

TreeHouse Droppings



A clutch of orphaned Kestrels
found at a construction site
in Alton.

One of many orphaned
squirrels blown out of their
nest during spring storms.

Signs of spring 2011
at
TreeHouse Wildlife Center



In this issue: President's Aerie, New Environmental Education Director, Nature Nuts, Meet Our Intern, Intern Notes on a Blended Family, Local Environmental Opportunities, Rehab Ramblings, Eagle Days, Scarlett Died This Morning, Here's Where We Are Now, We're Working Just As Fast As We Can, Avian Rehabilitation Complex, Young and Old, Groups Worked Inside and Out, 2011 Open House, Acknowledgements, Information and Memberships

30+ years of giving back to the wild

Board of Directors

Eric Bloemker, President
Charlie Deutsch, Vice-President
Bonnie Castroman, Secretary
Kathy Border, Treasurer
Adele Moore
Marcie Nagle

Advisory Board

Eric Bloemker
Phill Challandes
Pam Lippert
Melvin McCann
Sherri Medley
Adele Moore
Dr. Paul Myer, DVM
Judy Neiman
Marti Stone
Gary Surgeon

TreeHouse Staff *

Pam Lippert**
(Senior Wildlife Tech)
Kathy Border*
(Office manager)
Kaeta Cronin*
(Environmental Education Director)
Jennifer Yordy*
(Intern)

TreeHouse Wildlife Center employs
**one full-time, *two part-time staff
members, and *one intern
paid through a grant.
All other staff are volunteers.

Active Volunteers

Judy & Jack Neiman
Deana Browne, Lois DuMey
Melvin & Shirley McCann
Micky Rudolph, Sam Hubbs

Marti & Don Stone, Sue Potter
Phil Challandes, Adele Moore
Sherri Medley, Chris Fuller
Brad Blumenstock, Jacob Schwegel

Rick & Karle Bohn, Doc Myer
Aly Brown, Shelby Burton
Granite City High School —
Science Club, Kathy Conley

Jim, Tom & Sherry Droste
Kathy DiPaolo, Sharon Gwillim
Kathy Border, Gary Surgeon

Amanda Dixon, Sarah Fields
Marcie Nagle, Bonnie Castroman
John Becker, Ken Baughman
Elaine (Perky) Perkins

Austin Meyer, Sheri Britt
Sarah Mullins, Connie Yordy
Kim Shoemaker, Bob Ruland

Photo Credits

Sharon Gwillim, Sherri Medley,
Micky Rudolph, John Becker,
Adele Moore, Connie Becerra,
Kathy Conley, Charlie Deutsch, Bonnie
Castroman, Pam Lippert,
Eric Bloemaker, Jim Moore,
Deana Browne, USACE

Social Network

Penny Moon, Web Master
Missy Rung Blue, Facebook
Tom Neilsen, Computer tech.

President's Aerie by Eric Bloemker

Lynn Schreiber recently moved out of the area and stepped down as the President of TreeHouse Wildlife Center Board of Directors. Lynn has volunteered for over 25 years, and she served as our President since 2003. Lynn has made many contributions over the years, and notably was one of the lead persons behind acquiring our new facility in Dow, Illinois. We all wish Lynn well in her new endeavors.

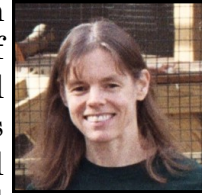


Photo by:
Carolyn Schlueter

I am honored to be given the title of President; however, it is the work of many that makes TreeHouse the success it continues to be. We have a very small staff of tireless workers, and dozens of energetic volunteers that make TreeHouse work day-in, day-out, and we always welcome more to join us. Volunteer opportunities cover the range of rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife, feeding and caring for our permanent residences, outreach programs, manning booths at events, fund raising, clerical work, landscaping, cage building, gardening, and many other activities. **You have skills that TreeHouse can use!** All it requires is a few free hours. Tell us what you'd like to do for TreeHouse and your skill level (novice to expert/professional), and we'll find the opportunity to make your invested time fulfilling. Any construction experience is very valuable to us, especially *now* while we are building cages. Consider volunteering because you'll find great rewards knowing you are helping to be part of giving back something to wildlife.

In this modern age, time is a precious commodity. We at TreeHouse understand this. If you cannot spare time to help build a cage or care for an injured animal, you can still help through financial support. The economic times are tough for many, so know we cherish whatever amount you may be able to give. We can receive gifts through PayPal - make sure to mark it as a gift. Does your employer match charity contributions? Please ask. Visit our web site for a list of companies participating in matching fund programs. The few minutes you spend filling out whatever forms they require is a huge bonus to TreeHouse. There are still other ways of giving.

Take a look at our wish list. Perhaps your guest towels need replacing. Maybe you don't like the colors. Our critters never object to colors that clash. Consider donating old towels and blankets to TreeHouse. Many donations can be deducted from your taxes.

continued next page

continued

Through the generosity of a member, we are now able to receive stocks as charitable gifts - you avoid capital gains but receive the full credit of the donation. Used vehicle? Estate planning? Call or e-mail us for information.

One of the most important ways you can help TreeHouse is to let your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers know about us. Spread the word. Send them our website address: <http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/>. We are also on Facebook, and just by "liking" our page, you'll be kept up-to-date on events and happenings at TreeHouse. "Share" those notices with your Facebook friends. Perhaps this winter, take a ride up the Great River Road with a car load of friends to enjoy the wild eagles, and stop by TreeHouse on Saturdays in January and February 2012, from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m. to see our permanent Bald Eagle resident "Hope." And if we can finish the eagle cage soon, we'll have our other eagles, "Spuds" and "Mac" join her in Dow, Illinois. See the ever-changing facility and our Gift Shop.

Together, we make TreeHouse. I get a fancy title, but the real work is done by so many people in so many different ways. Join with us in giving back to wildlife - this year and for the years to come.

Thanks to Jersey County
High School students
**Kara Hecker and
Haley Disterhoff,**
as well as instructor
Nancy Geotten
for creating and
donating
the beautiful
wildlife mural
that graces the wall
in our nursery.



Thanks from the Board of Directors

Treehouse has been blessed this year by so many helping hands and generous hearts. The board wants to thank each and every one of you who have helped us out! As Eric Bloemker, our new president has described—there are opportunities galore to express individual talents and skills in support of this worthy cause!

TreeHouse board secretary, Bonnie at a workday



We've had carpenters and gardeners, painters and planters—raking and clipping in the yard, and hammering, sawing, and painting our new home and cages. We have had cooks, barbeque masters, and dessert chefs bring us casseroles, salads, cakes, breads — homemade one-of-a-kind mouthwatering creations to feed the troops on workdays!

We thank each and every one of you for your generosity and cheerful support!

We'd like to share our gratitude to two *extra special folks* who gave from their hearts: Sherry and Jim Droste. Sherry was a pioneer in our new Treehouse location, building our education programs with local schools, boy and girl scout troops, and helping the community get to know what we have to offer. She was a busy bee throughout our first fall, winter and spring, putting together all kinds of interesting activities for kids of all ages. We are so grateful for her generous spirit and support during this first year! Sherry left us this summer due to some health challenges and we miss her smiling face at Treehouse, but we're glad she's back in the saddle pursuing some of her other favorite things. **Thank you, Sherry, for all your hard work!**

Jim! How can we even begin to describe this **superman** who brought all of his talents and skills to TreeHouse to create the perfect home for our residents and patients. Jim helped to design as well as construct the rehabilitation area — making perfect work places for our volunteers and staff to perform their duties. We are so grateful for his meticulous attention to detail. The lights burned past midnight on many a cold winter night, when Jim and his brother, Tom, installed lights and shelves, attached endless ceiling panels, and fitted cabinets or drawers. **Thank you, Jim, from the bottom of our hearts!**



New Environmental Education Director Named

Kaeta Cronin, the new education director for TreeHouse Wildlife Center, is happy to have the opportunity to foster a greater appreciation of nature and understanding of local wildlife issues.

“I am excited to be joining TreeHouse Wildlife Center,” she says. “I have always been fond of animals, and I relish the chance to get out and enjoy nature. Educating the public on wildlife issues in our surrounding area is of great interest to me and working at TreeHouse with their goals to ‘Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release, and Educate’ is something that I feel very strongly about.”

Cronin received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from SIUE in 2003. For the past eleven years she has been working with groups of various sizes ranging in age from preschool to senior citizens. Her goal for TreeHouse’s education program is to help children of all ages to understand environmental issues at both local and global levels.

“I really enjoy working with all ages and needs, explaining information and breaking it down so it’s fun and easy to understand.”



Is Your Pre-Schooler A Nature Nut?

Do they like exploring?
How about hands-on activities?

Nature Nuts is a monthly program
for children, ages 3 to 5,
who love the Great Outdoors.

Each month will consist of an outdoor
activity, creating a themed craft,
story time and a snack.

Upcoming programs include: Backyard Bird Watching; Four Seasons; Spring Has Sprung; How Does Your Garden Grow?; and The Un-Nature Trail.

Please call or email Kaeta Cronin, Education Director, to register for any of our Nature Nuts sessions: 618-466-2990 or treehouse.kaeta@gmail.com

Meet Our First Intern at Dow — Jennifer Yordy

I first learned about TreeHouse when my mom, who was my fifth grade teacher at the time, scheduled a program for our class. I remember sitting on the floor of the classroom, unable to take my eyes off the animals—I thought it was so amazing that we were able to see them up so close.

I've always loved animals, but I didn't always realize I wanted to work with them. When Adele came to my fifth grade class I wanted to be an archaeologist, and when I started college at Vanderbilt University in 2007 my plan was to go into medical research. It took me one semester to change my mind. By my second semester, in bio lab, I was working on a research project investigating the ways in which squirrels' behavior changed in response to an alarm stimulus. Basically, we followed squirrels around campus and played recordings of hawks at them.



My sophomore year, I started volunteering at Walden's Puddle, a wildlife rehab facility near Nashville, and during my junior year, after spending six months working in a lab and deciding it really wasn't for me, I completed an internship there. When I graduated last May with a degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, I started looking for work in field biology, as I wanted to find out what was out there before returning to grad school. The job market being what it is, however, my job search dragged on, and I found myself wanting to do *something* related to wildlife. So, with my mom, who was on summer break at the time, I started volunteering at TreeHouse.

After a few weeks as a volunteer, I realized what a huge workload the core volunteers had, trying to keep the Brighton facility functioning and simultaneously set up and run the new Dow facility. I'm from Belleville, so I would never have been able to come up here to help out as much as I wanted if I had to make the drive every day. After discussing with Adele the possibility of staying up here in the fantastic intern's quarters and having it Ok'd by the board, I officially started as the TreeHouse intern in mid-July.

The best (and occasionally worst!) part of being an intern here is that I never know what I'm going to be doing from day to day. I might be building cages, pruning blackberries, or trimming an owl's beak. I've said many times—only half joking—that by the time I leave here I'm going to be able to build my own house. I've learned so many new skills, ranging from carpentry to horticulture, and I am so grateful to all the amazing volunteers who have taught me so much. I'm in no hurry to leave, and my internship here has been an incredible opportunity for me to learn a huge amount about the care, behavior, and life history of native wildlife, but I am still hoping to find a job in field biology. I hope that I can go on to work and carry out research in wildlife conservation, so that facilities like TreeHouse will never run short of animals to care for!



A young fan greets Buddy the Screech Owl at the Earthtones Festival in Alton



The St. Louis Cardinal Rally Squirrel became a big hit this year. His country cousins in Dow were cheering him on!



Jennifer feeding orphaned squirrels in the nursery



Charlie releasing a Red-tailed Hawk at the grand opening of the Audubon Center at Riverlands

Photographers Day at TreeHouse



A Red-tailed Hawk ignored workers while he checked out the view atop the new Mississippi River Bridge construction.

Turkey Vulture posed atop a Cemetery Rd. pole en route to TreeHouse



Intern Notes on a Blended Family:

When opossums from different litters are caged together, things often can end badly. Opossums are solitary animals, and even siblings will frequently turn against each other if they are kept together for too long. Wildlife rehabbers constantly must struggle with intraspecific aggression, mutilation, and even cannibalism. In the wild, opossums live their lives in solitude, coming together only to mate. They do not form social bonds, and although females do care for their offspring, as the young opossums grow older they eventually will simply drop off their mother's back as they unceremoniously part ways.

This year at TreeHouse, however, we had one group of orphaned opossums that truly went against the kind of behavior we expect to see. There were six opossums in this group—five from one litter and one from another. When Adele and I picked them up, they were huddled together in a blanket at the bottom of a bucket—five tiny babies with their eyes just opened, nestled around one that was maybe a week or two older. When we set them up in the nursery, we decided to keep them all together, since splitting them up would mean that the older one would be alone, and she was too young for that.

As time went on, we started to joke that the older one must be thinking, "I'm too young to be a mom!" as the smaller five clearly seemed to be treating her as a surrogate mother. As long as they were in the nursery they continued to exhibit the same behavior huddling around their "mother" whenever a human hand loomed over their aquarium. She tolerated them crawling on her back, and although she was bigger, she never pushed the smaller ones out of the way in order to get to the formula dish. Moreover, whereas most opossums will begin to behave aggressively toward humans when they are quite young, hissing and darting their heads, open-mouthed, towards the human, this group never showed any sign of aggression. They were not overly friendly—they would shrink to the back of the aquarium and hide behind their "mother" when we reached into the aquarium—but they never hissed or snapped at us.

Young possums enjoying a meal



continued

continued

When the time came to move them into the mammal ward, there was no doubt in our minds that in spite of the relatively large disparity in size, this group would do best if kept together. As they had grown, the difference in size had become even more pronounced. Ordinarily at this age we try to group opossums together by size, as this seems to reduce the number of injuries, but in this case we thought we would give them a chance to stay together and see how things went. Not only did we see no problems with aggression or competition within the group, but the opossums even remained docile enough that we were able to handle them easily, making cage-cleaning a far simpler task than it normally is with opossums at this age.

At that time, an outdoor exercise cage, which we planned to use for opossums to gain experience climbing and to become acclimated to the weather, was under construction. When it was completed, this group was the first to move in. The floor of the cage was covered in a thick layer of pine needles, and it was funny to watch the opossums as they began to move around on the unfamiliar substrate—they kept grasping pine needles in their hind feet and kicking them out backwards as they walked around. Soon, they discovered the climbable wire walls and the branches that stretched from the ground, to the walls, to the shelf where the nest boxes were placed. “Mother” was the first to start climbing, and while she was investigating the shelf the younger ones also began to explore.

As we went about our other work, we kept coming back to check on our favorite opossums, since it is so much fun to watch them explore a new environment. An hour or two after they moved in, I stopped by and noticed that one of the runty ones had managed somehow to get into a blocked off space above the door and was evidently stuck there. I watched for several minutes as it tried every possible angle for escape, but it simply could not reach around the two-by-fours that were blocking it in. I was just deciding whether to find a branch to make a bridge across to the other wall or to simply go in and rescue her, when she abruptly stopped moving and made the “tch!” sound that young opossums often make to communicate with their mothers. Immediately, the surrogate mother made an about face from the opposite corner of the cage, climbed across a branch to the wall adjacent to the stuck opossum, and climbed up the corner to the top of the door. The two put their noses together briefly, then the small one reached one front foot and then the other down onto its “mother’s” back. The older one began to slowly move back down, with the younger easing around the two-by-fours by holding on to its “mother” with its front feet and the wall with its back feet. Once the little one was around the main obstacles, the older one turned around, quickly touched noses again, and then left. By this age in the

continued

continued

wild, even the younger opossums already would have left their mothers, but living in unusual conditions in captivity, when one found itself in trouble, its adoptive mother wasted no time in coming to its aid.

After about a week in the outdoor cage, our favorite six opossums were ready to be released. We took them out to some woods and carried them a distance away from the road. When we first let them out, they were tense and motionless, clustered together and evidently overwhelmed by all the new sounds and smells. As I watched them, I thought how similar they looked to the first time I saw them, huddled together in a blanket in a bucket, and I hoped that their behavior hadn't been altered to the point that they would have difficulty surviving in the wild. Then, suddenly and almost simultaneously, all six began moving in different directions. It was almost as if they had held a conference and said, "OK, guys, it's been real, but we can go wherever we want now, so I'll see you around." Of course, any time we release an animal we have to accept the uncertainty as to what will become of it, but as I watched them scattering into the woods, I thought that we really had given them the best possible chance of survival.

Jennifer Yordy, TreeHouse Intern

Local Environmental Opportunities

The Riverbend area provides a wealth of opportunities for volunteering, for supporting the environment, or just for the enjoyment of families. Listed below are some of the organizations and sites you might want to check out. Visit the Alton Regional Convention & Visitor's Bureau for more information.

TreeHouse Wildlife Center	Confluence Park
Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary	Piasa Pallasades Sierra Club
The Audubon Center at Riverlands	Pere Marquette State Park
The Nature Institute	Two Rivers National Wildlife
Illinois Audubon, Great Rivers Chapter	Refuge
National Great Rivers Museum	Grafton, Illinois
The National Great Rivers Research	Melvin Price Locks & Dam
& Education Center	Lewis & Clark Museum
Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower	

Rehab Ramblings

by Pam Lippert and Adele Moore

Since the last newsletter more orphaned animals arrived, as well as injured birds of prey, and other critters.

Mammals +

Apparently “walk-ins” are welcomed at TreeHouse. This young snapping turtle apparently walked through our overhead doors when they were opened and into the clinic from our pond out back. A night shift volunteer found it in the hallway outside the exam room. No exam, or room and board required, so the turtle was sent packing back into the pond.



On the mammal side, five more coyote pups joined one we already had, plus as of late we've admitted second litters of orphaned squirrels and possums. It's been a tale of two seasons. Orphaned squirrels dominated the nursery in early spring due to numerous storms blanketing the area, sending trees with squirrel nests down to the ground. Once the squirrels were well on their way for release, orphaned possums took over the nursery.

Young squirrels and possums, four orphaned Red Fox pups, and four of the orphaned Coyote pups, all from spring litters, were released.



Two orphaned Bobcat kittens from Sparta we received in the late summer of 2010 were overwintered at TreeHouse and released this spring.



A young beaver found early this summer was released this fall in the creek where it was found. It was released near an area where there was beaver activity, although none were present at the release.



*continued***Birds**

New since the last newsletter are more orphaned animals, more Barred Owls and also late groups of American Kestrels. We are currently in the process of release training/testing and then releasing the young raptors.



A few of the raptors admitted over the summer. Great Horned Owls suffering from starvation, possibly due to West Nile Virus. Those that survived are being released trained. Also we have a lucky Great Horned Owl caught in a barbed wire fence, whose release is pending. Although the picture (left) of the Great Horned Owls looks like something out of the movie, “Night of the Living Dead”, their eyes are actually reflecting the light from the camera, more commonly known as “red eye”.

This has been the year of the Barred Owl. We have admitted 16 with collision injuries since the middle of August. These are collisions with moving vehicles, sometimes causing broken wings, but more commonly head trauma.



Some of the more uncommon birds admitted recently include a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk with head trauma soon to be released.

A Short-eared Owl (state endangered), found southeast of Greenfield the Monday before Thanksgiving. It was along a country road, had sustained bilateral humeral fractures. This surely was a result of a collision, but maybe not from a moving object. Because of the bilateral nature of the fractures it may have hit an overhead power line. This owl is probably a migrant and its disposition is pending.



An immature (2-3 year old) Bald Eagle was admitted from near Prairie du Rocher. It's experiencing seizures which may indicate it's suffering from some type of toxin, although we haven't narrowed it down yet. Its disposition is also pending.

Rehab Ramblings continued

Mid-June found a young Peregrine Falcon sitting in the middle of a street in Elsah. It is speculated that this bird came from one of the nests situated on the bluffs. Because she was still in the branching



stage, she was unable to fly and may have been pushed toward the town to escape the rising flood waters on the Mississippi. After spending some time at TreeHouse in the flight cage to finish growing her tail feathers to give her the lift needed for flight, she was ready to go. Once she was banded, she was released at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, putting on a little falcon flight clinic before disappearing among the trees (and scattering the birds roosting there).



A recent Red-tailed Hawk was recently admitted with feather damage suspected to have been caused by landing on a methane burner near a landfill. At least one other Red-tail was admitted from that area with the same injuries. We are looking into what can be done to remedy this situation and contacting the landfill about this problem.

In a month's time, three American Coots were admitted, probably migrating. All three had fractures to the lower part of their legs, and two had fractures to both legs. Unfortunately all three had to be euthanized due to the location of the fractures. These birds were found on pavement where they probably crashed, mistaking it for water. This is a common injury for coots, grebes and loons.

Three orphaned Turkey Vultures arrived at TreeHouse this year, with faces only a mother could love. The birds were raised by our foster parent vultures, and two were released at the Dow location, one of which showed off his newfound unfettered flying ability. The third vulture came to us as a human imprint bird that cannot be released.



Eagle Days are Upon Us!

This winter, cold days are not to be wasted huddled indoors. Take a drive up and down the Great River Road to see the annual American Bald Eagle migration to our open waters on the Mississippi River. A special sight and sound awaits you at TreeHouse Wildlife Center in Dow, Illinois on **Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in January and February. “Hope” one of our permanent resident Bald Eagles is on display to the public.**

Youngsters can gain a greater appreciate for the size and majesty of the American Bald Eagle by getting to see one up close. People of all ages will enjoy the sight and sound of all our resident raptors on display.

Dress for the weather to most enjoy your time. Eagles are often active in colder weather, fishing to eat in order to stay warm. A pair of binoculars is recommended for watching the eagles in the wild, but your own eyes are plenty to see “Hope” in her cage at TreeHouse.



Each Overnight Stay Counts as a Donation for TreeHouse

For people booking the Eagle Watching Package over the MLK holiday weekend (January 14-16) which includes overnight accommodations for two at Holiday Inn, Alton, breakfast buffet for two and a \$20 voucher at Franco's Restaurant for \$109 + tax, 10% of the room rate will be donated to TreeHouse. Holiday Inn is located at 3800 Homer Adams Pkwy (at College Avenue), Alton, IL, phone (618)462-1220. Call the Alton Visitors and Convention Bureau at 800-258-6645 or VisitAlton.com for more information.

Scarlett Died This Morning by Adele Moore

This morning I received a voice mail from our Friday morning shift volunteer, Bob, who said that Scarlett was found dead. I didn't want to make this the "possum" newsletter, and Jennifer the intern had already written a nice article about possums so I decided I was going to save Scarlett's story for the next issue until I received the call this morning.

The possum was admitted as one of this spring's orphans with a wound on her back. She was found in the driveway of a home in Staunton, and brought to TreeHouse where her injuries were treated. At the time she was admitted, the mammal ward was not complete so we housed the orphans in the greenhouse. We think she might have become overheated and ended up with a couple hot spot areas on her snout which we were able to treat successfully. Even though we don't normally name animals that come in for rehabilitation — only those who are permanent residents to help us keep them straight — volunteers started calling her "Scarface".

Rather than house her in an aquarium by herself we thought we would try rooming her with other orphans her size (always a little bit of a risky issue with solitary animals), and it ended up bad for Scarface. We found her later with a chunk of skin taken out of her cheek.



As the orphans continued to grow we placed them in one of the large deck cages and tried placing Scarface with smaller possums since she was not aggressive. One day while cleaning the cage we noticed her ears had been chewed on by the others, so they were taken out and Scarface had the cage to herself. We decided we would keep her as a permanent resident since she had been handled so much during her treatments.

As the first wave of cold weather hit, Scarface started pacing the cage during the daytime. I had noticed that behavior with raccoons (when we use to admit them) and they would get that far away look in their eyes like they're ready to go. It was decided that we would release Scarface, and since it was just one animal that we would take her to the creek at the back of our property.

We loaded her in a crate and Jennifer and I walked to the back of our field,

continued

Scarlett continued

down a hill, across the creek, and part way up a hill where we released Scarface near a downed tree. She walked in and out of the log and found a nut to eat, so we felt confident that we did the right thing and started back to the facility.

Our board meetings are held once a month on Mondays and because this was meeting day I stayed over and ate supper in the kitchen before the other board members arrived.

At one point I needed to go to the back porch, and when I opened the kitchen door, there was Scarface standing right at the door and staring up at me as if to say, “you forgot me!” I was dumbfounded and would have given anything to have had a video camera to record her trek back to TreeHouse! That night she drank lots of water, ate, and as she was falling asleep on a branch, I picked her up and put her in a wire hammock. We decided (actually I think she decided) that she was going to stay, and we discussed using her in education programs for children and possibly tying in the subject of bullying. That’s when we decided the name Scarface wouldn’t work and changed her name to Scarlett.

Fast forward to today. Animals can generally sense when something is physically wrong — mother to their young, or young to young. Even if nothing shows up to the naked eye they can sense internal problems, and do not want a sick animal to draw the attention of predators into their midst. Never mind the fact that those animals should not breed.

For some time after her return we noticed that Scarlett had not been growing, so the odds were really not in her favor of staying with us very long. She definitely would not have lasted long in the wild to begin with but she did have the knack of showing up at just the right place when she needed help, whether it was a driveway in Staunton or TreeHouse in Dow. Volunteers get close to our permanent residents, and it’s sad when they pass on. Scarlett lived a shorter than the already short two-to-three year life span of a possum, but she made an impact with the life she had.

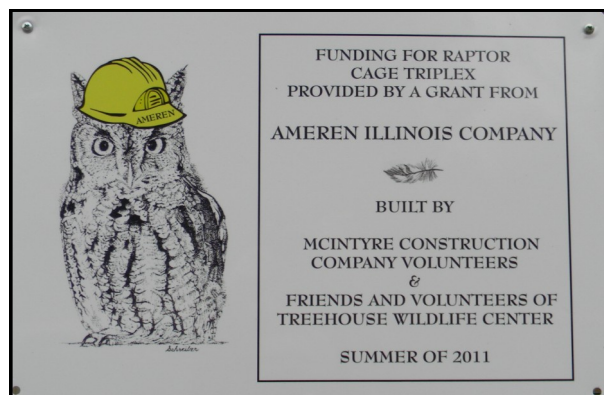
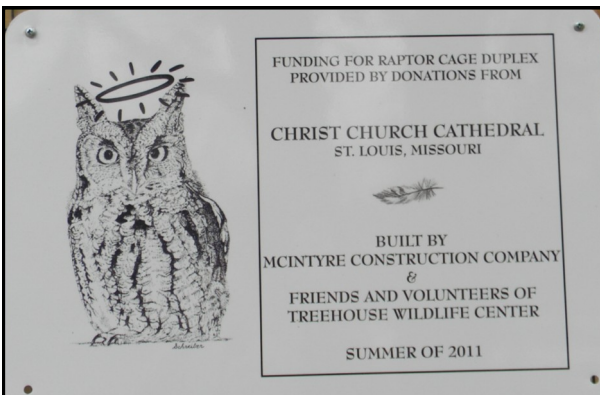
Adele and Scarlett sitting on the
back porch at TreeHouse



Here's Where We Are Now



Gussie Reed representing Ameren Illinois Utilities presents a check to Adele and Lynn toward construction of a permanent resident cage complex. The Ameren complex (above) currently houses 2 Screech Owls, 2 Kestrels, 3 Red-tailed Hawks and 1 Rough-legged Hawk. Thank you, Ameren!



A couple of cage plaques

Thanks to Sam at Grafton Material Service for preparing a cage site, and honeysuckle removal

Chuckles the Red Fox Cage Campaign

Go to

www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/chuckles.html to see the viral video of our permanent Red Fox, "Chuckles", and join our campaign to fund his a new cage at the Dow facility.



We're Working Just As Fast As We Can!

Building Update as of December 4, 2011

Permanent Resident Cages built and occupied

Raptor Triplex Cage in memory of
Wendy Bardsley, Robert Bull and Matt Beatty

Raptor Triplex Cage donated by
Ameren Utilities

Raptor Duplex Cage donated by
Christ Church Cathedral



Bobcat Cage

Cages Sponsored but not yet built

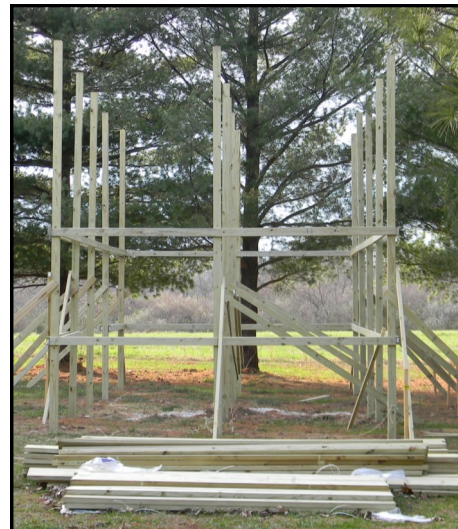
Permanent Resident Coyote Cage

Permanent Resident Fox Cages

Rehab Fawn Pen

Rehab Waterfowl

Rehab Raptor (partially sponsored)



The "Well Oiled Machine" cage construction crew
Richard, Aaron, Gary, Melvin, Woody & Rod
not pictured, Bob

Permanent Resident Cages in building process:

Bald Eagle/Vulture Duplex

Bobcat Cage

Eagle/Vulture Cage Complex



Cage Prep Work

needing sponsors for:

Trenching, Electric, Plumbing
and new gravel driveway

Avian Rehabilitation Complex

This one of a kind complex was designed by a committee of our volunteers, (one of them an engineer) many who have worked with raptors for several decades. It's designed for both large and small raptors — Screech Owls to Bald Eagles.

The complex will house two separate areas of holding cages for raptors who are awaiting their turns in the flight cage before release.

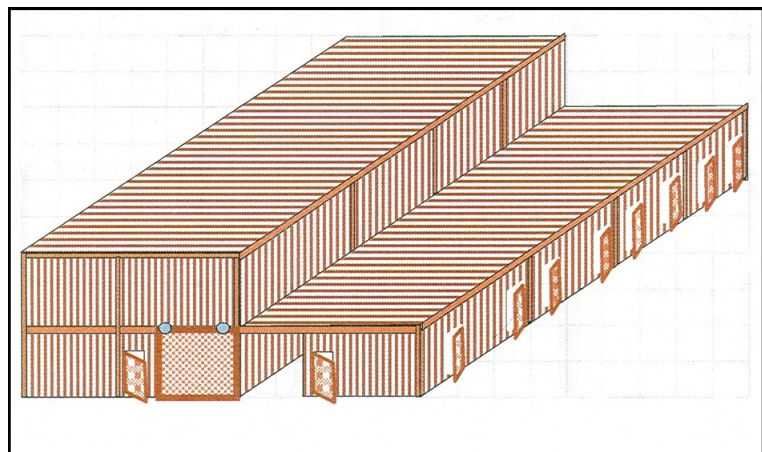
TreeHouse accepts many different species of raptors, all of which have varying needs to achieve successful training in anticipation of their release. This design incorporates features needed for that versatility. The flight paths have to be large enough for Bald Eagles to condition their muscles for release, as well as having a “flight track” area to allow the turns and banking maneuvers required by accipiters and falcons.

Rather than build 14 separate raptor rehab cages as we did in Brighton, our new design incorporates all these cages under one roof, with interior walls that slide open to allow for different combinations depending on our need at the time. With 150-250 raptors admitted annually — almost 3,900 total since 1979, there is always a need.

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation, TreeHouse is approximately half way toward our goal for funds to build the Raptor Rehabilitation Complex.

If you know of an individual or corporation that would be willing to match the Johnson Foundation funds to complete this cage, or if you have further questions, please let us know.

100' x 60' x 16'
Raptor Rehabilitation
Cage Complex



Young and Old, Groups Worked Inside and Out

Thanks to

Youth Conservation Corps.
Faith in Action Sunday with
Godfrey 1st United Methodist Church &
Emmanuel Free Methodist Church
Main Street United Methodist Church Ladies
Baptist Youth Group
Illini Middle School
Jersey County High Ag. Construction Classes



Building benches and a dock
for the pond, shoveling gravel



Clearing invasive plants, painting,
building picnic tables, cleaning cabinets



29th Annual Open House Raffle Prize Donors and Winners

Eagle photos donated by Wade Dowdy,
Raffle winners, Dr Fred Husman, Jerseyville, and Ray Luken, Godfrey

Oak table and chairs donated by Jim and Sherry Droste,
Raffle winner, Catherine Mikolay, Fults

Loon wall sculpture donated by Nancy Hilton,
Raffle winner, Linda Daggett, Atwater

Owl Quilt donated by Deana Browne,
Raffle winner, Nancy Jussyp, Collinsville

Baseball China donated by Amanda Harris,
Raffle winner, Muriel Buchert, Collinsville

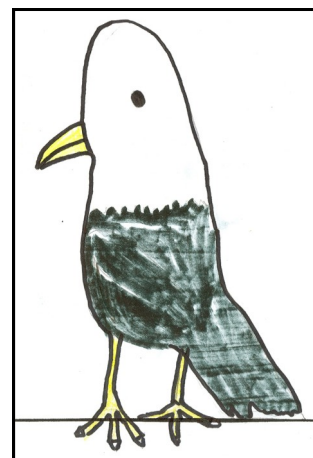
Owl collection donated by Michele Kasten,
Raffle winner, Wendy Hager, Alton



Artist: Kasey,
Age 9

Coloring Contest Winners

Artist: Maddie Cooke
Age 6



Artist: Liam,
Age 7

Artist: Ryan,
Age 5



Some of our Volunteers at the 29th Annual Open House



THANK YOU

Granite City High School Science Club
Penny Moon and Copper Creek Band
Brighton Farm Hands 4-H
Jim Moore, Shirley McCann & her
kitchen crew, TreeHouse volunteers
All those who donated raffle prizes,
money or time



George Alarm Co., Inc.

Burglar ■ Fire ■ Video ■ Access Control ■ Intercom ■ Patient Wandering

Michele (George) Kasten

Vice President

Sales (618) 288-2092

Cell (618) 407-2318

202 B W. Main St.

Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Service/Central (618) 288-1334

Springfield (217) 525-1334

Decatur (217) 429-6663

Champaign (217) 352-2281

Bloomington (309) 827-5707

Peoria (309) 682-7171

IN MEMORY OF

Roger Murphy
Charlotte Grzeskowiak
Glennon Beilsmith
Bootsie
Geneva Holbrook
Mary Liz Gooding

THANK YOU

Granite City High School Science Club
Chris Farmer, Ken Halter
Hawthorne Animal Hospital,
Jersey County High School —
Ag. Construction Classes,
The Nature Institute,
Brighton North 5th Graders,
Cardinals Care, The Johnson Foundation,
Harry Hazelton, Neil & Nan Adams,
Donors to the Chuckles the Fox
cage campaign,
Jim Droste Carpentry, Ken Blackwell,
Cope Plastics, Carol Heinz,
Thomas E. Klasner,
David Roth, J & M Glass, Jerseyville
The Loading Dock, Grafton
Do Drop Inn, Dow Bluff City Tours,
Photographers Wade Dowdy, Eric Bloemker,
Cheryl Pride and Dr. Linda Whittingham,
Ladies Who Lunch with a Purpose,
Holy Trinity School in Fairview Heights
Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's/
St. Augustine Schools, in, Belleville,
Karin Crocker, DVM,
Jennifer Davis, DVM,
Jennifer and Chloe Koontz

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

IN HONOR OF

Adele Moore
Sherri Medley
Paul & Donna Myer
Mary Tober
Brenda Coffman

IN HONOR OF

Ione Pence,
proprietor of the
Happy Tails Thrift Shop
which recently closed
after ten years. This non
-profit business provided
many thousands of
dollars to local humane
organizations, including
TreeHouse.

Thank You!

Wish List

Paper towels
33 gal. trash bags
Dryer sheets
Dry dog and cat food
Canned cat food with liver
Scotch-brite sponges
Metal trash cans with lids
Welding gloves
Fishing nets with handles (all sizes)
Plastic animal kennels (all sizes)
6', 8', 10' & 12' step ladders
Garden hoses
Folding chairs
Mini-van (Ours currently has
300,000 miles on it)
Gas cards
Cash donations
Gift cards for Home Depot or Lowes



Company Gift Matching

Many companies offer Charity gift matching programs.

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

To Our Members and Supporters,

It is very important to get our animals moved from Brighton to Dow — the sooner the better. Our goal is to vacate the Brighton hospital building and move those operations to Dow as soon as possible, but by winter at the very latest.

We are incurring double expenses because we're operating out of two facilities, and we're hemorrhaging cash from Brighton via high utility bills due to the state of that building. The only obstacle holding us back right now is cash to renovate the rehab area, and building more outdoor caging in Dow.

Any and all donations toward this end are welcomed!

If you have an animal in need of rehabilitation, call
**(618) 372-8092 — Brighton or
(618) 466-2990 Dow
or the
BiState MO/IL Wildlife Hotline at
www.wildlifehotline.com or
(636)-492-1610**

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

or check out our website at
www.treehousewildlifecenter.com

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

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 fee consists of a minimum donation of
\$20.00 annually.

Senior Citizen Membership fee consists of a minimum donation of
\$15.00 annually

Lifetime TreeHouse Membership fee consists of a **one-time** minimum donation
of **\$1,000.00**.

- ☐ 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**.
- ☐ I would like information on **volunteering to staff a TreeHouse booth at fundraisers**

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.**