

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

Caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

FLIGHTS OF FANCY NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2006

A Letter from the Director

We're gearing up for a spring and summer full of programs and activities here at Eagle Valley. Spring is always a busy time of year for us, not only with school programs and group tours, but also the influx of orphaned baby raptors that need our help: screech owls, great horned owls, and Mississippi Kites to name a few.

We've worked hard these last few weeks to get the grounds in shape for the first of the on-site programs for the year: we've planted a total of 20 new trees on the property, added 24 square feet of concrete to our patio by the pavilion (for new tables), and completed construction on our eagle's nest. The nest has already proved to be a big hit with visitors.

Plans for this year include some night programs, featuring Native American tales and maybe even some owl calling! We've also been approached by local scout troops – we will have boy scouts camping out overnight in our grasslands around the center and some older boys are wanting to do their Eagle Scout projects for us.

All in all, it's shaping up to be an exciting year, and we hope that you're looking forward to sharing it with us!

-Ken Lockwood, Program Director

New Resident Bird?

Eagle Valley Raptor Center hopes to add a new feathered face to the ranks of our animal ambassadors – a seven-year-old female bald eagle.

The paperwork is in the final stages of approval, and we are confident that we will be allowed to provide a home for her. She's currently at the Carolina Raptor Center in Huntersville, NC where she's been housed for the last year or so with a wing injury. A small portion of her right wing has been amputated, leaving her with limited flight capability. Despite her injury, she is still a beautiful and magnificent bird, and we can't wait to meet her.

The Eastside Wichita Business Owners Association has offered to cover her transportation costs from North Carolina to Wichita, for which we are immensely grateful.

By this time next month, we hope to be able to bring you pictures of our newest resident settling in to her permanent home.



Current Needs

We are in need of the items listed below:

- Small refrigerator for our rehab room
- Pine or cedar mulch

We also need 1x12 boards to complete the pens to house wild birds in need of rehab. These pens are a requirement set forth by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Associated Lumber has offered to sell us the boards we need at a fraction of their regular cost, but we need some donations to help cover the cost. If you'd like to help purchase the boards, contact Ken at 316-393-0710 or go to our website at www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org.

Calling All Volunteers!

We're planning on a BIG volunteer work day on **Saturday, April 29** for the usual spring maintenance: re-staining the pens, landscaping, refurbishing the picnic tables, etc. Hard work has its reward, of course, in the form of a pizza party for all involved!

Call Ken at 316-393-0710 if you're interested in helping out.

King's Camp Boys Plant Trees for EVRC

One weekend in March, about fifteen boys from King's Achievement Camp in Goddard came out to Eagle Valley and put their muscles to work for a good cause. They helped plant the 20 new trees, which included twelve 8-foot cedars donated by a property owner in Elk Falls. Two of the boys, however, were reprieved from tree-planting and set to work with volunteer Rachel remulching the flight pen (under the watchful eyes of resident eagle Wasu), seating area in front of the smaller pens, and the partially-completed new rehab pens.

"We're very grateful for the time and effort these boys put in for us," says Ken Lockwood. "They never complained, they worked hard, they should be proud of themselves."

EVRC "Alumni" Update

You may remember in the February newsletter where we highlighted the release of 3 red tailed hawks, one of which came from King's Camp. Director Phil Landis found "Serenity" (pictured on right just prior to her release) sitting in the middle of the road, too exhausted to move. He brought her to Eagle Valley where she quickly recuperated.

Since her release, she has been spotted several times by employees and residents of King's Camp near the area where we let her go, and she appears to be doing very well. In one instance she was seen taking down a fully grown pheasant!

It's not often that we are privileged to see our birds after their release, and we're thankful that King's Camp gave us not only some wonderful volunteers, but also a rare glimpse into the lives of a bird we saved.



Thanks to Our Donors

- Polly Peters and family
- Brock Oaks and Tiffany Farha
- Discovery School
- Independent School
- Montessori School

Without you our center would not be possible!

Donations Needed

As always, we need monetary donations so we can continue our mission of saving injured raptors and educating the public about conservation and ecology. It costs us over \$300 a month just to feed our resident birds – a cost which goes up with each wild bird we take in for rehab. Eagle Valley Raptor Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit entity, so your donation to us is tax deductible.

Donate online at:

www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org

Check out the Wichita Eagle on Thursday, April 6. The Neighbor's section will feature a wonderful article on EVRC, and some terrific pictures!

EVRC @ GPEI Benefit

On March 24th, the Great Plains Earth Institute in Wichita hosted Forever Wild 2006, a major outreach tour to all 50 states celebrating America's wilderness areas. Walkin' Jim Stoltz has personally walked over 26,000 miles of wild country and he shared his experiences and the story of his journey with the audience. Despite the Shocker game that same evening, a good-sized crowd showed up to hear his tale. Eagle Valley set up a booth and showcased our barn owl, Miles, and our American kestrel, Turnpike. Miles was the big hit of the evening, as he perched patiently while attendees pressed forward for a closer look, and we heard many comments about "the beautiful owl" in attendance.

