

# TreeHouse Droppings



In this issue: Founder's Forum, Utah Moves to Illinois, More New Faces, Tails (and Tales), Staff Update, Sewer Ducks, The Fuzzy Snake, Rescues, Rehab, Two Deer—Two Different Outcomes, Releases, Education, Owlfest 2019, Travels with Snowy, Shirley McCann, Judy Neiman, Acknowledgements, Gift Shop, Wish List, Guardian Program, Information, Memberships, Explorers

## 40 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 \***

**Lydia Sancetta\***  
(Clinic Co-Supervisor)

**Sherri Stillwell\***  
(Educator)

**Kelly Vandersand\***  
(Fundraising Coordinator)  
(Volunteer Coordinator)

**Libby McGinley\***  
(Gift Shop)

**Adele Moore**  
(Founder & Newsletter Editor)

**Connie Yordy**  
(TreeHouse Wildlife Explorers)

TreeHouse employs  
five\* part-time staff members.  
All other staff are volunteers.

## **Photo Credits**

Tabitha Smith, Lydia Sancetta, Adele  
Moore, Rachael Heaton,  
**Images by Nature**, Cheryl Pride,  
Sherri Stillwell, Jeff Capps,  
Ron Freiwald, Sam White

## **Rehab Clinic** **Transporters** **Construction Crew,** **Landscapers,** **Fundraisers & Events** **Education Volunteers**

Judy & Jack Neiman, Melvin McCann,  
Steve Yordy, Ken Diekemper, Zoe Leezy  
Michelle Camarena, John Nelson,  
Gary Surgeon, Bill Crawford, Paul Crull  
Rachael Heaton, Adele Moore,  
Marcie Nagle, Sarah Riley, Lee Matzen  
Hannah Talley, Connie Yordy,  
Maryann Weiss, Cheryl Pride,  
Linda Whittingham, Insiyaa Ahmed,  
Patrick Bagby, Allison Barrows,  
Donna, Sam & Gareth Brosh,  
Kelly & Claraine Dobos, Daisy Eichen,  
Marissa Gilbert, Karen Hargiss,  
Natalie Masulla, J.R. Bennett,  
Adam Meissenheimer, Tabi Mitchell,  
Ashley Richardson, Zoe & Dale Sheets,  
Amanda, Cody & Richard Strohmeier,  
Cathleen Wood, Ahlam Jaber,  
Kelly Austin, Mike Fears, Mike Harper,  
Kristina Heaton, Tonya Kucharski,  
Penny Moon, Lisa McCormick,  
Tabitha Morris, Frank Nakler, Georgia  
Norman, Katie & Craig Heaton,  
Stewart Kinney, Mark Jehle,  
Allie & Brylee Piper, Kathy Disher

## **Social Network**

Kelly Vandersand & Rachael Heaton

## **Online Fundraising**

Give STL Day \* #Giving Tuesday  
GlobalGiving

Remarks given by Adele Moore at  
**TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER'S**  
**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

The slogan from the U.S Postal Service states: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Sounds to me like volunteers delivering buckets of water, fish, and various rodent meals to our patients and permanent resident animals, outside in the middle of winter, (or throw in a swarm of buffalo gnats during the summer). It's a 365 days-a-year operation, with no exceptions.

My personal slogan these past 40 years is "it's not about me, it's not about the staff, and it's not about the volunteers, it's all about the animals and *their* stories." That's what people want to know about, but tonight is different. Tonight it's about *us*, because without staff and all our volunteers (both past and present) there simply wouldn't be a TreeHouse. Tonight it's about us. Recognizing those of us behind the scenes making it all happen -- those cleaning the clinic, caring for the patients and permanent residents, providing veterinary services, laundry people, and those keeping up with patient files and permits. A shout out to our education staff and volunteers, gift shop staff and volunteers, our fundraising committee and grant writer, greeters, our crack construction crew, landscapers, our Board of Directors, our families, and last of all, *me* trying to hold it all together.



Who knew back in 1967 that this girl who just graduated from Granite City High School, whose *only* goal in life at that time was to find a job, get married and have a family, would eventually end up running a non-profit operation dealing with injured and orphaned wildlife.

Who knew back in 1972 a severely injured critter would kick off this chain of events and thereby set everything in motion toward a future lifetime mission.

And who knew in 1979 this little backyard, grassroots wildlife rehabilitation effort in Brighton would blossom into what it's become today in Dow. I pinched myself a bit when we walked through those doors on Green Acres Road for the very first time in 2010.

It hasn't been an easy road as most of you know. We've found ourselves hanging off the financial cliff *way* more than once these past 40 years. The true miracle of TreeHouse is that we've been yanked back from the brink each and every time to continue our mission to help wildlife.

One last group I would like to thank tonight are you -- our members, and supporters. Just like our staff and volunteers, TreeHouse wouldn't be here today without you. It's truly taken a village. Thank you for joining us in celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> year of supporting our local wildlife population, and by the way, I'm *still* pinching myself!

**UTAH MOVES TO ILLINOIS** by Marcie Nagle

Recently, TreeHouse Wildlife Center introduced a new permanent resident. His name is Utah and he is a silver fox. The silver fox is actually the exact same species as the red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*. It gets its name from its fur coloration which ranges from a bold silver to almost completely black. Like red foxes, silver foxes' eyes take on a golden yellow color as they mature.

Although it falls under the Order Carnivora, foxes are actually omnivores, meaning they will eat both meat (including fresh kills and carrion) and plant foods. When an abundance of food is available, foxes will store their food in caches to utilize when food sources are scarce. The flexibility of their diet and the use of food caches account, in part, for their success across so many different parts of the world. In fact, *Vulpes vulpes* are among the most widely distributed species in the world, spanning North America, Europe, Asia, and even Australia. In North America, silver foxes occur mostly in the northwestern part of the continent.

They do face challenges, however, and exploitation through fur farming and the fur trade particularly affects the silver fox. Natives of New England once considered the pelt of a silver fox to be worth more than 40 American beaver skins.

Additional challenges include the pet trade. Domestication of foxes began in the Soviet Union in 1959 and has occurred over 50 years of experimentation. It has contributed to the appeal of owning silver foxes as part of the exotic pet trade. A little research indicated it is legal in Utah to own *Vulpes vulpes* as a pet. It is surmised this is part of Utah's story.

What we know about Utah is that an animal control officer found him wandering with a pack of dogs. After capturing him, the animal control officer turned Utah over to a wildlife rehabber in the nearby area. His comfortability with domestic dogs as well as the fact that he was neutered led the animal control officer and the wildlife rehabber to believe he was likely kept as a pet. Utah's obvious comfortability with approaching humans supported this theory. These factors meant he is not releasable to the wild. The wildlife rehabber agreed to keep him temporarily but since her primary rehab focus is raptors, she did not have the facilities to keep him long-term. She placed an ad in the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council looking for a permanent placement for him.

TreeHouse Wildlife Center recently lost our beloved gray fox, Zorro, leaving our permanent resident red fox, Chuckles alone. Utah appeared to be a good fit with our Center and we agreed to bring him to Illinois. A TreeHouse volunteer flew to Utah, rented a car, then drove Utah the fox back to Illinois. During the drive, Utah was obviously comfortable in a pet taxi and in a car, making the likelihood that he was once a pet even greater. Upon arrival to TreeHouse Wildlife Center, he was isolated for a short time before moving into an enclosure with Chuckles. The two of them get along well and are bonding.

While the outcome for Utah is ultimately positive, TreeHouse Wildlife Center does not support keeping wild animals as pets. Although we love seeing Utah's handsome face every day, it would be far preferable for foxes to live in the wild as they were meant to do.



## MORE NEW FACES, TAILS (AND TALES)



**Rizzo**, (the elder), was rescued from an Outer Banks, South Carolina wildlife rescue center which was under imminent threat from Hurricane Dorian. Plans had been underway for some time to add a bobcat to our TreeHouse Ambassador program since the loss of our last bobcat, Tigger. Rizzo had been admitted to the Outer Banks center due to the fact that he had been socialized to humans and couldn't be released to the wild. Added to that problem was it seemed that fresh meat was not on his menu of favorite foods. Once the

hurricane appeared to be heading toward South Carolina the time table was moved up. Volunteers literally jumped in their van and headed east to beat the storm.

Not only were the two volunteers and Rizzo in the van, but they also picked up a Gray Fox from North Carolina as well. Chuckles, our Red Fox, had missed her Gray Fox companion of many years since Zorro passed away in 2018. Because the hurricane affected the Gray Fox as well, "**Dorian**" hitched a ride to TreeHouse. Dorian cannot be returned to the wild because he is too socialized to humans as well.



**Nyx** (the younger) came to TreeHouse via Peoria, Illinois. A delivery driver noticed a small kitten on the side of the highway. The driver exited the highway, looped around, and found the kitten. He took the kitten to a veterinarian who pronounced that this was no ordinary domestic kitten but a wild bobcat kitten. We are surmising that the kitten's mother was hit by a car and taken away, leaving the kitten behind. The kitten was sent to a nearby wildlife rehabilitator for several days. Since TreeHouse had experience with raising and caring for bobcats, the kitten was transferred to us. Without a bobcat "model" to learn what's needed to live as a bobcat in the wild, and despite our attempts to de-socialize the kitten, it had already lost its fear of humans. We tried our best to make Rizzo available as a model but since we hadn't had Rizzo very long and didn't know his background, we didn't want to put them together at the beginning. Since that time we have introduced them with staff supervision and they seem to have bonded nicely.

**Vixey**, the red fox, is from a rehabilitation center in Michigan, and was brought to TreeHouse this September. Vixey suffered some type of neurological damage which may or may not heal in order to release her to the wild. In the meantime she has Utah, Dorian and Chuckles for roommates.





**Lydia Sancetta** from Acton, MA is a graduate of Beloit College in Wisconsin with a bachelor's in Animal Behavior

Most recently Lydia interned at Medicine River Wildlife Center in Alberta, Canada.

She also previously volunteered at: Care For Wild Africa Rhino Orphanage



**Sherri Stillwell**, is new to our Education Department, but not to TreeHouse. Sherri and her daughter, Hannah, have volunteered in the clinic for the past 2-1/2 years. They have also participated in outreach booths, and are current members of the Fundraising Committee.

Visitors will see more of Sherri in the upcoming months as she will be handling visitor greeter duties as well as training for tours, and outreach programs.

## INTERN CLASS OF 2019



**So Jeong "Emma" Yoon  
Pukyong National University Jr.  
South Korea**

I'm already missing everyone and all the animals...I wish I could've stayed longer. Jordan sends me photos sometimes and I get very emotional.

I wanted to thank you for everything! my time at Treehouse, introducing me to opossums, and for imparting so much knowledge. I think I learned more from just listening to you educate people on the phone than reading books!

It was delightful listening to all the funny, tragic, fascinating stories about the wildlife rescue work you've done and about the history of Treehouse! You are truly inspirational and the amount of work you put in to saving wildlife and maintaining Treehouse is just phenomenal.

I also enjoyed learning about the US, Illinois, and all the quirky food crazes. Thank you for spoiling me with so many treats! I thought it was going to be lonely being the only intern for the first few weeks, but it was the complete opposite. You've made me feel at home when I was on the opposite side of the globe and I appreciate everything you've done for me.

It's been a crazy 12 weeks, but I've never had so much fun working and thanks to my experience here I know it's what I want to be doing in the future. There's so much I must thank you for, but I hope you know how much I enjoyed my time at Treehouse!

We Koreans say that health and happiness is the most important thing in life so be happy and healthy!

All my love and Best regards,  
Emma

Somebody grab a Kleenix  
for this poor eagle!





**Jacqueline Caisley  
University of Waikato  
Auckland, New Zealand**

My name is Jacqueline and I am from Auckland, New Zealand. I am about to finish my Bachelor of Science majoring in animal behaviour and minoring in ecology and biodiversity. For the spring semester I studied abroad in Juneau, Alaska. After my semester had finished, I came to Treehouse for an internship before returning home.



In New Zealand, we do not have much of the same wildlife such as squirrels, eagles, foxes or snakes, so I was super excited to work with these animals that I had only seen once or twice on international trips or had never seen before. On day one I was taught how to care for the baby squirrels and this was something I never got bored of! Some of my favourite daily tasks were feeding the pelicans, Bandit the osprey and the fawns, tracking the weight and health of the barred and barn owls, and creating some enrichment items (such as food filled ice blocks, and finding rotten logs) to give to the crows.

For my internship I lived at Treehouse which meant having Ingram and Poe as my neighbours and hearing them mumble and talk at all hours of the night, but it also meant the occasional venomous spider (brown recluse) in my room (which was terrifying for me since New Zealand doesn't really have venomous spiders). I also loved the night-time feeding of the fawns, squirrels and opossums.

One of the most exciting animals, for me, was Heather the western hognose snake. There are no snakes in New Zealand (not even in zoos), so I was so excited to work with her, especially when she was taken out to events to help educate people about snakes. I also loved going into a local school with Buddy the eastern screech owl and talk to the children there.

A few other highlights were helping to care for the eagles, a coyote pup and caring for the five screaming barn owls and being able to transfer them to the flight enclosure when they were large enough. I loved working with all the staff, the other interns and volunteers. I felt I learned so much from everyone and had the freedom to learn about the individual species and animals' case by case. Interning at Treehouse was an amazing and invaluable experience that I would not have been able to complete anywhere else. My internship experience will stay with me forever as well as all my friends made during my six weeks. My only regret was not being able to stay longer!

Treehouse and the people there will forever be in my heart!



Benjamin Polo  
Southern Illinois University  
Sophomore



Kassie Turner  
Murray State University  
Sophomore



Sheridan Noll  
Greenville University  
Senior



Stephanie Hargiss  
Humboldt State University  
Senior



Jordan Jackson  
Eastern Illinois University  
Senior



Abigale Barton  
Lewis & Clark Community College  
Sophomore

I

N

T

E

R

N

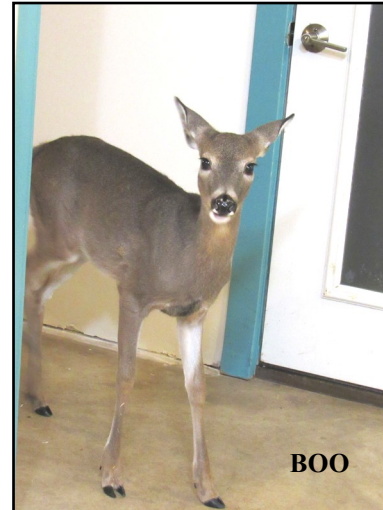
S

## TWO DEER—TWO DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

**Dora** (left) was admitted to TreeHouse in November, 2019. She is of the wild but was raised and kept as a pet. As you can see from the picture, Dora was severely malnourished and was presented with



out of control diarrhea. Despite our attempts at turning this situation around, Dora died about a week later.



### BOO, THE LITTLE DEER LEFT BEHIND (or not)

In the last issue of *TreeHouse Droppings*, we highlighted an orphaned fawn, Boo. Boo had been spotted wandering around all by herself. Our advice to callers in these cases is always wait 24 hours to intervene unless the fawn is visibly injured, is incessantly walking around and calling for mom, or their ear tips start to droop which indicates the beginnings of dehydration. After 24 hours with no mom, Boo was admitted to TreeHouse on July 19, while the rest of our “herd” had been admitted in May and June, and were much further along in size.

Even though Boo was approximately the same age as the rest of our herd, and even though she was on the same deer milk replacer formula as the others, and with some tinkering with probiotics, Boo grew just a bit but not enough to catch up with the others.

We were worried that she would not be able to keep up with her adopted “herd” in the wild so they were released without her. Not knowing what was going on with Boo we came to the conclusion that she would become a permanent resident at TreeHouse, and we even planned to build her a pen where guests could check her out.

Soon after the rest of the deer were release, Boo suddenly hit a growth spurt (not unlike some pre-teen boys). The decision was made to go ahead and release Boo so she could find her buddies in the wild.

**Editor’s Note:** One fawn’s life interrupted by humans came to a tragic conclusion by someone who meant well but did not have the training needed to raise a fawn. The other fawn’s life interrupted by humans was basically given a little extra time in a safe environment with trained staff to develop, and was ultimately released to the wild. It is against the law to take any animal from the wild for the purpose of making a pet of it.





This light morph Barred Owl was admitted on May 25 from around Hamburg in Calhoun County.

TreeHouse probably admits more Barred Owls than any other type of owls. In 40 years have never seen one so light. He was released back in Calhoun County



- This Mississippi Kite was admitted on August 13 from Granite City after suffering from a fractured wing. The wing was repaired and he was released back to the wild on August 31.

- 2018 was the first year TreeHouse admitted a Mississippi Kite. Their normal breeding range extends from southern Oklahoma down through the gulf shore and eastern Mexico, along with isolated areas which include southern Missouri and Illinois.

- Kites live in open woodlands and their favorite food are insects they catch on the wing.

- The Kite's nest may be located next to (or even contain) a wasp nest, which probably helps protect the chicks against climbing predators.

- A 1-year-old kite will often hang around the nest of a breeding pair and may help with defending the nest, incubating the eggs, or even brooding the chicks. The pair usually accepts the help, but sometimes will chase the yearling away.



A Great horned Owl in defensive mode

### THE FUZZY SNAKE by Sherri Stillwell

It was a beautiful spring day at Treehouse when a call came in to rescue a 12 inch or so black snake from a basement in a home. The lady on the phone seemed a little 'odd' and like she really just wanted someone to talk to (a lot!) My daughter, Hannah and I agreed to go get the snake. After talking to the staff member at TreeHouse that is a licensed herpetologist, he said it should be fine because there aren't any venomous black snakes around here, "unless someone put it there" he adds. Not comforting. The ride there was funny because Hannah who thinks she likes snakes, says " maybe I don't like snakes that much, and why didn't we send the licensed herpetologist to go get a snake?" "And ... you said the lady sounded a little crazy, what if we get there and she locks us in the basement?" "What if there is a snake and we're scared or what if there isn't really a snake?" I tried to reassure her, and myself, that all would be fine.

We arrived at the house and knocked on the door. While we were standing there the neighbor next door looked over at us and kind of chuckled (not reassuring). The lady answered the door and told us to come around back and in through the basement door. When we got in, she told us to go on down the steps. Then we heard CLICK! She had locked the basement door. Wish I had a picture of Hannah's face! But at least she was down there with us, she had just locked it so nobody from outside could come in she said.

After looking at the basement for a few seconds our nerves were not calmed because the basement was a MESS, with stuff EVERYWHERE ! We had no idea how on earth we would ever find a snake in that mess. But then she says " it hasn't moved in days, it's right there" and points to the ground beside the hose that runs from the furnace. I take the bucket and go over to it. I pointed to the like 3 feet long black fuzzy thing on the floor and ask "this here?". She says "yeah, isn't that a snake?" " Um... no.... it's a scarf " So.. for just a split second we could feel the relief that there isn't really a snake . And then.. the thought that a crazy lady has us come to her house for a scarf and has us locked in the basement hits. Again, wish I could have had a picture of Hannah's face. So, the lady says that she doesn't own a black scarf. I'm trying to be funny and make the situation lighter so I say, "you do now". She still acted scared of it and told me to take it anyway. I gently pick up the scarf and place it in my bucket.

We tried to head on out as she proceeded to tell us how all this junk are her room mates, and how she has a mouse in the house, and doesn't know how to set the trap. She asked me to do it for her. I did to be nice. And then we got to hear the story of how the vet did not neuter her dog right, so she picks up the dog and shoves his butt in our face to show us. Thank goodness for Kelly calling my phone to see what was going on. I got my chance to tell the lady that it was Treehouse calling and we had to get back right away. Thanks Kelly!

Anyway, not all rescues can be as rewarding as saving an animal. Maybe we helped a person that day by giving her someone to talk to (for like 2 HOURS). It will definitely be a rescue mission that we will always remember.



Sometimes we get a call from the public about an animal in need of rescue, and sometimes it's our volunteers who stumble upon animals needing help.

## SEWER DUCKS

In the early evening of May 31, 2019, animal care volunteer Sarah Riley was driving to Hawthorne Animal Hospital to pick up an injured hawk when she spotted a female mallard duck pacing on the shoulder of Center Grove Road, weaving in and out of traffic. Knowing that something was wrong and fearing for the duck's safety, Sarah stopped to investigate. As she approached the duck, she could hear quacking coming from the storm sewer next to the parking lot of the AMC Edwardsville movie theater and spotted several ducklings down in the storm sewer.



Sarah tried unsuccessfully to remove the cover to the storm sewer - it was still welded shut. A small crowd had gathered, which soon drew the attention of an Edwardsville Police Officer who contacted the street department to come and assist with removal of the sewer grate. Thankfully, the street department worker also parked his truck in a way to provide a safe barricade around the sewer on the busy street.

Once the metal grate to the storm sewer was removed, Sarah was able to lay down in the street, get her net into the storm sewer and snag two ducklings. Unfortunately, the rest of the ducklings kept swimming away, just out of reach from the net. About that time, Sarah's husband Tom drove by and happened to see his wife laying on the shoulder of the road, half inside the storm sewer and decided to stop and see exactly what was going on.

After assessing the situation, Tom climbed into the storm sewer, fitting inside two 16 inch pipes and laying in 2 inches of water. In order to capture the ducklings, Sarah played duck sounds on her phone and used the flashlight to lure them closer. One by one, 6 more ducklings were scooped up by Tom and handed up to Sarah. Once they were confident that they had captured all the ducklings in the sewer, they looked around for a nest to ensure that no more babies were in danger of falling in. They found an empty nest in the bushes of the parking lot near where momma duck was supervising the rescue efforts. Due to the dangerous location, the ducklings were transported to Treehouse wildlife center to be raised. Sometimes wildlife rescue becomes a family event!



**From the Editor:** Unfortunately this is not a rare event as ducks often lay their eggs in cities and suburbs, sometimes far away from water. As the mother leads her young to the nearest watering hole they have to negotiate cats, dogs, traffic, and yes, storm sewers.



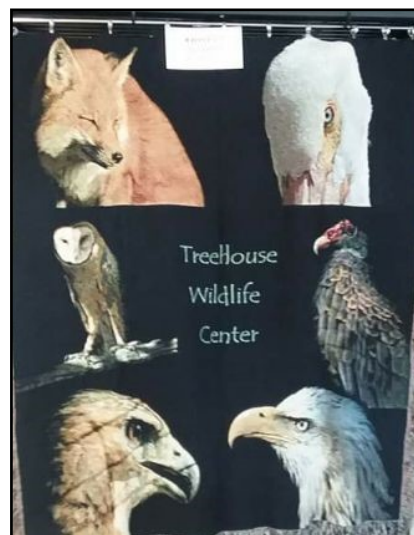


## OWL FEST 2019



Thanks to everybody who attended, donated, volunteered and participated in Owlfest 2019. We counted approximately 1500 visitors for the weekend at this year's event!

Also a big thank you to **Kelly Vandersand** for chairing another successful Owlfest.



**OWLFEST DONORS & SPONSORS**

Sandy & Bill Crawford  
Michelle Camarena  
Lee Matzen  
Adele Moore  
Don Stone  
Melvin McCann  
Wildlife Prairie Park  
Healthworks! Kid's Museum  
Magic House  
Peoria Riverfront Museum  
MO Botanical Gardens  
St. Louis Zoo

Field Museum, Chicago  
Dora's Spinning Wheel  
Challenger Learning Center  
R.A.C.E. Foundation, Chicago  
McCully Heritage Project  
Calhoun Art Guild  
Casino Queen  
Smoked Pretzels  
Dow on the Farm Apiaries  
Upon this Rock  
Goodman Theatre, Chicago  
Auto Zone — Godfrey

**OWLFEST VOLUNTEERS**

TreeHouse Volunteers plus:

Bill & Tyler Goetten,

Phi Kappa Psi

Exchange student program



Some of the visitors from Christ Church Cathedral enjoying Owlfest 2019.

They are pictured in front of the Barred Owl/Barn Owl duplex which was funded by Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis.



Axolotls  
Sandy & Pepper  
Guardian—  
Mary Rotz



Marty the Box Turtle  
taking a cautious dip in the pool  
Guardians —  
Brenda & Bryon



BoBo-NoBo the Screech Owl  
taking a nap  
Guardian — Michelle Camarena



Bobcats: Nyx & Rizzo—"I give up"





Buddy the Screech Owl at  
Blessing of the Animals



Cirrus the Red tailed Hawk  
at the Fishing Show



Chili the Barred Owl

**TREEHOUSE  
EDUCATION CENTER  
&  
OUTREACH**



Snake exhibit in our Education Center

## 40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER AUCTION DONORS & SPONSORS

Steve Harris  
TKPS, LLC  
Alli Piper  
Adele Moore  
Don Stone  
Terry & Kathy Disher  
Richard Mosby  
The Heaton Family



Melvin McCann  
Lee Matzen  
Sherri Stillwell  
Hannah Talley  
Berneatta Usey  
Larry & Jan Reid  
Silver Dollar City  
Grafton Materials



**September 14, 2019  
Julia's Banquet Hall  
East Alton, IL**



Walmart, Godfrey  
CSz Theatre, Chicago  
Koval Distillery  
Jellystone Park, Eureka  
Six Flags Eureka  
Dickerson Park Zoo  
Urban Chestnut Brewery  
Victory Raceway

Children's Museum, Edwardsville  
Village of Godfrey  
Golden Corral, Alton  
Gateway Arch  
RP Lumber, Jerseyville  
City Museum, St Louis  
Fred's Barber Shop  
Uncle Andy's Country Market





## CONSTRUCTION CREW

Our construction crew has been busy as usual this year. With a facility as expansive 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. Updating our entire electrical grid, keeping our van running, adding on to our coyote cage, repairing cages and replacing perches, nest boxes and ramps, and revamping our education center, our "honey do" list is never ending.

A big thank you to all those who keep things humming on a daily basis. Those of you working inside the building and those outside in all kinds of weather improving our building and cages. We couldn't operate without you!

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

**Current Grounds Crew:**  
"Wild" Bill Crawford, Melvin McCann, Gary Surgeon and Kelly Vandersand



**Current Construction Crew L to R:**  
Ken Diekemper, Melvin McCann, Paul Crull and Steve Yordy. Not pictured: Rod Davis, Mark Jehle, and Stewart Kinney.



### Let there be light!

Even with so many windows, our Education Center needed extra lighting on cloudy days.

Thanks to Rod Davis and Stewart Kinney who fixed that problem.  
**THANK YOU!**

Article from the 2nd edition of *TreeHouse Droppings*, Vol. 1, #2, Spring/Summer 1981

### TRAVELS WITH SNOWY — A VISITOR FROM THE NORTH

Many of our members visited TreeHouse this winter to photograph one of the most beautiful birds (in my opinion), the Snowy Owl. Snowy was found sitting atop a municipal building in downtown Springfield, Illinois. He was captured and taken to the University of Illinois where I picked him up on February 6, 1981.

After a physical examination proved him to be a perfectly healthy bird, we believed that there was only one place he should go, and that was back to the wild albeit in a colder environment! We decided to send him via air freight to Canada. These birds rarely encounter people in their home range of the Artic, Alaska, Northern Canada and Greenland, and we didn't want to take the chance of something happening to him between here and his home. Although he made his way this far south without a passport, the U.S. Government advised he couldn't leave without export papers. So immediately, with help from John Mendoza of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, our export applications were expedited to Washington D.C. for processing.

Meanwhile, Katherine (Kay) McKeever of the Owl Foundation in Vineland, Canada was consulted, and she agreed to take the bird for release in Canada. Kay has been rehabilitating owls since the mid 60's and she stated she currently has 122 owls at her center. She advised us she had several other snowys that she had raised or rehabilitated that could possibly be released with our snowy. The Canadian government flies the snowys to the northern reaches of Canada and the Artic for her. When we asked if this was an eruption year (prey becomes scarce in certain years and thus great numbers of snowys fly south), she stated that it wasn't. Kay felt our snowy just wandered farther south than his normal range which young owls sometimes do.



While "visiting" Brighton, the snowy was fed a diet of mice and rats since lemmings, which are their basic food, aren't exactly abundant in this neck of the woods. He was also treated to typical artic weather. On February 11, 1981 we experienced a blizzard with minus 58 degrees wind chill factor. Then just two to three days later (unlike artic weather), the temperature shot up to the 50's and 60's. He definitely wasn't "dressed" for that weather, with feathers covering his entire body, even underneath his feet. The snowy also got to meet a lot of folks from both Illinois and Missouri. Almost daily we had a constant barrage of photographers, newspaper people, and bird and nature lovers. They all fell in love with the snowy's brilliant yellow eyes lined with black, and his head to toe pristine white feathering, interrupted with small flecks of brown. We were only too happy to share this bird during his Midwest "visit", for he looked, to quote an admirer, "exquisite".



1st edition cover page

The export papers finally arrived, but the snowy's journey was far from over. He was shipped air freight to Buffalo, NY on March 10, 1981, to be picked up by Kay and driven over the border to Canada. However his flight did not get into Buffalo until 7:15 p.m., and the customs office closed at 4 p.m., so the snowy had to spend yet another night in captivity with a friend of Kay's in Buffalo. It was that night that the snowy made a definite statement regarding the U.S. bureaucracy, red tape and paperwork. He spent the night eating his export papers!

Kay was able to salvage enough of the papers to ferry him across the border. The remaining papers were deposited the next day in the pellet that all raptors regurgitate, normally containing undigested food.

The Springfield snowy spent another week at the Owl Foundation waiting for heavy snows to subside, and was finally taken, along with another male snowy, up north, past the tree and people line.

**Editors note:** We don't normally display animals to the public in the process of rehabilitation so they don't become socialized and to help keep them wild. Snowys are not stressed out by people since they normally don't see many of them in their neck of the woods, so back in 1981 we didn't see a problem with people coming to view our snowy.

In the past few years it has not been unusual to spot a snowy owl visiting our area in the winter.

**THANK YOU TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR**  
WHO FUNDED TREEHOUSE TO UPGRADE THE EDUCATION CENTER

### **WORKDAY VOLUNTEERS**

Phi Kapp Psi  
SIU-E ENG 465 Project  
Girl Scout Troop 628, Bunker Hill  
Girl Scout Troop 819, Edwardsville  
Principia College Cross Country Team  
Boy Scout Troop 1455, White Hall/Roodhouse

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





Think you are too young to  
help TreeHouse?

These young ladies are professional dog  
walkers, and do they spend their profits  
on candy or clothes? NO! These gals  
donate their profits to TreeHouse to help  
the animals.

**THANK YOU  
ELLA, HAYLEE & MADELINE**

**THANK YOU  
VERNON DEPAUW  
of  
Eagles of the 1800's**

**For the new sign above our door!**



One of our favorite ambassadors, Buddy  
the Screech Owl is always in demand.  
He's proving that you too can be a wise  
old owl by hanging out in the library —  
on Halloween no less. Caught him taking  
a little shut eye during his appearance.



### ORPHANED POSSUMS





## HAPPY RETIREMENT JUDY NEIMAN!



Judy joined our team at TreeHouse in 1986. She started out working in the clinic with all species but soon found her calling working with waterfowl. Raising Wood Ducks is extremely difficult, and in the beginning we weren't doing a very good job. Judy studied the natural history of Wood Ducks and read papers on how different wildlife rehabilitators handled the situation.

Judy developed a system of raising the ducks that proved to be very successful, and she published a paper on the subject. We will miss you, and are thankful for the successful release of literally thousands of waterfowl over the past 33 years.

## SHIRLEY MCCANN by Adele Moore

I've been trying to think about how I could describe our late volunteer Shirley McCann to someone who didn't have the privilege of knowing her. Melvin, her husband for over 50 years, arrived at TreeHouse in 1995 to volunteer. Shirley followed soon after. She was not much for feeding orphaned squirrels or tube feeding an owl, but she found ways to volunteer at TreeHouse. Shirley was a cleaner. You had to remain alert and stay out of her way when she swept through the education center deep cleaning everything in her path.

An excellent cook, Shirley, along with Perky (our very own lunch ladies), would feed our hungry troops on workdays. Her desserts were the best!

Shirley would collect stuffed animals for our annual Stuffed Animal Adoptions at Owlfest. She would take them home, wash them, and sort them into plastic bins. We will have enough of them to last for several Owlfest events in the future.

All of us were certainly thinking about Shirley during this past Owlfest, and we already miss her presence.



Shirley and Mel McCann sorting stuffed animals for Adoptions at Owlfest



"Lunch Ladies"  
Shirley (l) and "Perky"

**THANK YOU**

Fuzzy Llama – Joe Clark \* Eric Bloemaker  
 Roland & Carole Hoffman \* Mark Jehle  
 Woodland Elementary School, Edwardsville  
 Ramona Rodriguez \* Stewart Kinney  
 McCully Heritage Project \* Gary Surgeon  
 Wood River Refinery \* Etegra, Inc.  
 Faith & William Pautler Family Foundation  
 Judie & Wayne Loudon \* Alice Lunk  
 Larry Kolm \* Sheri Ohlendorf  
 Shirley Morrison \* Judy Reddish  
 Forest ReLeaf of Missouri \* Chris & Rita Blake  
 Dollar Tree, Jerseyville \* Helga Solich  
 James & Judith Loyd \* Julie Whitmire  
 The Joseph & Catherine Johnson Family  
 Foundation \* Pen & Carl DauBach  
 Richard & Moira Edelman  
 Charles & Amy Pappas  
 Tom Foster & Ann Robertson

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

**DONATIONS  
IN HONOR OF**

Cheryl Pride  
 Robin Riefle in memory  
 of her grandson

Judie Loudon  
 Eric Bloemker  
 Sam White

Allison Corley, Author,  
 "Scarlet Gets Lost"

Patricia & Gabriela Turpin

Lee Ann Kaskutas  
 Carolyn Ann Wood

Lee Kaskutas  
 Ann Robertson & Tom Foster  
 Kate Watts  
 Merry Christmas GloRod

**EVENT DONORS**

Eagle Days dryer fund  
 Angel Fund  
 Morrison's Irish Pub, Alton  
 A Very Critter Christmas

Drinks for a Cause:  
 Old Bakery Beer Co., Alton  
 Baby Shower  
 40th Anniversary Dinner

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

Troy Hawthorne  
 (618) 667-4900

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](http://www.hawthorne.vetsuite.com)





Looking for the perfect 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, as well as bird feeders, apparel, scarves, jewelry, books, 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](tel:618-466-2990), email us at [treehouse.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:treehouse.kelly@gmail.com) or visit our website Guardian Program page at <http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/sponsor-an-animal>.

## 2019 GUARDIANS

TreeHouse Resident	Guardian	In Honor, or In Memory of	Gifted By
Cirrus the Red-tailed Hawk	Susan Rollins	(M) Dorothy Jackson	
Stevie the Great horned Owl	Lee Ann Kaskutas		
Julien the Red shouldered Hawk	Stewart Kinney	(H) Grandson	
Bubbles ASN Turtle	Lyla & Dylan Blackburn	Ashley Lamparter	
BoBo-NoBo red Screech Owl	Michelle Camarena		
Emrys the Bald Eagle	Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery		
Sandy the Axotl	Mary Rotz	(M) Sandy Konopelski	
Pepper the Axotl	Jessica Walker/ G.S. Troop 819		
Leia the Screech Owl	Patrice Vaeth		Lee Kaskutas
Marty the Box Turtle	Brenda and Bryon		Jennie Hible
Buddy the Screech Owl	Brenda and Bryon		Jennie Hible
Cole the Great horned Owl	Natalie Lynn Merrill	(M) Cole Merrill	
Ingram the Crow	Morrison's Irish Pub		
Isaac Newton the Vulture	Col. Stephen Miller		
Jack the Barred Owl	Matt Glenn		Amanda Wessell
Aspen the Kestrel	Julie Whitmire		
Karrion the Vulture	Eric Bloemker	(H) Karen (sister)	
Howie the Great horned Owl	Robert & Sharon Barrows		





### Wish List

Paper towels  
Liquid Laundry Detergent  
Dryer Sheets  
33 gal. trash bags  
Plastic animal kennels (all sizes)  
Sponges  
Towels  
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**

Shirley McCann

Penni Reeds-Schreiber

Sandy Wood

Buc Buc

Gloria Doyle

Janet Kuncel

David Wiseman

Rod Smith

Patsy Scott

Meagen Hudson

Roger Gillian

Velva Homan

Paula Travis

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

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](http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/memorial-donations).

**2019 Memorial Releases**

**Shirley McCann**





## 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 and become an ongoing monthly donor
- \* 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**

**HELP WANTED****GREETERS WANTED**

If you enjoy talking to people from all over the region, the U.S. and yes, from all over the globe, then this volunteer position is for you.

Greeters are needed to welcome visitors to TreeHouse, explain a little bit about what we do here, ring up sales in The Owl Shop, and do a bit of housecleaning to make our education center sparkle.

**CLINIC WORKERS**

Is working directly with the animals right up your alley? The clinic needs volunteers to care for orphaned and injured wildlife including feeding, cleaning cages, and administering medications. If interested contact:  
[treehouse.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:treehouse.kelly@gmail.com)

**FUNDRAISERS NEEDED**

If you are one of those rare individuals who loves to write grants, solicit donations or plan and host events, Kelly would love to have you join her team. Contact:  
[treehouse.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:treehouse.kelly@gmail.com)

**CONSTRUCTION CREW,  
LANDSCAPERS, ETC.**

For more information see page 17 in this newsletter

**TRANSPORTERS**

TreeHouse covers a wide area of Illinois between Springfield and Carbondale. We depend on volunteers throughout our area to transport animals to TreeHouse. If this is something you'd be interested in contact: [treehouse.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:treehouse.kelly@gmail.com).

**EDUCATORS**

We need volunteers to educate the public about TreeHouse and our beautiful native wildlife. Our Educators give outreach programs, conduct tours, and man booths at homecomings and fairs.





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;

☐

**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: TreeHouse Explorers**



## **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**