

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

Jan 2012

Vol 2:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."



Happy FIRST BIRTHDAY to Wild Instincts!

On Jan 25th, 2011, Wild Instincts was incorporated. On Jan 28th, 2011, 17 acres was purchased to house the new wildlife rehabilitation center.

This is a special expanded celebratory edition. Enjoy!

A Look Back and Ahead

By Mark Naniot, Director of Rehabilitation

A look back and a look ahead—that's what came to mind yesterday when two different volunteers stopped at Wild Instincts (WII). One stopped to drop off donations. She had not been at WII for several months. She expressed genuine surprise at how much in we had accomplished in such a very short time.

The other volunteer came to help. He commented on how much was left to do. They're both right. We've done a lot but there is a lot yet to do.

A Look Back:

As I write this, the calendar reads January 19th, 2012. At this time last year we were

looking for property and rehabbing out of our workshop at home.

We purchased property on Jan 28th, 2011 and the work began in earnest. The property had a small un-insulated garage, no heat and no water. We quickly insulated, added a second room and starting setting up for the fast approaching Baby Season. We cleared trees for the newly planned building, septic and the generously donated 16'x80' mobile home that will provide housing for interns and volunteers. Weight limits were slow coming off the roads, but when they did everything happened at once! Fill was brought in, the septic installed, the shell of a 45'x64' building was erected, and the mobile home moved onto site.

Of course, there were also the animals to care for as well!

We started early each morning and ended late each day. We hauled water in jugs and had a rented porta-potty in the parking lot for when we had to answer nature's other call. A big milestone was when the well was put in and we had running water!

Each new step made life a little easier.

We completed a deer yard, coyote enclosure, bear enclosure, otter enclosure and songbird enclosure to name a few.

It was a lot of hard work.

It was only possible because of the tremendous support we received from volunteers, donors and the community.

Every time we were not sure how we were going to be able to build, feed or house something, someone would appear as if by magic to help with our needs.

We can't begin to tell you all how much it means to have your support to help the wild ones we all care so much about.

A Look Ahead :

We've come far, but much is still left to do. Most of the new building still needs painting. Cabinets and sinks are in storage waiting to be installed. Raptor enclosures will be built in the spring as well as aquatic enclosures. Our bear enclosure is ready to be expanded from 30'x45' to 125'x40' and a pond needs to be added.

The list goes on...and will for years.

We look forward to being able to hire six interns this spring, summer and fall thanks to a generous donation that will fund our internship program this year. We look forward to sharing the wonder of wildlife with them and giving them a chance to get some much needed experience.

That's our little look back and a little glimpse ahead. It's been a lot of work but we are honored to be able to do it. Our passion for wildlife has always been there and always will be.

Looking back-giving wildlife a second chance is what we've always done. Looking ahead-it's what we always want to do.

Thank you again to all of YOU who help us help them.

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We treated 315 patients from 74 different species. Our success rate was over 66%, still above the national average of 50%, but below the 70% or higher we normally achieve. Given this year of transition and turmoil, even though not quite our normal standards, it's still noteworthy. We've been able to return two-thirds of our wild friends to the wild! Thanks to people like you.

~~~~~

We have grown to 98 members and 186 Likes on Facebook.

First Babies of 2012

On January 11, the first babies of 2012 were admitted: two five-day-old black bear cubs. They were orphaned after mom was disturbed by logging operations.

They are doing well and growing like weeds.

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

715-362-9453 (362-WILD)
4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501

715-490-2727(cell)

They'll be raised here at Wild Instincts for a few weeks until wild surrogate moms can be found. Then they'll be placed in dens with wild moms. If appropriate wild moms can't be found, we will raise them here at Wild Instincts until fall when they'll be released.

Make sure to check our blog or Facebook page often for updates with videos and photos on these boys.

www.wildinstincts.wordpress.com



Photo by Ken Pedersen



Photo by Ken Pedersen

Raptor Rescue & Transport Drivers Needed

Drivers are an integral part of animal care here at Wild Instincts. They play a huge and important role in getting animals to help. They also allow patients already in care to receive proper care by allowing us to stay on site to provide care every 30 minutes instead of having to drive after a new patient.

We couldn't operate without them.

Our driver's are located all over the Northwoods with good reason- our patients are located all over the Northwoods!

Do you have a vehicle & a valid driver's license?

The Wild Instincts Animal Ambulance Team needs YOU!

Transport Drivers go out on calls where the animal is already contained in a box or such. They bring the box to Wild Instincts.

Raptor Rescue Drivers have extra training on how to handle and rescue birds and raptors. They may be asked to catch the animal in need of care.

When Wild Instincts gets a call on an injured animal, we call one of our drivers on our list from an area they have chosen to drive in. If they are not available for whatever reason, we'll call the next person on the list and so on until we find a driver willing to help.

Having a list of lots of drivers from lots of different areas allows us not to use the same people all the time. It also keeps the driver's driving radius to a manageable size.

Please consider volunteering as driver. Required training sessions are provided free of charge. Animal Transport training is about 30 minutes. Raptor Rescue training is the same Animal Transport training and an ADDITIONAL 30 minutes.

ATTEND AN INFO/TRAINING SESSION:

Saturday, March 10th

10:00-10:30 a.m. Animal Transport

10:00-11:00a.m. Raptor Rescue

or

Tuesday, March 13th

6:30-7:00 p.m. Animal Transport

6:30-7:30 p.m. Raptor Rescue

NOTE: even if you are CURRENTLY a driver, you must attend one of the sessions for a refresher, update on policy changes and to pick up your 2012 driver's credentials.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received "to honor the passions and work of Trish Kirk and Tim Muench."

THE ONE & ONLY

Just a reminder Wild Instincts is THE ONLY wildlife rehab center in Northern Wisconsin permitted to treat ALL native WI wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. From mice to black bears, hummingbirds to eagles, we treat them all!

This means we need a wide variety of diets, enclosures and equipment. See our Wish List for some ideas!

WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

- Chain link fencing
- 1 1/2" steel pipe *
- Fence poles*
- Good Used Pick-up Truck
- Walk-in Freezer*
- Whole fish
- Frozen venison
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Newspapers
- Sheets/blankets/towels
- Unsalted Walnuts

Unsalted Pecans
Cash Donations
Gas Cards

*there is a pressing need for these items!



Eastern gray squirrel baby takes a nap



Mark & a young fledgling bald eagle



Doorways to raptor room, pond room and mammal room viewed from the kitchen



Coyote pups almost ready for release



Garage with building site right and behind



Building shell completed



Viewing window into the nursery is installed



Eastern Gray Squirrel being fed



How one person feeds 6 fawns at once



Volunteer group from community helps with construction

Species	1/1-12/31/11
American Crow	5
American Goldfinch	4
American Robin	20
American Woodcock	1
Bald Eagle	16
Barred Owl	2
Beaver	1
Black Bear	5
Black Duck	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Broad-winged Hawk	3
Canada Goose	3
Cedar Waxwing	1
Chipping Sparrow	1
Common Grackle	2
Common Loon	3
Common Raven	2
Coyote	5
Deer Mouse	4
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Bluebird	3
Eastern Chipmunk	2
Eastern Cottontail	42
Eastern Garter Snake	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	21
Eastern Phoebe	3
European Starling	4
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	3
Gray Fox	2
Great Blue Heron	1
Great Horned Owl	3
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Hermit Thrush	2
Hooded Merganser	5
Horned Lark	1
House Finch	1
House Sparrow	1
Least Bittern	1
Mallard Duck	6
Midland Painted Turtle	1
Mourning Dove	7
Northern Flicker	1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Pine Grosbeak	1
Pine Siskin	1
Porcupine	1
Purple Finch	2
Raccoon	8
Red Fox	3
Red Squirrel	14
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2

Rock Dove	4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5
Ruffed Grouse	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Snapping Turtle	3
Snowshoe Hare	2
Song Sparrow	1
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	9
Tree Swallow	3
Turkey Vulture	3
Virginia Opossum	1
Western Painted Turtle	3
Whippoorwill	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	8
White-tailed Deer	30
Wild Turkey	1
Wood Duck	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
	315

Thank You for Helping Us Help Them!

We are funded solely by memberships and donations. Your membership helped these animals.

Members are entitled to a 20% discount on gift shop items.

If you haven't received your instructions on how to claim your discount, contact giftshop@wildinstinctsrehab.com.



Welcome to

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May 2012

Vol 2:3

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Construction Update

On May 1st, 2011, Wild Instincts had a work day with a wonderful bunch of people cutting and hauling brush preparing the site for the septic and for the mobile home to be moved in and used for intern quarters.

On May 1st, 2012, all operations are from the new main building that is currently housing over 2 dozen patients.

To complete the building three plumbing fixtures still need to be hooked up, but considering last year at this time we were hauling water and had a porta-potty in the parking lot, walking into the nursery to do dishes or kneeling on the floor in front of the shower to clean cages is a blessing rather than an inconvenience!

Last year another rehab center, Wildlife In Need, in southern Wisconsin was renovated and moved to a new location. They donated an integrated 3-basin sink-8' stainless steel countertop we incorporated into our kitchen design.



The kitchen island is finally finished. Now we just have to install the kitchen sink!

As most things repurposed in rehab, though, it needed some tweaking. It originally had a couple other pieces to it and had to have some stainless steel welding and fabrication done to remove sharp edges and finish it.

With special thanks to Brett McKinney of Airdale Sportplane and Supply (www.airdale.com) for donating and completing the specialty work on the sink, it's ready to be installed today!

The plumber is due in the next couple days to hook up the kitchen sink, dishwasher and our fabulous stainless steel cleaning tub where the majority of the really gross dish and cage cleaning will take place.

His visit should end the *building* construction updates.

Cage-building construction is a whole other story! You will probably be hearing animal enclosure updates for several years to come! Speaking of which, we've been working fast and furious on the bear enclosure expansion.

Currently, Wild Instincts holds the only black bear rehab permit in the state of Wisconsin so we admit lots of bears which need lots of space. May 5th, the McNaughton Correctional Center's volunteer crew came for a big workday on the bear cage. A couple dedicated Wild Instincts volunteers rounded out the group. Despite sprinkles and clouds, we managed to complete about 95% of the bear enclosure expansion. A couple more days of good weather to finish the rest and cubs will be moved into their new 115' x 40' "home" until their October release.

We'd also like to thank family and friends of Virginia Ronish for the generous donations in

her memory that allowed the completion of this expansion.



This is taken from the door of the current bear cage to show the expansion. Mark & volunteer Tim are working on preparing the wall between old enclosure and the new expansion.



This is taken from the corner of the expansion looking towards Mark & Tim working on the wall between the old bear enclosure & the expansion.

Because we've just expanded the present bear enclosure by adding on to it and cutting a door in the wall, we like to think our bears will have two "rooms" to their enclosure- a great room (85' x 40') and the original enclosure (30' x 40') will remain the dining room.

On May 11th & 12th, Wisconsin Public Service will have a crew of volunteers out to erect our 100'x21'x20' eagle flight cage.

With that, the major enclosure construction will be put on hold until animal care slows down in the fall.

We cannot thank enough the many people who have stepped forward with their time, skill or monetary contributions! We could not do any of this without you all to help us help them.

First Official WII Interns

A generous donor stepped forward and funded this year's Internship Program. We are fortunate to be able to fund two spring interns, three summer interns and a fall intern. These young people spend long, hard hours working their tails off for very little monetary returns but priceless experience.

Our spring interns started April 1st and will be with us until May 31st. Here are some thoughts on their internship experience so far:

Sherryl is from Racine, Wisconsin.

"I decide to take this internship to enhance my experience and knowledge. I knew it would offer me a whole new look at animal care and provide me with great experiences. A few things I have learned are how to eye-dropper and tube feed baby bunnies, take care of bear cubs, clean and release certain bird species and learn how to create cages whether for indoor or outdoor purposes. Some challenges I have faced during the course of this internship were learning new techniques caring for these animals and knowing some animals won't make it due to their injuries. Overall, through this whole experience I truly do enjoy working with all types of animals, meeting great volunteers and drivers who help out and most of all getting experience working with animals that in a normal setting you won't be able to."

{Editor's note: another thing Sherryl learned from her internship is she has severe allergies to wildlife forcing her internship to end early.

Thanks for all your help and take care of yourself, Sherryl!}



Sherryl holds her first eagle for an examination.

good decision. I have met some amazing people that are both knowledgeable and passionate about helping animals and I'm learning so much about wildlife care from them. I'm gaining some valuable hands on experience and am excited to see what will come next as I enter the latter half of this internship."



Megan feeds her first squirrel.

Megan is from Fishers, Indiana.

"I chose to take this internship because I felt it would be an amazing opportunity to gain experience working with animals I would not normally be able to see in my day-to-day life. Back home it's strictly cats and dogs that I work with so I thought Wisconsin wildlife would be an exciting new challenge for me.

During the course of this internship, I have been able to learn so much about wildlife care and have been undertaking different duties in the care of the animals in the facility. Feeding baby animals has been one of the more challenging yet rewarding tasks that I have encountered so far. Feeding baby bunnies, squirrels and raccoons can be both vexing and satisfying at the same time. As Marks says, "It's all in the hold."

Another difficult aspect of this internship that I have encountered has been, of course, the animals that are not able to recover from their injuries. It's on situation that is unavoidable in this line of work, as much as I hate to admit it. Though we can never save every single animal that is hurt, all we can do is focus our attention on the ones that have a chance to survive until they can be released back into the wild.

After a month of working with the Wild Instincts Team, I can definitely say that choosing to be a part of this internship has proven to be a very

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

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

- ~ In honor of Bailey Nebgen's birthday
- ~ In memory of Virginia Ronish
- ~ In memory of Ardis Picard

WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

Chain link fencing
 1 1/2" steel pipe *
 Fence poles*
 Good Used Pick-up Truck*
 Walk-in Freezer*
 Whole fish
 Frozen venison
 Dry dog food
 Canned dog food
 Paper towels*
 Dish soap
 Hand soap
 Newspapers
 Sheets/blankets/towels
 Unsalted Walnuts
 Unsalted Pecans
 Cash Donations
 Gas Cards

*there is a pressing need for these items!

Another Way to Donate

Wild Instincts is able to receive donations of high-yield stocks for liquidation for funding projects and operations.

This is how the 2012 internship program was funded.

If you would like the tax benefit of donating stock instead of donating cash, please contact us at 715-362-9453 (WILD) or sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com

<u>Species 2012</u>	
<u>1/1/12-4/30/12</u>	
American Robin	2
Bald Eagle	4
Black Bear	8
Bobcat	1
Canada Goose	2
Common Loon	1
Common Redpoll	2
Eastern Chipmunk	1
Eastern Cottontail	10
Eastern Garter Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	10
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	1
Great Horned Owl	1
Mourning Dove	1
Pine Siskin	2
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	3
Red-tailed Hawk	2
Rock Dove	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1
White-tailed Deer	2
Total	57



To see this gosling get reunited with a foster family, follow this link: <http://youtu.be/mR2inF9EstY>



**Thank You for Helping
 Us Help Them!**



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July 2012

Vol 2:3

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Halfway 2012

Can it really be July already? Where has the summer gone?

As of June 30th we've admitted 258 patients from 57 different species in 2012.

The bear cubs love their enclosure and so do we. There is enough space to enable us to feed without encroaching on them, keeping their behavior even more wild and natural. We also have a blind from which we can monitor at a distance to make sure everyone is doing well. With the help of Wisconsin Public Service and other volunteers we completed the eagle flight enclosure just in time to move our new resident and his foster eaglet into it; and then its sibling a few days later.

Just in those few paragraphs you already learned we completed a few more enclosures and now have a resident.

For more details and updates, keep reading. We think you'll be happy with the progress. We are.

The Bear Enclosure Expansion

After lots and lots and lots more hard work by many volunteers, on May 15th the cubs were moved into the newly expanded bear enclosure. To all involved it was a resounding 10 paws up! We currently have 10 bears and it was unanimous.

Better include some human thumbs up, too. Not only do the bears love it, we love it, too. We can monitor them much more easily without stressing them. This allows for more normal bear behavior.

In case you missed the video of moving day it can be found by clicking on this link:

[Cub Moving Day](#)

The bear videos that followed, as well as many other videos, can be found on our YouTube Channel: WildInstinctsRehab.



A cub enjoys "hanging out" in the new enclosure.

Eagle Flight Enclosure

On May 11th, Wisconsin Public Service volunteers arrived with several trucks loaded with donated utility poles repurposed to Wild Instincts from a closed Michigan Tech University research project, several bucket trucks and a bunch of volunteers to start erecting the eagle flight enclosure.

Several weeks later, interruptions by weather finally overcome, the enclosure was ready for birds.

In addition to the volunteer labor, **the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation awarded Wild Instincts a \$5000.00 grant to cover the costs of materials!**

What a WONDERFUL group of people.



Ready to begin.



The first of poles go in the ground.



The framework is finished.



The last side of sheathing is going up.



That's one big enclosure!

A complete photo album can be found on our Facebook page. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to view the following link. Click here: [Eagle Flight Construction](#)

Let's have a huge round of applause to all involved in this project. We can't thank you enough.

Surprise Construction

In wildlife rehab you need to be flexible, inventive and ready for anything. Rehabbers never know what animal may be coming in next or when for that matter. We can make some predictions from year to year, but they are simply guesses.

This year, for instance, the early spring weather set up a perfect storm for bear cubs-many and early. We didn't see that coming.

Another product of the spring no one predicted was the incredibly large number of orphan raccoons across the entire state.

We had made arrangements with another rehab center for us to take in infant raccoons and then transfer them to the other facility when they were a little older and needed larger habitats.

This year the other facility reached capacity with raccoons and couldn't take ours -the first time in 14 years.

This meant we needed to build a raccoon enclosure and quick!!

When we weren't feeding and caring for animals, we were working on either the eagle enclosure or the raccoon enclosure...in between the rainstorms. Sometimes even in the rainstorms (as long as power tools weren't involved). We had no choice but to "git r done". And we did. Thanks to some hard working volunteers and interns 13 raccoons are now enjoying a new enclosure, complete with a loft (the blue area).



The new raccoon enclosure sports a pool & a loft.

Intern Program & Scholarships

A generous donor stepped forward and funded this year's Internship Program. We are fortunate to be able to fund two spring interns, three summer interns and a fall intern. These young people spend long, hard hours working their

tails off for very little monetary returns but priceless experience...like discovering the incredible difficulties of cleaning eagle poop off anything.

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

Patient care depends on them.

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

They are not the same people when they leave as they are when they come. It is always rewarding to see them grow during their time with us.

At this time we have no funding for 2013 interns.

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

Intern Insights

Our summer interns started May 21st and will be with us until Aug 31st. Here are some thoughts from them on their internship experience so far:

Kristina Borgstrom

Hometown: Buffalo, MN

School: University of WI-Stevens Point

When it came to applying for summer internships, I knew Wild Instincts would be one of my top picks if I were to be offered a position. I had an amazing taste of animal care the two full packed weeks I volunteered last summer and was excited for more. Upon hearing the offer, I gladly accepted and don't regret the decision. I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point majoring in Wildlife Ecology and minoring in Captive Wildlife with a Conservation Biology focus. For my minor I was required to take on an internship and gain hands-on experience in a captive wildlife field all while undertaking a project to better the facility.



Kristina gives an injured squirrel an antibiotic injection.

Working alongside Mark and Sharon has accomplished just that. Within the first month that I have been in the Northwoods, I have crossed paths with over 35 species. A few I have never seen in the wild such as our five woodchucks and two gray foxes. It is really rewarding to be able to work with these wild animals making sure they receive a well-rounded diet, clean shelter, and most of all, that they maintain their wild instincts.

Like any career path, one always has challenges to face. From the start, there were many – keeping track of all the different patient charts, doing my first exam, catching my first eagle, and even figuring out my internship project. Catching one of our male eagles will probably be my most memorable challenge. At first, it took lots of self-confidence to hold a bird half my size and I could only think of Mark telling me to stay calm. Nevertheless, I have progressively improved my confidence in facing challenges and can tackle any of the eagles when cleaning their rooms.

Second to the eagle would be working with Mark on my internship project. I am honored to have helped build some of the cages for our patients. My first project focused on building and furnishing a pre-release cage for our growing number of raccoons. It is amazing what rehabbers (Mark in particular) can dream up from a pile of donated materials. In little to no time and with lots of help of volunteers, we had a cage standing and ready for some furnishing. This was probably my favorite part as I learned how to “build with nature” as Mark called it. In the end, it was rewarding to see the raccoons enjoy the logs and enrichment materials as they

chase each other around or splash in their pool. I still have two months left and can't wait to help with more cage building and take on more projects.

In addition to animal care, I've had fun exploring the Northwoods from biking and hiking local trails, fishing in different lakes and even hunting for my first Hodags.

Besides these few highlights, I really enjoy every bit of working at Wild Instincts. What was a two-week introduction last summer has turned out to be a full summer experience this year. I love working with our team and can't wait to see what is next in store for us to help and return to the wild.

Becky Semke

Hometown: Salem, WI

School: University of WI-Stevens Point

I chose to take this internship to gain more experience in wildlife rehab. Last summer I had an internship at a wildlife rehab center in Indiana. Working at Wild Instincts allows me to gain another rehabber's perspective on how to treat the patients. I also am able to work with a different array of wildlife species. I enjoy wildlife rehab, because every day is slightly different not knowing what will be coming through the door next.

I have learned so much these first few weeks including how to perform an exam, tube feeding bunnies, handling techniques, how to dose an animal, and so much more. Animal care always comes first, but we have found time to help construct enclosures in-between feedings. I have learned some of the different requirements needed for enclosures for certain species.

Although I am enjoying every minute of my time here, there have been some challenges. Trying to remember the anatomy and terms for birds has been difficult, but it is 'open book' as Mark says. The time always seems to fly by and making sure to keep track of it for feeding baby birds every hour can be hard. Not all of the animals are able to recover from their injuries, which is always a difficult aspect of wildlife rehab.



Becky holds her first eaglet.



Jacie bottle-feeds one of the fawns.

After having the opportunity of working with so many different species, I would still have to say red fox are my favorite. I have also grown a liking to bald eagles. I was scared the first time I had to pick up an eagle, but now that I have had more practice, I actually like it. I have learned a lot already while being here and look forward to learning so much more during the rest of my time here at Wild Instincts.

Jacie Garden

Hometown: Charles City, Iowa
School : Graduated May 2012 from Iowa State University

I chose to intern at Wild Instincts to gain more knowledge with large mammals, work with wildlife not present in Iowa, and get first-hand experience to building a state of the art rehabilitation center.

Some challenges I have faced are working with the variety of patients and making sure their daily needs are taken care of. There are so many different formulas specific to each patient, as well as a certain way the formula needs mixed. One of the hardest things to overcome is when a patient comes in too badly injured to make a full recovery, but unfortunately is something that is a part of wildlife rehabilitation.

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

One of the best feelings is to release an animal back into its natural habitat after knowing that you were a part of making that happen. Especially when the particular animal gets fed multiple times a day. Another great feeling is being able to help the Wild Instincts team expand and seeing the animals react. My favorite days were being able to put the raccoons into the raccoon habitat that all the interns, Mark, Sharon, and volunteers had worked hard at building from day one as well as releasing the permanent eagle into his 100' by 20' by 20' enclosure that we also helped build. After working at Wild Instincts for just over a month, I have gained valuable knowledge and have met some truly wonderful people who share such a passion for wildlife. I am looking forward to the rest of my internship and the animals to come.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

~ In memory of Fred Dreyfus

715-362-9453 (362-WILD)
4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501

715-490-2727(cell)

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



Renewals & E-Mails

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



Meet Our Newest Team Member

On 4/25/12, a male bald eagle was admitted with a left distal phalanges amputation of unknown origin. Huh, you say? It means he's missing the very tip of his left wing sort of like if we were missing all the fingers on our left hand. It also means he has limited flight and is unreleasable.

For animals that cannot be returned to the wild there are only two choices we have: find a permanent placement or euthanize.

He was otherwise healthy so we considered within the first day or two of his arrival, keeping him at Wild Instincts for a foster for the eaglets

we admit every year. It all depended on whether we could get the eagle flight enclosure finished, if the federal permitting officer would allow it and, of course, if the eagle was amenable to the idea. Some wild animals would rather die than live in captivity.

We're happy to report all criteria have been met and this over 5 year old is now Wild Instincts first resident. He is already fostering two 12-week old eaglets and showing them how to grow up to be eagles.

If you're reading this before July 15th, you can still have a say on what his name will be by heading over to our Facebook page and casting your vote for your favorite name listed in the Eagle Naming.

He was originally found at the fish hatchery on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. We asked the kids from the Abinoojiiyag Center (youth center) there to come up with a few possible names so our Facebook Fans could vote.

Hurry, though, voting closes at 5:00.p.m. central time on Sunday, July 15th.

WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

- Chain link fencing
- 1 1/2" steel pipe *
- Fence poles*
- Good Used Pick-up Truck*
- Walk-in Freezer*
- Steam Cleaner
- Whole fish
- Frozen venison*
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Paper towels*
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Newspapers
- Sheets/blankets/towels
- Unsalted Walnuts
- Unsalted Pecans
- Cash Donations
- Gas Cards

*there is a pressing need for these items!

Another Way to Donate

Wild Instincts is able to receive donations of high-yield stocks for liquidation for funding projects and operations.

This is how the 2012 Internship Program was funded.

If you would like the tax benefit of donating stock instead of donating cash, please contact us at 715-362-9453 (WILD) or sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com

WE NEED FRUIT

We have 13 raccoons and 10 bears that are eating fruit like... animals.☺

Even if we limit them to just one banana each per day that's 23 bananas each day or roughly 10 pounds of bananas!

Add to that the apples, grapes, melons, peaches, berries, etc. they get fed and you can see why the produce departments love that we feed our patients nutritious foods. Don't forget the 8 fawns that are eating apples, potatoes and carrots, too.

These are all animals that will be with us until September and October. As they grow and mature, so will their need (and our pleas) for more fruit and veggies.

If you'd like to help, you can make a cash donation (even on-line via our website) or when you're at the store buying produce for your family, you can add a little extra to your cart and drop it by.

Here's a list of what's acceptable for the animals:

- Apples
- Bananas
- Berries of any sort (strawberries, blueberries, etc.)
- Carrots
- Grapes
- Melons of any sort
- Peaches
- Plums

- Potatoes
- Oranges
- Any other assorted fruit such as kiwi or star fruit, etc.

To make it simple, if you don't see it on the list, don't bring it.

Species Admitted	
1/1/12-6/30/12	
American Goldfinch	3
American Robin	17
American Woodcock	2
Bald Eagle	9
Baltimore Oriole	1
Barred Owl	1
Black Bear	15
Black-capped Chickadee	8
Bobcat	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	6
Cedar Waxwing	1
Chipping Sparrow	2
Common Grackle	5
Common Loon	3
Common Merganser	2
Common Raven	1
Common Redpoll	2
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Bluebird	1
Eastern Chipmunk	1
Eastern Cottontail	34
Eastern Garter Snake	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	23
Eastern Painted Turtle	2
European Starling	2
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	1
Gray Fox	2
Great Blue Heron	2
Great Horned Owl	2
Green-backed Heron	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Hooded Merganser	3
Killdeer	1
Mallard Duck	8
Mourning Dove	5
Northern Flicker	4
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1

Ovenbird	1
Pine Siskin	2
Porcupine	2
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	27
Red Squirrel	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3
Rock Dove	3
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1
Ruffed Grouse	2
Sandhill Crane	2
Snapping Turtle	2
Song Sparrow	1
Western Painted Turtle	3
White-tailed Deer	20
Wood Turtle	1
Woodchuck	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Total admitted	258

Thank You for Helping Us Help Them!

Wild Instincts success rate for the first half of 2012 is 72.87%, well above the national average of 50-55%.



"Please, Sir, can you spare a banana?"

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

Sept 2012

Vol 2:4

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Baby Season 2012

Wildlife rehabilitators refer to Baby Season as that busy time of year when orphan wildlife is found and in need of help. Here at Wild Instincts, that generally runs from April through August. What an unusual and busy baby season we've had here this year!

It started January 11th(!) with orphan bear cubs we were able to place with a foster mom on March 9th, have a 17 day break from babies until the next orphan bear admittance on March 26th and it's continuing with the Aug 8th admittance of a few-day old bobcat kitten.



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

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

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

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



She is growing like a weed. To see her videos of her progress or any of our other patients, check out our YouTube channel:

[Wild Instincts Rehab](#)

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

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

we have early orphaned bear cubs-they get fed every few hours around the clock.

If we have an emergency or a rescue, the day could go even later or start even earlier. That's 7 days of the week, including the holidays.

The days are long, but the rewards can be priceless-like releasing 4 gray fox kits you helped provide care to for over 10 weeks-74 days to be exact.



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

SHOUTING THANKS

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

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

In Rhineland:

~ CCL Gardens

www.cclgardens.com

~Dinky Diner

~ Flyin Finn Resort

www.flyinfinnpubandresort.com

~Team Wireless Rhineland

~The Bait Shoppe

www.thebaitshoppe.net

~Wisconsin River Outfitters

www.wisconsinriveroutfitters.com

In Minocqua:

~Trig's of Minocqua

<http://minocqua.trigs.com>

Wisconsin River Outfitters Fundraiser

August 25th was a fun day to be on the Wisconsin River. That's the day Wisconsin River

Outfitters (see above) organized a fundraising canoe/kayak ride down the Wisconsin River. Participants saw eagles, osprey, mink, songbirds, shorebirds all while helping fund the care of such wildlife.

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

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

Don't Forget the Fun!

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

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

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

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

More Enclosure Construction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aysegul

Aysegul Karaahmetoglu is not a new species to be added to our species admitted list. She's a wildlife veterinarian from Kars, Turkey who we were fortunate enough to have stay and volunteer here at Wild Instincts for three weeks this summer.

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

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



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

We've already had an e-mail exchange with her about a Roe Deer in Turkey less than a week

after her return home. We're looking forward to a long, multi-cultural wildlife rehab relationship.

Intern Program & Scholarships

A generous donor stepped forward and funded this year's Internship Program. We were fortunate to be able to fund two spring interns, three summer interns and a fall intern. These young people spend long, hard hours working their tails off for very little monetary returns but priceless experience...like discovering the incredible difficulties of cleaning eagle poop off anything. Well, maybe holding their first eagle, feeding fawns or touching a bear are priceless experiences, too.

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

Patient care depends on them.

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

They are not the same people when they leave as they are when they come. It is always

rewarding to see them grow during their time with us. While we see the changes readily, often they do not see their own growth.

With our patient load practically doubling this year, we certainly could use more interns to help provide even better quality animal care. (More power, Scotty)

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

At this time funding for 2013 interns is uncertain.

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

In Their Own Words

Interns recap their summer



Kristina

Jacie

Becky

Kristina from Minnesota:

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

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

When I first arrived in late May, I had only basic experience with caring for wild animals. The previous summer I helped Mark and Sharon feed baby squirrels, bunnies, birds and fawns.

Though this was only within a two-week period, it enticed me to come back for more. I found myself starting my internship submerged with caring for mammals, birds and reptiles alike.

Keeping on top of charts and figuring out formulas and dosages was challenging at first, but it became a daily routine improved on each day. I will now never forget how to calculate dosages (weight (kg) x dose/ concentration).

Being that Wild Instincts is the only rehabilitation center in Northern Wisconsin licensed to care for all wild animals, I learned about all sort of critters. I learned to hold eagles and not be a nervous wreck, how to huff like a male bear to scare the cubs off when feeding them, how to patch a broken turtle shell and countless other.

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

While not every animal can eat dandelions, I spent many hours in the kitchen preparing other delicious meals. If you didn't know how to use a knife before, you'll sure learn quickly here. I even perfected my own dicing skills preparing gallons of fruits and veggies even after working in food services for many years. You'll also find that a finger makes an excellent stirring utensil when mixing endless batches of squirrel formula. The animals don't seem to mind as long as they are fed. Bear food is a completely different story. It is quite like preparing an all you can eat buffet. The combination of wet and dry dog food, fish, ground meat, fruit, veggies and crayfish sounds un-appetizing, but our bears seem not to mind.

When not preparing meals, I sharpened up my hammering skills. Being a part of cage building is another reward. Wildlife rehabilitation is not all about feeding proper formulas and cleaning cages, but creating those enclosures that these animals call their homes during their recoveries.

I was fortunate enough to help build a raccoon, eagle and pond enclosure as part of my internship project. By the end of it, we all simply gritted our teeth when stapling predator proofing and laughed when hitting a finger with the hammer. I don't think I will forget the sound of Becky tapping a nail in compared to Marks three pounds.

Working these long days would not have been possible if I didn't learn more about time management, responsibility, independence and leadership. There were times when phones would be ringing and someone had to take

initiative to answer it. Phone calls were nerve-racking at first when we didn't always know how to deal with a situation or what questions to ask. Nevertheless, learning on the spot is what most jobs are about and now a days, learning to communicate with the public is a must. All these skills were enhanced on days when Mark had to be off-site. We were then responsible for holding the cell phone and examining patients on our own. The hardest thing to get use to was time management. I always wear a watch, but I have never used it as much as I did this summer. I now constantly am looking at the time making sure that birds are fed every hour and that we are ready for the next round of feedings. I am sure I will continue this habit as I go back to school. However, now the summer is over. As I pack my bags, I realize how much I will miss Wild Instincts. I have met so many great people – those who I work with on a daily basis and those who volunteer each week or help us rescue an animal. I can't forget the animals either. They have been great as well especially the little bobcat. I think I'll have my souvenir scratches for a while. Feeding the squirrels will always be my favorite and bottle-feeding the fawns are a second best. I will miss looking like a tree while hauling in deer branches or our races to pick up the most acorns. Releasing animals back to the wild has been a great treat for all the hard work. It leaves you with great satisfaction and hope for those to come. I can't wait for a free weekend during school to come back as a volunteer. Big thanks to Mark and Sharon for providing me with this opportunity. "

Jacie from Iowa:

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

which is something that I wouldn't have gotten experience with at another internship.

All the patients were very interesting and fun to work with, but I especially enjoyed learning about the loons, bears, and porcupines. I had never seen any of these species in the wild before and it was amazing to me how many minnows the loons could eat and how many pounds of food the bears were fed each day. One thing I will miss about my internship is feeding the bears in the morning and watching them play from a distance. Feeding squirrels and fawns would also brighten my day; each one has its own unique personality.

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

Becky from Wisconsin:

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

It's great getting to meet so many other people that have the same passion for wildlife as I do. Working with the volunteers is always fun and they are such a big help. They may not realize how much they are helping while doing the dishes or making bear, raccoon, or fawn food, but they are a tremendous help and cannot be thanked enough. I have enjoyed getting to know the other interns and working with them. We had a lot of fun together after

work or on our days off including fishing, taking out the row boat, Hodag hunting, having a movie night, and going to Culver's for the Flavor of the Day!

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

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

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

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

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



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4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501



Eagle Naming Results

Last newsletter we told you about our new permanent resident, a male bald eagle we are using as a foster parent to show eaglets we admit every year how to grow up to be eagles. He was originally found at the fish hatchery on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. We asked the kids from the Abinoojiiyag Center (youth center) there to come up with a few possible names so our Facebook Fans could vote for what they liked best.

The winner was Zhishay, an Ojibwe word meaning uncle. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Renewals & E-Mails

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

Another Way to Donate

715-490-2727(cell)

Wild Instincts is able to receive donations of high-yield stocks for liquidation for funding projects and operations.

This is how the 2012 Internship Program was funded.

If you would like the tax benefit of donating stock instead of donating cash, please contact us at 715-362-9453 (WILD) or sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com

WISH LIST

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

- Chain link fencing
- 1 1/2" steel pipe *
- Fence poles*
- Good Used Pick-up Truck*
- Steam Cleaner
- Whole fish
- Frozen venison*
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Paper towels*
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Newspapers
- Sheets/blankets/towels
- Unsalted Walnuts
- Unsalted Pecans
- Cash Donations
- Gas Cards
- Treated 2x4 and 2x6

*there is a pressing need for these items!

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

Species Admitted 1/1-8/31/12

- American Crow 1
- American Goldfinch 9

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

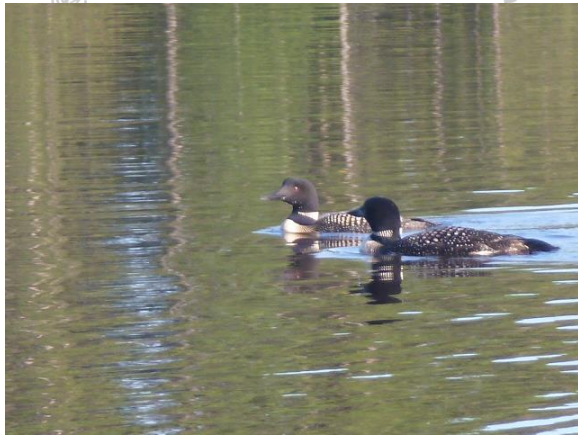
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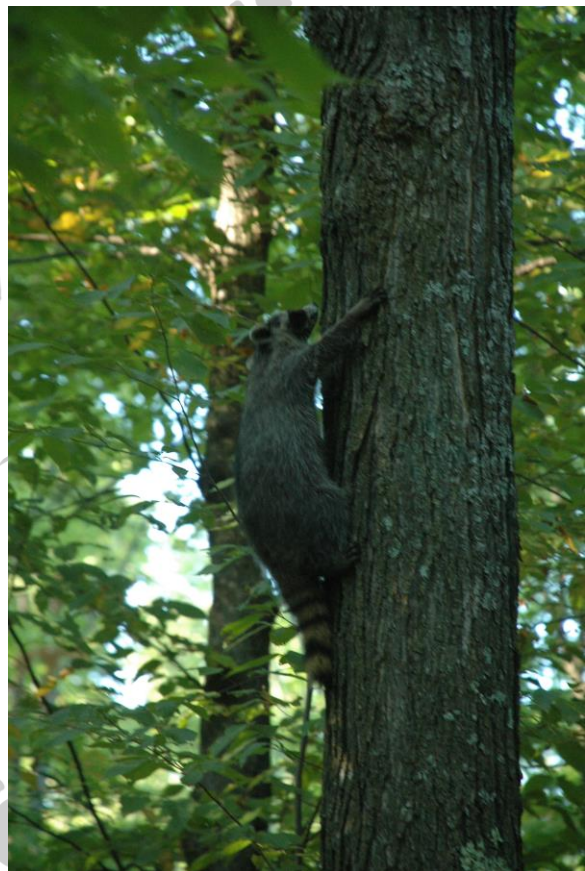
Porcupine	3
Purple Finch	3
Raccoon	31
Red Fox	1
Red Squirrel	4
Red-eyed Vireo	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-tailed Hawk	7
Ring-billed Gull	1
Rock Dove	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Ruffed Grouse	3
Sandhill Crane	4
Snapping Turtle	2
Song Sparrow	4
Western Painted Turtle	3
White-tailed Deer	27
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wood Turtle	2
Woodchuck	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Total	469



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



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



Thank You for Helping Us Help Them!

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



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



Welcome to INSTINCTS

Nov 2012

Vol 2:5

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2012 Winding Down

Edwin Way Teale said "For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad".

This seems to be true here at Wild Instincts. Fall in rehab terms is a time of maturity, and lessening case loads. The spring babies have grown up and been released. Animals are dispersing and migrating.

Now that the deer, eagles and bears have been released, (see Fall Releases) we're busy gathering together the hoses, winterizing the Intern Quarters, stocking the freezer, getting in a last nail here or there on enclosures as weather permits and other prepare-for-winter chores.

The patient load changes this time of year. It's not the demanding orphans, but the urgent, critically injured migrants that nature "scatters abroad". In a few short weeks, it will be rescuing the ones left behind with chronic injuries preventing their journey.

What never changes with the seasons is the need for a place for our wild friends in trouble to turn.

As we head into the time of year for reflection and gratitude, we want to remind you all again, none of this would be possible without YOU!

Walk in the Wild Fundraiser

The Walkie-Talkie Girls of the Presque Isle area held a Walk in the Wild fundraiser for Wild Instincts on Oct 20th.



Walkers, both 2-legged and 4-legged enjoyed the trails!

Almost 40 participants enjoyed the [North Lakeland Discovery Center's](#) wonderful walking trails and gorgeous campus

A bake sale capped off the day.



Thanks to the efforts of Jo and her girls, almost \$3000 was made to help us help them.

Way to go, Ladies!



Some of the participants in the very successful Walk in the Wild Fundraiser for Wild Instincts (above & below).



In Their Own Words

Megan, Fall Intern
Fishers, Indiana

I'm glad I made the decision to come back for the fall internship here at Wild Instincts, even though the frigid cold of winter would be fast approaching. I had a lot of fun during my spring internship and I knew I would be learning even more than before. This time around I learned what it takes to release the big animals. I'd had some experience before with things like songbirds and small mammals, but when it came to deer, bears and eagles, it was another thing entirely. Especially with the large mammals, there was so much preparation involved: getting the crates ready for transport, preparing the sedatives and having a game plan for the big day so everyone knew what

to do. I'm so glad I got to be a part of these things this time around. It was definitely a whole new experience that I would've missed had I not come back.

This new season has been a new learning experience that has challenged me in different ways. When I came in the spring we had very few animals to rehab, so I was able to get used to the patient load slowly increasing. This time, much like the summer interns, I came back to Wild Instincts and started over with over 70 patients all at once. It took some time to get used to the fact that unlike spring season, I had no idea what animals were in care but I had to learn fast. It was a bit of an awkward "where am I" phase but it soon passed as I got used to each patient.

I'd have to say one of my biggest surprises was seeing how big the bears, fawns and raccoons had grown! Almost more surprising was how much the population of fawns had exploded while I was away. It made me excited to see how they were on their way to being adults after having been able to bottle feed some of them. Almost as rewarding as releasing these animals is seeing them grow up..

These experiences have made me appreciate how much effort everyone has put into these animals' lives and how much one has to care in order to make it all possible.

During this fall session, my favorite thing I have been doing has probably been taking care of the bobcats. I know they would just as easily rip me to shreds but I am a cat person through and through. Just watching the little bobcat scamper and play in her enclosure makes me smile. The older bobcat's wild manner always impresses me with her instinctual behaviors.

My least favorite thing to do, besides the obvious euthanasia, would have to be cleaning up poop. It's a harsh reality in the business of animal care but it must be done. Some especially difficult cases of this have come up with raptors and raccoons. It

dries very quickly and takes forever to remove. The worst part about it is that there will always be more to clean.

As this fall session comes to an end, I think the most memorable patient here has been the baby bobcat, for me at least. I have been able to see her grow from a kitten trying to keep her balance as she learns to walk to a strong, healthy "toddler" that's bouncing off the walls with energy. I get to see her grow and learn new tricks as she begins to become the stealthy predator she will grow into one day.

When I leave at the end of this internship, I will miss a lot of things. I'll miss the patients that will still be here waiting to be released and the work I do every day for them; the people that come to volunteer here as well as Mark and Sharon. They are all a part of what has made this experience so much fun. The whole experience has been something I would love to continue, though I do have to say one thing I am glad to miss will be the Wisconsin winter that I have heard so many horror stories about. I'll take my usual Indiana winters any day!



Megan is about to release a female bald eagle who has recovered from being hit by a car.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

~In Honor of Gina Cornell running and completing her first Chicago Marathon

~In Honor of Wayne & Nancy Potters' 50th Wedding Anniversary

~In Memory of Lawrie Miller's dog, Roscoe

Fall Releases

Fall is an exciting time of us here at Wild Instincts. It's the time for the slower maturing spring babies to be released. We're often asked if we're sad when we say good-bye to our wild friends that we've seen grow under our care. The answer is no! This is a joyous time we've worked very hard to see.

The first of these babies to go were the eaglets. At about 6 months and full sized, it's hard to call them "babies".



One of the 6 month old eagles getting readied for transport.

Because of the hard work we mentioned above, we also want to give our releases a good chance at success. For the eagles, that means ROADTRIP!

Interns and interested volunteers formed a caravan with the eagles safely tucked in transport boxes in the lead vehicle.

Destination: Prairie du Sac, WI.

Yes, some eagles stay in the Northwoods all winter long, but the majority of those are not first year birds.

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

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4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501

715-490-2727(cell)

While our foster eagle, Zhishay, helped them start to be eagles, having role models to watch hunt in the wild will help them be more successful.

The Prairie du Sac area is well known for its large wintering eagle population on the WI River. It even hosts eagle watching days. This is a place where the river stays open to allow big populations of eagles to congregate giving our pair food and fellowship along with their new freedom.



From this in the morning...



...to this in the afternoon



Soar high, Ladies and stay safe!

© Grace Mitchell

The next weekend interns and volunteers met at Wild Instincts for the fawn release. This is much more involved. It requires tranquilizing deer for transport.

Everything is done to minimize stress on our wild friends from the time they first come into our care to the time they leave. When they start being fed from a bottle, we lay the groundwork for an easy release day. That's how much is planned in advance. When Release Day comes, deer are tranquilized, processed, placed in vehicles and driven to their new wild homes. At the release site, they are unloaded and given a reversal drug to wake them up. We stay with them and monitor them until the effects of the drugs are gone and they are able to function on their own. Then we leave them to their wild ways.



Newly released fawn under the last effects of the drug. In a few minutes he'll be exploring his new backyard, the recent move a weird dream.

The next weekend was the bear release.

We wait until after bear season is finished before they are released.

Interns, volunteers and this year the couple that found the first cub, gathered at Wild Instincts again.

Mark and a small crew go in the bear enclosure to tranquilize them with minimal stress. They are carried out to the processing area and awaiting transport carriers. This requires a lot more muscle than carrying the fawns as some of the cubs are well over 100 pounds!

The carriers are loaded onto a trailer and everyone caravans out to the bears' new home.



Bear cub being unloaded at the release site.

Depending on the timing, many of them are ready to start exploring their new turf as soon as we arrive, like the one pictured above. Some take a little longer and may even need a reversal.

For a video compilation of the cubs' long, long journey from admission to release click [HERE](#)

Renewals & E-Mails

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

WISH LIST

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

- Chain link fencing
- 1 1/2" steel pipe *
- Fence poles*
- Good Used Pick-up Truck*
- Whole fish
- Frozen venison*
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Paper towels*
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Newspapers
- Sheets/blankets/towels
- Unsalted Walnuts
- Unsalted Pecans
- Cash Donations
- Gas Cards
- Treated 2x4 and 2x6
- Stepladders (6', 8', 10', 12', 16')
- Garden Tractor with snow blower*

*there is a pressing need for these items!



"Little Bob" is growing up!

Holiday Ideas

November has arrived. The holidays are fast approaching. Are you looking for holiday gift ideas with extra meaning?

Give a Wild Instincts Membership or donate in honor or in memory of an event or an accomplishment. Your donations are completely tax-deductible!

Think about gifts from Wild Instincts Gift Shop. Our apparel makes wonderful, cozy practical gifts. It helps raise awareness of us as well.

A new holiday fundraiser this year is a 2013 Calendar featuring patient photos and phenology facts from Wild Instincts.



The 13-month calendars are \$22.00 each (tax included).

Starting 11/11/12, they can be purchased through our on-line [Gift Shop](#).

There is an additional mailing charge for on-line orders.

Calendars will also be available to purchase at Wild Instincts with no shipping charge.

Numbers are limited so get yours as soon as possible.

Remember members get a 20% discount in our gift shop.

Contact giftshop@wildinstinctsrehab.com for your coupon code if ordering on-line.

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

715-362-9453 (362-WILD)
4621 Apperson Dr., Rhineland, WI 54501



Gray Foxes like the one pictured above, breed from mid-February into March, about 2-4 weeks later than red foxes.

February

2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				1	2 Groundhog Day 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Ash Wednesday	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day, Washington's Birthday	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	Great Horned Owls, one of WIL's earliest restorers, lay eggs the end of February into the first part of March. 	



We are on call for wildlife emergencies 24/7/365.
715-362-WILD (9453)
www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

A real baby groundhog depicts Groundhog Day.

Another Way to Donate

Wild Instincts is able to receive donations of high-yield stocks for liquidation for funding projects and operations.

This is how the 2012 Internship Program was funded.

If you would like the tax benefit of donating stock instead of donating cash, please contact us at 715-362-9453 (WILD) or sharon@wildinstinctsrehab.com

715-490-2727(cell)

Species Admitted			
American Crow	2	Little Brown Bat	4
American Goldfinch	13	Mallard Duck	11
American Robin	36	Merlin	1
American Toad	1	Mink	1
American Woodcock	3	Mourning Dove	11
Bald Eagle	15	Northern Flicker	10
Baltimore Oriole	2	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
Barred Owl	4	Northern Water Snake	1
Beaver	1	Ovenbird	3
Belted Kingfisher	3	Pileated Woodpecker	3
Big Brown Bat	1	Pine Siskin	2
Black Bear	16	Porcupine	6
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Purple Finch	4
Black-capped Chickadee	8	Raccoon	32
Blue Jay	7	Red Fox	1
Blue-winged Teal	1	Red Squirrel	4
Bobcat	4	Red-eyed Vireo	4
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Brown Thrasher	1	Red-tailed Hawk	8
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Ring-billed Gull	2
Canada Goose	11	Rock Dove	7
Cedar Waxwing	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Chipping Sparrow	4	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Cliff Swallow	1	Ruffed Grouse	4
Common Grackle	6	Sandhill Crane	4
Common Loon	8	Snapping Turtle	2
Common Merganser	2	Song Sparrow	5
Common Nighthawk	1	Swainson's Thrush	1
Common Raven	3	Trumpeter Swan	2
Common Redpoll	2	Veery	1
Deer Mouse	9	Virginia Opossum	3
Downy Woodpecker	1	Western Painted Turtle	3
Eastern Bluebird	1	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Eastern Chipmunk	1	White-tailed Deer	29
Eastern Cottontail	64	White-throated Sparrow	3
Eastern Fox Snake	1	Wild Turkey	1
Eastern Garter Snake	1	Wood Turtle	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	49	Woodchuck	5
Eastern Painted Turtle	2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6
Eastern Phoebe	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
European Starling	3	Total 1/1/12-11/4/12	539
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	1		
Gray Fox	4		
Great Blue Heron	3		
Great Horned Owl	4		
Green-backed Heron	1		
Hairy Woodpecker	6		
Hooded Merganser	3		
Horned Grebe	1		
House Sparrow	7		
House Wren	2		
Killdeer	1		

Our release rate so far for 2012 is 75.08%.

**Thank You for
Helping Us Help
Them!**