

Welcome to

INSTINCTS



FEB 2024

Vol 13:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

WINTER WEATHER

The winter of 2023-2024 certainly has been record-breaking in Northern Wisconsin with warm temperatures and lack of snow.

For us, the time we usually spend on winter chores, like snow removal, being diverted to getting caught up on projects we don't always have time for was a welcome change.

We've also noticed a change in admissions. The lack of snow meant winter sports enthusiasts did not get out on the trails, whether it be skiing or snowmobiling. This means less people were out finding animals in need of help and less people were out to disturb them.

The million-dollar question on everyone's minds is how is this weather affecting the animals?

Some species have benefited from the lack of snow and warm temperatures. Deer have had easy walking with no snow to trudge through. Snowshoe hares who turn white to blend into the environment in the winter for camouflage for protection now stick out like a white flag marking predators' dinner! Bear researchers are trying to make educated decisions about the weather so they can schedule appropriate den visits. Only time will tell what future winters and other seasons will be like.

A couple things are for sure, though. Animals will adapt to the changes in weather and Wild Instincts will adapt to continue to do whatever we can to provide the best care we can to help our wild friends.

2023 IN REVIEW

As 2023 began, no one knew what was happening with the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza that prevailed across the country in 2022. We acted as if it was still a threat and stayed vigilant.

As the rehab season went on, it was clear that the Avian Flu was not as widespread as in the previous year which was a huge relief to rehabbers across the state. Although, the effects of the flu from 2022 were evident in lower numbers of some avian species and lower numbers of other species altogether admitted in 2023.

We were able to resume education programs and open our lobby.

The highlight of 2023 was the end of the temporary bans on mustelids and felids.

We are thrilled to be able to care for otters, mink, weasels, fisher, badgers and bobcats once again. In addition, some of the regulations on bats have been relaxed so we can again provide more care to these already-in-peril wild friends.

We are finally starting to get back to a new normal.

We admitted 1066 patients from 104 different species from 40 different counties and three different states in 2023.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

On January 25, Wild Instincts turned 13!
We celebrate every day we have the privilege of being able to do this work. The only reason we can continue to do so, though, is because of the support of all of you.
Therefore, any celebration is really to celebrate all of you.
Happy Anniversary to YOU ALL!



IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

~In Memory of Jane Bishoff
~In Memory of Karen Andrusco
~In Memory of Lois Antczak
~In Memory of Bill Hoppe
~In Honor of Granddaughter Skyla
~In Memory of Bill & Carol Schultz
~In Honor of Erin Brogen
~In Memory of Carol Hartman
~In Honor of Kathy Hilgers
~In Honor of Cheryl Schnelle
~In Honor of Carmen Cornelius
~In Honor of Mike & Jill Bowles
~In Honor & Memory of our Fathers,
Earl William Kendrick, M. D. and Ronald
H. Galowich

~In Memory of Gary "Leo" Sauter
~In Memory of Dean Zastrow
~In Memory of Sue Klein
~In Memory of "Lela" Nebgen,
cherished canine companion
~In Honor of Wild Instincts' 13th
birthday

SAVE THE DATE *FORE* WILDLIFE!

By Kaitlin Wikoff

The last few years have been tough. COVID and Avian Flu have really taken a toll on the staff and pocketbook of Wild Instincts, and we are looking forward to getting back out to see our supporters at different events now that things are getting back to 'normal'. In 2023, we were involved in the most educational programs since 2020, and now we are looking at establishing some exciting new dependable fundraisers in addition to programs. One such idea was a golf outing.

Wild Instincts is going to have a golf scramble fundraiser this year! We are organizing an 18-hole shot-gun start golf scramble, taking place at Pinewood Country Club in Harshaw on Saturday, August 24. Registration opens at 9am, play starts at 10am. It is expected that most teams will finish up around 3pm, then there will be a dinner at 3:30pm. There will be drink carts along the course and the snack shack will be open for refreshment during play. Ticket price is \$100/golfer. This includes golf, cart, dinner, entry into pin events and 2 mulligans. There will be raffle baskets and fifty-fifty raffles at the clubhouse to be awarded during dinner. Teams will be made up of four people, so be sure to invite your friends!

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with golf scrambles, this is not a tournament. You don't have to have the best swing to have fun and help wildlife! The shot-gun start means that each team starts at a different hole throughout the course and plays through until they get

back to their starting hole. This just helps to keep everyone playing and finishing at roughly the same time. You play as a team, using a stroke from different members of the team, depending on who is most accurate.

We will be having pin events at select holes, which if you are unfamiliar with golf events means that certain holes throughout the course will have special prizes should you choose to participate in whatever event is taking place at that hole. Examples include, longest drive, trying to hit the first ball into a marked circle on the course, or having to pull cards to determine which tee box your team has to tee off from. And, of course, there will be prizes for any of the pin event winners.

We are currently working on getting the registration page up and running, but it is not available yet. This is our first golf scramble and we may need as many helping hands as are willing. Volunteers can help gather and organize raffle prizes before the event and will be needed during the event to aid the registration table, monitor pin events, and sell raffle tickets. If anyone is interested in donating items for the raffles, volunteering for the event or reserving a single ticket or team, please email Kaitlin at events@wildinstinctsrehab.com.



Wild Instincts Volunteers Terry, Dawn, Patti and staff Kaitlin volunteer at Lights of the Northwoods.



CULVER'S SHARE NIGHT

Most of us in the Midwest (especially Wisconsin!) know eating Culver's Butter Burgers can make most things better. Did you know eating them can also help make bears better? Or eating fries can help finches? Or drinking malts can mend merlins?

On Thursday, March 21, eating those things or anything on the menu can help all the wildlife Wild Instincts treats.

Culver's in Rhinelander will donate 10% of the sales from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21st to Wild Instincts when they host a Culver's Share Night for Wild Instincts.

Gather up your family and friends then head to Culver's in Rhinelander to get great food to help a great cause!

LIGHTS!

Lights of the Northwoods, a non-profit organization, has placed thousands of lights at Hodag Park in Rhinelander to brighten the holidays for the last seven years. Free-will monetary donations or items are collected from people enjoying the display and then distributed to non-profit organizations in the area. Wild Instincts was asked to participate again in 2023.

Our volunteers enjoyed the evenings spent among the lights and people, plus Wild Instincts received newspapers, canned pet food and \$1600.00 to brighten our holidays. Looking forward to next year.

RAPTOR RESCUE & TRANSPORT DRIVERS NEEDED

Rescue/Transport is one of the most important volunteer functions we have here at Wild Instincts. Not one of the 1066 patients we admitted last year drove themselves to us for help.

If an animal in need of help, can't get to help it doesn't even have a chance.

We treat all species and admit patients from any county in Wisconsin, therefore we need drivers from all geographic areas! Because this is such an important function, we are always looking for more volunteers. Our volunteers put on 10,000-20,000 miles as a group each year.

Would you like to help injured & orphaned wildlife get to the help they need? Do you have a vehicle & a valid driver's license?

The Wild Instincts Animal Ambulance Team needs YOU!

Animal Transport means we would call you for an animal that is already contained and in a box that just needs a ride to us.

Raptor Rescue means we would call you to retrieve a hawk or owl or eagle that needs to be caught, put in a container and then given a ride to us. Raptor Rescue volunteers are also trained in Animal Transport.

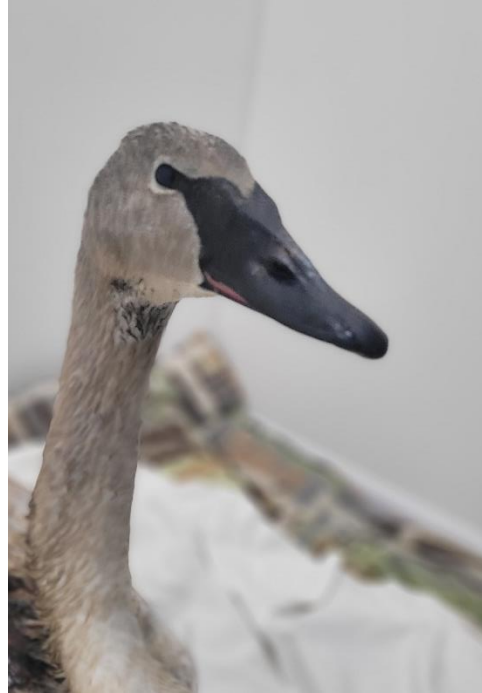
The training is free. If at the end of the training session you decide you don't think it's for you, no problem. You can choose what level, if either, you are comfortable with.

Sign up for one of the sessions and see if this may be a way you can help us help them.

Training sessions will be Thursday, March 7th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. or Saturday, March 9th from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

You only need to attend one of the days.

Please email info@wildinstinctsrehab.com or call 715-362-9453 to RSVP by March 5th.



One of the juvenile Trumpeter Swans in care. This one is suffering from a large wound, but not lead poisoning. It was transported from the Ashland area by one of our dedicated, invaluable drivers.



This female eagle was banded on 6/1/18 as a nestling. It was admitted to Wild Instincts on 11/8/2023 with high blood lead levels and a serious shoulder injury. She has recovered from the lead poisoning, but the shoulder injury may prohibit her from being released. Bald eagles mature around 5-6 years so this one likely hasn't ever laid eggs.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR INTERNS!

Do you know a college student wondering what they should do for summer employment/experience? Or someone who may have graduated at semester and wants something for spring?

We have some internship vacancies.

<https://wildinstinctsrehab.com/internship-opportunities>



Intern watching a dropper feeding.



Interns learning how to use the pharmacology index and calculate drug doses.



Interns feeding baby woodchuck.

SNAKE VS. GLUE TRAP

By McKenna Brocco

For those of you who follow us on social media, you may have seen a recent post about an Eastern Fox Snake, sometimes called Pine Snake, caught in a glue trap set out by a pest control company. Luckily for this snake, the pest control company brought this snake to us when they found it. They did not intend to catch a snake, but glue traps don't stick to only mice and rats. After carefully applying a special solvent to the snake and the glue trap, the snake was freed from the trap and is currently doing well. The story could have been much different, however. Snakes and other reptiles can't regulate their own body temperature so need to be able to move freely in order to find warmth or cool in addition to food, and water. Being stuck on a glue trap makes that impossible and would have led to a painful death for this snake due to stress, starvation, and dehydration.

Glue traps are made with a super sticky adhesive that does not dry out, and once something touches a glue trap it is very hard to remove. All sorts of animals fall prey to these traps, including birds, lizards,

salamanders, squirrels, bats, and, as we have seen, snakes. Glue traps are marketed as "safe" because they are nontoxic, but all they do is prolong the suffering of animals that get caught in them. Glue traps are very cruel and cause the animals that get stuck in them to succumb to starvation or dehydration. These animals will go to great lengths trying to get out of these traps, sometimes even chewing off their own limbs. These traps have also been known to cause problems with household pets and even humans. Many curious toddlers have stumbled into these sticky traps as well and have only been able to remove the trap with a visit to the emergency room. Glue traps are outrageously cruel and should always be avoided as they only prolong the suffering of an animal, and they often catch animals that are not the target species. In this instance, the glue trap caught an Eastern Fox Snake. Fox Snakes are one of Wisconsin's native nonvenomous snakes. They get their name because of a smell they emit when disturbed which has been described as "fox-like." They are also referred to as Pine Snakes because they are often found in pine forest habitats. These snakes often get mistaken for a venomous snake because of the way they shake their tail in dry leaves to make a rattling noise. As well as having these really cool adaptations, Fox Snakes are also very important to the environment. They eat rodents and keep the populations in control. In this way they protect us by reducing the possibility of diseases passing from rodents to us. Fox Snakes, and all other snakes, are our very own natural rodent control. Many of you may be wondering why these traps have not been banned or made illegal, but in some places they have been. Glue traps have been banned in the countries of England, Iceland, Ireland, and New Zealand, as well as the city of West Hollywood. The use of glue traps has also been banned in over one hundred airports throughout the country. As more people

start to understand how cruel and inhumane glue traps are, more places are banning the use of them. Just last month a new bill was introduced with the goal of placing a national ban on the possession and use of glue traps. We can make the individual choice not to use glue traps as well as spread the word to others.



Slowly removing the snake from the glue trap, little by little, using a cotton swab and soybean oil.



Wiping off the soybean oil from the freed portion.

Fly strips are very similar to glue traps. In fact, they really are just hanging glue traps that entrap not only bugs, but bats and birds as well. You can avoid catching birds or bats in your fly strips by putting the fly strips inside a small bird cage or screen

tube, so only bugs can get to the strips. That solutions works well in the air, but not so much on the ground with glue traps intending to catch animals larger than bugs. There are many alternatives to glue traps, but they are not as simple as they seem. Many people decide live trapping would be the best, humane solution. However, there are a great many things to consider before releasing something from a live trap into the wild. Weather, habitat, estrus, offspring, territory, time of year, catching the wrong animal and proper permits are just a few. While initially, live-trapping seems the best option, it can sometimes still result in a cruel death. Also, most people don't realize, even in your own home, live trapping of flying squirrels from your attic requires a permit in Wisconsin. Click [HERE](#) to see Wisconsin Flying Squirrel removal information.

The best alternative to glue traps would be avoiding traps all together and instead preventing animals from getting in your house. The best way to deter unwanted animals from getting in your house is just by making your house an unattractive habitat. You can do this by keeping your house clean, so they don't have a food source, filling any holes they could use to get into your house, and utilizing smells mice dislike such as peppermint and white vinegar. It is important to be well informed about the impact of our actions, so we can be the best stewards of wildlife possible.

For more alternatives for nuisance animal help in Wisconsin, click [HERE](#) for WDNR or [HERE](#) for Humane Society advice.



One of the many flying squirrels we've admitted trapped from someone's attic.

PIZZA RANCH FUNDRAISER



McKenna greeting people at Pizza Ranch.

Thanks to all who attended the Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night to benefit Wild Instincts in January.

Eating good food for a good cause generated over \$560 for Wild Instincts.

If you missed out, there will be another Pizza Ranch Community Impact Fundraiser on Monday, April 22, from 4:00-8:00 p.m at Pizza Ranch in Rhinelander.

Come join us to help our wild friends.

Species Admitted 1/1 - 12/31/23			
American Beaver	1	Gray Wolf	1
American Black Bear	11	Great Blue Heron	2
American Coot	1	Great Horned Owl	6
American Crow	3	Green Frog	2
American Goldfinch	7	Hairy Woodpecker	6
American Mink	1	Hermit Thrush	5
American Robin	38	Herring Gull	2
American Toad	1	Hooded Merganser	7
American Woodcock	1	Horned Grebe	1
Bald Eagle	24	House Mouse	7
Barred Owl	19	House Sparrow	1
Belted Kingfisher	6	House Wren	5
Big Brown Bat	11	Little Brown Bat	4
Black-and-white Warbler	1	Mallard	63
Black-capped Chickadee	1	Merlin	6
Blue Jay	6	Mourning Dove	16
Bobcat	4	Muskrat	2
Broad-winged Hawk	24	Nashville Warbler	2
Canada Goose	24	North American Porcupine	3
Cedar Waxwing	9	North American River Otter	1
Chipping Sparrow	9	Northern Cardinal	1
Cliff Swallow	1	Northern Flicker	2
Common Garter Snake	6	Northern Goshawk	2
Common Goldeneye	1	Northern Raccoon	34
Common Grackle	9	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Common Loon	2	Osprey	1
Common Merganser	1	Ovenbird	1
Common Snapping Turtle	11	Pileated Woodpecker	7
Cooper's Hawk	1	Pine Siskin	2
Coyote	7	Pine Warbler	2
Dark-eyed Junco	1	Purple Finch	3
Deer Mouse	64	Red Crossbill	1
Downy Woodpecker	5	Red Fox	20
Eastern Chipmunk	20	Red Squirrel	25
Eastern Cottontail	163	Red-eyed Vireo	6
Eastern Gray Squirrel	73	Red-tailed Hawk	4
Eastern Phoebe	3	Ring-billed Gull	5
European Starling	6	Rock Dove	30
Gray Catbird	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
Gray Fox	2	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Gray Treefrog	3	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13
		Ruffed Grouse	12
		Sandhill Crane	4

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Silver-haired Bat	1
Snowshoe Hare	2
Song Sparrow	2
Sora	1
Southern Flying Squirrel	45
Swainson's Thrush	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	13
Trumpeter Swan	9
Unidentified Baby Bird	2
Virginia Opossum	4
Western Painted Turtle	20
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-tailed Deer	26
Wild Turkey	3
Wood Duck	16
Wood Turtle	1
Woodchuck	2
Woodland Jumping Mouse	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Total	1066



People enjoying a program on owls presented by Kaitlin & McKenna at Mel's Trading Post in Rhinelander.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raptor Rescue & Transport Training

Thursday, March 7th

6:30-7:00pm Animal Transport only

7:00-8:00pm Raptor Rescue*

OR

Saturday, March 9th

10:00-10:30am Animal Transport only

10:30-11:30am Raptor Rescue*

*Those wishing to be trained in Raptor Rescue must also attend the Animal Transport session

Culver's Share Night (Rhinelander Only)

March 21 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Culver's, 620 W Kemp St., Rhinelander

10% of sales benefit Wild Instincts

Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night

April 22 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Pizza Ranch, 275 Eisenhower Parkway, Rhinelander

20% of sales benefit Wild Instincts

Wild ScaVenture

July 26th-28th

Played with your smartphone from wherever you are!

Wild Instincts Golf Scramble

Saturday, August 24 9:00 a.m.

Pinewood Country Club

9000 Pinewood Valley Rd, Harshaw