

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS



Feb 2020

Vol 9:1

*"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."*

## THANKSGIVING STORM 2019

Rehabbers have to be able to adapt and go with the flow. Things happen we somewhat prepare for, but in the end flexibility and ingenuity rule.

Such it was shortly after the last newsletter arrived in your mailbox.

Thanksgiving travelers were inconvenienced by a huge snow storm. We were inconvenienced by the same storm.

On November 26, Wild Instincts lost power. Something that happens occasionally in the summer, but not for too long of a period of time.

This was the first ever power outage during the winter.

The pros to a winter outage were we didn't have lots of critical care babies in ICUs or gallons of formulas to warm.

The cons were the length of the outage.

Four days we were without power. Keeping 1000s of pounds of special feeds in the freezers and fridges cool enough as well as the heat warm enough to not freeze pipes were the top issues. We hauled water like we did in our infancy when we started with just a garage, no running water and a porta potty in the parking lot.

We ran a gas generator and rotated out extension cords to different appliances, had battery powered lights in all the rooms. Patient care didn't miss a beat.

Of course, snow removal had to happen too. The eagle enclosure needed to have snow knocked off the roof to prevent collapse.

Sharon did that while Mark dealt with generator issues and gas runs.



Abominable SnowSharon after removing snow from the eagle flight enclosure roof.

For the duration of the outage, Mark made use of the camping cot we have for situations when critical patients or situations like this require overnight stays.

This allowed him to monitor the generator 24 hours around the clock and freezers/refrigerators could be rotated on and off power. The only time he left was for the many runs to the gas station.

We had no landline or computers during that time which made reminding about #GivingTuesday more challenging.

Throughout it all, our supporters were awesome. Donations for gas, offers of generators, cookies, much needed moral support, etc.

We have discussed a stand-by (vs our portables) generator for a number of years.

This was the first winter power outage and the first that lasted more than 18 hours or so. We can feed a lot of animals and make

lots of enclosures for the price of a stand-by generator. Those discussions will likely go on for a bit longer before a decision is made.



Mark's sleeping accommodations in the office for the power outage's duration.



Generator outside the door, battery powered work light and extension cords were a way of life for four days.

## GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2019 was Giving Tuesday. Wild Instincts joined in the fundraising campaign on Facebook.

Facebook was matching donations up to several million dollars.

While we didn't get any of the matching grants, we did raise an impressive \$7365.00.

Thanks to all of you who donated any amount. We couldn't do any of this without you!



Two Spotted Salamanders at their buffet table set with tiny worms for their consumption.

## #PACKERSGIVEBACK



Mark & former Green Bay Packer Fullback #26 Eric Torkelson during our site visit.

All the sacrifice from two snowstorms just days before was put into perspective Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at the Green Bay Packers Foundation Grant Recipient Luncheon.

Mark and Sharon joined almost 400 amazing, dedicated people at Lambeau Field to be recognized by an incredibly generous Green Bay Packers Foundation. The room was filled with passion, excitement and giving. It was very uplifting and emotionally moving. Each grant recipient represented a very worthy cause from very diverse fields.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation awarded 192 grants across 45 counties for a total of \$1,000,000!

Wild Instincts was awarded \$6000.00 to renovate our otter enclosure. It was one of the first enclosures built with whatever we could manage to get it up quickly until we could renovate. With the BBC program featuring our otter rehab, more notoriety has brought more otter so the time is now for upgrading. We are thrilled to be able to accomplish this funded in part by a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation.

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Mingling before the luncheon began, we were able to chat with Eric Torkelson, the Packer who did our site visit. He told us the board trustees were in a video that would be shown at lunch. He said he mentioned us. He wasn't sure if it made the final video, but just the fact we made an unforgettable impression was humbling. As it turned out Wild Instincts was in the video which was even more amazing.



Mark & Sharon receive the grant check.



Packer CEO Mark Murphy beginning the program.

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## YEAR END TOTALS

Wow, 2019 was certainly a year for the books.

We admitted a record shattering 1200 patients of 126 different species from 38 counties with a 70.27% success rate! This is a 29.45% increase in admissions over 2018.

There were also some very odd observations as well. We admitted eyes-closed raccoons in August, just 3 days after releasing the raccoons we raised for the season. Unlike squirrels, raccoons don't generally have two litters of young per year. Clearly something was amiss with that. The litter was transferred to another rehabber that was set up for overwintering raccoons because we are not.

Then we admitted several salamanders in November and a Spring Peeper that was out in a snowstorm on December 30<sup>th</sup>!

If that's how the decade ending, we are wondering what the new decade with bring.



Spring Peeper found during a snowstorm on December 30.

## EARLY INTERNS

Because of the record number of patients last year and the record snow, we've been unable to get projects and things done. This led to the decision to start our Spring Interns a month early and to add an extra one.

Three Spring Interns have begun. Not only are they enrolled in the Spring session, all three are planning on Summer and Fall sessions as well. Having three interns staying for nine months will be super helpful to us by not having to train new people every few months, but also to them as they

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will get to experience a full rehab season start to finish.

Welcome to Alex from North Carolina and Lessette from Texas and Dakota from Montana. Neither Alex nor Lessette have experienced snow or cold so fingers crossed the rest of the spring is gentle with them...and the rest of us!



L to R: Interns Alex, Dakota and Lessette

## SNOW MUCH SNOW!

At this time in winter of 2018-2019 we had 35.6" of snow. Another huge snowstorm in February brought us to over 100".

Currently for the 2019-2020 winter we stand at 66.5" and most of February is ahead of us.

Here's hoping to no large snowfalls this month.

We already have a lot of snow which is causing issues.

Some of our special enclosures need wide spans to enable birds to test their flight. Even with our enclosures being specially

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designed to handle snow loads, this year's extra snow is pushing everything to it's limits...our roofs and our muscles from shoveling!

Special thanks to volunteers Dawn, Randee, Chad and Tim who volunteered extra time to shovel roofs. Multiple times!

Despite all our best efforts some enclosures sustained minor damage, a few succumbed and will need major repair. Another reason to hope for an early spring!



Top photo: Pile of snow from 2 enclosures. Bottom photo: For perspective: same pile with Volunteer Dawn (aka Queen of the Mountain) who removed it.



## IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

- ~In Memory of John McCormick
- ~In Memory of Pat Krause
- ~In Memory of Verona Hansen
- ~In Memory of Ron Brekke
- ~In Honor of Mary & George Merkel
- ~In Honor of Mary Lou Baribeau
- ~In Honor of Jean & Richard Anaya
- ~In Honor of Ed Cody & Lynn Hammerle
- ~In Memory of Toby Smith
- ~In Honor of Cathy Marcquenski
- ~In Memory of Connie Johnson
- ~In Honor of Erinn Brogren
- ~In Honor of Kathy Burdsall's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ~In Honor of Nancy Bendler
- ~In Honor of Breanna & Brett Butler
- ~In Memory of "Dylan" Smith, our sweet pug
- ~In Memory of Herman & Eleanor Jessen who loved the Northwoods

## UNTHINKABLE

On January 16<sup>th</sup> we admitted the first babies of 2020. Two 5-day old bear cubs. Their mom denned in a cornfield and was scared off when the farmer harvested the corn.

Although the brother & sister arrived suffering from hypothermia, with the right care, they rebounded quickly.

Being fed every three hours around the clock, they grew quickly.

On Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, we were taking the last steps to move them from the ICU to the next stage. We had been gradually reducing the temperature preparing them to do more self-thermoregulating on their way to becoming big bears.

They were fed at noon and placed back in the ICU. Thriving, content with full tummies and each other.

And then they were dead.

The ICU malfunctioned, alarms failed, and our world was rocked to the core.

In 30 years of rehabbing, these were bears 374 and 375 under our permits. We have never lost eyes-closed cubs. For it to be because of an equipment failure is beyond comprehension.

We are all playing that "what if", "if only" game, but reality is that stuff happens.

Things fail no matter how many safeguards are in place. No one is to blame or at fault.

ICU companies rehabbers deal with are generally just animal lovers who saw a need and stepped up to fill it.

The ICU company is working with us, even taking the unit back for repair under warranty even though it's been out of warranty for two years.

While we take each loss personally, this one was a gut-punch that will take a long time to heal.

The love and support from all of you has been and continues to be appreciated more than you know.

### **FIRST ANNUAL WILDLIFE BOWL**

On January 26<sup>th</sup> the First Annual Wildlife Bowl Bowling Tournament to benefit Wild Instincts was held.

The 9 pin, no tap, no handicap tournament was a huge success. We had 89 bowlers, some semi-pro and some semi-bowler.

While skill levels varied a lot, fun level was a high score for everyone.

Between entry fees, raffles and donations, we raised almost \$4600.00!

It was a family fun way to help us help them.

The date for the Second Annual Wildlife Bowl has already been set (see Upcoming Events).



Participants getting ready for the First Annual Wildlife Bowl.

#### Species Admitted 1/1-12/31/19

American Bittern	1
American Bullfrog	2
American Crow	5
American Goldfinch	5
American Kestrel	1
American Robin	59
American Woodcock	3
Bald Eagle	45
Baltimore Oriole	5
Barn Swallow	2
Barred Owl	5
Belted Kingfisher	2
Big Brown Bat	34
Black Bear	21
Black-and-White Warbler	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3
Blue Jay	11
Bobcat	12
Broad-winged Hawk	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	3
Canada Goose	10
Cape May Warbler	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Chipping Sparrow	17
Cliff Swallow	107
Common Gartersnake	3

Common Grackle	5	Muskrat	3
Common Loon	8	Northern Cardinal	2
Common Merganser	1	Northern Flicker	9
Common Nighthawk	1	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
Common Raven	4	Northern Water Thrush	1
Connecticut Warbler	1	Ovenbird	3
Coyote	1	Pileated Woodpecker	5
Dark-eyed Junco	1	Porcupine	4
Deer Mouse	51	Purple Finch	2
Downy Woodpecker	2	Raccoon	34
Eastern Chipmunk	13	Red Crossbill	1
Eastern Cottontail	247	Red Fox	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	65	Red Squirrel	31
Eastern Gray Tree Frog	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Eastern Kingbird	1	Red-eyed Vireo	7
Eastern Phoebe	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Eastern Timber Wolf	1	Red-tailed Hawk	4
Eastern Wood Pee Wee	1	Ring-billed Gull	5
European Starling	6	Ring-necked Pheasant	1
Flying Squirrel (southern)	14	River Otter	6
Fox Snake (Eastern)	1	Rock Dove	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9
Gray Fox	1	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Great Blue Heron	2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15
Great Horned Owl	8	Ruffed Grouse	5
Green Frog	2	Sandhill Crane	1
Hairy Woodpecker	4	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Hermit Thrush	2	Short-tailed Shrew	3
Hooded Merganser	1	Short-tailed Weasel	2
House Sparrow	2	Silver-haired Bat	1
House Wren	10	Snapping Turtle	17
Killdeer	4	Snowshoe Hare	2
Least Chipmunk	4	Sora Rail	1
Least Flycatcher	4	Spotted Salamander	2
Little Brown Bat	2	Spring Peeper	1
Long-tailed Weasel	1	Striped Skunk	1
Mallard Duck	14	Tennessee Warbler	1
Meadow Vole	4	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	7
Merlin	4	Trumpeter Swan	4
Midland Painted Turtle	1	Tundra Swan	1
Mink	4	Turkey Vulture	2
Mourning Dove	21		
Mourning Warbler	1		

Veery	1
Virginia Opossum	2
Western Painted Turtle	22
Whippoorwill	1
White Pelican	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	3
White-tailed Deer	32
White-throated Sparrow	2
Wild Turkey	3
Wilson's Snipe	1
Wood Duck	19
Woodchuck	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Total	1200

### UPCOMING EVENTS

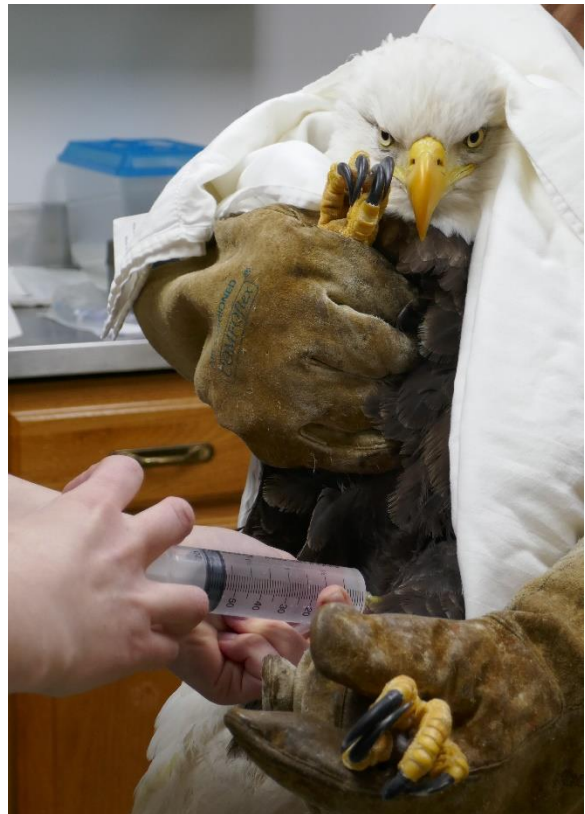
Culver's Share Night  
 April 30 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.  
 Culver's, 620 W Kemp St., Rhinelander

Brat Sale  
 Friday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Trig's Brat Hut, 232 S Courtney St.,  
 Rhinelander

ScaVenture WORLD Edition 2020,  
 July 17-July 19

Brat Sale, Friday,  
 Sept 4, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Trig's Brat Hut, 232 S Courtney St.,  
 Rhinelander

Second Annual Wildlife Bowl  
 Sunday, January 31, 2021  
 Hodag Lanes  
 Rhinelander



Bald Eagle with lead poisoning getting fluid therapy as part of his treatment.



A Virginia Opossum being overwintered.



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MAY (but actually JUNE) 2020

Vol 9:2

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## REHAB & COVID

Just like in the rest of the world, things have changed here in the rehab world. We braced ourselves early on, before the official lockdown.

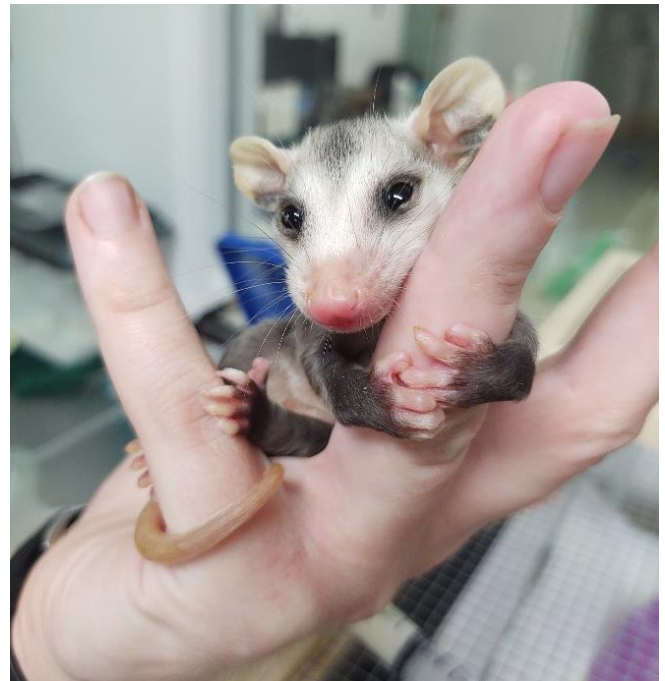
We knew no matter what was happening in the human world, the natural world would be right on schedule. We also knew we would be here for our wild neighbors needing help no matter what; even working out plans to Shelter in Place at Wild Instincts if necessary.

Rehabbers are well versed in bio-security and disease transmission so in some ways it's business as usual. In other ways, not so much. We have a small staff of three with two of the three married to each other. We've been able to work together without extra potential exposure. However, to reduce the risk of potential exposure (from and to) too many sources, we chose to close to all volunteers and drivers. We closed the building to the public.

Rehabbers all over the state and nation were making tough decisions about how to safely operate. Many, if not most, of them decided they couldn't do it and closed to animal admissions. This opened the floodgates to the few centers that stayed open. We had callers from other states even, just relieved to hear a live voice on the other

end of the phone to give advice about what they should or shouldn't do.

Patient admissions have *SKYROCKETED!* Currently, we've seen about a 54% increase in admissions over last year's record year. Amazingly, this increase of intakes basically slamming wildlife rehab centers is happening across the United States.



Just like this Virginia Opossum (and the rest of you, too, probably) we're just hanging on trying to get through 2020.

While we were dealing with all that, we also needed to come up with new

COVID-19 guidelines and policies, including tightening precautions on how summer interns could travel to us and activity restrictions for the rest of their stay here.

As a result of a much larger work load being done with less people, things like social media, correspondence, this newsletter and the like were put on the back burner. Along with sleep. Now that all the summer interns have arrived and started to get their feet under them, we are just getting back up to about five to five and a half hours of sleep at night (provided there are no emergency calls). Yawn.

It certainly has been weird not having people in the lobby. We miss sharing our displays and the window into the nursery. With the Quaran-tent, we have many people dropping off donations that we are never able to acknowledge. They just magically appear. We want to thank you **all** for that support. We really do have the best supporters! We miss chatting with you.

However, it was nice with the lobby closed to the public to be able to set up stock tanks there to handle the duckling, gosling and opossum overflow. We will be keeping things locked down probably for the rest of this rehab season. We will continue to meet you in masks. Besides it being a CDC recommendation, you'll read about other reasons for this elsewhere in this newsletter.

We appreciate your continued understanding and support as we move through this extra challenging rehab season.

With individual freedoms come community responsibilities.

Let's all keep working together to keep everyone, wildlife and humans alike, safe and healthy.

### **BATS, CATS, AND OTTER MATTERS**

It is still unknown exactly how this pandemic started, but it may have been from a bat. This alarmed many bat enthusiasts because bats. After spending years educating the public on how important bats are and changing their image this meant many innocent bats could become the target of cruelty.



Big Brown Bat hanging upside down, nursing twins born here at Wild Instincts while mom was being overwintered.

Even though North American bats have not been linked with this particular coronavirus, bat activities, including rehab, were immediately put on hold, nationwide. No one could admit any new bats into rehab and any bats currently in care could not be released.

This was very disappointing, especially on the heels of the devastation of White-Nose Syndrome. Already considered endangered across most of the country, bats need all the help they can get.

In addition, very soon after the pandemic was declared, tigers at the Bronx Zoo tested positive for SARS-CoV 2 the virus that causes COVID-19.

This spread an additional wave of concern throughout the nation to anyone housing exotic animals. Zoos, animal parks and rehabilitation centers. Animals can transmit pathogens, such as viruses, to humans. But can humans transmit the virus back to animals? Yes. Reverse zoonotic disease transmission also called reverse zoonosis or zoonothroposis, occurs when humans transmit pathogens to animals.

Mink farms in the Netherlands reported workers spreading coronavirus to the mink which then spread it to each other. The next question is then, can a person give the virus to an animal, who then could spread it to other animals? Can the animals then spread it back to a person?

Zoos and rehab facilities all over the US sprung into extra biosecurity mode. People working with any species of bat, any species of cat, any otter, any mink, any weasel or from any of those families are now wearing extra PPE to protect the animals.

This should help you understand why we are being so extra careful with our mask and other COVID-19 protocol. We're not only protecting the human element but also patients we have at Wild Instincts.

We are happy to report also, that after some research by the USGS it looks like

we may be able to release the bats already in care. At the time of this writing we are hopefully awaiting official direction. We also have our fingers crossed about the possibility of new admissions.



Bat Flight Tent awaiting 2020 occupants to ready for release.



## **IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF**

- ~In Memory of the Bear Cubs
- ~In Memory of Dick Peery
- ~In Memory of Brian Olsen
- ~In Memory of Graham Frazer
- ~In Memory of "Ranger", one tough Leonberger
- ~In Memory of "Diego"
- ~In Memory of Jim Ashbrenner, a Good Man
- ~In Honor of Adolf & Cindy Mutter, appreciated Woodsplitters
- ~In Memory of Donald Cagle
- ~In Honor of Nancy Nebgen
- ~In Memory of Kathy Jozwiak
- ~In Memory of Bill Thiry, dear husband and father
- ~In Memory of "Cherry Pie", forever loved, forever missed
- ~In Honor of Wild Instincts staff who work tirelessly, our hearts are with you

~In Memory of Joan Krohn's loving mom  
 ~In Memory of "Hans" Skubal  
 ~In Loving Memory of Lois King-Church  
 ~In Memory of Pauline Zwickey  
 ~In Honor of Hope Carmines 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
 ~In Honor of Elsie Thornton's Birthday  
 ~In Honor of Dads everywhere  
 ~In Memory of Elaine Kuehnl  
 ~In Memory of Ed Hammer, a huge life-force whose memory will always make us smile



Some of the 16 bear cubs we have in care right now.

### **ScaVenture WORLD EDITION 2020**

As you can imagine, fundraising in a Pandemic is beyond challenging. Lucky for us, we had a very successful fundraiser in January before all the lockdowns started.

We have since had to cancel two fundraisers that were already on the calendar. The annual bake sale is on hold and likely will not happen. The fall brat sale is on the calendar, but is in the Wait-and-See category.

The good news, however, is that our ScaVenture WORLD Edition 2020 will still be taking place!

A ScaVenture is part scavenger hunt and part adventure (Scavenger hunt + Adventure).

Last year's inaugural ScaVenture was lots of fun. All the participants had a blast.

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This year we will tailor the missions to adhere to social distancing guidelines, so you won't be asked to take a photo arm and arm with your favorite state park employee.

Animal imitations, trivia and other challenges are still very much fair game, however.

Sometimes you'll be submitting a photo or video, while other times solving a puzzle or riddle or answering a trivia question. Bonus points can be given for creativity or deducted for lameness. In case of a tie, winner will be determined by a Trivia Quiz Off.

Missions will drop at 12:00 (noon)

Central time on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and continue until 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Using a smartphone with a data plan and the free GooseChase app, participants will complete missions to earn points.

The Bounty to register is \$100/team (up to maximum of 6 on a team). If you want to participate as the only captain and crew on your ship, you can but the team Bounty Fee is still \$100. If you want to play on a team, but can't get one together, there will be Lone Wolf Team options to join. The Lone Wolf fee is \$25 but you will be on a team with up to three other assigned team-mates.

In addition to that warm fuzzy feeling you get for helping us help them while having a blast with your friends and family you could win cash prizes!

First Place is \$200, Second Place is \$100 and Third Place is \$50

To join in the fun, form a team of no more than 6. Decide upon a FAMILY FRIENDLY team name and then click [HERE](#) to register your team.

We are permitted by the State and

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Federal governments, but receive no funding from them.  
Our ONLY funding comes from generous people like you.  
This fun, family-friendly event helps raise funds for Wild instincts to care for injured and orphaned wildlife.  
If you're looking for a different, feel-good, family activity, this is it!

**Pronounce it SCA-venture  
or ScaVENTURE, either  
way sounds like FUN!!!**

#### **THE GREAT WAIT**

We have been trying for weeks to get this newsletter out in a timely fashion. We failed. It's over a month late. Honestly, we have some more to say, but no time to get it in here. Our days have been in warp-speed overdrive since March. Animal care always comes first at Wild Instincts. If we try to wait until we have time to get this to you, it may be December! Instead, we are asking you once again to be patient and kind and understanding while we continue to put wildlife first. We expect to be...well, never mind. This year all expectations have been thrown out the window. We hope to have the next newsletter out on time in August. Until then, we will fill the rest of the newsletter with photos of those that have been keeping us so busy while you wait.



Young otter enjoying her bottle.



Black-and-white Warbler nestling.



Young raccoons napping after their lunch.



Baby Woodchuck that had been run over by a quarry truck!



DUCKLINGS!



Duckling release!



A pinkie Baby Deer Mouse. Look closely and you can see a tiny white "belt" perpendicular to the corner of the feeder's thumbnail. This is known as the "milk line" on pinkies. We can see the formula through their skin and in their stomachs.



Trumpeter Swan cygnet.



Removing landscape netting from an Eastern Fox Snake (aka Pine Snake)



Bottle feeding fawns. The temporary collars allow us to identify each individual until they are stable enough to be numbered with temporary hair dye.



Released!



Day-old Hooded Merganser chick.



Baby 13-lined Ground Squirrel (aka gopher)



Incubating Wood Duck Eggs just hatching out in our ICU.



Coyote pups.



Hatched!



Young Red Fox kit.



Young Southern Flying Squirrel.



Species 1/1-6/8/20		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1
American Bittern	1	Ruffed Grouse	1
American Bullfrog	1	Scarlet Tanager	1
American Goldfinch	2	Short-tailed Weasel	1
American Robin	16	Southern Flying Squirrel	7
American Toad	1	Spotted Salamander	3
American Woodcock	1	Spring Peeper	1
Bald Eagle	20	Tree Swallow	1
Barn Swallow	1	Trumpeter Swan	1
Barred Owl	1	Tundra Swan	1
Big Brown Bat	21	Turkey Vulture	1
Black Bear	18	Virginia Opossum	10
Blue Jay	1	Western Painted Turtle	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Canada Goose	3	White-tailed Deer	21
Cedar Waxwing	1	Wood Duck	26
Chipping Sparrow	3	Woodchuck	2
Common Goldeneye	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Common Grackle	11	Total	518
Common Raven	1		
Cooper's Hawk	1		
Coyote	4		
Deer Mouse	31		
Eastern Chipmunk	4		
Eastern Cottontail	118		
Eastern Gray Squirrel	64		
European Starling	4		
Field Mouse	5		
Great Blue Heron	1		
Great Horned Owl	6		
Hairy Woodpecker	1		
Hermit Thrush	1		
Hooded Merganser	3		
Mallard Duck	12		
Merlin	1		
Midland Painted Turtle	1		
Mourning Dove	6		
Muskrat	2		
Porcupine	3		
Purple Finch	1		
Raccoon	23		
Red Fox	10		
Red Squirrel	17		
Red-eyed Vireo	1		
River Otter	5		
Rock Dove	2		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1		
Rough-legged Hawk	1		

## UPCOMING EVENTS

ScaVenture WORLD Edition 2020,  
July 17-July 19  
Play from anywhere you are!

Brat Sale (this event is pending)  
Friday, Sept 4, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Trig's Brat Hut, 232 S Courtney St.,  
Rhinelanders

Second Annual Wildlife Bowl  
Sunday, January 31, 2021  
Hodag Lanes  
Rhinelanders



Bear with us while we navigate through the 2020 rehab season!

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AUGUST 2020

Vol 9:3

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## **MORE OF THE GREAT WAIT**

This is certainly a period of waiting. Waiting in lines 6' apart for grocery shelves to have our favorite paper towels, waiting for the wire for the otter enclosure that we were supposed have weeks ago, waiting for life to return to what we knew before.

We are waiting for animal admissions to ease up a little. Most rehab centers across North America are having that same thought: We are overwhelmed!

Why? What has happened?

People are bored and discovering the great outdoors again. They've slowed down enough to notice the little animals in their yards or neighborhoods, some in need of help. They have traveled to the Northwoods to socially distance in nature. More wild animals in need are being found.

Many wildlife centers closed their doors or limited their intakes to specific species or numbers. This put extra pressure on the rest of us who remain(ed) open.

Now we are waiting for the tsunami-like wave of patients to recede. It should with the natural changing of the seasons, but it is 2020 so weird things can happen.

Numbers have started to decrease in the last week. However, very late babies have appeared and been admitted: a days-old beaver kit, hours-old ducklings; these should not be appearing this late in the year.

Now we are waiting to see what else 2020 has in store for animal care.



An approximately two-day old beaver kit

## **ScaVenture WORLD EDITION 2020**

Our second Wild ScaVenture took place in July. It's a fun event that families can do together, but it still gets pretty competitive. All missions this year were made to be socially distant and safe. Participants got outside and active for some missions. In other missions they had to use their brain and solve riddles while learning (hopefully) some fun things about wildlife or advocates of wildlife.

The top three teams were:

- #1 Tofu Never Screams with 18600 points
- #2 blackcatrails with 18100 points
- #3 Friends of Henry Heron with 17500 points

Done from your smartphone utilizing a free app, Wild ScaVentures can be played from wherever you are. We had teams this year from the states of Washington, Nevada, Oregon, IL as well as WI.

Can you snap a photo of a cloud and describe the shape you see? Can you take a video of you imitating a crow? Can you solve the following riddle?\*

Riddle me this  
Riddle me that  
What wild canine  
Has eye pupils like a cat?

If you said you could do any of the above OR could imagine yourself having fun trying, you just completed three missions that have showed up on past ScaVentures.

Don't miss out on the next one!  
Join us next year for another family memory building way to help us help them.

**FUNDRAISERS  
FUND-LOWERERS  
FUND RAZERS**

RAZE: destroy, demolish, annihilate, level, flatten, ruin, devastate

Almost any non-profit is having the same heart-stopping realization.

Fundraising in 2020 has actually become *fundrazing*.

We were lucky in that we had a successful inaugural Wildlife Bowl fundraiser in January. Fundraisers scheduled for April, May, August and September were all cancelled.

The only other fundraiser we occurring as planned this year was our Wild ScaVenture, a fun scavenger-hunt-type family event using your smartphone. This is a new fundraiser for us just getting started so isn't to the bigger money making stage yet.

We know we are not alone in this. Other non-profits are also scrambling which is creating a bigger ripple effect.

There are thrift stores that donate items to us they aren't able to sell such as stained bedding, etc. In some cases, thrift stores use their profits to donated monies to other non-profits.

Many of these thrift stores have closed which means the donations we receive from them have stopped.

Expenses haven't stopped, though. The commercial fridge we bought at auction 10 years ago before the building for Wild Instincts was even started, stopped working and needed replacing. One of the walk-in freezer units stopped working and needed repair.

Patient numbers increased. Twenty bears are eating us out of house and home! Through all of this, though, what hasn't stopped or been cancelled is the tremendous support we get from you, our supporters.

To those who have used their newfound time to fish specifically for our patients,  
To those who donated all or part of their stimulus checks

To those who have cleaned out the produce from their fridges or gardens,

To those of you who have sent notes of encouragement

To all of you who always come through for the wildlife, even in these challenging times, we see you. We recognize you. We know you are the reasons we can keep helping our wild neighbors.

On the days we are exhausted beyond belief and it's tempting to hit snooze over and over, we know we will get through this with all of you.

Thank you for helping us help them.



Sixteen bear cubs became 20 before July was done.

### Got Three Minutes?

There are things you can do to help us without spending anything from your budget. All we need is some feedback from you to help show other donors we are worthy of their support.

Have we helped you with a wild animal? Did we answer a question or help solve a dilemma involving a wild animal?

If you love our work then tell the world! Stories about us from people like you will help us make an even bigger impact in our community.

GreatNonprofits – the #1 source of nonprofit stories and feedback – is honoring highly regarded nonprofits with their 2020 Top-Rated List. Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a brief story of your experience with us? All content will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes!

Here's the link to get started:

<https://greatnonprofits.org/review/write/wild-instincts-inc>



From Bears to Mice. One of the bear bowls containing food for the bears on the left. On the right, one of the small bottle caps containing food for one of the deer mice.



### IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF

In Memory of John Teuscher  
In Memory of Ron Rogers  
In Memory of Verona Hansen  
In Honor of the Shawano Bear Cubs whose mom was illegally shot  
In Honor of the Life & Giving of Bob Hasal  
In Memory of Ed Hammer  
In Memory of Bob Shoeder  
In Memory of Sue Olson, who loved our wild friends  
In Memory of the August Bake Sale

### 274 Days

Every fall and winter we admit bats that either missed getting ready for hibernation or are disturbed and have their hibernation interrupted. We then overwinter them. Place them in our own special "bat cave" where we regulate temperature, light and humidity to simulate what they would find in their natural hibernacula.

Then come spring, we release them back into the wild so they can continue on with their bat lives.

Of course, this year was different. How many times have you heard that so far this year?

While this coronavirus (SARS-Co-V2)) hasn't been found in North American bats, it's well-known that bats carry many different beta-coronaviruses. This raised a lot of concern about releasing bats in care. Effective in March, no bat rehabber in the US was allowed to release any bat in care. Most states also instated a moratorium on admitting bats.

This left not only bats, but bat rehabbers in a constant state of uncertainty.

No one knew how long this would last. Because bats are also among a susceptible species that could catch COVID-19 from their caregivers, we were under extra stress to be extra, extra diligent.

About 2 weeks after when we would've normally released our bats, one gave birth to 2 healthy pups (a boy and a girl).

As the weeks dragged on into months, we were looking at making hard decisions. We had a drastic increase of patient admissions. Bat care was taking a lot of time. Generally, the bats are gone before the spring onslaught arrives.

Our choices were to hang on to bats indefinitely or turn them over to research. We thought about it a lot. Research is important. The bats in our care were here because they had been compromised in *some* way already. Is it better to use bats like ours or have them trap "healthy" bats for their research? How long would we be able to work ourselves to exhaustion? We made arrangements. We were heartbroken the 2 pups would never know freedom.

Then things changed suddenly. We heard chatter the study they were working was finishing. We changed our plans. We would hold on for a bit longer.

Then ANOTHER study was awaiting results. Finally, at the end of July we were notified we had the green light to release bats.

That very night, the first of our bats were released. And Sharon, the primary bat

caregiver this year, slept better than she had in a long time.

The longest stay was 274 days.

The pups are flying free.

We are lucky. There are states as of today that are still not allowing overwintered bats to be released.

Currently, we are still unable to admit bats into care, but hopefully that will be changing also.



This mom big brown bat and her two pups shown here nursing were finally able to be released into the wild.

### **TO THE BAT CAVE!**

Recently, the Wisconsin Bat Program in cooperation with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy released a virtual tour of Kickapoo Caverns, one of Wisconsin's longest cave systems.

WDNR's Natural Heritage Conservation Program bat biologist/cave specialist Jennifer Redell leads this virtual tour. Click on the following links for a mosquito-free, tick-free above ground journey to and then a dry, mud-free journey INTO bat habitat:

- [In part 1](#), learn about general bat ecology, White-nose syndrome, a deadly disease decimating bat populations in eastern North America, and how DNR and partners study bats.
- [In part 2](#), go underground with Jennifer to learn about the cave's geology, history and importance as a bat hibernaculum.

### Spoke Too Soon

The last sentence of the first story of this newsletter stated we were just waiting for what 2020 brings next to animal care. On August 21 we found out.

Late in the afternoon of Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, we were notified by WDNR we are unable to release our three river otters at this time. It is unknown when (or even if) we will be given permission to do so.

This is highly distressing, not only because the otters need to be in the wild, but also because we received a grant from the Green Bay Packer Foundation to rebuild the otter enclosure. This was to start on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Obviously, we can't start construction with otters inside! It's already difficult enough to get our construction finished in our narrow window of weather opportunity.

Since March, zookeepers and rehabbers have been taking extra precautions with members of certain species that are known to be susceptible to SARS CoV2. Just like bats, there were concerns with some species of reverse zoonosis or the chance that animals in our care could catch COVID-19 from us. Then they'd potentially be able to go out and spread it among themselves.

Waiting until releases are imminent to determine they can't be done, now puts rehab centers in more of a quandary. Not only are we still caring for more animals with less staff, we will have to do it for longer and use more resources than we planned for the season. In addition to bats now, we have to add any member of the Felidae family and Mustelidae family to animals we cannot admit. This means in addition to not being able to admit bats, we can't admit bobcats, mink, weasel, fisher, or otter to name a few. We were so close to being able to sleep well knowing our bats and otters were back where they belonged. Guess we're back to tossing and turning and worrying and waiting.

### An Uncommon Common



It's shell measured almost 16 inches.

It isn't often we get to see a Common Snapping turtle of this size.



Look at the size of those claws!

It had a small puncture in its shell and injuries to his right eye and rear foot.



It created a large shelter for the crayfish in its enclosure just by hanging out.

Fortunately, after some care, rest and recuperation, he was released.

Common Snapping Turtles in the wild may live to be 30-40 years old. They can grow up to 17" in length and weigh 35 lbs.

### **Returning Home**

On July 12, researchers were banding young osprey chicks. When they climbed to one nest, they discovered one of the chicks entangled in fishing line with a hook embedded in its thigh.



Fishing line deeply embedded into the chick's leg. So much swelling!



One of the hooks the banding team was able to remove in the field.

They were able to remove the hook in the field and get the chick to us.



So much line tangled around its leg and wing. It was everywhere.

After much untangling, we were uncertain how much damage had been done to its wing while it was struggling to free itself. Who knows how long this poor bird was in this mess?



This is going to take a while.



Another deeply embedded hook to cut out





What a mess!

After three weeks in care, the banding team came back to put him back in his nest.



Healed and heading back out to his family.



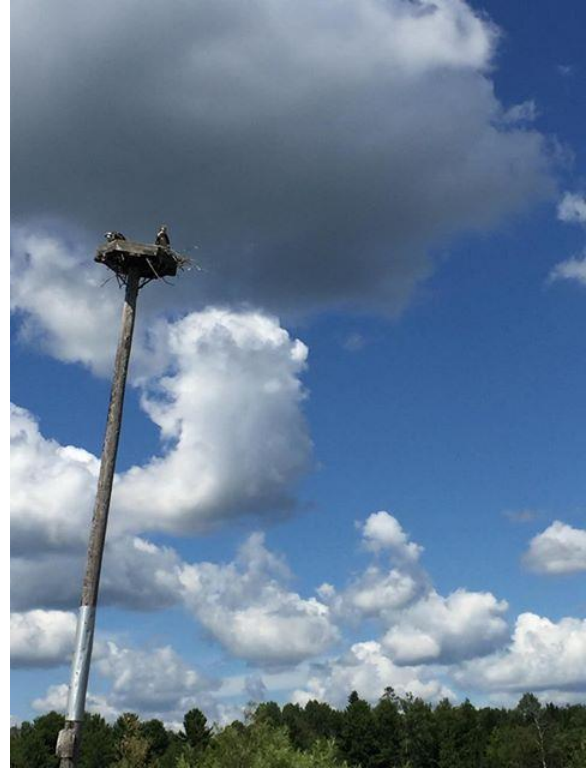
Not out of the woods yet. Untangled and unhooked, but needs to heal that leg and rest.



The banding team finishing what they started.



Nest-side service.



Best wishes for a wild and free life.



The one on the right in the back is the one that was entangled.

### **Wish List**

Things we are in need of right now:

- ~ Paper towels
- ~ Produce (fruit = apples, peaches, plums, berries, melons, nectarines, pears, etc. vegetables = carrots, sweet potatoes, lettuce. NO ZUCCHINI ☺)
- ~ Dry dog food (no senior or prescription diets)
- ~ Canned dog food (no senior or prescription diets)
- ~ Whole fish (frozen, fresh)

Our QuaranTent is still set up outside the front door. You can drop off donations at your convenience in the bins or coolers.

Thank you for helping us help them.

Species	1/1/-8/15/20		
American Bittern	1	European Starling	22
American Bullfrog	1	Field Mouse	5
American Crow	2	Gray Catbird	1
American Goldfinch	2	Great Blue Heron	4
American Robin	57	Great Horned Owl	7
American Toad	2	Hairy Woodpecker	5
American Woodcock	3	Hermit Thrush	4
Bald Eagle	30	Hooded Merganser	7
Barn Swallow	1	House Mouse	1
Barred Owl	5	House Sparrow	4
Beaver	1	House Wren	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	Killdeer	2
Big Brown Bat	21	Least Chipmunk	1
Black Bear	22	Mallard Duck	27
Black-and-white Warbler	8	Meadow Vole	8
Black-capped Chickadee	1	Merlin	8
Blue Jay	3	Midland Painted Turtle	2
Broad-winged Hawk	9	Mourning Dove	17
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Muskrat	2
Bufflehead	2	Northern Flicker	5
Canada Goose	13	Northern Harrier	1
Cedar Waxwing	6	Osprey	2
Chipping Sparrow	12	Porcupine	4
Cliff Swallow	1	Purple Finch	2
Common Goldeneye	1	Raccoon	24
Common Grackle	20	Red Fox	14
Common Merganser	1	Red Squirrel	18
Common Nighthawk	1	Red-eyed Vireo	9
Common Raven	1	River Otter	5
Cooper's Hawk	1	Rock Dove	8
Coyote	6	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Deer Mouse	85	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9
Eastern Chipmunk	18	Ruffed Grouse	1
Eastern Cottontail	228	Scarlet Tanager	1
Eastern Fox Snake	1	Short-tailed Weasel	2
Eastern Garter Snake	1	Smooth Green Snake	6
Eastern Gray Squirrel	77	Snapping Turtle	7
Eastern Kingbird	1	Southern Flying Squirrel	12
Eastern Phoebe	5	Spotted Salamander	3
Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle	1	Spring Peeper	1
		Striped Skunk	1

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	11
Tree Swallow	2
Trumpeter Swan	6
Tundra Swan	1
Turkey Vulture	3
Virginia Opossum	10
Western Painted Turtle	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-tailed Deer	42
Wild Turkey	1
Wilson's Snipe	1
Wood Duck	34
Woodchuck	3
Woodland Jumping Mouse	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3
Total	1060

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Still waiting ☹️  
When we know, you'll know.



\*Answer to riddle: Fox

Welcome to

# INSTINCTS



NOV 2020

Vol 9:4

*"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."*



A collage of all the species we are currently unable to admit due to concerns of reverse zoonosis potential.

## REHAB BAN

One of the most challenging things about 2020 is probably the uncertainty. When will this end? Am I asymptomatic? Will there be school today?

A large uncertainty for Wisconsin rehabilitators is the current ban on Mustelids and Felids.

On August 28th, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources notified all rehabbers in WI they could not admit any mink, weasel, badger, fisher, otter or bobcat effective immediately.

The concern is the potential for reverse zoonosis, or the ability for us to give SARS-CoV2 to animals in our care. Then in turn, releasing the animals into the wild

population where they could give it to each other.

This was the initial concern with bats earlier in the year. An immediate ban was put on bat admissions way back when the pandemic started and a hold was placed on our bat releases.

Finally after a couple research studies were completed, in late July we were allowed to release bats we had overwintered. We are still although not able to admit any bats at this time.

In addition to bats, if you find any bobcat, mink, weasel, badger, fisher or otter needing help, you are to leave them alone. We are to tell you to leave them alone unless it's something that needs immediate euthanasia.

The thought behind this is that the animals then won't come into contact with people that could potentially have COVID-19 and possibly transmit SARS-CoV2 to the animal. This would protect the animal and the wild populations of Wisconsin.

We, however, disagree. We don't believe people who see a 7-week old orphaned bobcat kitten are going to be able to leave it alone for nature to take its course.

In fact, we know of several cases where caring people took in the bobcat to raise themselves since the ban went into effect. Despite the fact it is totally illegal for them to do so. Despite the ban for rehabilitators. This means that inexperienced people without access to the high level disease mitigation protocols and equipment

professional rehabilitators have ARE IN FACT, unknowingly putting the animals this ban is supposed to protect at risk.

Some may think at least at this time of year, it shouldn't be a problem as most animals don't have babies in the winter. This is true EXCEPT for bobcats. Just like domestic cats, bobcats' estrus cycle and breeding cycles throughout the year. We have admitted bobcat kittens any month of the year, even January!

Wild Instincts has been working with our colleagues at Fellow Mortals and the chair of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Council, Dr. Amanda Falch to make our concerns known to the WDNR and help get this ban reversed as soon as possible.

Wildlife rehabilitators care about all of Wisconsin's wildlife. Rehabilitation settings are quite different than mink farm settings. Wildlife rehabilitators have disease mitigation in their minds at all times.

This is why during this pandemic, our doors remain locked. Why we still have not allowed volunteers to return. Why we will continue to meet you outside wearing masks and keeping socially distant. Why we will ask when you call with an animal if it has been in contact with anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19. Why we are wearing masks everywhere we may come in contact with someone not in our Wild Instincts Bubble. Why we continue to spend our free time researching and presenting arguments for this ban to be lifted.

Why we do EVERYTHING here at Wild Instincts:

For. The. Animals.

### **THEY OTTER BE FREE**

Since 2016 when the BBC came and filmed our otter rehab for one of the Natural World TV episodes, we have become more famous for our otter care.

This year we raised three that we almost didn't get to release!

If you read the first article on the ban of certain species, you'll notice otters are on

the list. Just 10 days before we were to release our otters, we were notified by the WDNR we would have to hold on to them until further notice.

That was the beginning of our struggle with this ban.

However, we had the otters in care since April and were following strict COVID-19 protocols, in addition to our normal biosecurity.

In the end, we were allowed to release them on time.

That was a relief for many reasons, not the least was we needed to upgrade the enclosure! You may remember we received a Packers Foundation Grant last year to upgrade the otter enclosure.

We were ready to start this spring as soon as the weather allowed. We even got a jump start and ordered gravel that was delivered before road weight limits went into effect.



Mark with an infant otter in April. We were using masks before they were required.

And then, you know the rest.

Everything stopped. The volunteers that were going to help couldn't. The patient load EXPLODED so we couldn't.

This fall was the only shot we had left and we certainly couldn't rebuild the enclosure with otters in it!

Fall construction quickly turned into early winter construction as the weather decided

to stay 20 degrees below normal with snow for an extended period. HOWEVER, in a feat of superhuman efforts in a very short time, most of the otter enclosure upgrade has been completed. The new framework is done. The predator proofing is done. The double door entry and the pump house need to be done along with some gravel and visual screening work, but 90% has been completed. Take THAT 2020!!



Eyes-closed otter growing well.



Eyes beginning to open.



Growing well.



Starting to wean to solid food.



Enjoying their 5000 gallon pond and training to be wild otters.



Release Day!



FREEDOM!

### **FAWNS TO DEER**

September highlights include the fawn release. This year 13 fawns were raised to release. We are happy to report that education is paying off. Only one of these was a probable kidnap...meaning the well-meaning person took it even though its mom was likely still caring for it. Deer leave their fawns alone for long periods to protect them. They don't want to draw attention to their baby so they stay away. Fawns lie still and pretend to be invisible. This has worked for centuries. But sometimes people can't believe that this skinny, helpless creature with such long lashes isn't in trouble. Almost all the fawns admitted this year *really* were in need of help. We like to see that because it means families are staying together and limited space is not being taken up by fawns that don't need help. Now these have been given a second chance and they are able to be doing what they are supposed to be doing...being wild deer.





Naptime.



With CWD protocols, we must track each individual fawn. Velcro collars are used for identification until they move outside.



Although you can see it in this photo, each fawn has a number sponged on with hair dye to replace the Velcro collars. The number fades and is sheds out with their new coat coming in.



Walk to freedom.

### **HOW MANY!??**

Every year the number of bear cubs we admit varies slightly. Generally, it depends on the kind of spring we have. A really wet

one early can mean more dens flood forcing cubs to keep up with a now moving mom before they are physically able to do so. A dozen or so is fairly typical of annual bear admissions. The most we had done was 16. Leave it to 2020 to be off the rails for everything.

We raised 20 cubs to release this year. Some were separated from mom early on for unknown reasons, two different litters were admitted after mom was illegally shot, others were orphaned when mom was hit by a car and one was confiscated by law enforcement after someone wanted to try and illegally raise a cub for fun.

They eat a lot of food! We were feeding approximately 260 pounds of food a day by the end of September. Cutting and prepping bear food took 2.5 hours each day!! That's not counting the washing and disinfecting of the 14 very filthy bowls afterwards.

Like any youngster, each individual has their own preferences. It's just an accepted fact that as soon as they get to the bowls, they dig through them, throwing food everywhere to get to their favorite item.

Two & a half hours of prep gets disassembled in a matter of moments. Bears are expensive to feed and raise. Thankfully, we were again able to work with Russ Davis Wholesale and this year Golden Harvest in Rhinelander in order to get returns and discards to help with the monumental demand of these growing youngsters. In addition, Trig's in Minocqua donated some items as well. As always, our supporters and members came through any time we asked for fruit, produce or other items to feed the cubs. If we would have to purchase all the food needed, it would cost approximately \$3500.00 to feed EACH cub from bottle to release. The perfect example of why we say we can't do any of this without you. Thank you for helping us help them.



Bottle feeding is done with strict protocols. Bears can tame very easily which would make them un-releasable.



Cub admissions piled up quickly this year. Here they are loaded up for a few minutes to make the move from inside to their outside enclosure.



Every year the roof of their den house is a favorite playground.



The first looks at the boundless horizon of freedom.



Bearfoot in October.



Time to settle in for a long winter's nap.

### **OTTER ENCLOSURE UPGRADE**

Wildlife rehabilitators are the “MacGyvers” of the animal care world, repurposing and using whatever they can modify to fit their needs. When we started in 2011, circumstances required we build as many

enclosures as possible *all at once*. Further complicating this is our belief the required minimum standards are not adequate. Every one of our enclosures surpasses minimum standards so the needs of wildlife in our care are better served.

We meet these challenges by building some enclosures with what we can afford, gather and modify to make useable immediately on a “this-will-do-for-now-until-we-can-renovate” plan. Our original Otter Enclosure was one of these enclosures.

The showcase feature of our Otter Enclosure is the 5000 gallon pond dug with a small garden tractor and a shovel. After completing concrete of this pond, we could only afford chain-link roof and upper sidewalls. This set-up did not offer enough support for snow loads in Northern Wisconsin, thus causing more maintenance work for us in winter prep and summer prep.

We had been trying to get to a point to upgrade this enclosure. After the BBC featured our otter rehab in one of their Natural World episodes the demand for our otter care increased making the upgrade more imperative.

This year the upgrade was funded in part by a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation we received last fall.

Because there is a very short window for construction, between winter going or coming and the onslaught of babies we planned ahead.

We even ordered gravel ahead of road weight limits so we could be ready.

Then the Pandemic arrived and everything changed.

Not only did our volunteer labor have to be sidelined, the onslaught of animals needing care came early and was never-ending! Despite COVID-19 trying to derail our plans, they were only delayed.

In a Herculean effort to make sure we would not let the Packers or any otters down, the Otter Enclosure upgrade was 95% completed in a matter of a few weeks.

These efforts resulted in humans spending more than a couple days unable to move normally and dreaming of soaking in hot tubs, but it was well worth it! The double door, visual screening and pump house still need to be completed as do the skylights, but it can be used as is if need. Whew. Some photo progress of the new and improved Otter Enclosure.



The original otter enclosure is on the right with the blue base. This photo was taken in June 2019.



The roof readied for winter with supports to help with snow load.



Old down, ready for the new to go up.



Interns get to learn about construction.



Side & roof framework complete.



Roofing and gravel work.



End walls being constructed.



Nearly complete!

## **IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF**

- ~In Loving Memory beloved dog Owen Randolph
- ~In Memory of & Celebration of Life for Jenneane Carol Smith, who loved nature & anything outdoors
- ~In Honor of Jill Bowles birthday
- ~In Honor of Elsie & Bob Thornton and Hope & Frank Carmines 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- ~In Honor of Laura & Nate DeHart's wedding anniversary
- ~In Memory of Loretta Julian, her kind & gentle ways leaving a path for all to follow
- ~In Memory of Kyle Reed
- ~In Honor and Gratitude to John & Karin Randolph
- ~In Memory of Kathy Graziano
- ~In Honor of Barb Nevins
- ~In Honor of Arlene Kellett's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ~In Memory of Jim Ashbrenner, a Good Man
- ~In Honor of Jill & Mike Bowles 53<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary
- ~In Memory of Keith Tober
- ~In Memory of Tim Obukowicz
- ~In Memory of Winifred Tomasek
- ~In Honor of Kathy Hoffman
- ~In Memory of Mary Sue Moore
- ~In Honor of Fred Andrist

## **GIVING TUESDAY**

For the last few years, Wild Instincts has joined in the fundraising campaign Giving Tuesday on Facebook.

Facebook was matching donations up to several million dollars.

While we didn't get any of the matching grants, we did raise an impressive \$7365.00 in 2019.

Thanks to all of you who donated any amount.

Giving Tuesday 2020 is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Wild Instincts will again be participating on Facebook and Instagram.



## **CELLCOM GREEN GIFT**

Wild Instincts was thrilled to receive a Green Gift from Cellcom this year.

It was used to purchase materials for another small mammal enclosure.

Cellcom selected 31 non-profits to receive \$36,040 in Green Gifts in 2020. The Green Gifts program uses funds generated from Cellcom's cell phone recycling program to fund green nonprofit initiatives.



Mark & Sharon stand in front of an enclosure similar to what will be built with Cellcom's generosity.

Through Green Gifts, Cellcom donates proceeds from its cell phone recycling program to local organizations, programs and projects that are dedicated to or support environmental sustainability. The program was launched to protect the environment and support conservation in Northeast Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Green Gifts are awarded on an annual basis and \$520,413 has been awarded to date.

Customers can bring in their old, unwanted or broken phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who in return send money to Cellcom for the materials that were saved from the phones. Consumers can contribute to the program by donating their old cell phones for recycling at any Cellcom retail location.

### **IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

Brandi Stevenson  
Pearland, TX  
Graduate

I received my bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Houston at the end of 2019. I knew I wanted to work with wildlife but wasn't sure exactly how I wanted to go about doing that. I had hopes to attend

graduate school and conduct research, but I wanted experience working in the field first to help me discover what my passion was. During my search for jobs, I happened to come across the Wild Instincts internship opportunity. Before finding that, I never realized wildlife rehabilitation was a career option. I immediately applied and soon I was on a plane from Texas to Wisconsin, where I worked and lived on site for the next 3 months.

The first thing that stood out to me, and also one of my favorite things about Wild Instincts, is the passion and devotion that radiated from Mark, Sharon and Kaitlin. It's obvious how much joy caring for the animals brings them, and they work hard to help and release every one of the animals that gets brought to them.

Wildlife rehab is an extremely difficult job. It keeps you very busy, which was overwhelming at first, but I also love that about the job as well. I was warned that it was stressful work, but words can't prepare you for reality. But words also can't prepare you for the pride you feel when you pick up your first eagle, or the bittersweet feeling you get when you release a goldfinch you've been syringe feeding every 2 hours, every day, for weeks. Or even the excitement of learning basic carpentry skills when you help build and repair animal enclosures. My time working alongside Mark and Sharon made me stronger, physically and emotionally.

Though the duration of this internship seemed like a long time to me at first, the time raced by after I arrived. Three months was over in a flash. I got to experience true fall foliage, true snowfall, and try cheese curds for the first time! I also learned to ride a bike, something that I hadn't gotten around to up until now.



Fall Intern Brandi learns to ride a bicycle.

Aside from my own personal experiences, I got to learn so much valuable information from Mark. Not just about the rehabilitation of animals, but their history, ecology, behaviors in the wild, and even some scientific names. I could work in the rehab field for years and still be learning new things, so it was a pleasure to work closely with someone that has as much experience in this field as Mark. I appreciate everything that Wild Instincts stands for, and greatly appreciated how welcome their staff and volunteers made me feel during my time here!



Fall Intern Brandi braves the cold waves of Lake Superior. Much different than Texas!

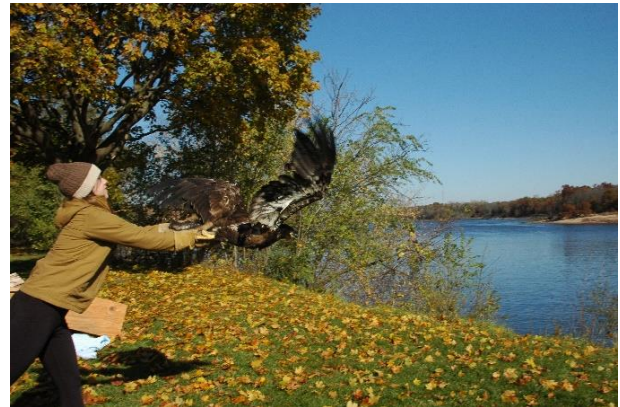
Species Admitted	Entire 2019	1/1/20-10/31/20
American Bittern	1	1
American Bullfrog	2	1
American Crow	5	2
American Goldfinch	5	4
American Kestrel	1	1
American Robin	59	61
American Toad	0	6
American Woodcock	3	3
Bald Eagle	45	47
Baltimore Oriole	5	0
Barn Swallow	2	1
Barred Owl	5	11
Beaver	0	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	2
Big Brown Bat	34	21
Black Bear	21	22
Black-and-White Warbler	5	8
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	0
Black-capped Chickadee	3	1
Blue Jay	11	5

Blue-winged Teal	0	1	Green Frog	2	0
Bobcat	12	0	Hairy Woodpecker	4	6
Broad-winged Hawk	5	13	Hermit Thrush	2	6
Brown Thrasher	0	1	Hooded Merganser	1	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	1	House Mouse	0	1
Bufflehead	0	2	House Sparrow	2	4
Canada Goose	10	16	House Wren	10	1
Cape May Warbler	1	0	Killdeer	4	2
Cedar Waxwing	1	8	Least Chipmunk	4	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	1	Least Flycatcher	4	0
Chipping Sparrow	17	13	Little Brown Bat	2	0
Cliff Swallow	107	2	Long-tailed Weasel	1	0
Common Garter Snake	3	2	Mallard Duck	14	27
Common Goldeneye	0	1	Meadow Vole	4	8
Common Grackle	5	20	Merlin	4	10
Common Loon	8	1	Midland Painted Turtle	1	3
Common Merganser	1	1	Mink	4	1
Common Nighthawk	1	3	Mourning Dove	21	24
Common Raven	4	5	Mourning Warbler	1	0
Connecticut Warbler	1	0	Muskrat	3	2
Cooper's Hawk	0	1	Northern Cardinal	2	1
Coyote	1	6	Northern Flicker	9	7
Dark-eyed Junco	1	5	Northern Goshawk	0	1
Deer Mouse	51	112	Northern Harrier	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	3	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2	1
Eastern Chipmunk	13	20	Northern Water Thrush	1	0
Eastern Cottontail	247	241	Osprey	0	2
Eastern Fox Snake	1	1	Ovenbird	3	0
Eastern Gray Squirrel	65	87	Peregrine Falcon	0	1
Eastern Gray Tree Frog	1	0	Pileated Woodpecker	5	1
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	Porcupine	4	7
Eastern Phoebe	1	5	Purple Finch	2	2
Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle	0	1	Raccoon	34	26
Eastern Timber Wolf	1	0	Red Crossbill	1	0
Eastern Wood Pee Wee	1	0	Red Fox	2	14
European Starling	6	22	Red Squirrel	31	20
Field Mouse	0	5	Red-backed Vole	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	0
Gray Catbird	0	2	Red-eyed Vireo	7	10
Gray Fox	1	0	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	0
Great Blue Heron	2	5	Red-tailed Hawk	4	4
Great Horned Owl	8	7	Ring-billed Gull	5	1



Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1
River Otter	6	5
Rock Dove	8	13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9	2
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15	14
Ruffed Grouse	5	1
Sandhill Crane	1	0
Scarlet Tanager	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2
Short-tailed Shrew	3	1
Short-tailed Weasel	2	2
Silver-haired Bat	1	0
Smooth Green Snake	0	6
Snapping Turtle	17	11
Southern Flying Squirrel	14	12
Snowshoe Hare	2	0
Sora Rail	1	1
Spotted Salamander	2	4
Spring Peeper	1	1
Striped Skunk	1	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0
Swainson's Thrush	0	3
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	7	11
Tree Swallow	0	2
Trumpeter Swan	4	6
Tundra Swan	1	1
Turkey Vulture	2	4
Veery	1	0
Virginia Opossum	2	10
Western Painted Turtle	22	29
Whippoorwill	1	0
White Pelican	2	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	2
White-tailed Deer	32	46
White-throated Sparrow	2	0
Wild Turkey	3	1
Wilson's Snipe	1	1
Wood Duck	19	34
Wood Turtle	0	1

Woodchuck	3	3
Woodland Jumping Mouse	0	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	4
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	1
Total	1200	1256



Fall Intern Brandi releases a juvenile bald eagle into the wild.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Giving Tuesday, Dec 1, 2020  
A virtual fundraiser on Facebook and Instagram

Wild Instincts 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, possible Zoom event, TBA

Still waiting for others ☹️  
When we know, you'll know.



After recovering from injuries received from being hit by a car, a recently released barred owl pauses for a photo op before continuing with its Wild Life.



Rough-legged hawks breed and nest in the Arctic but winter in Wisconsin. This young migrant likely collided with a car. Migration is full of peril for all, but especially inexperienced youngsters.