunteers.
- ✦ Discuss the role of volunteers at WINC, volunteer expectations and requirements, and training for new and established volunteers.

We've invited volunteers to participate that have over one year of service and are from different shifts. The volunteers serving on the committee this year include: **Karen Freitag, Terry Gonter, Lauren Gruenwald, Rose Knapp, John Lotz, Rick Mathieu, Karen McDonough, Skip Mercale, Jeanne Merz, Lynn Myers, Katie Pfaff, Leslie Smith and Kathi Wilson.**

The first meeting was February, 28th. We discussed: upcoming events, updates on cage repair and construction, a new Daily Care Record Form, volunteer training and recruiting. Committee members are asked to commit to a one year term, with new participants recruited each year. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Cheryl or Karen.

Calendar of Events

March	April	May
Wednesday, March 19 th , 6:30 – 8:00 Train-the-Trainer Review WINC	Saturday, April 5 th , 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Wildlife Rescue Class Brandybrook	Saturday, May 3 rd , 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Baby Bird Feeder Orientation Brandybrook
Saturday, March 22 nd , 12:00-1:30 Home Care Class WINC	Saturday, April 5 th , 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. New Volunteer Orientation Brandybrook	
Sunday, March 30 th , 8:00-1:00 Pancake Breakfast Dousman/Ottawa Lions Club	Tuesday, April 8 th , 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. New Volunteer Orientation Brandybrook	
	Wednesday, April 9 th , 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Train-the-Trainer Review WINC	
	Friday, April 25 th 14th Annual Banquet Western Lakes Country Club	