

Welcome to INSTINCTS

Jan 2014

Vol 4:1

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

2013 in Review

When the year comes to an end, it's time for the almost endless pile of annual reports to the State & Feds. It's a good time to give a report to our supporters, too. That would be the person reading these words, YOU! As we expected our 2013 patient load was greater than our 2012 which was more than our 2011. We weren't sure how much it would increase and were a little surprised by that.

We still have enclosures to get up after just three years and will have enclosure construction in future years. Hopefully, this year the weather will cooperate much better than last.

We admitted 606 patients of 97 different species from 27 different counties in 2013.

For a complete listing of the breakdown, see the last page of this newsletter.

We keep track of some fun statistics, too.

For instance, the first orphan of 2013 was a gray squirrel admitted on 4/15. In 2011 it was a gray squirrel on 3/24. The year 2012 was unusual with the 1/11 admission of two eyes-closed bear cubs.

As much as rehab follows patterns, there are exceptions and surprises. A surprise this winter is the mind-boggling number of patients we are overwintering. Generally, we may have to keep one or two patients over the winter until they can be released in the spring. We usually have maybe half a dozen patients at a time in Dec or Jan.

Right now we have 34!!! Thirty of them are staying with us the entire winter until ice is gone and insects are hatched!!

We're THREE!

On Jan 25th, 2011, Wild Instincts was incorporated. On Jan 28th, 2011, 17 acres was purchased to house the new wildlife rehabilitation center and we were off and running helping The Wild Things Heal. The



only reason we can still be here is thanks to great supporters like you! You deserve a pat on the back (or three!). We could not do any of this without you so enjoy a piece of birthday cake because you deserve it!



Young bobcat admitted from Four Lakes Wildlife Center.

Working Together

In early December, we got a call from another rehab center near Madison, WI. They had a bobcat that had been hit by a car.

Bobcats are uncommon in their area and their facility isn't set up for caring for a bobcat with a shoulder injury. They contacted the person in charge for the State and were told Mark has the most experience with bobcats in the state. Dane County Humane Society's Four Lakes Wildlife Center called us and she was transferred to Wild Instincts on 12/13 for care. She will be transferred back to [Four Lakes Wildlife Center](#) for release where she came from.

Wildlife rehab is a special vocation. While it is treated by some as a business, it really is a community. Reputable facilities work together for what is best for the animal in question. Egos have no place in rehab where animals' lives are at stake.



She's healing nicely from her fractured shoulder blade.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

~In memory of [Mona Kupferschmidt](#)

~In honor of [Kathy & Joel Furda](#)

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Click on the box to see for yourself.

[facebook](#)

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

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



American Goldfinch. Please be very careful with bird baths in the extreme cold temperatures!

Winter Bird Bath Cautions

In this brutally cold weather, many people are enjoying feeding the birds. Some even have chosen to add a bird bath so the birds save energy by not having to convert snow to water. If you choose to do this, please be extremely careful. We recently admitted an American Goldfinch that had been frozen to a metal pole supporting a bird feeder. It had first visited a bird bath before perching on that pole. Cover all metal in your yard and area if you have open water accessible to our wild friends.

Putting out extra amounts of high calorie foods such as suet or mealworms will help during the bitter cold snaps, too.

In Their Own Words

Volunteers Tim & Cheryl B tell us about their Wild Instincts volunteer experiences.

"We learned about Wild Instincts in January of 2012. The day we drove up to meet Mark and Sharon, they were in the process of building their new facility.

Mark gave us a wonderful tour of the building and talked to us about their dream of having their own wildlife rehab center and their dedication to helping and caring for injured and orphaned animals.

As luck would have it, we arrived at the feeding time of two recently admitted, eyes-

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closed bear cubs and were allowed to observe. What an unforgettable day. The work needed at the new center was overwhelming. Tim and I were impressed. Because of Wild Instincts sincerity about animal care and our love of animals, we decided to become volunteers.

In our spare time, we tried helping with the construction and completion of the building, which eventually led to building cages and enclosure and ultimately to feeding and caring for patients.

We also became Rescue Drivers. This past summer we had the honor of locating and rescuing an orphaned fawn and locating and rescuing an injured bald eagle...our first such experiences. Experiences we will never forget.

We are animal lovers and because of that, our desire to help is fulfilled each time we are there.

Mark and Sharon are great people, people we now consider our friends. They are dedicated to what they are doing-day in and day out. The Rhinelander area is extremely lucky to have them here!

There are many days when Tim and I leave Wild Instincts a bit overwhelmed. We wonder how they can do all the work that is needed, with just a handful of interns during several months of each year, and then by themselves the remaining time. The need for volunteers is enormous-people who are devoted to animals and who would love to have a small part in returning them back to the wild.

The experiences are *so* rewarding and UNFORGETTABLE!"

Introducing Amelia

In October, we admitted a young peregrine falcon from Madeline Island. She had most likely been hit by a car. Peregrines migrate along the lake shore of Lake Superior. She had a bad fracture in her left wing with permanent debilitating nerve damage. This injury makes her unable to be released.

We were impressed with how calm and curious she is, so we decided to add her to the Wild Instincts family.

Peregrine actually means "wanderer" in its Latin roots. The name Amelia in honor of a famous female wandering aviator seemed to be a perfect fit.

Ruby, our red-tailed hawk, will now have some company giving educational programs.



Amelia, our new education Peregrine Falcon, sits on the fist for the first time.

WISH LIST and AMAZON

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling.

We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~Venison
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)
- ~Paper Towels
- ~Bunk Beds for Intern Quarters
- ~White Noise Machines, 2-3 (to give the interns some privacy in their rooms; see our Amazon Wish List)
- ~Liquid Hand Soap
- ~Dish Soap

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping ☺

Expanding Volunteer Program

Volunteers are a huge part of Wild Instincts and we couldn't operate without them.

In 2014, volunteers logged in over 406 hours of service. Whether it's helping with animal care, construction of enclosures, fundraising, transporting or mopping the floor it is ALL important!

In 2014, our animal ambulance people logged in over 14,157 miles compared to just over 6,726 in 2013.

We answer questions from people wanting to become a volunteer at Wild Instincts almost weekly. To help us operate more efficiently, we will be offering some formal volunteer informational meetings and training sessions.

If you are interested in becoming one of these dedicated volunteers, attend one of the upcoming sessions.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a general volunteer, two identical volunteer informational meetings will be held at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th. One will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The other will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Having two identical sessions will allow you to attend the one that fits better into your schedule.

We will provide detailed information about what opportunities Wild Instincts has for those interested in volunteering, what is expected of volunteers as well as what is not allowed.

Rescue and Transport Drivers are a huge link in getting injured animals to the care they need. We are one of the few centers in the state permitted to treat all animals so our patients come from a wide geographic region. In 2012, we admitted patients from 28 different counties; in 2013 from 27 different counties.

If you're interested in more information on joining our team of drivers, attend one of the two identical driver trainer sessions at Wild Instincts. One will be held on Mon, March 17 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The other will be Saturday, March 22 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please attend whichever session best fits your schedule.

Events Calendar

Volunteer Informational Meeting at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th @ 10:30 a.m.

Volunteer Informational Meeting at Wild Instincts on Thurs, Feb 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

Rescue & Transport Driver Training at Wild Instincts on Mon, March 17th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Rescue & Transport Driver Training at Wild Instincts on Sat, March 22nd from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Walk in the Wild at North Lakeland Discovery Center on Sat Sept 13th

Species	1/1-12/31/13		
American Badger	1	Northern Harrier	2
American Crow	5	Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2
American Goldfinch	4	Osprey	2
American Kestrel	11	Peregrine Falcon	1
American Robin	26	Pileated Woodpecker	4
Bald Eagle	17	Pine Grosbeak	1
Barred Owl	2	Pine Siskin	4
Belted Kingfisher	6	Porcupine	3
Big Brown Bat	9	Purple Finch	4
Black Bear	7	Raccoon	26
Black Duck	1	Red Fox	4
Blue Jay	3	Red Squirrel	10
Bobcat	5	Red-eyed Vireo	1
Broad-winged Hawk	8	Red-tailed Hawk	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Canada Goose	8	Ring-billed Gull	3
Cedar Waxwing	5	River Otter	2
Chipping Sparrow	6	Rock Dove	5
Common Grackle	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4
Common Loon	14	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9
Common Nighthawk	1	Ruffed Grouse	1
Common Raven	2	Sandhill Crane	1
Common Redpoll	17	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	Short-eared Owl	1
Coyote	1	Short-tailed Weasel	4
Deer Mouse	18	Snapping Turtle	29
Downy Woodpecker	2	Snowshoe Hare	1
Eastern Bluebird	4	Spruce Grouse	1
Eastern Chipmunk	4	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	2
Eastern Cottontail	89	Tree Swallow	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	23	Turkey Vulture	5
Eastern Phoebe	4	Virginia Opossum	7
European Starling	5	Western Fox Snake	2
Evening Grosbeak	1	Western Painted Turtle	16
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Gray Fox	3	White-tailed Deer	21
Great Blue Heron	1	White-winged Crossbill	1
Great Horned Owl	5	Wild Turkey	3
Hairy Woodpecker	7	Wilson's Snipe	1
Hooded Merganser	1	Wood Duck	4
House Finch	7	Wood Turtle	1
House Sparrow	2	Yellow Warbler	1
Indigo Bunting	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Killdeer	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Little Brown Bat	3		606
Long-eared Owl	1		
Mallard Duck	11		
Meadow Vole	3		
Merlin	6		
Mourning Dove	23		
Muskrat	1		
Northern Long-eared Bat	1		
Northern Flicker	2		

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

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INSTINCTS

Mar 2014
Vol 4:2

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

BABY SEASON PREPS FOR ALL

It's March. It may not look like spring by looking at the snow bank blocking your mailbox, but if you look closely you may spy a raven flying with nest building materials or catch a glimpse of an eagle territorial flight.

All over the U.S., wildlife rehabilitators are gearing up for "Baby Season", the busiest time of the year. We are making educated guesses about what number of what species of animals may appear at our doors this year. Then we are ordering special formulas to be prepared. We're interviewing and hiring interns. We're taking out a bathtub and putting in a shower in the intern quarters. We're waiting for the weather to allow enclosure construction and facility improvements. We're researching new fluid therapy techniques. We're wondering if there'll be another nationwide mealworm and cricket shortage this year and making plans to deal with the possibility. We're having meetings to train new volunteers and refresh established ones. We're exploring avenues of fundraising. We're catching up on blogs and newsletters and reports and trying to catch up on things at home that get neglected during the rehab season.

THIS year, because of the crazy weather and record number of patients being overwintered, we've spent countless, unplanned hours moving animals that should be outside preparing for their release to inside set ups out of the incredibly long stretches of brutal cold. This adds many hours to the day for cleaning and care.

Then there was the snow removal. If it wasn't cold, it was snowing. Or many times it was both! All that extra time took away from? Why the catch up time at home, of course, because the animals come first! But who needs to clean the house when you're so busy you can't be home to see the mess?

This is the type of thing rehabbers all over the country are doing.

Now you know some of what rehabbers do to prepare for baby season. What can YOU do to prepare? Did you know not all wildlife rehabilitation facilities are not created equal?

In Wisconsin, wildlife rehabilitators must be permitted. They must pass a written test (that Mark & Sharon helped write) and then be sponsored under an experienced rehabber for two years. During those two years they are only allowed to care for rodents, rabbits, raccoons and maybe songbirds depending on the mentor they have as a sponsor. After that they may add species, depending on their experience and caging enclosures. There are minimum standards for enclosure design for each species that must be met. Wild Instincts goes beyond minimum standards in our enclosures. Some species require very large enclosures that not all wildlife rehabilitators have the space to provide while other species need special techniques to keep them wild and from getting attached to people. Endangered and Threatened species

need another special permit. Wildlife rehabilitation is a complicated profession that's not as easy as just putting a bunny in a box with some carrots. Wild Instincts has a success rate well above the national average for very good reasons.

Time is of the essence in wildlife rehabilitation. The sooner the animal can get treatment, the better the chance of a positive outcome. The last thing you want to do is hunt around for a wildlife rehab place that is able to treat whatever species is bleeding on your deck while your kids are crying for you to help it.

Wild Instincts is permitted to rehabilitate ALL native Wisconsin wildlife species, including Endangered and Threatened. This is one of the reason we admit patients from such a large geographic area. Not many centers are permitted and have the facilities to do this. In fact, Wild Instincts is the only one in Northern Wisconsin.

While we're busy counting down the days until the first baby arrives, you can prepare for baby season by looking up Wildlife Rehabilitators close to you to prepare, just in case. In Wisconsin the Wildlife Rehabilitator Directory is on line. It is divided by geographic sections of the state and lists all the licensed rehabilitators, their facility AND the animals they are permitted to treat.

Remember also that there are permitted rehabbers that may take care of animals out of their home. Generally they take care of smaller animals like squirrels, bunnies and maybe opossums. Just because they operate out of their home does not reflect their skill or dedication. Often they specialize in one species and become very skilled at the care of that species.

Check out your area. Bookmark the link. Put the nearest qualified rehabber 's number on your fridge and in your phone for when you're in the car on the road and see an eagle get hit by a car. You'll have the correct number at your finger tips and save valuable time-time that will help us help them.

Here's the link to the [Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitator Directory](#)

If you're not in Wisconsin, check out your state's Department of Natural Resources or similar agency's website and search for wildlife rehabilitation. There are also helpful links available at [International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council](#) or [National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association](#)



Western Painted Turtle hanging out and waiting for weather to allow its release.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

~In memory of **Jessie Julian**, an amazing beagle and devoted friend who will be missed by many

~In memory of **Gladys James**

~In memory of **Lois Peterson**

~In memory of **Cletus Gillis**, a wonderful man who will be missed by many

Winter's Unseen Victims

No one in the Northwoods can deny this winter of 2013-14 has been challenging, if not just down right brutal.

Unrelenting Polar Vortex after Polar Vortex has forced us to move patients that should be in outside enclosures to inside set ups. Not only has the weather brought us more patients than normal, but it's added to the work load of routine chores making it take longer than normal to care for said patients. At least we can give our patients a warm place to come. What about all the wild animals out there in this weather?

For the most part animals are adapted quite ingeniously to their environments and have ways of coping with this weather in short bursts. When it drags on for what seems like forever, then problems will develop.

Animals will starve and die. It happens. We've seen the reports on TV asking to be on the look out for starving deer. Starving turkeys are being reported.

What about the victims we can't see? Those victims that most people don't even think about.

Recently we admitted a porcupine. Someone had found it in a snow bank, mostly unconscious. She took it in and even knowing she was breaking the law, tried to care for it. After two days, she finally decided to get it help.

When the porcupine arrived, it was unconscious and severely hypothermic. Its temperature didn't even register on the thermometer! It sounds like it had been that way from the beginning. Two days of hypothermia is hard to overcome. In the end, despite our best efforts, the porcupine passed away. Shortly before she passed away she expelled an unborn fetus.

Gestation for porcupines is about 210 days. They breed in Oct-Nov. We generally see young porcupettes in early April. Taking factors into account, it appears her unborn was about 8 weeks away from partuation, probably about 154 days in its development, putting it into the third trimester.



Porcupine fetus aborted by dying porcupine.

Presently, not much is known about the various diseases that affect porcupines. Recently, cases of hepatic lipidosis (HL) have been reported in captive North American porcupine in zoos. Whether the HL incidence in captivity is comparable to that in wild porcupine populations is not presently known. Hepatic lipidosis and pregnancy toxemia have been reported in humans, deer, cows, and ewes. In women, hepatic dysfunction complicates about 3% of pregnancies and tends to occur in the last trimester of gestation. Similarly, sheep on a low-energy diet in late gestation frequently develop pregnancy toxemia and HL. It is quite possible that this porcupine developed complications from her pregnancy in a brutal winter requiring massive energy demands.

In the Northwoods, many species carry their unborn during the winter months so they can be born, grow during a time of more abundant food, and be ready to survive their first winter.

When winters are harsh, unborn may be resorbed to save the life of the mother by decreasing energy demands. It takes a great deal of energy to carry offspring in the womb as well as the immediate demands after birth during nursing.

Following difficult winters, there may be a decrease in young born for this reason. They are the unseen victims of the winter until spring when the forest has less little ones running around and their absence is noticed.

Deer may abort and resorb some of their offspring, resulting in one fawn instead of two or three.

In porcupine cases, they are only in estrus for 8-12 hours once per year resulting in only one young per year.

Had this porcupine died quietly in the woods, one would probably have thought only of this one victim of winter and not even been aware of its unseen victim.

Bobcat Update

Last issue we told you of the Dane County Humane Society's Four Lakes Wildlife Center bobcat that we provided some aftercare. She was transferred back to [Four Lakes Wildlife Center](#) for release where she came from. (photos by Brook Lewis)



Jumping from carrier to freedom.



Taking a moment to get her bearings.



The last two photos need no captions ☺





Some items a 12-year-old donated in honor of her mom.

WISH LIST, AMAZON and NOW AMAZON SMILES

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping.

We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Those Amazon users will be happy to know there's now ANOTHER way to support Wild Instincts...drumroll....just by shopping as usual for yourself!

Instead of signing in to amazon.com, sign into smile.amazon.com. All your Amazon settings are the same, work the same, even Amazon Prime is the same.

The only difference is Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to Wild Instincts.

A super simple way to support us!

Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling. We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets

~Venison

~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)

~Paper Towels

~White Noise Machines, 2-3 (to give the interns some privacy in their rooms; see our Amazon Wish List)

~Liquid Hand Soap

~Dish Soap

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping ☺



This winter has been tough on many. This mourning dove suffered from a severe case of frostbite. Unfortunately, even with intensive therapy, it was unable to overcome its injuries.

Extra Shopping Incentive

Shop at AmazonSmile now through 3/31/14 and Amazon will donate an extra \$5 to Wild Instincts. This is in addition to the regular donation of 0.5% of the purchase price.


To get started click [HERE](#)

Species	1/1-3/20/14
American Goldfinch	3
Bald Eagle	1
Big Brown Bat	7
Black Bear	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Bobcat	2
Coyote	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	1
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1

Little Brown Bat	1
Mourning Dove	1
Muskrat	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Porcupine	1
Raccoon	3
Red Squirrel	1
Ruffed Grouse	1
Snapping Turtle	17
Turkey Vulture	1
Western Painted Turtle	4
Total	52

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Click on the box to see for yourself.

Wild Instincts

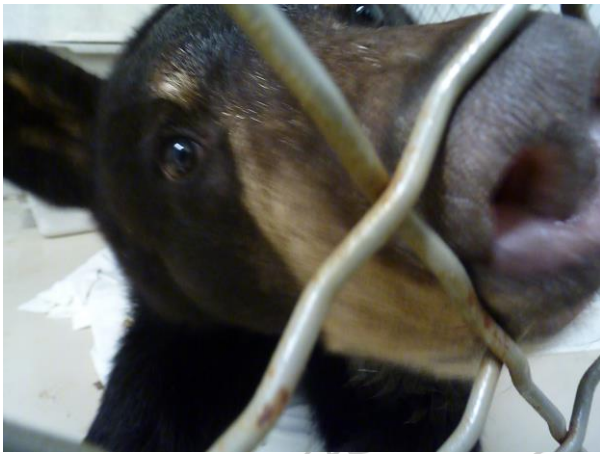
Events Calendar

Second Annual Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run, Sat June, 21st Harley-Davidson of Wausau

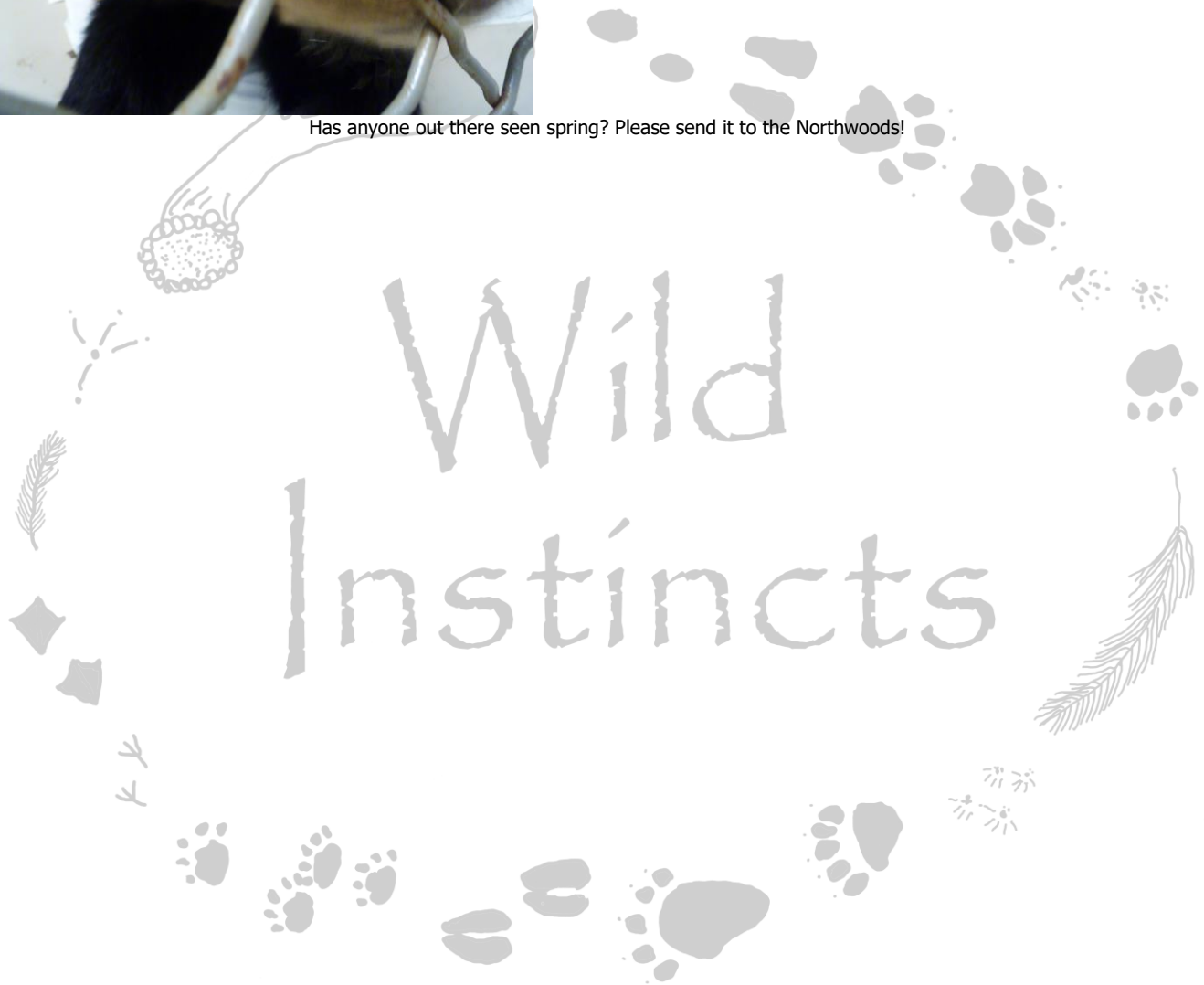
Third Annual Walk in the Wild at North Lakeland Discovery Center on Sat Sept 13th

Hodag Farmer's Market Bake Sale, 8:00-12:00 at Hodag Farmer's Market

Wild For Wine & Cheese Cruise TBA, Wisconsin River Cruises



Has anyone out there seen spring? Please send it to the Northwoods!



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May 2014

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Babies Are Here!

The 2014 Baby Season officially started with the arrival of two male bear cubs admitted April 11th. They had been found in a ditch along a road, their mom most likely killed by a car.

Now that the weather has FINALLY warmed up, the babies are coming in pretty steadily. We are expecting some issues coming out of the snowiest, coldest winter on record. Many animals will most likely be compromised in some way going into the birthing season. This will in turn then affect the health of their babies.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

White-nose Syndrome Update

During winter surveillance efforts of cave bats in April of this year, White-nose Syndrome (WNS) was discovered in Grant County, Wisconsin. This unfortunately has changed cave bat rehabilitation rules and regulations. Prior to this discovery, Wild Instincts had to have special permits to be able to care for cave bats.

Now with confirmation that WNS is in WI, all cave bat activities have been suspended statewide. Wildlife rehabilitators in the state of Wisconsin are not allowed to admit any cave bat. The bats we have had all winter waiting for the weather to get warm enough to release will have to be kept in care until more is decided.

If you find a bat, you can still call us and we will give you the best advice we can and will help as much as we can legally do so. Tree bats are unaffected by this so we can still continue caring for red, silver and hoary bats without interruption.

When things change, we will let you know.



This Big Brown Bat is being rehydrated orally.

Surprise Birthday Bundles

A trip to a home construction store resulted in a surprise bonus.

A dad purchased a birthday gift for his son. When he got home, opened the box and looked for the instructions, he found the booklet chewed up and three little heads nestled inside.

This two-week old red squirrel and her two brothers were brought to us. The dad tried to go online to look up the instructions, but discovered quickly momma squirrel had chewed up some important wiring as well. He wound up having to return the package to the store sans the squirrels which will be returned to the wild, not a home construction warehouse.



Two-week old red squirrel orphan.

Eagle vs Peregrine

We were honored to have another Eagle Scout candidate choose a Wild Instincts Project for their own.

Justin White chose to build our resident peregrine falcon's enclosure. Because Amelia arrived late last fall after construction season ended, she spent the winter inside-in the fawn room. That meant this particular project was extremely time sensitive because it had to be finished before fawns started arriving. Justin spent several weeks getting materials, some of which he managed to get donated. He spent a lot of time organizing the help he would need to do this.

A date for construction was set. The forecast, however, did not cooperate. Snow AGAIN?! The date had to be changed and reorganized.

Two weeks later, the weather was cold and drizzly, but a crew showed up Friday evening to make sure the utility pole framework was erected for the main construction to take place on Saturday.



The crew really getting into their work.



Friday night's pole crew

Saturday's weather was a little better and a whole crew showed up to work.

And work they did!

THANK YOU to Justin and his workers.

Amelia loves her new house.

Thank you for helping us help them.



Frame going on the poles.



Working on the double door.



Preparing for the roof.



Outside structure finished and waiting for perches and Amelia.



Installing the roof.



Justin and Amelia in front of her new enclosure.

Thank you for helping us help them!

Another Mammal Enclosure

Despite the late arrival of spring and the sporadic appearance of it, another mammal enclosure was completed allowing Wild Instincts to be even more prepared for the great diversity of species that we care for.



Volunteers Tim & Cheryl help install wire on the walls of another mammal enclosure.

Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program

The Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program is a citizen-based monitoring program. You can help Wisconsin's turtle populations by reporting when you help turtles across the road or note where they have been killed by cars.

This will help determine where special signs or crossings may need to be established to protect them in the future.

For more info on the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program, click [HERE](#)

In Their Own Words

Sue Hassel, Volunteer, Wausau, WI

It has been a year since we joined the Wild Instincts team. What a year, indeed. In years past we've been involved with other rehab centers only to find a bad fit for us. We like rehabbers to be people oriented as well as critter oriented and be licensed in advanced rehab. After a trip to Wild Instincts, I was ready to jump right in. Herb tried hard to keep things slow and protect me from another disappointment. My best friend, Martha, had a stroke and could no longer be a voice of reason for me. Today,

we know she would very much approve of our involvement.

We attended the 2013 rescue/driver class. From then the year became a whirlwind of activity. We traveled thousands of miles to help critters. Even better, Sharon and Mark have become friends.

Our journey began with a baby bunny found by a group of inebriated people who seemed to really care about this little one. It was so frightened. I held its little box close as we traveled the 65 miles for help. For Mark, the first order of business was flea powder. We never thought about fleas! I felt itchy all the way home that day.

Throughout the year we transported many turtles and bunnies as well as birds, fawns, raccoons and other critters. Some we knew would not live, but knowing their suffering would be humanely ended was a comfort for us. One very stormy, we were called to Thorp to pick up a fawn the WDNR had rescued from captivity. The weather was so bad that getting to Wausau was a challenge. Mark suggested we wait for morning to transport. We brought his carrier into the house, and he spent the night in his carrier in our huge walk-in shower. We likely got more comfort than he to know he was not alone as the storm raged on. We were allowed to participate in his release.

Our biggest thrill was transporting a bobcat to Vernon County for release. It came to Wild Instincts for rehab and conditioning. Mark and Sharon told us how a bobcat release generally goes. There were seven other people around for the release, so she was nervous. Instead of a few seconds, it took 30 minutes and much encouragement to get her to leave the safety of her carrier. Then she stopped several times and turned to look at all of us. That was a sight we will never forget. It was a warm and fuzzy feeling to know that Mark and Sharon trusted us to transport her.

Most of our friends will never understand what we do. Berry picking is a hobby, and

bears love berries. What fun it is to pick lots of berries and not have to clean them! The bears did not mind a spider or two and a few leaves. We did feel guilty when we saw Sharon look longing at the gallon bags of blackberries. Several more trips to the berry patch for Sharon, and we did clean them. Apple season was wonderful. On the way home from the berry patch, the car magically stopped at a number of apple trees. Gathering bushels of apples was a fun chore. Some of the nicer ones made great applesauce to share.

Searching for good deals on wire and other items allowed us to help in other ways. We made a trip to Waunakee for big rolls of wire. Company offered us the use of a big trip to haul wire-1100 feet on load. Driving the truck with such a load was a new experience. We made several additional trips with our vehicle to procure wire. Being so close to Madison gave me the opportunity to go to a favorite store at East Towne Mall.

It has been a great year with many new and exciting adventures. Knowing we are helping Mark and Sharon help critters gives us a feeling of contentment.

Katie Johnson
Spring Intern
Eau Claire, WI

"Without new experiences, something inside of us sleeps. The sleeper must awaken."

-Frank Herbert

At first, the task of writing about my experience at Wild Instincts seemed like it would be pretty simple. When the time came to actually begin writing, I drew a blank. How can I put into words something that has all been so new to me, full of experiences I never thought I'd find myself in? It has been a wild internship that I am very lucky to have had the chance to do. As the years go on, the more I choose comfort over adventure. I find it terrifying to put myself out there and try new things,

mostly due to the chance of failing. Just like the quote above states, a part of me fell asleep with the experiences I chose to walk away from. In April of 2013 I made some drastic life changes and with those changes came an awakening. I realized all the chances I chose not to take put a part of me to sleep, little by little, until I had become someone I did not recognize. I chose to awaken.



Katie and Ruby get to know each other.

Applying for this internship is one of the greatest steps I have taken towards becoming who I always thought I was. A woman that is willing to throw herself into new experiences. A woman with the strength to move forward, no matter what happens. A woman that is fully awake, for the first time in too long.

My time at Wild Instincts has had its up and downs- just like life is meant to be. I've learned more about myself in these two months than I ever dreamed possible. The experiences I walk away with have only made me more confident in the strength I possess and the path I choose to forge in this wild thing called life. If someone would have told me a year ago that I would be holding eagles, feeding what seems like countless baby squirrels, taking care of black bears, finding a strange connection to

bats or that I would be oddly honored that an eagle threw up on my shoe, I would have thought you were insane. But would you look at that! One year later and all of that (and then some) has happened. I will forever be grateful for this experience and will be amazed until my very last day that I was able to partake in something so great. If only everyone could be so lucky.

Second Annual Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run

The Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run was established to honor a special man who touched so many lives, loved riding and animals. Proceeds will benefit Wild Instincts!

The ride starts at the Harley-Davidson of Wausau, continues north to Rhinelander and then ends at Rock Island Resort in Merrill with live music and raffles.

If you have a motorcycle here's a great reason to take it for a spin. *If you don't have a motorcycle, you are welcome to register and come in your car. Or if you'd rather, just come to Merrill and participate in the raffles and enjoy the live music.*

Our patients come from all over the state of Wisconsin, so what better way to include everyone than a fundraising event that travels through some of the area we serve? As you read through the stories and watch the videos, please remember none of them would be possible without the generosity of people like you. All proceeds from this fundraiser will help wildlife in need like these orphaned black bear cubs. These brothers were admitted April 11th after their mom was killed by a car. Four more were admitted after their mom was illegally shot by a poacher. None of these will be released until October.



Four month old orphan black bear cubs.

Like all of our hundreds of patients, they didn't arrive with any health insurance to help pay for their care. Participating in the Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run is one way you could help them grow up to be wild again. Don't those faces deserve your help?

Still not convinced? Click this link for some persuading [bear cub video](#).

You DO NOT have to be member of Facebook to follow us on Facebook. You can follow all our stories, photos and videos without joining Facebook. You simply can't comment on them unless you are a member of Facebook.

Click on the box to see for yourself.

[facebook](#)

WISH LIST, AMAZON and NOW AMAZON SMILES

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Those Amazon users will be happy to know there's now ANOTHER way to support Wild Instincts...drumroll....just by shopping as usual for your own personal needs! Instead of signing in to amazon.com, sign into smile.amazon.com. All your Amazon settings are the same, work the same, even Amazon Prime is the same.

The only difference is Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to Wild Instincts. A super simple way to support us! Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling. We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~Venison
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)
- ~Paper Towels
- ~Pitchforks
- ~Liquid Hand Soap
- ~Dish Soap
- ~Heavy Duty Garden Hoses (100' especially)

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping ☺



Special thanks to the Girl Scout of the Northwestern Great Lakes for having us present to their group and collecting all this things plus cash donations!



Amelia and Summer Intern Sarah listen to last minute instructions on moving Amelia into her new enclosure.



This Belted Kingfisher was admitted after hitting a window. It was released back to the wild a few weeks later.

Species	1/1-4/30/14
American Goldfinch	4
American Woodcock	3
Bald Eagle	5
Belted Kingfisher	1
Big Brown Bat	9
Black Bear	3
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Bobcat	2
Coyote	1
Downy Woodpecker	2
Eastern Cottontail	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	1
Gray Fox	1
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Hermit Thrush	1
Herring Gull	1
Little Brown Bat	1
Merlin	1
Mourning Dove	1
Muskrat	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Porcupine	1
Raccoon	5
Red Squirrel	1
Rock Dove	1
Ruffed Grouse	2
Short-tailed Weasel	1
Snapping Turtle	17
Turkey Vulture	1
Western Painted Turtle	5
White-tailed Deer	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Total	82

Events Calendar

Second Annual Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run, Sat June, 21st, Harley-Davidson of Wausau

Third Annual Walk in the Wild at North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters on Sat Sept 13th

Hodag Farmer's Market Bake Sale, Saturday, Aug 9th, 8:00-12:00 at Hodag Farmer's Market, Rhinelander

Wild For Wine & Cheese Cruise TBA, Wisconsin River Cruises, Rhinelander



If you have a raccoon problem in your attic or garage or cabin, try playing a radio at night. Call us for details on how to do this successfully.

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

Sept 2014

Vol 4:4

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Summer of the Starving Eaglets

We in the Northwoods know what a brutal winter 2013-2014 was with its record shattering cold temperatures along with record snow falls. It was not fun for man nor beast.

The late cool spring also continued to affect the wildlife.

We never know what species of animals will need our help. We have an idea based on decades of experience what SHOULD be expected in a certain timeframe.

This year was a year of some surprises- few loon admissions, a handful of orphaned songbirds instead of normal numbers close to 100, no phoebes, not even common species like blue jays, and a non-existent fall orphan squirrel season to name a few.

One of the biggest surprises was the record number of starving eaglets this year. We've never seen numbers like this.

It could be a lingering effect of the brutal winter. Parents already stressed from the ruthless snow and cold may have had a hard time keeping up with hungry mouths. Reports from human anglers were polar opposites. Some reported great success while others said it was the worst fishing ever.

Could the eagles have been affected by poor fishing?

We will be releasing FIVE six month old eagles in a few weeks.



Approximately 7- week old bald eaglet



Just some of the eagles currently in the flight enclosure.

We Need Venison!

Because of the large number of starving eaglets, a couple bobcat kits, a couple coyote pups and a few adult eagles suffering from lead poisoning, our venison stores are alarmingly low.

With fall upon us we know some of you out there may be cleaning out your freezers. Our patients would love to have your old venison!

GRATITUDES

Special thanks to

- Russ Davis Wholesale, Merrill
 - Expera Specialty Solutions, Rhinelander
 - White Birch Village Resort, Boulder Junction
 - St Mathias Thrift Store, Minocqua
- For all the businesses supporting Wild Instincts click [HERE](#)



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird is recovering from striking a window.

Windows vs Birds

With fall migration upon us and many birds on the move, we see admissions from birds sustaining injuries from striking windows. This is preventable. There are a number of products that make your windows appear more visible to birds, while still being almost invisible to you and allowing you to see out. Wild Instincts carries Window Alerts in our gift shop. Birds have so many obstacles to overcome in their long migrations. Our windows shouldn't be one of them.



She was lucky and was able to be released, just in time for fall migration.

In Memory or Honor of

Donations have been received

- ~ In Memory of Lisa Wiedmann, a kind, caring, wonderful person who will be missed by many
- ~ In Memory of Charlene Kerschhackl and In Honor of Heidi Kerschhackl, GSD, both special female spirits inspiring others

Thrivent Financial

Those of you who are members of Thrivent Financial will be happy to know Wild Instincts is now listed in Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program. By directing Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations.

We have already benefited from this several times this quarter.

BUY & SELL ON eBAY FOR WILD INSTINCTS!

You can support Wild Instincts when you buy or sell on eBay, with the eBay Giving Works Program. Here's how:

Wild Instincts is a part of the eBay Giving Works External Link program. So, you can help us help them when you buy and sell on eBay.

Buy

You can find whatever you're looking for on eBay-from baseball cards to new cars and more. When you do, shop for items that

benefit us. You can get a great deal and support us at the same time!

Shop now to support [WILD INSTINCTS Sell](#)

You can also support us when you sell on eBay. Just designate Wild Instincts to receive 10-100% of your final sale price the next time you list something great.

Did you know that charity listings often get more bids and higher prices than regular eBay listings? Boost your sales and support our wild friends while you're at it! Plus eBay gives back to you, too, with a fee credit on your basic selling fees.

To support Wild Instincts sell [NOW](#).

Attend a Virtual Fundraiser

Many of you have mentioned your disappointment at not being able to participate in supporting us at our fundraisers because of geography. Being unable to travel to our local fundraisers will no longer leave you feeling left out.

Through our eBay Giving Works program we will be having online auctions, virtual rummage sales and the like.

We will be announcing the first one just in time for holiday gift giving.



Eagle admissions this year seem to be multiplying just like their shadows in the flight enclosure.

You DO NOT have to be member of Facebook to follow us on Facebook. You can follow all our stories, photos and videos without joining Facebook. You simply can't comment on them unless you are a member of Facebook.

Click on the box to see for yourself.

[facebook](#)

WISH LIST, AMAZON and NOW AMAZON SMILES

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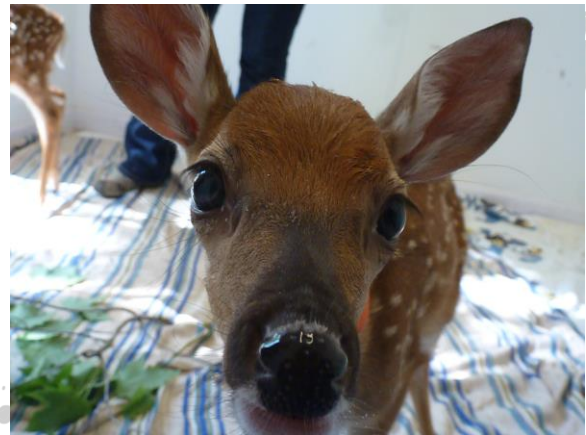
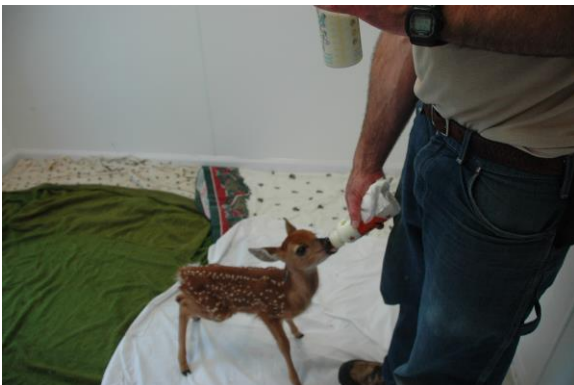
- ~Paper Towels
- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~VENISON
- ~Toilet Paper
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)



This river otter admitted as an orphan on 6/7 after being found in a nursing home parking lot. Here's her last peek back as she started her wild life on 9/20.

FAWNS to Release

The first one arrived on May 29, 2014 and they kept coming.



They went through 10 boxes of formula (at \$216.00/box). They ate hundreds of pounds of carrots, apples, sweet potatoes, potatoes, commercial deer food and wild browse. Each fawn cost about \$1350 to raise to release. Ten fawns were released in September.

Walking into a life in the Wild...



...PRICELESS.



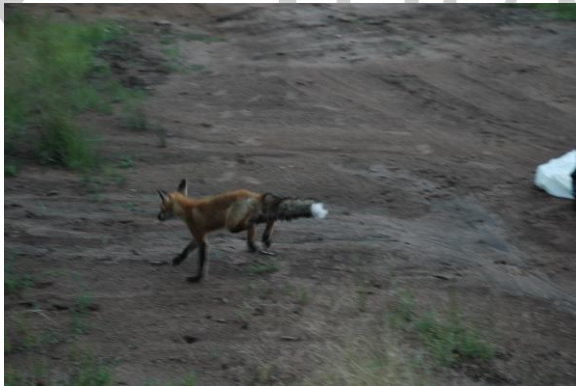
Bobcat kitten being weighed upon admission, 6/13



Orphaned Red Fox Kit admitted 5/16



Same bobcat kitten on left on 8/23 when another young bobcat (on right) recently transferred was added to the pre-release enclosure.



Red Fox released 8/3



Coyote pup on admission on 6/13



Same coyote pup on left. More recently admitted, younger coyote pup on right.

Species	1/1-9/9/14
American Badger	1
American Goldfinch	5
American Robin	22
American Toad	1
American Woodcock	3
Bald Eagle	24
Baltimore Oriole	2
Barn Swallow	1
Beaver	1
Belted Kingfisher	4
Big Brown Bat	9
Black Bear	16
Black-and-White Warbler	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3
Blue Jay	2
Bobcat	4
Broad-winged Hawk	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Canada Goose	10
Chipping Sparrow	6
Common Grackle	5
Common Loon	2
Common Nighthawk	1
Coyote	3
Deer Mouse	18
Downy Woodpecker	3
Eastern Bluebird	1
Eastern Chipmunk	4
Eastern Cottontail	85
Eastern Gray Squirrel	27
Gray Fox	2

Great Blue Heron	3
Great Horned Owl	3
Green Frog	1
Green Heron	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Hermit Thrush	1
Herring Gull	1
Hooded Merganser	4
Indigo Bunting	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Little Brown Bat	1
Mallard Duck	26
Merlin	5
Mourning Dove	10
Muskrat	1
Northern Flicker	9
Northern Harrier	1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Porcupine	1
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	36
Red Fox	4
Red Squirrel	15
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2
Ring-billed Gull	1
River Otter	2
Rock Dove	7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Ruffed Grouse	2
Sandhill Crane	1
Short-tailed Weasel	1
Snapping Turtle	22
Song Sparrow	2
Southern Flying Squirrel	2
Striped Skunk*	1
Swainson's Thrush	2
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	12
Turkey Vulture	2
Unknown	5
Western Painted Turtle	11
White-tailed Deer	32
Wood Duck	7
Wood Turtle	1
Woodchuck	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Total	535

Events Calendar

Wild For Wine & Cheese Cruise ,

Sat, Sept 27th, Noon-2:00 p.m., Wisconsin River Cruises, Rhinelander. Join us on the Wisconsin River for wine, hors d'oeuvres, raffles and more!

Thank you for helping
us help them



Wild
Instincts

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

Nov 2014

Vol 4:4

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Did You Blink?

...Because if you did you probably missed "summer" this year.

June, July, August and September are the only four months we didn't see snow in 2014.

We still are sorting out how the last couple years are affecting populations and species. Songbird admissions were down over 48%. While we'd love to think that was because people kept their cats inside, taught their dogs not to chase wildlife, drove with utmost care and never thought of using rat poison or lawn care chemicals, that's probably not the case. It's probably due to in large part to the weather.

This early Veteran's Day major snow coming on the back of record-breaking winters, may not bode well for us or our wild friends.

We've already broken the record for the snowiest November, and it's not even half-over!

The Winter Severity Index is a tool that biologists use to measure how deer specifically are affected by the winter. One of the parameters is snow depth over 18". Here, in mid-November, we already have 20+".

Another record-breaking winter could wreck more havoc with our wild friends as well as the spirits of even the most hardy Northwoods residents.



2015 Calendar is here.

Calendar is Here!

The 2015 Wild Instincts calendar has arrived. It features great photos of some of the interesting patients from 2014. Get yours now in time for gift giving. Cost is \$20.00 (plus shipping if necessary). Look for it in our gift shop online soon.

We Need Venison!

Because of the large number of starving eaglets, a couple bobcat kits, a couple coyote pups and a few adult eagles suffering from lead poisoning, our venison stores are alarmingly low.

With fall upon us we know some of you out there may be cleaning out your freezers.

GRATITUDES

Special thanks to

-St. Germain Primetimers, St. Germain

-Presque Isle Lionesses, Presque Isle

For all the businesses supporting Wild Instincts click [HERE](#)

In Memory or Honor of

Donations have been received

~ In Memory of Ruth and George Nance, animal lovers whose legacy lives on

~ In Memory of Chuck Faber, a kind, compassionate man who will be missed greatly

~ In Memory of "Ledum's" grace

~ In Memory of a much-loved father's birthday

In Their Own Words

Tawny Liebe
Graduate, BS

Wildlife Ecology, Research & Management
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

During my short time as an intern here at Wild Instincts I have learned more than I ever thought possible coming in. While I knew there was a lot more to wildlife rehabilitation than just feeding and cleaning up after animals, I really had no idea exactly what I was getting myself into. I have smelled and touched things that I had never dreamed of getting so close to- from bullhead slime to mounds of bear poop, and who knew that eagles have their own specific odor? I loved every second of it! I learned that in order to rehabilitate wildlife you need to know about their natural history, not only about their natural history, not only what they eat, but when they reproduce, how long the parents care for the young, when they migrate (if they do), their natural behaviors, etc. You must also have a lot of the same knowledge that a veterinarian might have- such as knowing the signs of shock, head/spinal trauma as well as any other injury or disease an animal may be presented with as well as knowing how to properly treat each of these conditions.

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

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

While wildlife rehabilitation can be an emotionally and physically taxing- you are often working 12 hours or more a day and not every animal has a hopeful prognosis- seeing the baby orphans grow up and watching many injured animals grow stronger daily and be released makes it all worthwhile. It is extremely rewarding to know that you have played a part in giving them a second chance, especially since most of these animals need to be rehabilitated due to some form of direct or indirect human-induced injury or poisoning. I really enjoyed learning the process of wildlife rehabilitation from admittance and initial examination to release and I have been fortunate enough to be able to learn all of these things during my internship from two very knowledgeable, dedicated and selfless people. I feel lucky to have had my first internship and introduction to wildlife rehab here with them!



Fall interns Ashley and Tawny

Ashley Wallace
Graduate, BS
Biology
Northern Arizona University

When I arrived at Wild Instincts at the end of the July it felt like I had never left although it has actually been an entire year since I went back home to Arizona. Since then, I got the chance to see a bit more of the world and some of the wildlife native to

715-490-2727(cell)

England but I fell back into the ole routine pretty quickly. The knowledge I acquired last year returned and I have even been able to fine tune some skills that I was not able to get more practice with last fall. In particular, we did not have this many bald eagles. We have had so many we have been calling it the year of the eagle (one of our many theories as to why we are seeing so many is the past winter was very hard on wildlife and the eagles). I have been practicing picking them up and setting them back down for exams, tubing them past their crops and into their stomachs when they are starved or unable to eat by themselves and giving them subcutaneous or intramuscular injections (and I only sprayed Mark with food from the tube once!).

Last year, I got bit on the thumb by a bald eagle because I found them so intimidating and jerked my hand instinctually when attempting to grasp the head for a tube feeding (eagles prefer calm, slow motions and if you come from behind, you can control the head and mouth before they figure out what you are up to) and this year, I knew exactly how to correctly grasp and hold the eagle's head and beak to tube. It was a nice feeling to get comfortable doing it. Now I have to get comfortable picking up eagles when they get on their backs and try and foot you (grab with their talons). We have had a few of these uncooperative patients who refuse to allow us to grab them in the "usual" way. Instead, they get on their backs, feet thrust in the air and then I have to grab their feet first instead of their wings, use a one handed grip on their legs and then put my arm underneath them to pin both wings and get them up (why does it sound so easy in print?)

Coming back for the same time period is really familiar especially when we started seeing patients I could recognize easily such as young, American goldfinches. They are so clever, they learn to call to us usually on

the hour when they know they are about to be fed. When I got the first one in, I knew immediately what it was because it was talking a bunch (probably ordering me to get it some food immediately)! Strangely this year, I only had one goldfinch to care for and no cedar waxwings which are fairly common patients to see. You miss having old familiars around but new, never before seen patients (to me) are always exciting as well.

In particular, the great blue heron we received was absolutely beautiful and had the most interesting voice (I've never heard them call!). Herons are very unique in their anatomy even though they fish like the bald eagle which is indicative of how both species, who share a similar diet, hunt differently as well as why they eat totally different species of fish. The great blue heron has just as remarkable beak as a bald eagle (and they seem just as prepared to use it against you as eagles do!)



Great Blue Heron being gently restrained

Interestingly, we used the same length feeding tube that we use on eagles even though the herons do an impressive job of hiding exactly how very long their necks are by folding it into an "s" shape. They are also so much smaller than they seem up close! The trick to herons is to hold their head to your chest by making a circle with your forefinger and thumb around their beak so the heron cannot successfully jab at anyone. This one was particularly

cooperative and neatly folded itself in a corner for restraint when we cleaned. One of my absolute favorite patients this year has to be the bobcat kitten (although I have heard claims that I say that about all the patients.) I follow the Wild Instincts Facebook page and I was extremely jealous I missed hand feeding her (even though I was told it was quite painful as she was all claws, humans aren't really designed to be bobcat mamas but we try our best!) I was delighted she was going to be here when I arrived. I have been lucky to see an adult bobcat one time but it was so fast, the memory is quite fleeting. I was extremely excited to pull her chart and see her. She did not disappoint but I felt bad for her because she didn't have any playmates and we could not be her friends if she was to successfully make it in the wild. I asked about possibly doing an enrichment project for her when not two or three days later we were given the opportunity to get a second kitten from another rehabilitator to be her playmate. This kitten was close in age and much more wild than ours. It made not only a good friend but a good teacher of wild ways as well. Sometimes a playmate is more enrichment than creating a toy or interactive treat! As I end my internship, I was very much looking forward to her release since I have watched her grow and change. I am proud of her and I definitely worry a little bit about her, particularly about her first night back in the wild, but I know she has everything she needs inside her and my biggest wish is that her time with humans will wear off quickly and she will soon realize the joy in being a free and wild cat and huntress of the Northwoods. An example of another patient I have watched grow up but feel differently about is the eldest of our two coyotes. As the weather has gotten cooler, I have seen his coat fill in and change in color and when I look at him, I realize how equipped he is to survive in the wild and I am confident in his ability thrive wherever his paws lead him.

Another new patient for me was a female belted kingfisher. I have never seen a kingfisher in person before and they are stunning and VERY high strung. We had to hand feed her for weeks because she would not eat on her own and boy did she not like that! The day she began to fish on her own was a relief for everyone! Although her ability to feed unassisted improved, she never regained her ability to fly and had to be euthanized since she would not be able to survive in the wild without flight. The woodchuck, also known as a groundhog, was the cutest adult of the new patients I saw this year. A student saw him in the road struggling and skipped her class to bring him to us. We believe he had been hit by a car due to his proximity to the road and the trauma he was exhibiting (lack of coordination and rolling are all signs of head trauma). He slowly improved as we were able to feed him a smoothie of fruits and vegetables and nuts with a large dropper. Unfortunately, he never regained any coordination and appeared to lose his ability to be aware of what was happening around him. We made the decision to euthanize him as well.



Ashley feeding the woodchuck.

As a side note, it is always heart breaking when we lose a patient whether because they pass away from their injuries or

illnesses or whether they never recover enough to survive in the wild and we have to euthanize the animal. I do get attached to them in a way. I want them to heal and get back to the life they remember (or in the case of orphans, the life they have yet to know). I remember each one and certainly do not forget them because they are gone. I also think the decision to euthanize an animal is so very hard. You try to give them enough time to heal and realize sometimes that this is as far as their recovery will go and it hurts you. We do not take it lightly and it is a huge responsibility that weighs on all of us involved in their care and treatment.

On a lighter note, one of my final favorite patients this year (ok, I admit they are all my favorites) was the American beaver. I was not present when this beaver arrived back at Wild Instincts but I heard he was trouble. Apparently, we were trying to give him a shot of antibiotics and he protested to such an assault upon his person (or is it an assault on his beaverness?) He came in with some lacerations around his hindquarters but they were not too deep. He may have been struck by a passing boat but as for most of the patients we never find out for sure. Wrestling with a beaver every day to give it a shot without getting bit by its massive teeth turned out to be very difficult so we switched to an oral antibiotic that we crushed and sprinkled on his food. From then on he was an absolute model patient...well almost. He adores water and would splash and spill it everywhere and move his blankets every day but for some reason we didn't mind especially as we could often peek at him when he didn't know it and watch! He ate all his food and didn't try and avoid the ones with his medication, and other than making his enclosure a bit wet, he was pretty clean. His release day was the best. He stopped and posed for a few pictures and headed straight to the water for a swim! We released him where he was found because

beavers tend to be territorial and its best for them to go back to areas where their homes will likely be.

I also got to see ruffed grouse this year, both male and female, a rough legged hawk, Baltimore orioles, and a Swainson's thrush. I also got to go on an epic loon rescue.

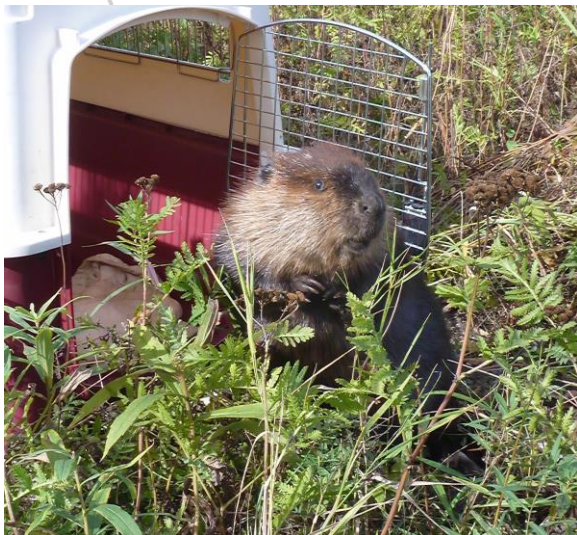
Last year, I went on a few loon rescues and usually we just sit on the beach waiting for the researchers to bring us the loon in trouble. If the loon is lucky we can fix them up right there and let them go back to their aquatic bed, and if not they have to come back to the center with us for further treatment. This year we got to go on a rescue and get in the boat with researchers: Joel, Mike and Kristen. Rescuing loons is extremely difficult and best done at night. For one thing, if a loon hasn't beached itself on land they can be crazy difficult to rescue. Their unique anatomy lets them essentially soar under the water and they are excellent divers, using the depths to avoid predators and us well-meaning humans. Their tiny legs however fail to support their bodies on land and they are easy to grab if they can't escape back to the water. During the day, the loon can see us coming and quickly dives out of reach. When we go at night, they are often confused by our spotlights and lured in by calls. That doesn't mean catching a loon is ever easy. We spent about five hours from eight pm to midnight on the water in the rain and cold, searching for a loon chick tangled in fishing line. We found the adults, parents, the healthy chick, a curious duck and a floating tree. Ok, the tree was actually a beaver doing some housework. But we failed to find the loon chick that night despite following calls and checking all the places we did and did not expect them. The next night however was successful despite the fact that the weather was worse. It took over twenty-four hours and five dedicated people to successfully capture this loon chick and untangle it, not to mention all the hours the researchers put

during the day time, tracking it and its parents to see where they prefer to be on the lake, the gas to run the boat, charging the batteries for spot lights, and all manner of other things people do not think about when they call about a loon in trouble. While I didn't get to be there when the loon was caught, it sincerely was one of the best nights of my life and I really admire the researchers who care so much to come out and spend hours hunting in the dark and all kinds of weather for the loons in trouble. While, I miss raising some of the baby animals from the spring and the summer, the fall is a big release time. We had our big fawn and bear releases this year. The fawns were pretty funny as they try to figure out how their legs work again as the anesthesia wears off and they stumble around in their suddenly expanded world. The bear release was a big weekend this year. We had twelve bears to get packed up and out on their own (and twelve bears and months' worth of feces to clean up later!) Nolan Blair from Channel 12 came out the second day to see what a bear release was like and he asked me a question that I wish I had answered better so I will attempt to answer it for you here. (Click [HERE](#) for the video link).



Bear release

Many people, not just Nolan, are interested in how we feel when we release animals, especially if we raise them from babies and many people expect us to be saddened. I would say that it's hard to describe what it feels like to release a wild animal. There really aren't words for how I feel. Many people assume we rehabilitate animals because we want to own or keep wildlife as pets. This could not be further from the truth. I will readily admit that each new patient I get to see up close is very exciting but I also realize it is a privilege and a gift and that I must take responsibility for this being in my charge which very much includes making sure these animals stay wild. For me, I see animals who are hurt or sick and I want nothing more than to do something to help them and my greatest joy is when I am successful and that animal is returned to the wild. It is almost a feeling of pride similar to seeing your child graduate from school (it is bittersweet but it is not sad). I am pleased these animals get the chance to be their wild selves like you



Beaver release

would be excited that your child gets to start doing something great in the world. It's just that feeling inside you that says you know this is where they belong, that this is right and the world feels a little bit brighter on release day. This is particularly true when you know so many animals are disappearing in the world due to habitat loss, climate change, and other reasons that mostly have to do with how humans treat the planet.

I was thrilled to come back to Wild Instincts and I will forever be beholden to Mark and Sharon for the opportunity they provide for us interns especially when they allow us to come back more than once. I know that I am being taught by the best in the field. I see it in every patient we treat. I feel so lucky that they thought there was something in me that would benefit from a second term here. I know I learned so much more and I enjoyed working here and I cannot express my appreciation enough. I feel very privileged to see how Wild Instincts has changed in the last year and to see the evidence of all the hard work Sharon and Mark put into caring for animals here in Wisconsin. I very much want all their future plans and dreams for Wild Instincts to come true because no two people deserve it more.

I also want to say thank you to all the volunteers, rescue and transport drivers, the members, readers of the newsletter, and all who support Wild Instincts. You have no idea how much you help us and we appreciate each and every one of you and if we forget at the time to say thank you in person, then let me just say it now, Thank You.

WISH LIST

Some select items from our wish list:

- ~Paper Towels
- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~VENISON
- ~Toilet Paper
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)

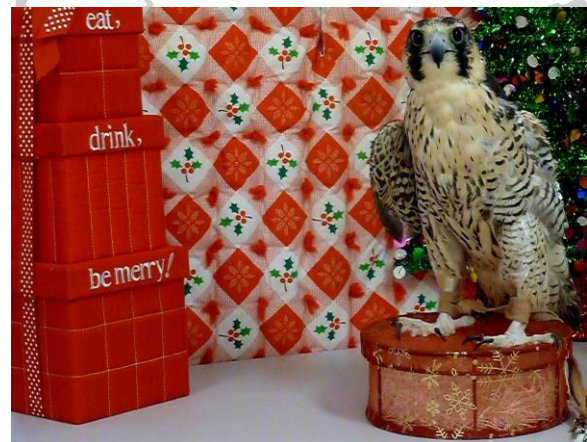
Holiday Shopping Season!

When you are doing your shopping this season (or anytime for that matter), don't forget you can support Wild Instincts while you shop!

Instead of signing in to amazon.com, sign into smile.amazon.com. All your Amazon settings are the same, work the same, even Amazon Prime is the same.

The only difference is Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to Wild Instincts. A super simple way to support us! You can also support Wild Instincts when you buy or sell on eBay, with the eBay Giving Works Program.

Wild Instincts is a part of the eBay Giving Works External Link program. So, you can help us help them when you buy and sell on eBay.



Amelia gets in the holiday spirit.

First Holiday Auction on EBay

Many of you have mentioned your disappointment at not being able to participate in supporting us at our fundraisers because of geography.

We listened and being unable to travel to our local fundraisers will no longer leave you feeling left out.

From Friday, Nov 21st thru Sunday, Nov 30th, we will be having our first holiday auction through our eBay Giving Works. This will allow us to be able to ship your items to you and still give you time to ship

them to your recipients in time for the holidays.

We have wide variety of things to fit different budgets.

Jewelry from recycled pop tabs, autographed books from renowned area naturalists, fine art photographs, and fine artisan handcrafted bead jewelry is a sampling of things you'll see.

Visit often and bid HIGH! Share the news and the links with ALL your friends. Be generous as all proceeds go to provide care for our patients.

You DO NOT need an Ebay account to bid/buy. You can sign in as a guest.

[SHOP NOW HERE.](#)



GET THE LEAD OUT

Hunting season is here for small game, waterfowl and deer season is just around the corner.

Make sure your hunting ammunition is lead free.

Just because you don't actually shoot an eagle doesn't mean you don't kill one.

If you injure your target, but don't retrieve it, a predator may and use it for supper.

If it has lead shot in it, it is a death sentence for an eagle.



Bobcat kitten being weighed upon admission, 6/13



Same bobcat kitten on left on 8/23 when another young bobcat (on right) recently transferred was added to the pre-release enclosure.



Same bobcat running to freedom on 10/27 when they were both released back into the wild.

Species	1/1-11/7/14		
American Badger	1	Pileated Woodpecker	1
American Goldfinch	6	Porcupine	1
American Robin	25	Purple Finch	1
American Toad	1	Raccoon	38
American Woodcock	3	Red Fox	4
Bald Eagle	34	Red Squirrel	15
Baltimore Oriole	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Barn Swallow	1	Red-tailed Hawk	4
Beaver	2	Ring-billed Gull	2
Belted Kingfisher	4	River Otter	2
Big Brown Bat	9	Rock Dove	9
Black Bear	16	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Black-and-White Warbler	2	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Black-capped Chickadee	3	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7
Blue Jay	2	Ruffed Grouse	4
Bobcat	4	Sandhill Crane	1
Broad-winged Hawk	6	Short-tailed Weasel	1
Brown Thrasher	1	Snapping Turtle	24
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Song Sparrow	2
Canada Goose	11	Southern Flying Squirrel	2
Chipping Sparrow	6	Striped Skunk	1
Common Grackle	5	Swainson's Thrush	2
Common Loon	2	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	12
Common Nighthawk	1	Turkey Vulture	3
Cooper's Hawk	1	Unknown	5
Coyote	3	Western Painted Turtle	12
Deer Mouse	18	White-tailed Deer	33
Downy Woodpecker	4	Wood Duck	7
Eastern Bluebird	2	Wood Turtle	1
Eastern Chipmunk	5	Woodchuck	1
Eastern Cottontail	89	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Eastern Gray Squirrel	30	Total	585
Gray Fox	2		
Great Blue Heron	3		
Great Horned Owl	5		
Green Frog	1		
Green Heron	1		
Hairy Woodpecker	3		
Hermit Thrush	1		
Herring Gull	1		
Hooded Merganser	5		
House Finch	1		
Indigo Bunting	1		
Least Flycatcher	1		
Little Brown Bat	1		
Mallard Duck	27		
Merlin	5		
Mourning Dove	11		
Muskrat	1		
Northern Flicker	9		
Northern Harrier	1		
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1		
Peregrine Falcon	1		
Pied-billed Grebe	1		

Events Calendar

Holiday Auction on Ebay

Friday, Nov 21st thru Sun Nov 30th
Shop [HERE NOW](#)

Christmas for the Critters

Friday, Dec 12th 7:00 – 10:30 pm
Pat's Tavern & Grill, 70 Brown St.
Rhinelanders
Renowned Northwoods Musician TUCK
PENCE will be performing LIVE!! Come
listen to the music, enjoy a few raffles, and
buy some baked goods...all while helping
us help them.

**Thank you for helping
us help them!**