

2023 Issue 1

Wildlife In Need Center
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WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

New Opossums for a New Year

Our education team has two new faces on our programming schedule! We were thrilled to add two opossum ambassadors at the start of 2023, after the loss of our beloved Marcy.

Leucius and Lenny are brothers that arrived at the center after being orphaned in a vehicle collision. Lenny is a normal gray coloration, but Leu is leucistic, resulting in him having pure white fur. They dealt with health issues after arriving that resulted in them getting extra care from our Animal Care team. As a result, these two opossums lost their fear of humans and were deemed non-releasable. We were happy to welcome them as ambassadors and after a few months of training, they have been helping people learn



Lenny (Top Photo) & Leucius (Bottom Photo)

about opossums in Wisconsin! Our staff have enjoyed getting to know their individual personalities while working with them. Leucius loves mealtimes and is comfortable in front of audiences of all sizes as long as he gets to eat! He keeps his room clean and loves exploring new smells. Lenny prefers to graze at mealtimes, eating a bit, before wandering away for a while then coming back to take a few more bites. Lenny is shyer than his brother, and loves to sit and watch, especially from the tallest spot on his climbing fixture in his enclosure. He is much messier than Leu and redecorates his room almost every night!

Story By Ellen Munshower

Mission Statement

To provide wildlife rehabilitation to Wisconsin wildlife with the intent to release back to the native habitat, conduct research designed to further the positive impact of rehabilitation, and provide quality community education programs and service.

Wildlife In Need Center Board of Directors

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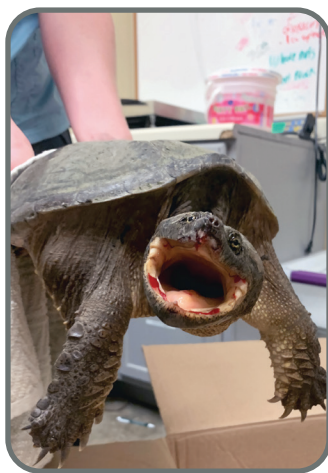
WINC's MISSION: ANIMAL CARE

Saving a Snapping Turtle and Her Eggs

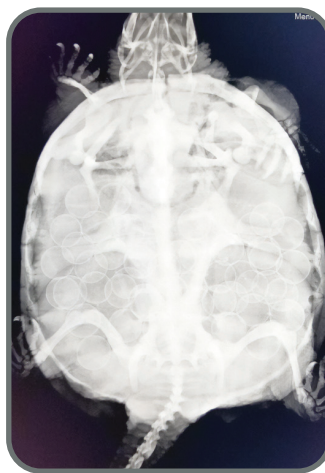
This Common Snapping Turtle was brought to WINC after being hit by a car. The collision left her with fractured jaw and carapace (upper shell). She was likely crossing the road on her way to lay her 26 eggs (visible in the x-ray pictured below). Once she had fully recovered, we were excited to release her back into the wild, but since she still had eggs, we knew that she would have to journey back on land to lay them. This is the most dangerous time for female turtles, as they often must go quite a distance from the safety of the water (crossing multiple roads) to find a secure and appropriate place for their eggs. After she healed, we did not want her to risk her life crossing that same road, so we induced laying with a combination of medications, and it worked!

Now she won't need to take that perilous journey again until next year. Even though she did not get the chance to lay her eggs in the wild, they are now part of our turtle hatching program, and all 26 eggs are currently incubating. With a little bit of luck, we hope some will hatch so we can return the hatchlings to mom's home territory.

This snapping turtle is just one of 12 that we have admitted in the last 3 months, ALL of whom have been hit by cars, most on their way to or back from laying their eggs sadly.



Left Photo: Snapping Turtle on admission



Middle Photo: Snapping Turtle X-ray revealing 26 eggs



Right Photo: Snapping Turtle at release!

So how can you help?

If you come across a turtle crossing the road and it is safe for you to stop, you can help them cross to the other side of the road. Always make sure to move turtles in the direction they were headed, otherwise you may just be making their journey longer and they will cross the same road again. Never move or handle turtles by their tail (as it can injure their spine). To safely move small turtles, you can pick them up on the side of their shells. Be cautious of their head because even though they are small they can still bite. For larger turtles, such as snapping turtles and soft-shelled turtles, you can slide a car mat under the back of turtle. Once the mat is under the turtle you can grab the back of the shell and the mat and drag them across the road to the other side. If you come across a turtle that has been hit by a vehicle place it in a secure container and take them to a wildlife rehabber as soon as possible.

Story by Cherish Streit

WINC's MISSION: EDUCATION

Programs with Standards



Left Photo: Ellen and Leucius at an Education Program



Top and Bottom Photos: Ellen and Chase at an Education Program



This year our education team is focusing on expanding the number and types of programs we offer. The first new curriculum created was a series of school programs. These new programs have been designed to align with the Wisconsin Standards for Science and fit with the curricula local teachers are implementing in the classroom. This results in a less disruptive program that fits in with what students are already learning about. The new programs consist of an elementary age program on how animals stay safe in the wild, a middle school age program that goes further by looking at how animals defend themselves, and finally a high school program that looks at the biological explanations for defense mechanisms. There are plans to expand our standards-based programs, as these first three have received lots of positive feedback!

Beyond the classroom we are also offering eight new programs for Girl Scout troops that help them achieve badges! From making outdoor art as a Daisy, to discussing how animals help people as a Cadette, there is plenty to learn! Our programs help local girls discover what animals live around them, how they can be a positive force in their local environment, and how to start noticing what's around you when you're outside! With indoor and outdoor components these lessons are typically a bit longer than our classroom programs and give girls more time to ask questions and get engaged.

Next up on the education to-do list is programming for Boy Scouts! The programs for merit badges are currently in development. By the end of the month the hope is to have four programs for the insect study, mammal study, reptile and amphibian study, and nature merit badges. Similar to girl scout programs, these will be 90-minutes long and involve indoor and outdoor components.

Beyond badge programs, we also do work with older scouts doing their service projects in order to become an Eagle Scout or get a Gold Award.

Our staff is always happy to build a program to fit the needs of those in our community. While we have many new formal programs for schools and scouts, we have also done non-formal programs for libraries, private events, and even senior living homes. If you or someone you know is interested in an educational program featuring some of our animal ambassadors, reach out to us at education@helpingwildlife.org to schedule your own!

Story By Ellen Munshower

Save the Date

11th Annual
Fine Wine & Dine

Friday,
October 13th, 2023
from 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

The Club at Lac Labelle

Save the Date

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday,
November 28th, 2023
All Day

Online at
www.HelpingWildlife.org

Save the Date

Holiday Meet & Greet

Saturday,
December 2nd, 2023
from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Wildlife In Need Center

Family Reunion: Reunited Sandhill Cranes



The two juvenile Sandhill Cranes in a makeshift pen in the area their parents were last seen



We recently admitted a very ill juvenile Sandhill Crane. He was barely conscious, and his symptoms suggested that he had ingested some kind of toxin. These birds forage for insects in grassy areas and are susceptible to all the chemicals used to treat lawns, specifically herbicides and insecticides. Our staff treated him with aggressive supportive care and by the second day he was stable and nearly able to stand. Right about the time he was looking stronger, we admitted a second crane from the same property. Sadly, the very stressed parent birds were there watching their unresponsive baby when he was taken away by the rescuers.

Luckily our treatment protocol had worked so well with the first bird, that we were able to treat this new one even quicker. Both birds recovered well and got stronger every day they were in care.

By the 7th day they were strong, feisty, and ready to go, but by that time it had been several days since their parents were seen. We knew that the best thing for them was to go back to their family but unfortunately there is very little information on reuniting Sandhill Cranes with their families, especially after a week in captivity. But we had to try!

Our staff reached out to the handful of specialists (rehabilitators and wildlife biologists) that work extensively with this species to try to put together the best plan for reuniting these birds with their wild family. Unfortunately, there were only a few confirmed cases where this had been done successfully. We wanted to do everything we could to set them up for success,

So we took them both back to their home property and set them up a makeshift pen in the area that the parents were last seen. We watched from a distance all afternoon and had no luck. It was around 100 °F and the local birds were staying under shade and not out actively foraging during the afternoon heat.

After a trip back to WINC for them to cool off and have a snack we took them back near dusk when it was cooling down, in the hope that the parents would be out foraging. We found them! But unfortunately, they wanted no part of us.

So, we got creative and after several attempts to lure the parents closer the father finally saw his baby and started calling to him. We were able to give both birds back to these adults before we realized that this pair already had a baby of their own. This species only has up to TWO young every year, never three.

Long story short, we believe that we had one of their natural babies AND another baby that was not theirs by birth. Luckily this pair turned out to be good adoptive parents, and they are now a family of FIVE.

It has been several weeks since their release and they were spotted a few days ago, all looking strong and healthy.

We are so proud of these birds, not only did they both recover from a very serious illness, but they were able to get back home, where they will grow up the way they should, raised by wild parents!

Story by Sara Imperl & Elisa Fosco

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Many Hats We Wear



Left Photo: Baby bird Feeder Volunteers Erica and Jill



Right Photo: Baby bird Feeder Volunteer Eugene

Wearing many hats is commonplace in most organizations, including WINC. As some are aware, last fall staff identified the need for more space for our avian nursery as we planned for the 2023 baby bird season. Animal Care staff willingly gave up their spacious office space for the new avian nursery and, in place, they relocated to the old avian nursery.

By swapping rooms, WINC gained 50% more space to care for the hundreds of orphan songbirds and even more songbirds of all ages. This was not a simple task to do, requiring me to shift from rehab to rebuild as I put on my General Contractors (GC) hat. I suppose building two homes over the years has provided some foundation to me. Contractors were hired to close in the room, and a new sink was installed. Electrical upgrades were completed to support the incubators required to keep orphans warm. A very big thank you to Partners 4 Wildlife for funding the avian room upgrades.

With a bigger avian nursery this summer we welcomed back our baby bird feeding program, which had been on pause since 2019, due to the pandemic and the Avian Flu. Staff joined me as we welcomed 80 baby bird feeders, ages 12 and up. Ages 12-14 were paired up with their guardian or even their grandma, and ages 15 and up worked on their own. This team of youth and adult volunteers rose to the task of feeding younger orphan birds every 30 minutes and hummingbirds every 10 minutes.

As shared before, WINC's capacity to help injured and orphaned wildlife is only possible due to the generosity from our volunteers and the essential commitment from our sponsors for our fundraising events. As I put back on my Executive Director hat, we certainly want to thank We Energies, Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital & Exotic Care Inc, and Mike & Sandy Harsh for being table sponsors at the April 2023 Banquet. Guests enjoyed The Legend's favorites and bid on beautiful flower arrangements by Diana Draeger Designs.

As we slid into Fall, I think you will agree that this practice of wearing many hats is here to stay given our organization's commitment to each other and our patients. We also look forward to "our community" unwavering support for WINC's future events, including this fall's Fine Wine & Dine. Cheers!

Story by Kim Banach, Executive Director



Dakota
SOCIETY

Think of us while you are estate planning! Leaving a gift to the Wildlife In Need Center will sustain WINC's mission to connect people and wildlife through rehabilitation and education for generations to come.

When you notify WINC that you have included the center in your will or trust, you will automatically become a member of the Dakota Society. The Dakota Society was formed to recognize our members during their lifetime.

A quote from one beautiful Dakota Society member: "Caring for wildlife and providing a chance at life is so vital. I have always cared for the wildlife who can't speak for themselves. WINC is there for them and truly makes miracles happen."

For more information please visit our website at <https://www.helpingwildlife.org/get-involved/dakota-society/>

You can make a difference saving wild lives by joining our special group of monthly donors, “Wildlife Animal Champions” – are so incredibly important to the work we do at the Wildlife In Need Center.

For more information visit <https://www.helpingwildlife.org/monthly-donor-wildlife-animal-champions-member/>

or scan the QR Code below.



SCAN ME

What's the BUZZ? Remembering Special People

This year there has been a substantial outpouring of gifts from donors to WINC in honor or memory of special people in their lives.

Scan the QR Code below with your smart phone camera to be directed to our “Remembering Special People” web page.



SCAN ME



CHASE'S CORNER

Cody the education volunteer was going to clean my suite the other day. (I have an indoor room with HVAC, 2 private litter pans, and an outdoor enclosure with grapevine shade). He asked my friend Lisa in the office to entertain me so he could work without disturbing me. I decided to rearrange Lisa's desk while she was answering the phone. I expected her to be talking about wildlife. Eastern Cottontail bunnies and how to tell if mom is still around. Baby squirrels. Turtles hit by cars. She told people to use a wicker basket to make a replacement bird nest for some baby birds. But she talked about other things too. A parrot in someone's yard in Racine – call the Wisconsin Humane Society Racine Campus. How high do you place a bat nestbox? – see <https://www.batcon.org> or WI DNR bat call

line 608-266-5216 for lots of bat info. Pet turkey with dislocated hip – call our vet Brook-Falls Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Bloss gives me excellent care. Can WINC identify a butterfly – no but see <https://entomology.wisc.edu>. Got honeybees swarming – see <https://mwbeekeepers.org>. Found some kittens in Waukesha County - call our friends at Elmbrook Humane Society or Humane Animal Welfare Society because feral cats may act wild, but they are not native wildlife like me. And Lisa had a call from Dallas, Texas about a nest of baby birds that fell. She said that's far away, but people find WINC on Google. Since WINC is member of National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, she looked up a wildlife rehabilitator in Texas for those people to call. I wanted to try Googling because walking on her keyboard feels neat on my feet, but Lisa said screen time is not good for skunks.

How Can You Help?

- **Become a member or Join our Wildlife Animal Champion monthly donor members!**
- **Good Harvest Market in Pewaukee gives an EcoToken to shoppers who bring a reusable bag. Shoppers donate those tokens to local nonprofits at the store. WINC receives 10 cents per token.**
- **Bring us your grocery receipts from Albrecht's Sentry in Delafield, and Piggly Wiggly in Hartland and Oconomowoc. We turn them in for a portion of the totals.**
- **Get a Kwik Trip Rewards Card and have your and have your rebate go to WINC. Kwik Trip donates an additional 1% too.**
- **Check with your employer to see if they match charitable donations.**
- **All adult wildlife patients are released back home (the area where they were rescued) but the babies do not have established homes yet. If you or someone you know would like to be a property release site, we have release site forms on our website. <http://www.helpingwildlife.org/rehabilitate/wildlife-release-program>**
- **Join ShopRaise at <https://ShopRaise.com/for/helpingwildlife> a simple way to turn your everyday online shopping at over 1,000 participating retailers into support for our cause. From groceries and apparel to technology and travel – a percentage of almost everything you buy goes to support our cause. The best thing is the program is free, you do not pay any more for the items you buy, and you get access to all the best coupons and deals.**
- **And don't forget your local wildlife. With the dry weather, consider placing birdbaths out for birds and smaller mammals to drink from.**

Volunteers Are Always Busy at the Wildlife in Need Center



Left Photo: Volunteers Kathy and Cody



Right Photo: Robin Education Volunteer

WINC staff are always thankful to our hard-working volunteers but never more than in the busy summer. Volunteers are mowing lawns, gardening, fixing, cleaning, and organizing. Education volunteers provide daily care for ambassadors and help with programs. Office volunteers are on the phones giving info to re-nest babies, directing callers to bring sick and injured patients to WINC, offering advice on animal situations, then helping people when the patient arrives. Once Animal Care staff does initial exam, treatments, and care plan for the patient, the animal goes to other areas of building for volunteer care.

Turtles with cracked shells go to our herp room where volunteers provide the daily husbandry of feeding and cleaning, checking UV lights and filters. The Baby Mammal Nursery is where volunteers feed furry babies on a regular schedule and clean messy babies. Baby songbirds go to our new Avian Nursery. Animal Care staff gave up their more spacious office area with windows and moved into the old, cramped Avian Nursery.

We are so excited to have our Baby Bird Feeding program back for the first time since 2019. This is our only volunteer opportunity for minors 12 and older. It's also a popular program for seniors. Adult animals go to various rooms around the building depending on species and their specific needs. Volunteers are following care plans written by Animal Care staff to provide food, water, some medications, cleaning, and cage furnishings.

It is especially fun for volunteers and staff when babies are moved to outdoor enclosures. Watching those babies walk, run, climb, fly, and explore their new bigger enclosures is such a joy. The only thing that is better is when an animal is released into the wild – and volunteers often do that too. WINC volunteers are fabulous!

What's the Hoot?



Be sure to watch your inbox for our monthly issue of **What's the Hoot!** newsletter where you will see interesting wildlife patient stories, learn about upcoming events and important news!

If you are not receiving the **What's the Hoot!** newsletter, contact Development@helpingwildlife.org to be added to the mailing list.



Thank you to all the staff and veterinarians at Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital & Exotic Care Inc. for the expert care they give to our wildlife patients and educational ambassadors.

www.brookfallsveterinary.com



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Calendar 2023 - 2024



October 2023

Friday, October 13th, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm
11th Annual Fine Wine and Dine
 The Club at Lac Labelle, Oconomowoc, WI

Saturday, October 21st, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Hallo-WINC
 Wildlife In Need Center

November 2023

Saturday, November 4th, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Spaghetti Dinner
 Dousman Lions Club, Dousman, WI

Tuesday, November 28th, All day – Midnight
Giving Tuesday
 Wildlife In Need Center and www.HelpingWildlife.org

December 2023

Saturday, December 2nd, 10:00 am – Noon
Holiday Meet & Greet
 Wildlife In Need Center

March 2024

Sunday, March 10th, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pancake Breakfast
 Dousman Lions Club, Dousman, WI

April 2024

Friday, April 19th, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
30th Annual Spring Banquet
 The Legend of Brandybrook, Wales, WI

*Stay Tuned to Your E-mail, Winc's Facebook,
 & Winc's Website for Event Updates*

*Exciting News and Events at WINC Can Be Found on Our Website
 Scan the QR Code below with your smart phone camera to be taken to our website*



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Follow Us on All of Our Social Media Pages

Scan the QR Code below with your smart phone camera to follow us on all of our socials



How You Want to Receive Winc's Tracks Newsletter in the Future?

*Scan the QR Code below with your smart phone camera
 to tell us if you would like to receive it in the mail or via e-mail*

