

TreeHouse Droppings



Clockwise from
upper left:
Libby the Red-tailed
Hawk;
Barred Owl;
Kestrel;
orphaned squirrel;
Zorro the Gray Fox;
and Red Fox Kits;

In this issue: Bald Eagles, Cage Design, Rehab Ramblings, Volunteer Spotlight — Judy Neiman, Year of the Fox, The Unsuspecting Vegetarian, Interns Past & Present — Jeff Dahl, Jessica Arroyo & Ryan Joos, Jerseyville Parade, Haunted House, Go Wild! Summer Day Camp, Fall Fest 2014, TreeHouse's Grocery List, Building Report, Snixfest, TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers, Acknowledgements, Memberships

30+ years of giving back to the wild

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TreeHouse Wildlife Center employs
**one full-time, and
*three part-time staff members.
All other staff are volunteers.

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PRESIDENT'S AERIE by Eric Bloemker



Winter is my favorite time of the year. It is when all my eagle friends come down river for a visit. As the rivers and lakes freeze over up North, eagles head south to find open water to fish. They join the eagles that call the Riverbend area their home. Plenty of eagle viewing opportunities are all along the Mississippi River, and that includes visiting TreeHouse in the Winter.

We have three permanent resident American Bald Eagles. You are certain to see them on any eagle outing that includes TreeHouse. It is great for smaller children to see the eagles up close for them to appreciate how large the eagles are when soaring or perched in a tree high on the bluffs.

Our resident birds, mammals, and reptiles all deserve the best care we can provide. Since TreeHouse Wildlife Center receives no federal, state, or local funding, we survive on the generous donations of our members.

There are many ways to donate: cash, time, food, labor, and spreading the word. Cash, Stocks and Bonds, even old vehicles all provide monetary resources to keep the Center open. Volunteer time and labor is a critical need. Those who can commit a few hours each week to feed the animals, or a few hours a month to give tours, are all part of our continual needs. Check out our wish list of items we can use immediately at TreeHouse. Regardless of time and money, all of our members can help by telling family, friends, neighbors, coworkers about TreeHouse.

Whatever level you can donate, be assured, we greatly appreciate your generosity. Wear your TreeHouse shirts with pride for making a difference, but also to help spread the word.

Eagle Days are approaching in January and February, but you are welcome to come any weekend. If you prefer weekdays, I suggest calling first to avoid a crowd of second graders on a field trip. Bring a friend along.

TreeHouse permanent residents
Spuds, Mac and Hope



THE PRINCIPLES OF CAGE DESIGN by Adele Moore

Call it a cage, an enclosure, a pen — call it whatever you want, but you probably don't realize what goes into the design, planning and building of our cages

According to our mission statement: TreeHouse Wildlife Center is a non-profit organization established in 1979, dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife while promoting environmental awareness through education. One statement, with two separate goals — rehabilitation and education.

Goal #1 involves wildlife admitted to TreeHouse who are orphaned or injured and in need of rehabilitation. Goal #2 involves wildlife who cannot be released back to the wild and enter our education program where they are viewed by the public, or trained to appear at public and educational events. Wildlife in each of these two areas have different needs, and require different types of enclosures.

In either case the goal is to keep the animals inside from hurting themselves in the cage, while keeping them safe from outside predators — wild and domestic..

Animals in the process of *rehabilitation* are *not* on public display. We try to keep interaction with our patients limited to the volunteers and staff who care for them. We build cages to reflect the needs of these animals to learn or re-learn how to move, fly, hunt, or whatever is required of them in the wild, all with the goal of minimum human contact.

Our *permanent residents* will spend the rest of their lives (which can be a substantial amount of time) in our cages. When deciding who will become permanent residents we evaluate their demeanor and personality. Yes, different species have their personality traits, and individuals within the species have their own unique personalities as well. Some species will not do well in captivity. For instance, as a rule Ospreys will not eat in captivity so rehabilitation becomes very difficult, and permanent resident status is mostly out of the question. However, Bandit, our Osprey, is the exception because he has no problem eating in captivity.

Stress can be deadly to wildlife in captivity. To eliminate stress as much as possible, we follow the lead of my friend and mentor, Katherine (Kay) McKeever, founder of The Owl Foundation in Canada in the mid-60's. When it comes to cage design, her philosophy is it's imperative to give the birds (as well as other captive wildlife) choices in their lives. This means a cage occupant should be able to choose between sun or shade, nest box or perching out in the open, perches of different surfaces, shapes and sizes, and the ability of limited flight if they are

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able. Those are the reasons our cages are as big as they are, and why they look the way they do because we give them the ability to make choices. I remember someone at a conference asking Kay why a large cage would be needed for a bird that cannot fly, and her answer was priceless. She answered by asking the question, would you let a person in a wheelchair live in a small space like a closet, because after all they cannot walk. It's the same with wildlife.

Our cages are expensive to build, but after many years of building cages and checking out cages at different wildlife rehab centers around the country, we've come up with a design that seems to cover all the bases.



Our ultimate goal is have on display most of the raptors that call Illinois home either year-round or part-time. It's nice for the public to be able to get an up close view of these animals that live in our area.

Bald Eagle—Turkey Vulture Cage

Our permanent resident cages are built primarily by volunteers, and we have a few more permanent resident as well as rehab cages yet to build. Next time you visit TreeHouse, check out the cages after viewing the wildlife inside. If you, or an organization you belong to would like to help us either finance or build the next cage, please let us know and we can provide you with details.



Bill, Craig, and Tom are a few of our volunteers on the construction crew.
Won't you join them?

REHAB RAMBLINGS by Pam Lippert

This has been one of the latest and longest second litter baby squirrel seasons that I can remember. Usually it will begin in July (which it did) and end in September, but we still were admitting them in October! Some other rehab centers actually had so many that they quit taking them. Because of so many late comers, we are over-wintering a number of them as they did not have time to store food or build a nest in the wild before the cold weather set in.

A young bobcat was admitted in mid-September after being hit by a car between Smithton and Millstadt. It suffered seizures, probably as a result of trauma to the head. We have not witnessed any seizures in the past few weeks, so hopefully it may be able to be released.



Merlin

Some of the birds that have been admitted since the last newsletter: a run of nighthawks the last week of August-first of September, signaling the end of summer and the start of migration. A Merlin, which is a small falcon (formally called pigeon hawk), larger than a kestrel but smaller than a Peregrine. We see these birds rarely in our area, and only during migration. This bird was found starving in the Delhi area, but unfortunately it died the next day.

Broad-winged Hawk



A couple of young Broad-winged Hawks were admitted the end of August with injuries. Since they migrate for the winter to Central and South America, they will spend the winter with us and be released in the spring. A few American Coots were admitted the last week of October and in November as they migrated through.

In the last couple weeks we have admitted three great blue herons. Of all the herons and egrets, these are the only ones

that you may still see around in the winter. Although some do migrate they can be seen in the area near hot water run off from power plants, open water around lock and dams, and ponds with aerators where it's below freezing.



In a post script from the last newsletter, a bald eagle found north of Kampsville suffering from lead poisoning is in the flight cage and doing well, hopefully to be released soon.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – Judy Neiman

1.) When did you start volunteering at TreeHouse?

After 20 years of working for the Defense Mapping Agency as a cartographer I realized that a 5 am wakeup call and being a career woman were highly overrated. So in 1988 I began looking for volunteer work. I saw a sign at Hawthorne Animal Hospital saying Treehouse needed volunteers. So in February of 1988 I embarked on a new journey with wildlife.

2.) You and your husband, Jack, have traveled quite a bit both inside and outside the U.S. to “bird watch”. What place was the most exciting to you and why? What was the rarest bird you’ve seen in the U.S.?

The most adventurous trip we had was to Ecuador where we saw 500 species of birds and over 50 species of Hummingbirds. The journey to Sacha Lodge was a two hour long boat ride down the Napo River (part of the upper reaches of the Amazon), a 20 minute walk along a jungle trail and a 15 minute dug-out canoe ride over a black water lake infested with Cayman and piranhas. The next day we climbed a 90 ft. tower to the tree tops where we were confronted with two - 500 ft. long swinging suspension bridges (think Indiana Jones). What a scary way to view birds at their own level. Never again.

We have seen three rare birds in the U.S. A Ross's Gull, and Smew at the Riverlands in West Alton, MO, and a Blue Mockingbird in Arizona.

3.) Your interest in birds extends to rehabilitation, and you specialize in waterfowl. What peaked your interest in waterfowl and what particular species do you find most satisfying to rehabilitate?

What birds are the most challenging to rehabilitate and why?

I noticed years ago when I only came to volunteer once a week that there were always lots of ducklings. But when release time came we had very low numbers. I realized we didn't have proper housing for these little guys. So with some research I set up new housing for them at my home and developed a procedure for rearing them. Now approximately 100 ducklings start their life at my house and then go to TreeHouse where they have large outdoor housing until their release. I prepared a paper on wood duck rearing and it was published by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. I received responses from rehabbers who hadn't been able to save them until they tried my procedure. This was very rewarding.

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I believe Wood ducks are my favorite birds to raise although I do enjoy working with little Screech Owls.

The birds that are most challenging are adult birds that eat on the fly. They will not eat on their own in captivity and must be hand fed regularly. Nighthawks, swifts, swallows, and martins are several examples of birds that are hard to deal with. I dread getting them in but I am always willing to try to save them.

4.) Wood Ducklings are especially vulnerable creatures. One problem is they nest in tree cavities, and their nests will sometimes be located blocks from the water, causing the mother and her brood to navigate several streets. What should people know if they find wood ducklings either with or without their mother nearby?

Wood Ducks with or without mom who are in immediate danger from heavy traffic, loose dogs and cats should be picked up. Always try to catch mom but it is almost always impossible. Put the ducklings in a box with a lid as they can jump up to two feet high. Do not put any water in with them, as they will get soaked and cold and can quickly die of hypothermia. Do not handle them any more than necessary as they stress very easily. Call Tree-House immediately. The sooner I get them the better their odds of surviving.



Wood Duckling

5.) You and Jack have gone on some memorable rescues. What is the one you'll never forget?



The most memorable rescue was a possum and babies in a man's bath tub. We went to a small dilapidated house. Inside was one table and one chair. I don't even know if he had a bed. We went to the bathroom where there was a large hole in the floor leading to the outside. Mom with her babies had crawled into the tub. We removed them and put them in a crate. He was very concerned about their release. He did not want them anywhere near roads where they could get hit. We told him we would release them in a large woods off the beaten path. As we left he slipped money into my hand. When we released them, mom came out with all ten babies clinging to her back. She sauntered off into the woods with her young in tow. When I looked at the money he gave it was \$40. I know this man had very little possessions in life but his compassion for these animals and his generous donation really touched my heart.

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6.) Of course the whole point of rehabilitation is release to the wild. A release is good when the bird just flies away strong. A plus is when the bird performs some aerial acrobatics after the release, or swims out toward others of its kind. Sometimes a good release is one where the bird was admitted in such poor shape that you don't think he will make it, only to prove you wrong and be released after all. What was the best release you've had in your opinion?

I've had two miracle releases.

We picked up two Wood Ducklings. The people had put water in with them. They were soaking wet and ice cold and barely able to raise their little heads. I had the lady microwave a towel to warm them. Then, though it was 85 degrees out we turned the heater on high and held them directly in the heat. I had very little hope for them. One died in my hands almost immediately but the other one hung on. We got him home put him on a heating pad with a heat lamp. When he was warm and dry we put him to bed to rest. The next morning I expected the worst but much to my delight he was standing, bright eyed and eating. He survived and was released nine weeks later. It was really a miracle.

Another miracle survivor was a Black-crowned Night Heron totally entangled in fishing line with a lure in his leg. He was laying in ice cold water just offshore. I tramped down the bank to retrieve his body. I thought he was dead but then he moved his eyes. We cut the line and removed the lure, dried him as best we could, then put a heat lamp on him. When he was warm and standing we administered fluids and then turned him over to Pam to finish his recovery. He was eventually released back into a swamp.

This is the best picture taken of the release of three young Bobcats in southern Illinois! As you can see they were more than ready to start their life in the wild.

Two of the bobcat kittens came from the University of Illinois Vet School's wildlife ward. They were found in an empty boxcar and given to us to place in our outdoor Bobcat cage once they were weaned.



The third one was a bit older than the other two. He sustained a concussion after being hit by a car in Freeburg and underwent rehab at TreeHouse before being released along with the other two Bobcats.

YEAR OF THE RED FOX by Rachael Heaton

It was a crisp, early spring afternoon at the center. The main animal care chores were done for the day. All the enclosures were cleaned and the patients taken care of. I was busy answering phone calls and organizing things and just enjoying the peacefulness of our place in the woods. Suddenly, I got a call from someone who was exercising on the walking trail that runs between Alton and Grafton along the Great River Road. They claimed there was a baby Red Fox just sitting next to the trail. There was no evidence of a mother nearby and the kit (or baby fox) wasn't responding much to their presence. I quickly wrote down the location and then hopped into my car. I drove through the little town of Elsah and onto the Great River Road. On my first drive through the area they had mentioned, I did not see any sign of a fox. I began to wonder if it had moved off into the woods already, which happens quite often. However, on my way back I noticed two people were still standing by the trail where I had seen them the first time I had driven by. I pulled over and asked them if they had called about the fox or had seen it. They immediately turned and pointed to the tiny kit that was curled up in the grass. I grabbed a towel from my car and walked over to the quiet kit. He seemed okay to move and so I wrapped him up in the towel. He opened his eyes and peered at me looking utterly exhausted. Perhaps he had only gotten separated from mom. I also wondered if he had taken a tumble down the nearby bluff. I thanked the people for calling us and then took the little fox back to the center. He was the eighth fox kit that we had admitted so far this year.

Every year in wildlife rehab seems to be marked by something that made that year unique, and this year was no exception. One year we had a large West Nile Virus outbreak amongst the birds, and another year we had a large number of Trumpeter Swans come through our center. We typically admit about three or four orphaned Red Fox kits every spring but 2014 blew that out of the water. We admitted a record 14 orphaned Red Fox kits this year, which is more than our center has ever seen at one time.

The first fox kits admitted in the early spring were a surprise all on their own. It was a litter of six kits. Their mother had been killed by a car but luckily the neighbors had been keeping track of the mother and her kits. They knew exactly where the kits were hidden and immediately called us to let us know about the situation. The kits were all tiny little brown balls of fur at that point. They were small enough to all fit comfortably in a large dog crate under the nursery counter where they could have some privacy. It is important that young animals, especially ones who have high dependence on their mothers, have a mostly hands off approach. If they are interacted with or handled more than what is necessary, they can become attached to people. Our goal at TreeHouse is to raise them wild so that they can live free as they were born to be. Once the six foxes grew a little more and were starting to walk around we moved them to the smaller of the two large mammal enclosures in our mammal ward. There they tried canned food for the first time and their personalities started to show as they argued over who would eat when.

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Not long after we admitted another fox kit who had been found alone in the woods. He was not that much younger than the group of six, so after his quarantine period was complete we introduced him to the group which made seven. After that, the fox kits admittance just took off. We received two more that were found alone, one a possible sibling of the first kit from the Great River Road. The other kit was a runt from a reported litter of eight that hadn't been thriving as well as its siblings. Those two kits were closer in age to the seventh kit we had admitted, so we put those three together in another enclosure and left the original older six together. Next we received four more kits that had a similar background to the first six. Their mother had been killed and someone knew where the den site was located. The four were much younger than the rest, so we kept them together in their own enclosure in the mammal ward. That brought our total number to thirteen so far for the year! We were just blown away.

Needless to say, our mammal ward was just full of foxes, causing the whole hospital area to smell like a fox. Red Foxes have a musky odor that sometimes smells very similar to that of a skunk only not nearly as strong. At least... not nearly as strong when you have just one. We worked very hard to keep their enclosures clean and to freshen the place up on a daily basis.

Ed the pelican (permanent resident) was also in our mammal ward in the larger of the two large mammal enclosures. Our avian ward is not complete yet and we did not have an outdoor enclosure for him at the time. Ed was quite happy in the mammal ward though because that's where we do our food preparation. Everyone who knows Ed the pelican knows that he absolutely loves fish! Well Ed is also a very curious bird and we often let him have the run of the mammal ward. Every day he would walk over to the glass door to the enclosure of the six older fox kits and just watch them. They of course were wondering what in the world this big white creature was. The kits were not nearly as brave as Ed though and so they just watched him from a distance. After Ed was done running around we would then sometimes let our education opossum, Kevin, run around while we cleaned his enclosure. The fox kits sure got to see a lot of interesting critters during their stay in the hospital area.

The foxes slowly weaned from fox formula to canned food and then from canned food to hard dog food. Once they were completely on hard food it was time for them to move outside to our large fox enclosure where we keep Chuckles the Red Fox and Zorro the Gray Fox. However, things are never that easy. Seemingly out of nowhere we had mange pop up in the group of three. Mange is a common and highly contagious problem with foxes. It is caused by a mite that imbeds itself in the skin and causes intense itching, crusting on the skin, and hair loss. We started treating all of our kits immediately even though it was only found in one group at the time. Unfortunately, we ended up losing one of the kits from the group of three, despite our best efforts. The other kits however made a full recovery and we did not see any symptoms among the other groups.



Chuckles and Zorro

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The mange incident caused the kits to stay inside longer than preferred. Once it was all cleared up, we moved all twelve of the remaining kits to the outdoor enclosure. They were no longer small brown balls of fur but now looked more like miniature adults. Of course, you would think the sheer number of kits this year would be a shock to our adult residents, but Chuckles and Zorro absolutely love babies! The two adult foxes act as foster parents for our young orphans every year, no matter whether they are Red Foxes or Gray Foxes. Chuckles is especially known for spoiling the kits, finding any meat treats we hid around the enclosure as enrichment and giving them to the nearest kit she sees.

The kits immediately took to their large new space. They were running through the logs, going up and down the ramps, running in circles, and of course greeting the adults very excitedly. It was like they thought they had all found mom and dad again. The kits would greet the adults with their ears down and their bodies lowered in respect but licking their faces and squirming in excitement. Eventually everything calmed down and the foxes all settled in the logs or took a spot in the warm sun.



We thought that would be it for fox kits however we did end up getting one more Red Fox kit in early summer. He had a bad case of mange and had been found by himself. We quickly started treatment and after about a month he looked like a healthy fox again. We gave him a little extra time inside the hospital area just to be on the safe side before introducing him to our now tight knit family of foxes in our large outdoor enclosure. He was unsure at first but after a few curious greetings he was quickly accepted into the group.

After that, our interactions with the foxes were minimal. We entered the enclosure once a day to change the food and water, clean as needed, and of course to hide meat treats around the enclosure for them to sniff out. Beyond that, we stayed away from the enclosure to give them privacy. We knew we were on the mark when the fox kits would send out quiet alarm barks to each other every time they heard us approaching. They would then all run and hide, leaving just Chuckles and Zorro to greet us. It was amazing how thirteen kits could just disappear in an enclosure. Of course, you could find them if you looked closely enough. Some of them had shoved themselves under the ramps that led up to the platforms. Others were hiding behind the crates located in the den boxes. Mostly however they were all piled together in one of the two large hollow logs located in the enclosure (see the picture on the cover).

As the weeks passed and the summer started to turn to fall, I noticed that Chuckles and Zorro were backing off on their parenting. Chuckles was only sharing treats occasionally and Zorro was absolutely not sharing any more. In Zorro's mind they were all adults now and could find their own meat treats!

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This was a sign to me that it was time to look into release sites for the now independent Red Foxes. We found a few locations that would work. Again things would not be so easy. We had another mange outbreak amongst the kits. Perhaps not all of the mites had been eliminated from the last kit or perhaps they had gotten it from a free fox that was passing by, but either way, we had to start treatment. This involved us catching them one by one (including Chuckles and Zorro) every couple of weeks to give them their medicine. This delayed the release of the fox kits for quite some time but they all recovered.

Once they were ready, we released the foxes in groups in different remote locations where they had plenty of forests to call home. Nine of them are running free now. We are still holding onto four kits that needed a little more time at our center before returning to the wilderness when conditions are optimal. We did move them to a different outdoor enclosure however so that Chuckles and Zorro could have their home to themselves again. It definitely has been a crazy year for foxes! Will things be back to typical numbers next year? We will see.



Ready, Set, GO!



Free at last!



We needed an air traffic controller for these formally orphaned Barred Owls practicing their flight capabilities in our raptor rehab complex before release

THE UNSUSPECTING VEGETARIAN by Amanda Dixon

Despite having been a huge animal person since around the time I began walking, the thought of becoming a vegetarian seemed impossible. I loved animals, yes, but I honestly also loved how they tasted. While I was never a huge carnivore, sometimes I just craved a big ol' burger or box of hot wings. Humans are, after all, omnivorous, so I should never have to deprive myself of animal proteins. That's what I always thought, at least, until Batman came along and changed my mind about being more herbivorous.

Last summer, I worked as a weekend clinic supervisor and one of the main animal care personnel. It was absolutely wonderful; I adored every minute of my time spent at TreeHouse, including both the good and bad, the clean and the messy. I learned a tremendous amount about rehabilitation, including how to care for fawns, which was something I had not really delved into aside from just feeding them. Needless to say, working with the young deer quickly became one of my favorite duties.

Fawn season began around the end of May when we had two of them admitted around the same time. The number grew to four, then to eight, then to fifteen. We basically had our own herd of tiny deer. Anything they did was cute, even if it involved making a huge mess on the newly cleaned blankets we just laid out for them or scratching us with sharp hooves because they act like they have not been fed in months. I will not lie; it is extremely difficult to stay frustrated with something that adorable. Once the deer pen was completed, we were able to move our herd outside, and it was there that they began to blossom, with each fawn having its own distinct personality. To make identification easier, we had placed colored headbands around their necks, so this combined with varying personality traits gave us the tools needed to name the fawns which also helped with identification. One fawn that donned a black headband was tinier than the rest, and he was slightly more standoff-ish, being a bit more cautious to approach us during feeding time. To pair his black band with his loner-type personality, he was aptly named Batman.

I am not really sure what it was that made me adore Batman so much. Maybe it was the way he would strut around the deer pen like he owned the place even though he was smaller than everyone else, or maybe it was the way he drank out of the bottles with the ferocity of ten vacuum cleaners. Whatever it was, it really made me see deer in a completely different light.

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The fawns were getting bigger, and their release date was fast approaching. It was clear that summer was coming to an end as the sounds of hunters shooting unsuspecting targets rang out from the nearby woods. I told the fawns on a few occasions not to pay any attention to the distant booms, and it then occurred to me that the same fate could befall anyone from the TreeHouse herd, including Batman. As delicious as venison was, the thought of eating my little Napoleon complex friend mortified me. The thought of eating any of them did, especially after having helped raise them from tiny babies to adolescents.



Batman (right) and friends

After this revelation, I began to apply it to any type of meat I was about to consume. Cows, pigs, sheep, chickens – they are all living creatures and are all capable of the same types of personality traits and behaviors. If I could not eat venison, then why should I eat pork, poultry, or beef? So I stopped. I made a vow to become a vegetarian.

There were a few other vegetarians that worked at TreeHouse, and as I said before, I always found the notion strange. Not anymore. I understood it completely and began researching this particular way of life fervently. I have been a veggie for a year now (I did slip up once by eating a burger, which was the biggest mistake of my life and resulted in an upset stomach for three days) and have become more educated about the food that goes into my body. I have also learned to cook more than ramen noodles and instant mac and cheese, something I definitely never thought possible. I feel great and am happy with the choices I have made. Thank you, Batman, for helping me to become the vegetarian I never thought I would be.



Special thanks to our hard working fundraising committee chaired by Libby McGinley. Members included Rachael & Katie Heaton, Sheri Britt, Eric Bloemker, Mel & Shirley McCann, Amanda Dixon, Marcie Nagle, and Mitch Cannell. They did a fantastic job putting together Fall Fest 2014, as well as other fundraising events past and those yet to come. Thanks again for all your hard work!

INTERNS PAST AND PRESENT

We're going to take a trip on the way back machine to 1985. A former intern, Jeff Dahl, a veterinary student from Washington State recently found our website and decided to check in after all these years. We love to hear what our former interns are up to these days. Jeff writes:

I was pleasantly surprised to come across your new website today, and see the beautiful place you've made it into. You must (and should) be immensely proud! I'm glad to see that TreeHouse has endured, continuing to do great work in the wildlife community.

I had just finished my first year of vet school, and Adele was kind enough to accept my application to help out at the treatment center. Working with Adele and all the patients that summer. . . . some of the best memories of my life, and a great learning experience.

For many years now I've worked in a 2-doctor small-animal practice in Mukilteo WA. I have done some volunteer work for Pasado's Safe Haven, which is a large domestic-animal rehab center in my general area, but only occasionally get the joy of working with the wildlife that clients find injured. I usually provide some basic emergency therapy, then I take them to the nearest wildlife rehab facility, and I think about the good ol' days working at Treehouse!

Dr. Jeff Dahl, DVM

Ok, what would a trip in the way back machine be without pictures?



Jeff with Cheyenne
the Coyote in 1985



Jeff with his greyhounds
(a different kind of canine) in
2014



Adele with Hoover the
Turkey Vulture in 1985
Photo by Jeff Dahl

INTERNS PAST AND PRESENT

MY TIME AT TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER

by Jessica Arroyo

Hometown: Cicero, Illinois

School: University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana

Career Interests: veterinary care, art, cleaning and organizing and animal rescue

Working at TreeHouse Wildlife Center was a rewarding experience that I will never forget. I learned a lot about wildlife and about myself during my stay at TreeHouse. I have gained a whole new level of respect for the people that work day in and day out to care for animals. I never imagined how much work goes into rehabilitation but I'm glad that I was able to be a part of the process even for a little while.



At TreeHouse I learned a lot about the Illinois wildlife. As a person who grew up near the city, I didn't come across much wildlife. I would see the typical sparrow, pigeon and squirrel but very rarely saw anything else. I was excited to learn about wild animals because I have mostly been working with companion animals such as cats, dogs and farm animals throughout college.

The first time I held a squirrel I was so nervous because I felt like I might hurt them somehow, but the more practice I got handling them I was more concerned with them hurting me! I never realized how sharp and hook-like their claws were. Although they were soft, cute and innocent looking, they were very mischievous. I spent most of my time caring for the orphaned squirrels because most of them were still on formula 2 to 3 times a day!

At first, I dreaded having to feed the squirrels but after a while I managed to learn a lot of their personalities. Feeding them started to feel less of a chore and more like bonding time. Soon after, squirrel feeding became my favorite thing to do at TreeHouse because I could see that I was physically helping an animal in need.

I also encountered many other wild animals such as deer, opossums, rabbits, birds of prey, foxes, coyotes and even a bobcat. I had no experiences on how to even approach these animals because I've never encountered anything like it before. TreeHouse staff members gladly taught me how to handle, care and interact with the animals and even let me do a lot of hands on work with them.

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Working with the animals was great but working along side the people was even more fun. I enjoyed working along side them because I can genuinely feel how much they care about what they do. Although I knew I wasn't going to stay for a long time I still wanted to do whatever I could to make TreeHouse even better.

I'm glad that I was able to have such a wonderful time at TreeHouse because I learned so much about different kinds of animals and worked along side determined people. I never knew I would enjoy rehabilitating wild animals but I could definitely see myself in a similar line of work as a future career.



Intern Ryan Joos

Hometown: Highland Lakes, NJ

School: Unity College, Maine

Career Interests: raptor rehabilitation, conservation, primitive skills, hunting, fishing, rock climbing, horse back riding

Jessica and Ryan are just the latest in a long line of interns and externs working and learning at TreeHouse Wildlife Center dating back to 1983. Join our Facebook page for upcoming information regarding our upcoming 2015 interns. Here's a hint: they are not from the United States!



Interns and Externs at the Jerseyville Parade (l)
Our TreeHouse "float" featuring Mel at the wheel
and Rachael and Einstein in the back (r)





Rachael with Boomerang the Barred Owl and Amanda with Kasper the Barn Owl at the Haunted (River) Museum



Einstein at Blessing of the
Animals
Christ Church Cathedral,
St. Louis



Granite City High School Science Club laying the groundwork for a new cage on their monthly workday at TreeHouse

GO WILD!
Summer Day Camp
Camp Supervisors: Interns Caitlyn Campbell and Kayla Meisner along with staff member Rachael Heaton

Gift Donation Cards

Give a gift that gives



This year we have beautiful gift donation cards with our very own Chuckles, the Red Fox sending Holiday Wishes to your loved ones. These gift donation cards are a special gift that can be made in honor of friends or relatives.

For your donation of \$10.00 or more, we'll mail you the donation gift cards to have for the holidays. Each card will also include a brochure about our facility and describing our mission. Your donations will help us to continue the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife.

For more information call TreeHouse Wildlife Center at 618-466-2990. Gift Donation Cards are payable by check via U.S. mail, as well as cash or credit card at our facility gift shop.

If you are not familiar with Chuckles, just search "Chuckles the Fox" on our website www.treehousewildlifecenter.com. You'll be able to see how she greets us every morning!



Retired and looking for something to do one day a week?



Oh, so you're not excited about working with animals? Not a problem!

TreeHouse needs volunteers for the following jobs:

Cage construction, general maintenance, mechanics,
light housekeeping, greeters, landscapers, cooks for workdays.

Call 466-2990 for details

2014 FALL FEST



Clockwise from upper left:
"Buy an Owl — Feed an Owl"
campaign. \$2 feeds
1 Great horned owl for 1 night

Liberty and Gloria

Watching Ed who is checking out
himself in the mirror

Adam & Boomerang

Rachael & Einstein



2014 FALL FEST



Halloween costume contest



the Waters Trifecta Band



A cake walk prize — Yummy Salted Caramel Pecan Pie from LuciAnna's Pasteries, Alton



Storyteller "Taleypo"



Kid's Crafts

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FALL FEST SPONSORS

Majestic Eagle Sponsors

B. David Duncan

Absolute Health Care Services LLC

Hawthorne Animal Hospital &

Dr. Jennifer Davis and Sydney

Great Horned Owl Sponsors

Wild Birds Unlimited, Edwardsville

Melvin & Shirley McCann

Mighty Kestrel Sponsors

Roberts Motors, Alton

Quality Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Alton

Hawg Pit BBQ Barn, Grafton

The Waters Trifecta Band, Alton

Eppel's Pantry & Deli, Godfrey

The Waters Trifecta Band

RAFFLE WINNERS

Barb Godwin

Mike Zhinden

Nancy Rasch

David & Carol Stevenson

Eric Hadley

Rod Davis

G.E. Doyle

Jerra LaPlant

Sara Cooke

Natalie Merrill

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FALL FEST DONORS

David and Carol Stevenson

Granite City High School Science Club

NHS students from Alton High School

Finn Inn, Grafton

Jack Schmidt Chevrolet, Wood River

Galaxy Collectibles (Steve Britt)

LuciAnna's Pasteries, Alton

LaBest, Edwardsville

El Mezcal Restaurant

our Fall Fest vendors

Danny Brown

Noppadol Paothong

Baxters, Alton

Liberty Bank . Heinz Optical

Pizza World, Godfrey

Melissa Fox . Suzie Scott

Rose Tomlinson . Rod Davis

Cheryl Gerber . Sue Laffler

Ruth Nickols . Judy Tatcher

Al J. & Carla Pranaitis

Eric Bloemker . Charlie Deutsch

Connie Yordy . Elaine "Perky" Perkins

Sharon Gwillim . Brenda Blumstein

Our inters, staff, volunteers,
supporters, friends and family

Great Horned Owl	Barred Owl	Barn Owl	Long-eared Owl	Screech Owl
				
\$60 a Month!	\$30 a Month!	\$36 a Month!	\$18 a Month!	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two rats a night Area's largest owl Main predator of the skunk Average grip of 500 psi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One rat a night Most vocal owl Eats small mammals, fish, and other birds Named after the bars on its chest <p style="text-align: center;">State Endangered</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Endangered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screams instead of hoots Rids barns of mice and rats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two mice a night Migratory Nests on the ground Yaps like a dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One mouse a night Area's second smallest owl Whinnies instead of hoots Can be red or grey
 <p>::Owl Grocery List:: Rats, mice, perches, newspaper, water bowls, nest boxes, towels, straw, grass turf, medications, carnivore care, veterinary care, caging, rescue equipment, and gas</p> <p>We often have a large number of these birds in rehab at one time</p>				
TreeHouse Wildlife Center 23956 Green Acres Rd. Dow, IL (618)466-2990 treehousewildlifecenter.com Like us on Facebook!				

TREEHOUSE'S GROCERY LIST

You think you have a big grocery bill? One of TreeHouse's biggest expense is our food bill. Unfortunately we cannot just go to our local grocery store for our patients and permanent residents food needs. Most of the food we order is specially made for the critters we help.

- Species specific powdered milk replacers for orphaned mammals
- Laboratory Chow for weaned squirrels
- Wild Canid Diet for coyotes and foxes. (sponsored by students at Queen of Peace (Belleville) School's *Coins for Coyotes*)
- Caplan & smelt for pelicans & osprey (and any fish eating bird we admit)
- Frozen mice and rats for our raptors. (We also feed donated chicken)

We currently have 39 permanent residents on hand, most of which are raptors. This year we will admit approximately 600 birds and mammals for rehab.

BUILDING PROGRESS REPORT

Listed below are several building projects that are still awaiting funding. If you, your friends, family, organization, or company would be interested in funding one of these projects, or volunteering on our construction crew, please contact Adele at TreeHouse for more details:

Small Mammal Rehab Cage Complex: \$10,000

Permanent Resident Raptor Complex: \$5,000

Permanent Resident Small Mammal Duplex: \$7,000 (partially funded)

Storage Facility and Mouse House: \$20,000 (partially funded)

Rehab Waterfowl Complex: Bids still coming in

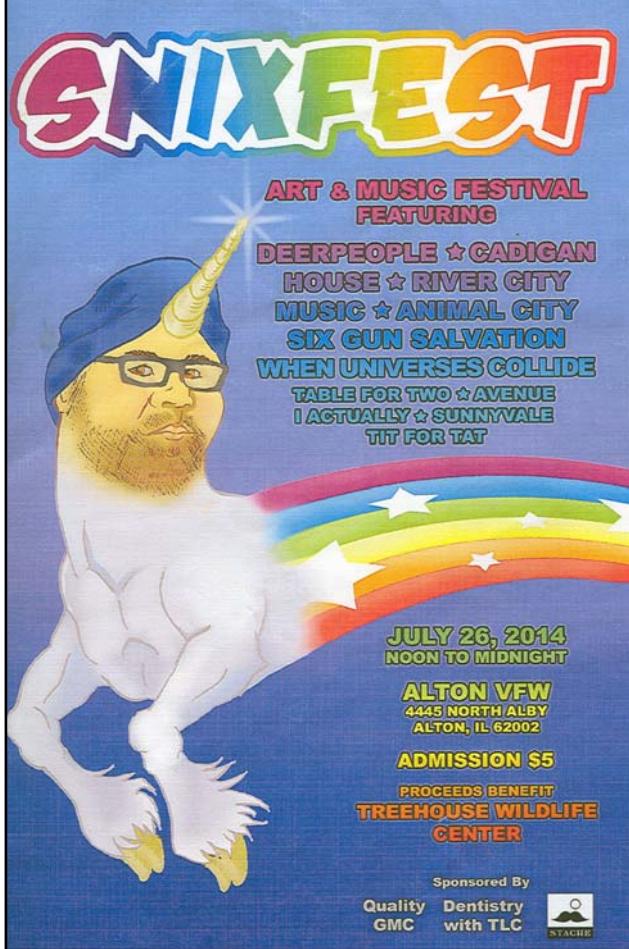
A big thank you to
Corey Davenport and his merry
band of volunteers and sponsors
who organized
Snixfest,

a unique fundraiser for TreeHouse
at the Alton VFW on July 26, 2014.

Snixfest is an art & music festival
featuring all kinds of entertainment
which ran from noon until midnight.

TreeHouse volunteer Amanda Dixon
coordinated the event on the
TreeHouse side, along with Rachael
Heaton, Nathan Wetherell, Ryan
Joos, & Caitlyn Campbell.

Everyone had a great time and
much needed funds were raised for
TreeHouse.





TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers is for kids aged 14 and under, and it's designed to teach kids about wildlife and the natural world in a fun and engaging way.

Members will receive a one-page monthly newsletter keeping them informed and in the loop about the animals being cared for at TreeHouse; a personalized membership card to be used for special offers and discounts; and an invitation to a special annual event just for TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers and their families.

**YES! I would like to join the
TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE EXPLORERS
My \$15 membership dues are enclosed**

Name _____

Date of Birth _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Make checks payable to:
TreeHouse Wildlife Center
and send to
TreeHouse Wildlife Center
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, IL 62022
attn: Jennifer Yordy



IN HONOR OF

Dr Paul Myer and Donna Myer's birthdays
 Leroy Jones birthday
 Ann Robertson & Tom Foster's anniversary

THANK YOU

Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
 The Joseph & Catherine Johnson Family Foundation
 International Society for Key Women Educators, Delta Kappa Gamma, Beta Eta Chapter #55
 Faith & Wm. Pautler Family Foundation
 The Alton Community Service League
 Two lemonade stands run by Charlie Brandt
 Allie & Lauren Roberson
 Leroy Jones
 Casey's General Store
 Area Methodist Churches
 Brighton Farm Hands 4-H
 SIU-E students
 Bob Romanik
 Thanks to all those groups and individuals who provided much needed donations of time, cash and supplies!

IN MEMORY OF

Jarred Basset
 Dorothy Ricks
 Frank the tom cat
 Helen Bruner Rich
 Roger Scott Wade
 Linda Reedy
 Jim Little
 George Marvin Draper
 William Pointer, Jr.
 James O. Grant

Richard "Woody" Woods
 (a former TreeHouse Volunteer)
 and is sister
 Elizabeth "Libby" Woods
 (long time TreeHouse supporter)



Einstein

WISH LIST

33 gal. trash bags

Paper towels

Dry dog food

Fishing nets with handles (all sizes)

Garden hoses

Glass water bottles (for small mammals like gerbils)

Old sweatshirts & sweatpants

Cash donations

Tractor with scoop or (Mechanical) Bobcat

Mini van with stow & go seating

Walk-in freezer

Did you receive a gift card you're not going to use? We can use gift cards

If you have an animal in need of rehabilitation, call
(618) 466-2990 Dow
or the
BiState MO/IL Wildlife Hotline at
www.wildlifehotline.com or
Toll free (855)-945-3435

If you have questions about becoming a volunteer, or if you would like to book a program, please call
(618) 466-2990

or check out our website at
www.treehousewildlifecenter.com

TreeHouse Wildlife Center, Inc.
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, Illinois 62022



Company Gift Matching

Many companies offer charity gift matching programs.

Ask your employer or check our website for a list of employers who will match your contribution to TreeHouse.

TreeHouse Wildlife Center Membership Form

TreeHouse receives no city, county, state, or federal funding.
Our only funding comes from you, the caring and concerned public.

One way of helping TreeHouse continue our mission is by becoming a member.
You'll have the satisfaction of knowing you helped return a rehabilitated animal back to the wild.

Name:

Address:

City, State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email Address:

**TreeHouse does not share or sell
our mailing or email lists.**

I would like to receive information about
your volunteer opportunities.

Annual Individual Membership

\$20.00

New Member

Renewal

Annual Senior Citizen Membership

\$15.00

New Member

Renewal

Lifetime Membership

\$1000.00

Additional Donation

\$_____

Cash Check Credit

Total:

\$_____

Our periodic newsletter, *TreeHouse Dropings*, is included with your membership. How would you prefer to receive it?

Mail Email (an expanded edition with full color photos) No Thanks

Please mail this membership form along with
your payment to:

**TreeHouse Wildlife Center
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, IL 62022**

You can also pay online at:

<http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/membership>



**Thank you for showing your support and helping make a
difference for wildlife conservation!**