

TreeHouse Droppings



Sam & Cheryl with fawn



Sherri & Dr. Myer



Chili at Blessing of the Animals



Kathy feeding orphans

In this issue: President's Message, Zorro, Eagle Feathers, Interns, New Staff, Continuing Education, Rescues, Releases, Poison, Owl Fest, Boo, Cassie, Construction, Harry Potter Flash Mob, A Very Critter Christmas, 2018 Wrap Up, Fundraising, Workdays, Acknowledgements, Gift Shop, Guardian Program, Information, Memberships, Explorers

30+ years of giving back to the wild

Board of Directors

Marcie Nagle, President
Charlie Deutsch, Vice-President
Rod Davis, Secretary
Tom Foster, Treasurer
Eric Bloemker, Rachael Heaton,
Melvin McCann, Libby McGinley,
Kelly Vandersand, Adele Moore

TreeHouse Staff *

Rachael Heaton**
(Rehabilitation Mgr.)

MaryAnn Weiss*
(Weekend Rehab Assistant)

Jeff Capps
(starting June 2019)
(Director of Education)

Kelly Vandersand*
(Fundraising Coordinator)

Libby McGinley*
(Gift Shop)

Marcie Nagle
(Volunteer Coordinator)

Adele Moore
(Founder & Newsletter Editor)

Jennifer Yordy
(TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers)

TreeHouse currently employs
**one full-time, and
*three part-time staff members.
All other staff are volunteers.

Photo Credits

Rachael Heaton, Jeff Capps,
Ron Freiwald, Bob Witter, Cheryl
Pride, Linda Whittingham, Sam
White, Hannah Stilwell

Rehab Clinic Volunteers

Judy & Jack Neiman,
Connie Yordy, Patrick Bagby, J.R. Bennett,
Jeff Capps, Kyle Zipperich, Molly Stinson,
Sherry & Hannah Stilwell, Sarah Riley,
Adam Meissenheimer, Allison Barrows,
Kelly & Clairanne Dobos, Daisy Eichen,
Zoe Leezy, Sophia Hathaway, Marcie Nagle,
Alli & Brylee Piper, Sydney Stutz

Transport Volunteers

Cheryl Pride, Linda Whittingham,
Tabitha Morris, Penny Moon, Connie Yordy
Mike Fears, Sherri Medley, Sarah Riley
Chris Bauer, Jan Dawson, Krista Heaton
Frank Nakler, Claraine & Kelly Dobos
Mike Harper

Construction & Grounds Crew Volunteers

Ray & Robin Riefle, "Wild" Bill Crawford,
Melvin McCann, Steve Yordy, Paul Crull,
Ken Diekemper, Mike Fessler,
Gary Surgeon, Rod & Margaret Davis

Events & Education Volunteers

Charlie Deutsch, Eric Bloemker,
Shirley McCann, Adam Falasz,
Nick Sampalis, Meghan Towell,
Tom Foster, Ann Robertson,
Libby McGinley, Adele Moore,
Katie & Craig Heaton
Tonya Kucharski, Amanda Dixon

Many of our volunteers work in more than
one area when needed, not necessarily just
the areas in which they're listed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT by Marcie Nagle

Let me introduce myself. My name is Marcie Nagle and I have been volunteering for TreeHouse Wildlife Center since the move to the Dow property in the summer of 2010. I had an instant connection with TreeHouse, not only with the animals but also its mission and the people committed to supporting that mission. I volunteered (and still do) on a routine basis as an animal care volunteer. I became a Board member in an effort to expand my understanding of what is involved in the running of a non-profit organization. I took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator, knowing TreeHouse can't function without our volunteers and their connection to our mission. And finally, in September, 2018, I became the Board President.



What I have seen in my time with TreeHouse and what I ultimately hope to emphasize here is that TreeHouse Wildlife Center engages in meaningful work that can only happen through connections....with our animal patients, our staff, our volunteers, our supporters, our community, and other organizations. Throughout this newsletter you will find stories of our connections with others, whether it's through another Center's willingness to provide overnight accommodations to our coyote while she is transported to her new home; to the National Eagle Repository who allow our eagles to live on even after their deaths; to the transport volunteers who use their own time and resources to bring injured and orphaned animals to our center for care; to the families who attended Owl Fest to learn more about our Center and its mission; to Hawthorne Animal Hospital and Dr. Myer who provides the medical assistance we can't provide ourselves; to the concerned citizens who care about that injured turkey vulture and bring it to us after phoning four other places who all referred them to TreeHouse; to the kayakers who assisted in rescuing the berm pelican. Every day and in every way imaginable, our work is done via connections with others. So I hope you will be a part of the web of interconnectedness. Donate! Volunteer! Talk about our work! Visit us! We want to be a part of your life and we definitely want you to be a part of ours!!



ZORRO CROSSED THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Zorro (Spanish for fox) our Gray Fox Ambassador was admitted as an orphan in 2009. He was discovered with a sibling in a den along the Great River Road bike trail near Elsah. Both were in bad shape and there was a strong odor of dead animal nearby which was thought to be the mother. The sibling died soon after admission. Zorro lived, but had a neurological problem which sporadically manifested itself in non-functioning back legs. At times he walked normally, and other times he did not.

Zorro, as well our Red Fox, Chuckles both spent time at our original Brighton location. At Brighton they were housed in adjoining cages. They could hear but not see what was going on in the next cage. When the fox cage was built in Dow, we decided to build a duplex cage where they would still be separated, but could at least see each other. Once the pair were introduced into their respective cages, Chuckles started digging a tunnel into Zorro's cage! Not knowing how the two would get along we immediately filled in the tunnel and separated them. The next day a new tunnel appeared, so the decision was made that if they wanted to be together, then we would make that happen. We re-filled the tunnel once again and opened the door that divided the cages. They lived happily together ever since. They laid in the sun together, groomed each other, and most importantly raised our orphaned foxes together.



The staff, volunteers, and TreeHouse visitors will all miss sweet little Zorro, but no more than his constant companion, Chuckles.

Gray Foxes are a little smaller than Red Foxes and sometimes “den up” during the harshest winter weather. They are found only in wooded areas. Unlike the Red Fox, they are able to climb trees in pursuit of their prey. They do not have a white tail-tip.



The National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository



One of the unfortunate aspects of wildlife rehabilitation is that not all of our patients survive. Sometimes animals come in with injuries or illnesses that are so severe that no amount of medical attention and old-fashioned TLC will change the inevitable. In those instances, one consideration wildlife rehabilitation centers like TreeHouse need to make is disposal of carcasses. There are, of course, laws and regulations that guide that process.

One such instance of this regulation involves the disposal of Bald Eagle carcasses. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as prescribed by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1962, has oversight over all dead Bald and Golden Eagles in this country. It is illegal for any individual to possess a Bald or Golden Eagle, including its parts (feathers, feet, etc.). The penalty for doing so carries a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and/or up to one year in prison. Eagles are no longer on the endangered list, but they still receive federal protection. The law is meant to stop activities that threaten the species and its population in the wild. The exception, when it comes to possession of a dead eagle or eagle part, are “qualified” Native Americans who have gone through a permitting process by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are allowed to obtain and keep eagle parts for religious or ceremonial purposes.

Native Americans may put in “orders for a pair of wings, tail, head, pair of talons or trunk,” according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Wildlife Service does not allow any orders that amount to parts which would be any more than one whole bird. For example, one could not request a whole eagle body plus a pair of wings.

In order to meet this federal obligation, TreeHouse Wildlife Center is required to turn over all eagle carcasses and eagle parts, including feathers that are naturally molted by our permanent resident Bald Eagles, to the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository in Commerce City, Colorado, just outside of Denver. This summer one of our volunteers offered to transport the carcasses and feathers to the Repository. Multiple coolers were packed and feathers placed in bags. The car was loaded and the trip begun.

The reception from the staff at the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository was very warm. The staff explained that the demand for eagle body parts and feathers far exceeds the number of dead eagle carcasses turned in. Therefore, TreeHouse’s contribution was highly appreciated. As a gesture of their appreciation, the volunteer was provided a tour of the facility that included watching as the carcasses that TreeHouse provided were unloaded and the grading process begun. This process involves determining the quality of the eagle parts and feathers to determine how they will be dispensed. For example, undamaged feathers may be given for use as part of a headdress while feathers with minimal damage may be used for fans. Everything from the feathers to the talons will be utilized.

While no wildlife rehabber ever wants an animal to die, it is heartening to know that in the instance of our national symbol, even in death they contribute to a worthy cause.





Nicole Kauffman,
University of Illinois



Sam White,
Lewis & Clark College



Carrington Gillam,
SIU-E

INTERN CLASS OF 2018



Abby Shelton,
Mississippi State University

Not pictured

Lindsay Griggs,
Lewis & Clark College

Megan Jacobson,
Concordia University, Chicago



Nicole Bergschneider,
Illinois College

New Staff

MaryAnn Weiss is the weekend rehabilitator at Treehouse. She has a degree in Zoology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and has over 30 years of animal husbandry and rehabilitation experience. Her experience has ranged from the care of exotic and endangered animals at the St. Louis Zoo and the Endangered Wolf Center to wildlife rehabilitation at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Ballwin, Missouri. She recently moved to Godfrey, Illinois and has been working at Treehouse since August.



Jeff Capps has been volunteering at Treehouse since 2015. He received his bachelors and master's degrees from SIUE in biology. His thesis was a survey of reptiles and amphibians of Madison County, Il, and is listed as one of the state herpetologists of Illinois. Jeff has spent the past 20 years teaching wildlife biology at Belleville East High School, and will become TreeHouse's new Director of Education at the end of this school year.

WELCOME ABOARD!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

In November, two members of the Treehouse team – Marcie Nagle (Board President/Volunteer Coordinator) and Sarah Riley (Animal Care Volunteer) attended the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Course at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort, Kentucky. The two-day training session focused on essential captive wildlife care knowledge and skills including lectures on fluid therapy, capture and restraint, housing and release criteria. There was also a practical skills laboratory which included hands-on training in physical restraint, physical exams, basic bandaging and wing immobilization techniques.

Marcie and Sarah have already put their new skills into practice – on a recent intake of an ill Bald Eagle, the physical exam techniques helped to reveal suspected poisoning and the fluid therapy calculations were used to determine the amount of fluids needed to rehydrate the eagle via gavage. Devoting time to continuing education is critical for wildlife rehabilitators to gain more information in this ever changing field and to continue to sharpen the skills necessary to provide specialized care for wildlife with the goal of rehabilitation and release back into nature.



TreeHouse Ground Crew: Kelly Vandersand, Rachael Heaton, Adele Moore, Melvin McCann, Cheryl Pride (photographer) plus the Talitha Jackson family. **Kayak Crew:** Craig, Katie & Casara Heaton, Rich Gran, Rebecca & Charles Hill

The berm pelican, aka Petey, Nigel, Bill, Prosper, was known by as many names as the many people driving by daily who watched this bird stranded in the wetlands near downtown Alton for some say a year and others say up to 3 years. TreeHouse had several obstacles to overcome for this rescue including gathering up enough experienced boaters to maneuver the pelican up onto land so that it could be safely captured, as well as trying to guess the depth of the water at any given time. We also had to locate the owners of the property to obtain their permission. Thank goodness during this time the winters were mild enough that he could hunt year round, but we didn't want to risk a colder winter that would make the rescue impossible. One of the saddest aspects was watching this bird sit by himself until a stray Canada goose or another pelican flew down to sit with him for awhile. However they eventually all flew off to join their flocks leaving him alone once again. Pelicans are social birds and it was hard watching him sit there day after day.

Finally the day arrived where everything came together. Rachael Heaton's family is all into kayaking so they gathered their friends to help with the rescue. Several of us from TreeHouse brought our nets and we were joined by pelican watchers who were part of the ground crew. It couldn't have been worse weather — very windy, cold and rainy. The only hitch in our plans was that the pelican would not be coaxed onto the bank so a net was handed to a kayaker who successfully netted the bird and paddled in with it. The pelican had sustained a fractured wing which had already healed in a way that he could not fly. If you'd like to visit Petey, Nigel, Bill, Prosper, etc. he joined the flock at the St. Louis Zoo.

CHERYL'S SUCCESSFUL DUMPSTER DIVE

An employee of the Fairview Heights Schnucks Store called TreeHouse on September 20 wanting to know what they could do about four young raccoons in their dumpster. We instructed them to place a board at an angle in the dumpster so the little ones could climb out on their own in the evening. The next morning it was discovered that three had climbed out and one was left in the dumpster. The employee called TreeHouse in a panic because the trash truck was due to come that day. Thankfully, Cheryl Pride dropped what she was doing and came to the rescue.

When Cheryl arrived she found the little raccoon drenched, cold, and frightened. Unable to capture the raccoon with her net, Cheryl decided it was time to try dumpster diving for the first time. Cheryl was successful, and the raccoon was kept for a couple days to dry out and get some much needed food and water. The raccoon was released in a wooded area near the store in Fairview in hopes she would be reunited with her family.



TWO RESCUES - TWO DIFFERENT OUTCOMES by Adele Moore



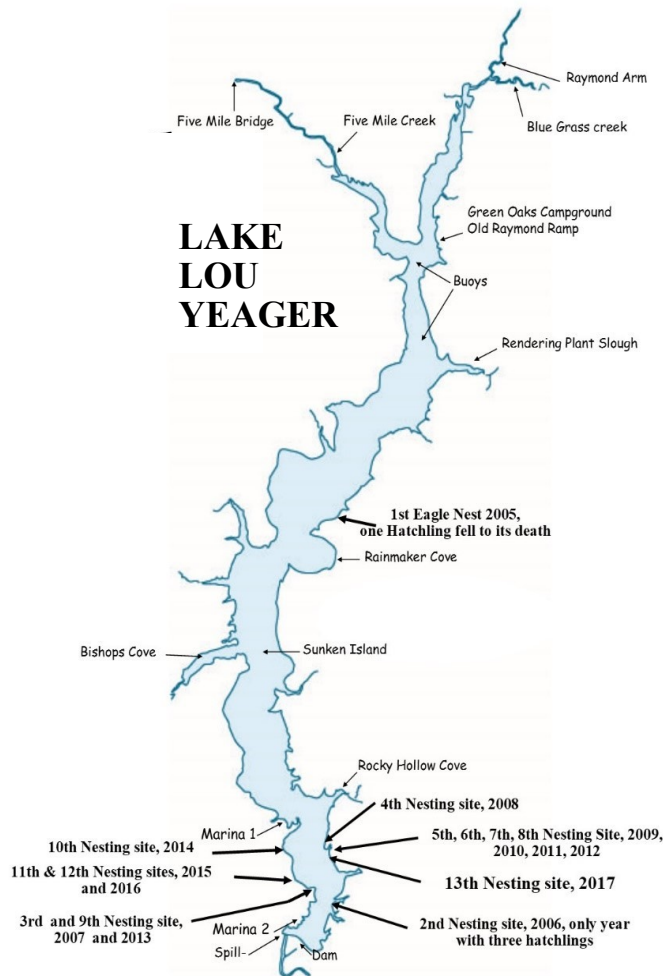
Adele with the Ameren power plant crew in Coffeen, IL. This **immature Bald Eagle** had been spotted on the ground for several weeks. After a couple attempts of driving out there and not being able to locate it, we were finally successful. Unfortunately the eagle had sustained a fractured wing that could not be repaired and it had to be euthanized.

TreeHouse received a call that a **Snowy Owl** was down in a field just north of Bunker Hill. Because I was the closest I naturally was the one to check it out. This was in January and the owl was in a plowed field. It couldn't fly but boy can they run! I wasn't about to let this owl beat this 69 year old grandma. I thought the drainage ditch would slow him down, but I ended up being the one slowed down. Finally ended up catching him but unfortunately he had sustained a luxated elbow which couldn't be repaired. The snowy was transferred to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History where it will live out it's life in a cooler climate. Thanks to Mary and John Rotz and Buffy for transporting the owl to Ohio for us.



The story of Martha and George

Lake Lou Yeager's first Eagle family by Andy Furman



It was a fairy tale ending....when he flew past her in the tree we all thought NO WAY....then when he circled back around and met her midair ...you just can't make it up...it was beautiful.

In the late fall of 2004 a group of about 70 eagles visited the lake in the area of Rain Maker cove. Out of the group, two decided to make the lake their home and built their first nest. Their first brood resulted in two hatchlings. Unfortunately one of the hatchlings fell from the nest and died as a result of the fall. This was the only year that they nested on the northern end of the lake. Since that time they have nested in a total of eight different locations, in the thirteen years of nesting, with the majority being in the Henry Eilers Nature Conservation Area. The following map shows the locations of the eagles over the years.

As the years went by they also lost a juvenile that became entangled in some fishing line south of the dam. The couple were eventually named Martha and George in honor of them being our first eagle family.

Boaters, fisherman, kayakers and hikers that visit the lake have taken great pleasure in watching this couple build nests, hunt for fish and raise their broods.

On the afternoon of April 28th, residents living around Rainmaker Trail came upon the scene of what experts believe to have been a territorial dispute with a female and male eagle. One of the residents notified the police department and they in turn contacted our local Illinois Conservation Officer, Mark Lentz who along with TreeHouse personnel arrived on the scene to find the two eagles.

The male had a punctured lung and failed to survive. The female had a brood patch which is a bare area on the stomach that is created when an adult pulls the feathers from the area to be used in the nest bottom and to allow greater sensitivity when sitting on the eggs.

continued

With Martha being viewed as the only known nesting female in the lake area and that only George was still being observed at the nest site, it was considered enough evidence that the injured bird was indeed her.

Based on a suggestion from the eagle experts at TreeHouse Wildlife Center a request to the fisherman on the lake went out to throw any fish they could on the bank near the nest to help George feed the hatchlings, later we learned there were three hungry mouths to feed, which all successfully reached the juvenile stage. The support from the fisherman was obvious based on the number of other raptors and scavengers that were attracted to the buffet.

A member of Friends of Lake Lou Yaeger (F.O.L.L.Y.) visited the nest site and recorded George's call, which sounded mournful to the writer. In Mid-May of 2017, Bob Wilson (FOLLY President) and Andy Furman (FOLLY VP), traveled to TreeHouse to see how Martha was doing. While they observed Martha in the cage, they played the recording and she responded with some beak clicking. FOLLY continued to keep the public updated on the progress of Martha's recovery. When informed that the rehabilitation of the flight cage was a factor in getting her ready, a group of four FOLLY volunteers visited TreeHouse on September 22nd, to spend a day working alongside Ray Reifle and a group of four other Treehouse volunteers.

Many of the lake residents expressed concerns when they observed George on a tree near the nest site with a female sitting close by. They were relieved when Treehouse reached out to experts and stated that the female must be a family member that had come to help raise the brood. George would not allow a non-family member to get that close to the nest according to those familiar with eagles.

Finally in late December, Martha got her shot at the flight cage and while she struggled to hit perches initially, she was soon getting back into the groove according to Pam from TreeHouse. Pam, along with the City Tourism Director – Sarah Waggoner and FOLLY then started planning for the release ceremony. Sarah sent out an e-mail blast to 1500 contacts she had, FOLLY sent an e-mail blast out to its membership, approximately 110 homes, as well as created a Face Book event. The Face Book event listed the number of people interested in attending at almost 500 stating they would attend. Little did anyone suspect that the actual number of people would exceed 500.

The day for the release, January 20, 2018 was a slightly overcast day with temperatures in the lower 40's. As the FOLLY team showed up at the Marina #1, to set up their booth for the event, the parking area was buzzed by George, who then headed across the lake to the site of the last nest. He patiently waited there for the return of Martha. Did he actually sense she was coming back that day?

As Martha was being removed from her transport cage to be readied for release, Pam got her face a bit too close to the bird and Martha extracted a bit of flesh from her cheek. Andy Furman and Pam walked Martha to the end of the middle boat dock in Marina #1 and on the count of three let her go. Martha took flight and quickly found the nearest tree to perch in while she contemplated her next move. About a half hour after being freed, George found her and they both took flight and embraced in short courtship tumble.

continued

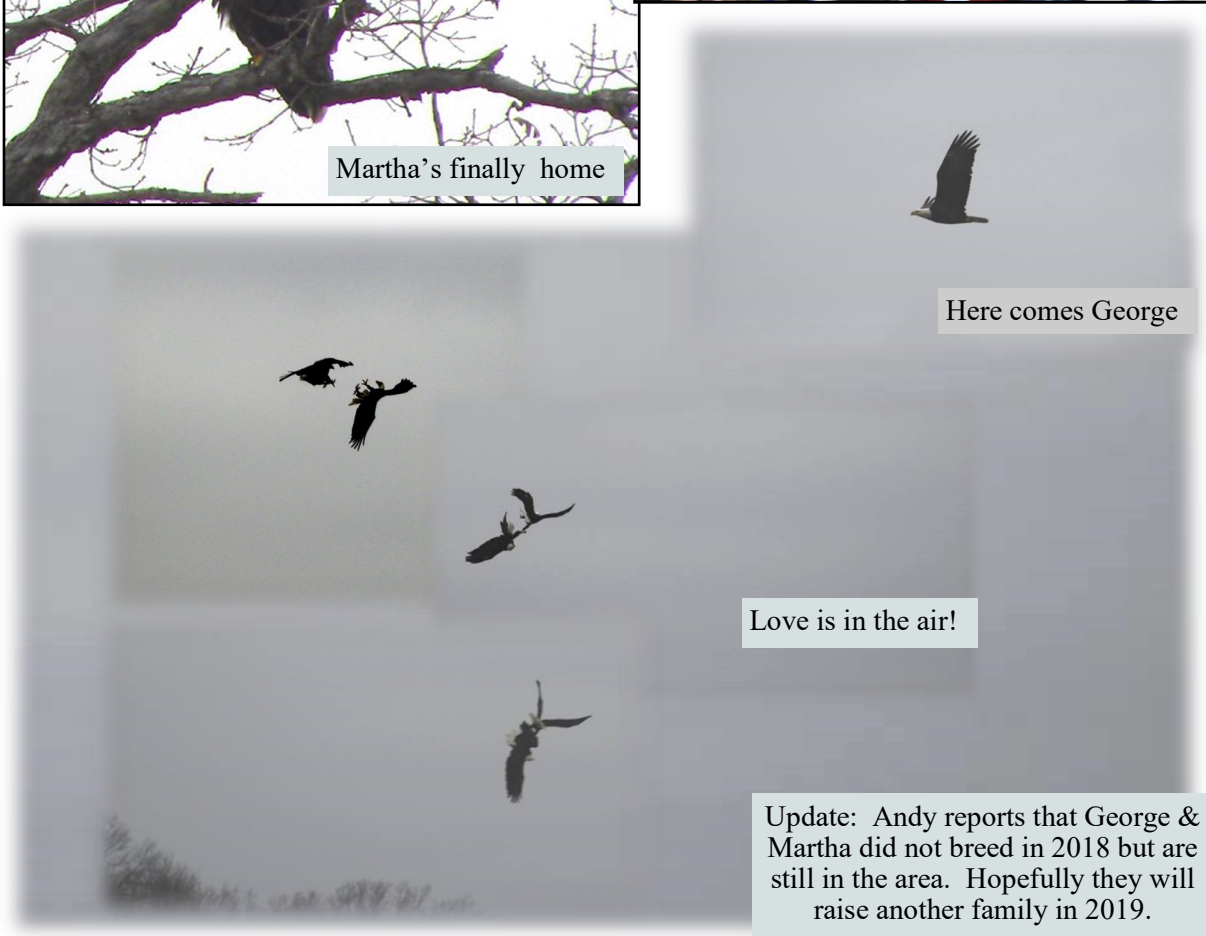
The lake continues to attract other adult eagles over the past six or seven years, although no other nest sites have been spotted around the lake as of this writing. With the return of Martha there are now at least four adults and three juveniles on the lake at this time. We will continue to observe and report on Martha and George and hope to be able to report they have a new brood in a couple of months.

Editor's note: In my almost 40 years of wildlife rehabilitation I have participated in many, many raptor releases over the years. This is by far the most memorable release I've ever witnessed! I never thought I would see two eagles reunite and mate right before our eyes. I still get goosebumps just thinking about it.

Story and photos courtesy of Friends of Lake Lou Yeager's Facebook page.



Martha's finally home



Here comes George

Love is in the air!

Update: Andy reports that George & Martha did not breed in 2018 but are still in the area. Hopefully they will raise another family in 2019.

THE DANGERS OF POISON by Rachael Heaton

On November 10th and 11th, we received two Bald Eagles from Greene County, IL. They were found just about 10 miles apart, one day after the other. Both eagles came in with the same symptoms. They were stiff, their feet were clenched, and their jaws were clenched shut. The eagles seemed to have little control of their bodies. After rushing them to our center, our weekend rehabilitator determined they had been poisoned and started treating them with activated charcoal. Luckily, the procedure seemed to work and after about a week of treatment, the Bald Eagles appeared mostly back to normal. They are now in our flight cage for observation for at least thirty days in case they have a relapse of symptoms as the poison works its way out of their system.

So, what could have poisoned them? Unfortunately, the symptoms they displayed are typically the symptoms we see with animals who have ingested rat poison. How could Bald Eagles have ingested rat poison? Any poison when put into the environment causes a risk to all animals, not just the targeted species. When a rat or mouse eats the poison, they do not die right away. They will go wandering around as they get sicker and sicker. This makes them easy prey for other animals such as cats, foxes, coyotes, owls, etc. When one of these animals eats the rodents, they too get sick. That predator will also then wander around as it gets sick and can also become easy prey.

Through a scientifically recognized process called biomagnification, poisons or toxic substances become increasingly concentrated as it moves up the food chain. This is because predators may eat multiple animals who have differing concentrations of the toxin. For instance, an active, wild owl will typically eat four to six mice a night. If the owl lives near a structure where rat poison was put out, all or most of the mice the owl is eating could be poisoned! This means the owl collects more and more of the poison every time it eats. If the owl gets sick and dies, and gets eaten by a fox, who has also been eating the mice, the fox has an even higher concentration of the poison in its blood. When the fox gets sick and dies, it could be eaten by an even larger predator and the spread continues.

What can we do to put an end to the spread? Find other, safer methods to control rodent populations. Encourage the development of ecologically safe methods that will not rip through the local wildlife. Spread the word. We hope that one day, we will no longer receive animals that are the unintentional victims of toxins put into the environment by people.



Dusting for parasites



Checking pupil reflexes



Tubing activated charcoal

MaryAnn
& Jeff
working on
an eagle
suspected
of
secondary
ingestion
of rat
poison



TreeHouse would like to thank everyone who came out to support Owl Fest this year. Saturday was a little crisp and windy, but we still had over 950 visitors. Sunday's weather was more hospitable and we had around 850 visitors. That is a new record for Owl Fest!

OWL FEST 2018



Above: Owl photo booth
Above left: Raptors on display

Owl Fest wouldn't be possible without our dedicated Staff, Board Members, and Volunteers. We also had many great raffle prizes donated by local businesses, individuals, and our Owl Fest vendors. Many thanks to all our vendors, presenters, the owl photo booth, and the education booths that all spent the weekend braving the wind and chilly temperatures.



Above: Mel & Shirley at the stuffed animal adoption booth
Below left: Dr. Ellen Helmers at Stuffed Animal Clinic
Below: Kelly our Fundraising Coordinator



OWLFEST DONORS & SPONSORS

Shedd Aquarium, Chicago
 Field Museum, Chicago
 Dora's Spinning Wheel, Alton
 The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
 McCully Heritage Project, Hardin
 Casino Queen
 AMC Theater -East Alton
 6th Street Diner, Wood River
 Maple Leaf Inn Cottage Inn, Elsah
 Elsah Tourism Committee
 John Tomlinson
 Breese Bikes, Pontoon Beach
 Mary Bauza-Lawver
 Lou & Brenda Casey

Once Upon a Rock
 Dow on the Farm
 Craft Garden
 Carriage House
 Clever Endeavor
 Smoked Pretzels
 Nate's Looking Glass
 Resin Bliss
 Smoked Pretzels
 Kit Kat This n That
 Sweet Addictions
 Sandra's Woodburning
 Dale Kennedy
 Mel & Shirley McCann

OWLFEST VOLUNTEERS

TreeHouse Volunteers plus:
 Bill & Tyler Goetten,
 Craig, Katie & Kristina Heaton
 Dr. Ellen Helmers
 Dr. Paul Myer
 Hawthorne Animal Hospital
 Granite City High School Biology Club



OWLFEST RAFFLE WINNERS

BUCKET RAFFLES

BMX Bike — Jack Schmitt Chevy
 Marvel V.R. — Dennis Mensinger
 TreeHouse Blanket — Cheryl Pride
 McCully Heritage — Holly Eichorn
 Waterfowl photos — Gary Surgeon
 Casino Queen Package—Tom Shafer
 Chicago Museums — Kate & Travis Smith

BASKET RAFFLES

Hawthorne Animal Hospital —
 Sherri Easley
 Owl Basket — Karen Daniels

TreeHouse Ornaments — Angie Jussyp
 Rep Theatre Tickets — Marie Dawson
 Home Décor — Nancy Anders
 MO Botanical Gardens — Marie Reyne
 Summer Fun — Tom Pollack
 Movie & Dinner — Bill Goetten
 Wine Basket — Julie Donaldson
 Hanging Baskets—Rochelle Rauscher
 Maple Leaf Cottage — Julie Duggar
 Chuckles Painting — Angie Jussyp
 Elsah Tour — Jamie Droege
 Mocha Painting — Bill Goetten
 Hammocks — Seth Crotchett

THE LITTLE DEER LEFT BEHIND by Rachael Heaton

When you work with animals, you learn that every animal is different. Like people, each animal has its own face, personality, and quirks. This year however, we admitted an animal that was even more different than the rest. Boo, the White-tailed Deer, was admitted to TreeHouse as a very small baby on July 19th. All our other young fawns had been admitted in May and June, so we thought she was just a late baby! She had been found wandering around all by herself. As usual with fawn cases, we advised to wait and see if the mother would return, as often mother deer will leave their fawns alone for up to 12 hours! Unfortunately, little Boo's mother never returned.

A few weeks passed when we realized that something was not quite right with little Boo. She was not growing! She seemed like a happy little fawn, never bothered by anything. She drank her formula twice a day like the other deer, but she did not seem as eager about it as they did. We tried to get her to eat more to see if it would help but she was not that interested. She wanted to run around and play instead. The small fawn had us worried for we were not sure what exactly was wrong with her. In fact, for a while we were not sure if she would survive despite our best efforts as she always looked so frail compared to the other deer.



After a couple more weeks of trying different things, we decided to start giving her goat probiotics. This seemed to help, and she actually started to grow a little! However, she was not growing fast at all and the other fawns towered over her. We kept her inside with another fawn called Yellow (who sustained a fractured leg), as a friend so that she would not get walked all over by the other deer. Even Yellow, was much bigger than her! After much pondering about Boo's small size, we decided to check her teeth just to double check her age. That is when things got very interesting. Boo had the same number of teeth as the other fawns, implying that she was about the same age despite being so small!

Once Yellow had healed and we felt Boo was just big enough to be okay out with the others, we moved the two into the outdoor pen where the other eight deer were being kept. Boo fell into a good routine of eating with the herd and seemed to fill out a bit. She did not look so frail, but she was still half the size of the other deer. Finally, when release day came for the deer in October, we had to make the tough decision to release the other nine deer and keep Boo with us. We did not feel she would survive in the wild long since she was so small and had such a care free personality.

continued

Boo continued

For now, Boo spends her time as the animal host in the wildlife hospital, greeting new patients when they come in, patrolling the rooms, and playing with the volunteers. She's made quite a name for herself, literally having no fear of anything at all. We're all convinced that she believes she lives in a Disney movie. We had to stop her from walking right into an enclosure that was holding a fox! For the future, we hope to get Boo a friend that can live with her and her own enclosure out front where she can greet all of our human visitors. We received word from another rehabber north of us that she had also received a fawn just like Boo this year! That fawn will hopefully be coming to live with Boo, so soon we will have two miniature White-tailed Deer.



Boo playing host to a fellow patient
(Canada Goose on Boo's right)

Can't wait to see Boo for yourself? Please donate so we can build her and her future friend their own enclosure where they can happily thrive with their own little quirks for however long they'll live.



Jabba the groundhog
Betcha didn't know they come in loaf form!



Cirrus the Red-tailed Hawk
A TreeHouse Ambassador

CASSIE FINDS A HOME

In 2017, TreeHouse Wildlife Center received a very young coyote pup that was overly socialized and therefore unable to be released to the wild. Since TreeHouse already had two permanent resident education coyotes, Zuni and Apache, a search was undertaken to find this young coyote a permanent home.

We were particular about the type of placement we were looking for as we wanted to ensure the best possible living arrangements for this young girl. We found what we were looking for in The Zoo in Forest Park and Education Center in Springfield, MA. This zoo, featuring over 200 exotic and domestic animals, was the inspiration for Dr. Seuss and his stories. Dedicated to wildlife education, the zoo provides educational programs for children and adults. And as luck would have it, they were looking for a permanent resident coyote that would serve as an education and ambassador animal.

Next in line was transportation. Consideration was given to flying our coyote to her new home but it was July, it was hot, and concerns were expressed about her welfare in cargo. So one of our volunteers stepped up and agreed to drive her in an air conditioned vehicle all the way to her new home, a trek of over 17 hours.

Obviously, a trip of that duration isn't something that can be done without a break for the benefit of both the human and the coyote involved. And since there aren't many hotels willing or able to accommodate a coyote, TreeHouse had to find a place where she could overnight before continuing on her way. Once again, we were lucky to find a partner in Messinger Wood Wildlife Care and Rehabilitation in Holland, NY. They thoughtfully provided a spacious enclosure for our girl to spend the night while her human counterpart found a hotel in town. And after a night's rest, both human and coyote were on their way.



Can you find Cassie? She's standing at about 3:00

Upon arrival to her new home, a tour was given of the facility, including our girl's new enclosure which was spacious, well-maintained, and filled with enrichment items. All the animals appeared well cared for and happy and since they are all education and ambassador animals, all had names and interacted with their caretakers. After an introduction to her new caretakers, our girl transferred to the care of The Zoo in Forest Park and Education Center's capable staff.

A week later, TreeHouse received an update that the young coyote has been named Casseopia, Cassie for short, and she had bonded with new caretaker and was doing very well.

CONSTRUCTION & GROUNDS CREW UPDATE

Our construction supervisor, Ray, and his crew have been busy. With a facility as big as TreeHouse there's always something to repair or something to build, and this year was no exception.

From repairing leaky faucets, fixing washers, dryers, and toilets. Mapping out the electric grid in the education center, repairing our van, taking out unwanted trees and weeds in the mammal cages, to practically rebuilding the raptor flight cage, our "honey do" list is never ending. Our permanent resident cages needed repairs to nest boxes, ramps, roofs and perches. One of the big jobs the crew took on this year involved doubling the size of our fawn pen while adding a larger double shelter and food storage area.

The grounds crew handles mowing, cutting honeysuckle, trimming trees, and landscaping, and is headed up by "Wild" Bill.

If you are retired (or not), and love to build, mow, or fix things, leave your contact information with us at: treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com, or leave your name and number for Ray or "Wild Bill" at TreeHouse 618-466-2990.



Above: Ray and Mel building the base for Emry's (Bald Eagle) nest.

Above left: In the process of doubling the fawn pen.

Left: Some of the crew eating lunch at one of our big workdays.

Thanks to all those groups and individuals who provided much needed donations of time, cash and supplies!



Workday Volunteers

Phi Kapp Psi
Girl Scout Troop 819
Boy Scouts - Nathan and Owen
Phillips 66 Interns (pictured)
Sarah's Daisy Troup
Louie's Youth Group
Environmental Career Club - SIUE
McCully Heritage Staff and Interns

Eagle Scout Project

This year **Eric Shackelford**, a Boy Scout in Troop 46 from O'Fallon, Illinois, finished his Eagle Scout Project. Eric not only made perches for the patients in our clinic, but he designed and built a sand table for animal track education. Eric completed the project opening day of Owl Fest and the table was a hit. The sand table will be a great addition to our education program. A huge thank you to Eric, the Boy Scouts of Troop 46, and Eric's family, who all helped make this project possible.

Several of our Board Members, Staff, and Volunteers were present for the presentation of Eric's Eagle Scout Project.



Grants Received



TreeHouse has received a few grants this year. First \$22,500 to upgrade our electrical grid was anonymously donated. Our facility has been working at max capacity for some time. Last year we installed our multipurpose shed and in order to install electricity, we need an electrical grid upgrade. With the upgrade, we will be able to install power to the shed and install several outdoor outlets for evening and event use. Also, we will now be able to move forward on our plans to build an Education Classroom and Migratory Waterfowl Rehabilitation Clinic.

Our second grant was from the **Employees Community Fund of Boeing - St. Louis** for \$6,000 to purchase display cases and new display items in support of the Education Program. We are slowly incorporating the new items into the Education Center and have enough items to create educational outreach tubs for offsite programs and events. After a trip to Springfield, we also have a new display case.

Finally our third grant is for \$1,000 from the **St. Louis Audubon Society's Cathleen Creley Memorial Conservation Fund**. We have been purchasing equipment to replace invasive shrubs and vines with native shrubs and trees to create habitat, food, and shelter for birds and wildlife. Forest ReLeaf of Missouri has donated trees and shrubs to help with this project. Spring workdays to finish the project will be posted soon.

New Fundraising Program

By donating to our **Release Program** you will help cover the cost of rehabilitation. For your donation, individuals will become part of the release team and have the unique opportunity of returning an animal back to the wild. TreeHouse will post these opportunities on Facebook as they become available. A total of \$800 was raised by this program in 2018.

This year, two Barn Owls by Kim Disher with Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey,
two Kestrels by Erika Obrecht,
and one Barred Owl by Lauren Wheat and the Moxey Family
were successfully released back to the wild

Harry Potter Wizard Flash Mob

TreeHouse held our first ever Harry Potter Wizard Flash Mob this November. Long, long, ago (well really only a couple of weeks ago) there lived a little boy who loved Harry Potter and his family was planning to take him to visit the Wizarding World of Harry Potter and they wanted a special way to tell him. TreeHouse was asked if one of our owls could deliver a letter via Owl Mail. As our owls don't fly, we decided the wizard who takes care of our "magical creatures" will help deliver the letter. We posted a flash mob event, looking for a few wizards to attend the event in their finest wizard attire. Our hopes were answered as several witches and wizards showed up to support our endeavor. Our young Harry Potter fan was given his letter to Hogwarts and list of required equipment and books for 1st year students. Look for a new Harry Potter experience in 2019.



A Very Critter Christmas — Santa visits TreeHouse

Dr. Myer and his staff perform surgery on a
Red tailed Hawk



2018 WRAP UP

TreeHouse Wildlife Center started as a grassroots organization 39 years ago. We operate through the kind and generous donations of our members and friends. With our years of continual record setting admittances of patients the need has never been greater.

As of the date of this newsletter we will have admitted almost 900 patients in 2018. Not only do these patients require many volunteer hours to help each animal rehabilitate, but it also requires food, medicine, and staffing along with all the overhead costs to run a first class wildlife treatment center. It happens because you care and give.

This year proved to be challenging. We lost access to free raptor food and have had to increase our purchase of rodents to feed the hawks, owls and eagles which is quite expensive. One way you can lend a hand is if you have deer meat in your freezer you would like to donate (except for sausage). We will also accept fresh road killed deer as well!

Many centers start with the idea of a wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education facility but had to severely reduce their rehabilitation efforts due to lack of funding. We don't want to join that group. It's obvious by the number of patients we receive every year that the need is there, and we want to be available.

We've been fortunate our members and friends have given so much in the past, and we are asking for you to remember us this season as well. Whether you can give a little or write a bigger check, every bit counts towards the care and feeding of the animals.

Do you have a difficult time finding the perfect gift for a loved one in your life? Consider a gift membership for them, a donation in their honor, or enroll them as a sponsor in the Guardian Program. Call TreeHouse and talk to Kelly for gift giving opportunities to fit your budget.

Please consider a generous donation before the end of the year. TreeHouse is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Check with your employer about matching gift funds as well.

Thank You from the Staff, Volunteers, Wildlife Ambassadors and Patients at TreeHouse.

Young Entomologists

Girls and boys alike
enjoyed learning all
about
Entomology
(the study of insects)
taught by
Tonya Kucharski



THANK YOU

Fuzzy Llama – Joe Clark
 Bunco Club of Godfrey
 Woodland Elementary School,
 Edwardsville
 Brighton Farm Hands 4-H
 Belleville East Ecology Club
 Vernon Depauw of Eagles of the 1800's
 Judie Loudon * Ramona Rodriguez
 Dale Kennedy * Bev Fessler
 McCully Heritage Project
 Wood River Refinery
 Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
 CNB Bank
 Enterprise Bank & Trust of Manchester,
 MO
 Faith & William Pautler
 Family Foundation
 Judie Loudon

Davis Animal Hospital in Collinsville for
 sponsoring TreeHouse's booth at the
 Let's Go Fishing Show

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF

Lee Ann Kaskutas' birthday,
 Guardian of
 Great horned Owl "Stevie"
 Kelly Vandersand's birthday
 Tom Foster & Ann Robertson's
 25th anniversary
 Sam White's birthday
 Cheryl Pride's birthday
 Connie Yordy's retirement
 Jeanine Belt's birthday
 Judy Reddish's birthday
 Tyler Schoen, volunteer
 Wedding of Chayeleigh Pickard
 & James Dietrich

CAMPAIGN DONORS

#Giving Tuesday
 Boo & Jabba's Enclosure Campaign
 Angel Fund

Morrison's Irish Pub, Alton
 Dining Out at St. Louis Bread Co.
 Old Bakery Beer Co., Alton

Thanks to
 Hawthorne Animal Hospital's
 doctors, vet techs and staff in
 Glen Carbon for all your help.
 We couldn't do it without you!



Troy Hawthorne
 (618) 667-4900

Hawthorne
 ANIMAL HOSPITAL LTD.

We take exceptional care of pets!

Hawthorne Animal Hospital
 #5 Cougar Drive
 Glen Carbon, IL 62034
 p. 618.288.3971
 f. 618.288.3977
www.hawthorne.vetsuite.com

Looking for a gift for a
nature lover?
Did you know TreeHouse
has a gift shop?

THE OWL SHOP

is open year round



We have seasonal gifts such as Christmas ornaments, and bird feeders, apparel, scarves, jewelry, home décor, and children's items. All sales benefit the animals at TreeHouse.



THE GUARDIAN PROGRAM

The Guardian Program allows donors to exclusively sponsor a resident animal for one year renewable. Supporting a resident animal's food and care allows TreeHouse to allocate other funds toward animals receiving rehabilitative care.

Our resident animals help us serve the community through environmental education. All of the TreeHouse resident animals serve an important purpose. Some are outreach and education animals for events and programs, while others serve as foster parents to orphaned wildlife in our rehabilitation program. Most importantly, all help educate visiting guests by viewing them up close in the comfort of their enclosures. All of the resident animals at TreeHouse have a unique story and are here because they are non-releasable.

Interested in sponsoring a resident? Contact TreeHouse at 618-466-2990, email us at treehouse.kelly@gmail.com or visit our website Guardian Program page at <http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/sponsor-an-animal>.

2018 GUARDIANS

Julie Whitmire
Col. Stephen Miller
Natalie Lynn Merrill
Girl Scout Troop 819 of Edwardsville
Brylee Piper
Mary Rotz
Eric Bloemker
Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
Robert and Sharon Barrows
Morrison's Irish Pub, Alton
Lee Ann Kaskutas
Matt Glenn
The Ray & Robin Riefle Family

Aspen the Kestrel
Issac Newton the Turkey Vulture
Cole the Great horned Owl
Pepper the Axolotl
Maui the Screech Owl
Sandy the Axolotl
Karrion the Turkey Vulture
Emrys the Bald Eagle
Howie the Great horned Owl
Ingram the American Crow
Stevie the Great-horned Owl
Jack the Barred Owl
Ozzy the Bald Eagle

Axolotls
Pepper & Sandy





(Flat Stanley) Sloth visits
TreeHouse

Wish List

Paper towels
Liquid Laundry Detergent
Dryer Sheets
33 gal. trash bags
Plastic animal kennels (all sizes)
Sponges
Welding gloves
Fishing nets with handles (all sizes)
Garden hoses
Sweatshirts & sweatpants
Cash donations
Tractor with scoop or
(Mechanical) Bobcat

Did you receive a gift card you're not
going to use? We can use gift cards
from any store

If you have an animal in need of
rehabilitation, call
(618) 466-2990 Dow
or the
BiState MO/IL Wildlife Hotline at
www.wildlifehotline.com or
Toll free (855)-945-3435

If you have questions about
becoming a volunteer, or if you would
like to book a program, please call
(618) 466-2990

or check out our website at
www.treehousewildlifecenter.com

TreeHouse Wildlife Center, Inc.
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, Illinois 62022



Company Gift Matching

Many companies offer Charity
gift matching programs.

Ask your employer or check our
website for a list of employers
who will match your contribution
to TreeHouse

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/WO7XQLGTC48E>
For TreeHouse's wish list on Amazon

IN MEMORY OF

Penni Reeds-Schreiber

Ruth Huse

Martha Grimont

Gloria Doyle

Denny Riley

Richard "Dick" Sanders

Vernon "Pete" Whitaker

Adrianna "Adri" Conley

Thomas J. Wilhelm

Bella

Beverly Brown

Audrey Ridenhower

We now offer a Memorial Donation Program. You can help save our native wildlife while you honor your loved one or friend.

A memorial donation will help provide food, shelter, and medical treatments for the orphaned and injured wildlife that TreeHouse Wildlife Center cares for every day.

TreeHouse will send acknowledgement to the family or friends once your donation is received. All memorials will be listed in the annual newsletter. Requests to keep donations private or anonymously will be honored.

For memorial donations of \$500.00 or more, TreeHouse will release an animal in honor of your loved one or friend. Learn all the details at www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/memorial-donations.

2018 Memorial Releases

A Great Horned Owl released in memory of
Dawn Mackelden

A Barred Owl released in memory of
Thomas Wilhelm

A Great Horned Owl released in memory of
Cole Merrill





TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers is for kids aged 14 and under, and it's designed to teach kids about wildlife and the natural world in a fun and engaging way.

Members will receive a one-page monthly newsletter keeping them informed and in the loop about the animals being cared for at TreeHouse; a personalized membership card to be used for special offers and discounts; and an invitation to a special annual event just for TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers and their families.

☐

**YES! I would like to join the
TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE EXPLORERS**
My \$15 membership dues are enclosed

Name _____

Date of Birth _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Make checks payable to:

TreeHouse Wildlife Center

and send to

**TreeHouse Wildlife Center
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, IL 62022**

attn: Jennifer Yordy

WE NEED YOU



Imagine yourself volunteering at TreeHouse and in walks a person with an injured animal. They had the heart and conviction to rescue this injured animal, to bring it to you at TreeHouse only to hear from you that there is no more room or funding to help. The scenario above could easily be true considering the growing amount of injured wildlife we are experiencing.

WE NEED YOU. . .



- * To spread the word to your friends and family
- * To talk to your employers about matching gift donations
 - * To dig deep into your pockets
- * To use ask your organizations to hold a fundraiser for TreeHouse
- * To use TreeHouse as an environmental education facility for all
 - * To purchase your gifts in our store, The Owl Shop

TreeHouse belongs to all.
The fate of our wildlife in need is in your hands
We need you

WE NEED YOU

TreeHouse Wildlife Center
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, IL 62022
(618) 466-2990

TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER MEMBERSHIP

TreeHouse receives **NO** state, federal or county funding.
Our only funding comes through you, the concerned public.

One way of helping TreeHouse operate is through purchasing a membership.
You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped us
give something back to the wild.

TreeHouse Membership — \$20.00/year

Senior Citizen Membership — \$15.00/year

TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers Membership for kids — \$15.00/year

Lifetime TreeHouse Membership — (a one-time donation) \$1,000.00

TreeHouse is registered as a non-profit corp. 501 C (3). All contributions are tax deductible

- ☐ I would like to **renew** my membership to Treehouse Wildlife Inc.
- ☐ I would like to **become** a member of TreeHouse.
- ☐ I would like to make an **additional contribution** to TreeHouse.
- ☐ I would like to make a **donation** to the **TreeHouse Building Fund.**

Please check the appropriate box and mail this form with your donation.

☐ \$15.00 ☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$ _____ Other

- ☐ I would like information on becoming a **volunteer**

Name _____

Address _____

Print E-Mail Address _____

Remit via Pay Pal or Mail check to:
TreeHouse Wildlife Center
23956 Green Acres Road
Dow, IL 62022

If you would like to receive an expanded online color version of
TreeHouse Droppings by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to
treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com

TreeHouse **does not** sell or share our mailing or e-mail lists with **anyone**